

## Annual National Meeting of the Hellenic Network of Anna Lindh Foundation 2016

### Report

Dear members,

Firstly we would like to thank you for the time you devoted and honored us with your presence in the national meeting of the Anna Lindh Foundation - Greek network for the year 2016. It is the second year within the three years of the three year plan of the institution and the first time that the meeting is held in Athens. It was an excellent meeting with interesting presences and proposals within a weekend full of experiences. Below we quote you everything discussed in our meeting and the future steps that are to be taken. Please read them carefully and contact us for any questions and clarifications.

### PARTICIPANTS

**Participate organizations (37)** : United Societies of Balkans(U.S.B), Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Πολιτισμού, Δρόμοι της Ελιάς, Κέντρο Προστασίας Καταναλωτών (ΚΕΠΚΑ), UNESCO Youth Club Θεσσαλονίκης, Το σπίτι της Ευρώπης στη Ρόδο , Διεθνές Κέντρο Συγγραφέων και Μεταφράσεων Ρόδου, Αντιγόνη, ΠΡΑΞΙΣ , Δημωφέλεια (Καβάλα), Ακαδημία Επιχειρηματικότητας, Ευρωπαϊκό Ινστιτούτο Τοπικής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΙΤΑ), Inter Alia, «Αναπηρία Σήμερα», Κοινωνική Ανάπτυξη Νέων Καλαμάτας (ΚΑΝΕ), UNESCO Σερρών, Ash in Art, Hellenic Foundation for Culture, Fotoessa, ΑμΚΕ ΙΑΣΙΣ, 'the spiral holistic education'. You in Europe, Κοι.Σ.ΕΠ. «Άνεμος Ανανέωσης», Πολύδρομο, Development Company of Kefalonia and Ithaki SA (DEVCKE), Γη, The Exelixis Institute, Συμπαράσταση, Μεσαιωνικό Ρόδο, V Residency, History Doc, Ανάπλους, Στέγη Γραμμάτων και Τεχνών, Έδρα, Δήμος Λοκρών, Youth Mobility Center, 180 Μοίρες, Greek Association for the Atlantic and European Cooperation, ΙΕΚΕΘ . Στην συνάντηση συμμετείχαν και οι επικεφαλής του ιδρύματος της Βουλγαρίας.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY 23/09/2016

To begin with, participating members of the network gathered at Candia Hotel. The proposed topics for discussion, which were related to issues of the national network, as well as issues of the national meeting of chiefs and preparatory issues of Malta Forum, were presented on a summary. The subjects had already been informed with the assistance of the participants on a basis of a relative question completed at the application form. After the short introduction of the schedule and the submission of new proposals,



additional themes were added and the agenda of the meeting was analytically drafted. The new issues that we reset reflected the needs of the participants for further cooperation in some sectors and included interventions aimed to the solution of problems appeared during the previous period.

After that, a presentation of the cooperated institutions was held. In this context, besides the standard presentation that contains the necessary information that structure the identity of the individual represented bodies (organisations), not only their motivation was outlined, but also the values behind their actions, which explain why these entities continue to be active. The size of Greek network was also highlighted as well as the dispersion that can be found in it.

Already by this point is to be mentioned the under-representation of network members at the meeting due to travel difficulties arising from remote geographical areas in combination with the financial difficulties for covering participants' travel costs.

The ability of the involved organizations to participate even if they are not physically present was proposed, as due to the absence of financing travelling funds, the attendance of many participants at the following meetings must be considered questionable. Therefore, those for whom is impossible to attend, the question of their participation via internet for instance via skype, was aroused. Necessary also is the widest possible participation so that the decision to be made by the majority of members.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY 24/09/2016

The meeting took place in the "Renewal Wind operator" who hosted us in one of the structures for refugees.

