



MCA FOUNDATION MEETING

YOUTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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1.- ABOUT THE VIII MEETING

For a long time, we have been spotting a tectonic plates motion between an elderly Europe and the South Mediterranean societies where the youth lives without a future. There is an increasing mistrust and the fear is settling down upon the three Mediterranean seashores, meanwhile difficulties are increasing and the problems are trying to be solved by a non-solidary and violent approach. Therefore, it is time to inject hope into the youth in order to build the Mediterranean's people future.

This hope must be based on a good analysis of the reality and the proposals of the young people themselves. It is an appeal to all sectors involved in the future of our societies to address the complex issues affecting millions of people under the age of thirty-five in all our countries.

The youth is born and raised on a war context, with a dismal future, lack of professional opportunities, a limited education quality, intergenerational conflicts and huge difficulties for mobility. Nationalist policies that exclude and close borders in the West are emerging. Islamophobia is growing, security and anti-terrorism policies are beginning to limit the areas of freedom and the rights of citizens.

We are witnessing a haemorrhage of human beings, especially young people, forced to leave their home country, even at the cost of their lives, in search of peace, work and a better life. Wars, economic social and climate inequality and the developing policies are turning the Mediterranean Sea into an impassable wall, converting it into a cemetery. We want the Mediterranean Sea as a common circulation space and as a place where its diversity is respected and appreciated. A sea of progress and peace, which should overcome the current situation in order to facilitate the stability and future of young people from the three continents that cross it.





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In the field of education, the Erasmus program is a great success on the European Union, but it should become stronger on the whole Mediterranean space. Currently, the lack of professional opportunities cancels the hope of many Mediterranean youngsters and the youth unemployment rate remains high. The youngsters' work entry age has been delayed. The family dependence and welfare policies are increasing. The stable and decent employment vision is far away for many youngsters, making the migration unavoidable for them.

Meanwhile in the European Union we can observe a populism and extremism boom on the east and south countries, a big part of the youth lives without future. The suburb's situation on the European's metropolis is alarming for the migrant's new generation of sons and grandsons. The immobility and lack of future brings many youngsters to exclusion, drugs and marginality. While the European Union is witnessing a rise in populism and extremism, in the countries of the East and South of the Mediterranean a large part of youth lives without a future. The situation in the suburbs of European cities is alarming for the new generations of children and grandchildren of immigrants. Stillness and lack of future lead many young people to exclusion, drugs and marginalization. There is nothing worse for a society than to generate a youth without a horizon. Some radicalize, kill and commit suicide in the name of an illusory ideal. Everything can happen with the generations that have grown up with the endemic unemployment, marginality and suspicion. The multicultural society defence starts to be noticed on one side of the politic system as a loss of vows in the elections. Elections that are increasingly mistrusted by the poor youngsters, growing in this way the abstention of vote and the democratic system disaffection.

We can observe a great paradox between the Mediterranean's youth: In the southern part they seek the political systems democratization (Tunisia and Algeria as actual paradigms), whereas the northern part stars supporting the opposite. Meanwhile, racism and xenophobia are increasing on the Mediterranean's both sides.

In front of a reality that drives to pessimism, the hope of a future built by the youth should be addressed as a



priority issue. Without the youth Mediterranean people won't have any future and this future must be solidary. The Mediterranean's castaways relate every day. States that show little concern for their youth and their future are irresponsible States. An aged population that shows no interest in young generations is gripped by human, economic, social and politic drama. It is now time to start a civil movement in order to drive the political institutions to solve the Mediterranean's youth situation with urgency.

The MCA VIII Meeting proposes a great debate in peace and freedom, open to youngsters from all the Mediterranean, public institutions, civil society and specialists, regardless of origin, belief, culture or legal status to reflect the youth's situation on the Mediterranean's Riverside countries and make proposals to overcome this situation. The MCA Foundation boosts a Mediterranean people's community that helps their future, their youth.

2.- THE AGORAS

The participants on the MCAF's VIII Meeting will make a diagnosis of the youth's situation all over the different countries and proposals to solve the problems that have been raised, considering the own reality and the Mediterranean ensemble.