Work began searching the desirable and yet feasible role that the institution expects to play in civil society and refugee crisis. The inclusion of a significant number of refugees and the consequent need for them to meet their basic human rights, were the topics that our discussion focused. Bearing in mind that the work will contribute to the integration. Searching which labor and entering by them is fair and reasonable to target in a joint effort in order to care provision by members of the network, many of which already have shown remarkable work in this area, particularly in the context of ideas and proposals.

Given that the circumstances prevailing (that are dominant) at the moment in Greece and the wider Mediterranean region with the refugee crisis the focal point of activities was to analyze the relationship of the prementioned bodies and their involvement in it. It was considered that the compensatory benefits of the society at local and regional level have to be strengthened and become directly visible on the purpose of the smooth integration into the social tissue. Examples



of actions of operators, including programs from hospitalities structures (hot spots) to cooperation with local authorities, were essential.

In respect of refugee / immigrant issues and intercultural relations, members contributed to the expression of different views and a debate about this subject, so that the final assumed image cover a broad field and respond in the best possible way to the comprehension (understanding) of the situation. Issues related to integration of refugees children in schools were commented, while intensely bothering seemed to be the integration to the neighborhood, and the existing reactions in some areas.

There was the Migrants Forum and the participants had the opportunity to directly ascertain the current situation and their actions.

- Internal issues of the network

In the context of the planned annual report, criticism was passed for its monthly information report (newsletter) which did not show successful progression regarding the use for internal information.

Then participants, despite the fact that they ascertain satisfactory participation of individual bodies and assistance with various ways and means, identified that there is a dire need for cooperation among organizations and for the most effective contribution through the network. Some of the comments for the previous period were emotional and they have to do with the section of the network, while others were more unsentimental (realistic) and associated with inactivity of some members of the network at the information sector. Members recognized the need for more common actions together with the local actions that concern many of the bodies. Moreover the need for more ideas under development was concluded unanimously by these factors. Members must commit to a partnership with more requirements so that they obtained results are boosted.

At all levels it was adjusted that teamwork among bodies needs strengthening with ulterior purpose the extraversion (outreach) of the actions. The communication also constitutes one of the primary objectives of promoting values and ideals through the spiritual, social and cultural dialogue.

Regarding the official registration of members in the website [www.alfhellas.gr](http://www.alfhellas.gr), an application form has already been completed by 48 organizations. The process will continue so that the rest will have the opportunity to register by November. As for the website, despite the granted and the reasonable for the inclusion of all members period, inertia was observed by many operators in this field. The activation of specific usernames and passwords individually for each person was decided so that a more active presence on the website become a fact and whatever is published

to bring some kind of signature of the writer –body, which will be accompanied with the corresponding responsibility of the writings. The back scratching certainly will not miss; as the other bodies are invited to reproduce whatever has been published by sharing on their own social media. In addition, the website has a blog so that an open exposure site for organizations is existent, which is not yet exploited. The active participation of the bodies in this area was decided. After the expression of reservations by a significant portion of participants about the time-consuming process that this operation requires, the present members consent to the publication of an article per body in October. The passwords for the entrance to the website will be sent the first days of October to the managers that have been registered to the website, in order to post their articles.

The theme of the general and overall depiction of a particular NGO image by the mass media was briefly discussed during the first day, while it came back and the second day at the forefront of the work proceedings of the meeting of the network members. The bad image that is always and continuously displayed by the media in respect of the role of NGOs in refugee topic, was emphasized and ways to reformulate the existing image and remodeling a different social footprint were searched. Transparency in relation to revenue and spending was deemed absolutely essential to achieving this objective.

The program for translators in Slovenia, in which there was Greek participation, was presented.

A detailed presentation of the institution's activities in Athens and Greece took place.

In addition there was an extensive analysis of social entrepreneurship issues and identification of problems, opportunities and challenges during the economic crisis. The network members promote actively the social entrepreneurship. Thus, there was the opportunity of exchanging ideas and best practices that have already been successfully implemented. At the same time because of their previous experience and engagement, criticism was pressed followed by a constructive dialogue aiming at the development of ideas and proposals for entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship should be combined with both the so-called "green growth" and social needs.