The agoras are the working groups where the dialogue, reflexion and proposals are established between the participants. On each agora the Mediterranean diversity will be reflected: economic, social, political, religious and gender. All this diversity constitutes the Mediterranean identity.

Diagnoses and proposals presented on the MCAF`s VIII Meeting will be posted afterwards and widely disseminated on Mediterranean institutional and civil society ambits.







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AGORA 1: CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Youth in the Mediterranean and cultural identity: what does it mean to be young in the Mediterranean nowadays? How to build societies increasingly inclusive? The generation gap. Diagnose of the education situation and the relationship between science and religion.

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AGORA 2: ECONOMY, MOBILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The rupture between the Mediterranean's north and south. Economic and mobility programs focused on youth. How can we place the youth on the geopolitics and economic agenda? How to act against climate change? Northern societies are increasingly aged and southern ones increasingly poor. The circulation difficulties and the Mediterranean migration drama. How to boost the youth's movement?

AGORA 3: EMPOWERMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

Political participation and education on youth's principles. Inclusive policies and democratic systems strengthening. How can we make a generational overstep with guarantee of success? Boost the youth's access to the decision-making areas and their role in the Mediterranean societies. 2010-2019: a decade of changes in Mediterranean? Which role have had the youth on it?



AGORA 4: NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DEMOCRACY

How are the new technologies, mass media and the social networks incising on the youngsters and the social change? Democratization resources, participation and youth's entrepreneurship? Who is controlling them? How can we reduce the digital environmental censorship? How can we build a much freer Internet, fair and solidary between the north and south Mediterranean countries by youngest population?



3- PROGRAM VIII MEETING "YOUTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN" PROGRAM



- Participants' arrival to Barcelona
- Participants' lodging and accreditation



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8

- 8:30: Departure from the hotel to the Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània (IEMed)
- 8:45-9:15: Accreditations
- 9:30-11:00: Opening session

Interventions:

- Josep Ferré, General Director of the Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània (IEmed)
- Vicent Garcés, president of the MCA Foundation
- Barcelona City Hall
- Alfonso GonzálezBondia, General Director of European and Mediterranean Affairs Generalitat de Catalunya





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- Hon. Yana Chiara Ehm, PAM Vicepresident, President of the PAM Committee for dialogue between civilizations and HH.RR
- Oriol Barba, Director Medcités
- M^a Helena De Felipe Lethonen, president of the Euromed Follow-Up European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Jean-François Barnier, Mayor of Chambon-Feugerolles (France), Vicepresident of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and local Assembly ARLEM
- Edgar Morin addressing, MCA Foundation Advisory Board member
- 11:00-11:30: Group photo
- 11:30-12:00: Coffee Break
- 12:30-14:00: Agoras' constitution and beginning of the work
- 13:30-15:00: Lunch
- 15:00-17:00: Agoras' work continuation
- 17:00-17:30: Coffee break
- 17:30-19:00: Agoras' work continuation
- Free time on evening/night.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9

- 8:30: Departure from the hotel to the Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània (IEMed)
- 9:00-11:00: Agoras' work continuation
- 11:00-11:30: Coffee break
- 11:30-13:30: Agoras' work continuation



- 14:00-15:30: Lunch
- 15:00-17:00: Plenary session. Agoras' conclusions/propositions
- 17:00-17:15: Coffee Break
- 17:30-18:30: Closing session and reading of the MCA Foundation Advisory Bouard declaration on the IEmed's plenary session.

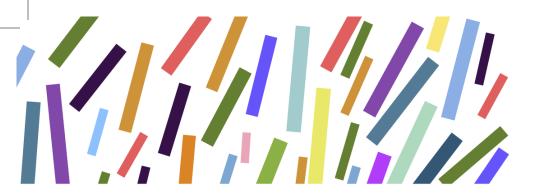
Interventions:

- Vicent Garcés, MCA Foundation president
- Maria Àngels Roque, IEMed's Culture and Civil Society Department Director
- Hon. Sandrine Mörch, PAM Rapporteur on Human Rights
- MCAF Advisory Council
- 20:30: Hotel departure
- 21:30: VIII Meeting cultural dinner



- Participants' departure





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ORGANISED BY:



WITH THE SUPPORT OF:









IN COOPERATION WITH:















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