The idea for a contest with an award to an individual or an organization for something important was proposed. The award can be announced in the meeting of the national network next year. For instance a photo competition can be organized with intercultural dialogue as theme. It was considered crucial, the criteria to be set in advance and to follow a transparent selection process so that the integrity of the competition is ensured. The contest will be associated with one or more of the 10 objectives / priorities of the network, as they were formed in MED FORUM 2016, while it will also be a stimulus for more action and promotion on social networks. ([http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/sites/annalindh.org/files/documents/page/valletta\\_agenda\\_0.pdf](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/sites/annalindh.org/files/documents/page/valletta_agenda_0.pdf))

Regarding the actions under the National Intercultural Actions Programme (NIA) there was an intense concern about the operation till now, as an excessive competition between the bodies was promoted. There was a recommendation against this including the deposition of a common proposal by the three regions of Greece.

Finally, as far as the review of the focal points function concerns, about whether the focal points met the expectation, many bodies seemed skeptical for their function. Contribution of those who were present was asked so that it is to determine whether it is prudent to continue operating. Non-confirmation of the continuity of cooperation within a reasonable margin of 15 days, is equivalent with a refusal of acceptance of the obligations of the bodies.

- **Malta Forum**

It was discussed how the social footprint of NGO network members will be analyzed through a strategic presentation of Greece. At the same time with the present meeting of the national network, a meeting of participants in the Malta forum was held, while participated remotely representative of the Foundation in Alexandria as the head of the Bulgarian Institute who participated in the meeting of the Greek branch of the institution. It was decided that participants will prepare a written report at the end of the forum for the internal information of the other members. Participants were asked to provide ideas in order to promote the country in the forum. Indicatively proposed for instance report booth space, to create collage greeting children cards with other children from vulnerable social groups, poster organizations and objects thereof, or their ideas on issues they want to address, registration networks of cities associated with the 10 strategies priorities of the network. These proposals will be studied and implemented accordingly after the information feedback to the organizers there. Finally they were distributed to participants specific responsibilities on the collection of national data on eight thematic required. Specifically in the field "creative entrepreneurship" moderator appointed Nikos Chrysogelos, in 'woman' Georgia Griva, regarding the area "youth" Babis Papaioannou, in 'Media' Anna Alevra, artists Maria Angeli, Filaret Vourkos in "intercultural dialogue.

- Relations with other networks and partnerships

The manual for the use of social media tool is available to operators in order to facilitate their communication so that a genuine cooperation is



promoted.(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2Ql1BwGPxkZTHljWjY3cG9tTU0/view>). Moreover, as already discussed, the cooperation of operators will be enhanced through the use of the blog.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY 25/09/2016

An instruction workshop on the management of programs was held and alternative means of funding were searched. With proposals that have to do with cooperation with Erasmus + programs, Europe for citizens, Creative, Justice, European Youth Foundation (CoE), and institutions such as Bodossaki institutions Niarchos, Soros, Sasakahua. The bodies exchanged good practices which they already successfully use and confirmed the specific commitments that they have taken on. This theme constituted a special interest for some time and it had been requested throughout the application period of the network meeting. Through the reviews was evident the interest for more information and writing practices for programs, which will take place in the near future.

There was a final report of the meeting and a final summary of what was discussed and the meeting ended with memorial photos.

### COMMUNICATION

We are available for anything you want, we will be happy to disturb us!

For more information:

tel. 2310 215629 (ParaschouAris)

mob 6974378332 (ParaschouAris)

mob 6936534112 (Stephen Vallianatos)





e-mail: [aris.usb@gmail.com](mailto:aris.usb@gmail.com) και [info@usbngo.gr](mailto:info@usbngo.gr)

κιν 6936534112 (Στέφανος Βαλλιανάτος)

e-mail: [aris.usb@gmail.com](mailto:aris.usb@gmail.com) και [info@usbngo.gr](mailto:info@usbngo.gr)

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR TIME!

