

## **Greek National Network Meeting of Anna-Lindh Foundation**

### **1<sup>st</sup> day (26/09/2015) – National Meeting & Networking**

**Participating organisations(30):** CIVIS PLUS, POLIDROMO, Municipality of Rhodes, You in Europe, Hellenic Foundation for Culture, International Piano Forum, the Spiral, KSDEO EDRA, IASIS, SCI –Hellas, Ash-In-Art, KEAN, Lo and Behold, Cyclisis, Plateau, UNESCO Club Serres, PRAXIS – Serres, UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki, Academy of Entrepreneurship, ANTIGONE, Impact Hub, Network for the Rights of the Kids, Logou Paignion, ICDSS Inn Action, Folklore archeological company of Ellassona, Compassion, Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki, Active Youths of Florina, United Societies of Balkans.

Organisations and representatives presented themselves. A presentation took place by the head of the national network of ALF about the following issues:

- What is ALF,
- What are its goals,
- The networks of ALF,
- Funding programmes of ALF,
- The previous years' actions in Greece by the National Network,
- The plan for the next 3 years,
- The changes in ALF and the national network,
- Future actions of the national network.

The 3 types of funding have been presented:

- 1) Collaborations between the heads of the networks,
- 2) Collaboration between the members of the network,
- 3) National proposals through partnerships between members of each network.

Regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> type of funding, deadline for proposals is November 1<sup>st</sup>. This call aims at supporting projects on the fields of 1)Education for Intercultural Citizenship and 2)Intercultural Artistic Co-Production. ALF supports only multilateral projects built upon a 1+1 partnership formula with at least one partner from a Southern Mediterranean country and at least one partner from a European country.

The actions of the National Network of Greece in 2015 was the update of the communication database, the planning for the next 3 years, signing a memorandum between ALF and the Municipality of Thessaloniki, Sea of Words, participation in congresses and seminars, focal-point planning and the planning of the partnership cooperation strategy.

It was announced that Thessaloniki will be the place where ALF will do action about Social Entrepreneurship. In the end of November, the start of December, a 4day congress will take place for Young Arab Voices. There will be a discussion among the heads of the networks for the creation of Mediterranean Voices, congress by UNIC about social entrepreneurship and innovation and an open discussion with the mayors of Alexandria, Thessaloniki and Marseille. Thessaloniki will be the end of a year and the start of the next one. In order for this project to be sustainable, there is a need of finding new ways of funding too.

There was a fruitful discussion about project ideas. Among the ideas discussed, were some actions about islamophobia, refugees and interreligious dialogue, women empowerment etc. Education plays a significant role and should be part of every action. Art is also a way to reach contact and intercultural dialogue.

### **Focal-points**

Focal-points will have the following roles:

- Activation of other organisations in their region,
- Fermentation of ideas and getting to know among the organizations,
- Designing actions in their area and supporting communication and dissemination of information,
- Assistance and designing proposals for the NIA (National Intercultural Action),
- Assistance in designing the next national meeting in a focal-point and others.

There is no funding for focal-points and this year is a pilot year.

Through e-voting, organisation that became focal-points are Antigone for Northern Greece, Impact Hub for Southern Greece and the House of Europe in Rhodes for Eastern Greece.

Gatherings at focal points can be held every month and take place in another organisation every time. Because of the location of some organizations and the lack of funds, meetings can be held through skype as well. Familiarity is very important between member organisations.

Next National Meeting will take place in spring 2016 in Athens. But if another place is more convenient or can be proven cheaper for accommodation and traveling, this is debatable. It would be great if the national meeting can be combined with another activity of the network or its members' in the area. Focal-points could find alternative solutions for accommodation or propose activities.

Through the NGO Bazaar that took place, organisation got to know each other and discussed about ideas for projects. Among those ideas are:

1. The creation of a toolbox for educational tools, for teachers at schools and youth-workers. It would be ideal this to become an app for smartphones.
2. Creation of videos about the unsung heroes and digital story-telling.
3. Video creation about rights in conflict i.e. democracy and participation of Neo-nazi parties etc.
4. A multicultural centre for young artists,
5. Organising a web-radio or use of an already established platform(use by any organisation that is willing, creation of a manual on how to use web-radio etc.),
6. Creation of a blog about discrimination.

In NGO Bazaar, some organizations of Thess Network, the network of NGOs of Thessaloniki, took part in.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Day(27/09/2015) – Capacity Building about the communication strategy of the National Network.**

**Participating Organisations(28):** Plateau, SCI-Hellas, Hellenic Foundation for Culture, International Forum of Piano, The Spiral, House of Europe in Rhodes, Network for the Rights of the Kids, Folklore Archeological Company of Ellassona, Active Youths of Florina, KEAN, Cyclisis, Municipality of Rhodes, Impact Hub, Lo and Behold, KSDEO EDRA, Compassion, You in Europe, ANTIGONE, Academy of Entrepreneurship, IASIS, Logou Paignion, Ash-In-Art, Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki, CIVIS PLUS, Praxis Serres, UNESCO Club Serres, UNESCO Youth Club Thessaloniki, United Societies of Bakans.

In the past communication was made through e-mails, without planning or anything else. Sending was made through the personal e-mail accounts of mr. Paraschou or mr. Valianatos.

Since last January, we tried to update the database we had with the members of the national network. We tried to find out which organizations are still active or if they changed their means of communication.

We created:

- A new e-mail account: [alf.hellas@gmail.com](mailto:alf.hellas@gmail.com)
- A closed facebook group for the direct communication among members
- A facebook page for the promotion of the activities of the network and the member organisations
- A newsletter for the members, where they can send their activities they have planned for the next month.

A new website is going to be created like the site of Thess Network ( [www.thessdiktio.gr](http://www.thessdiktio.gr)), where a blog and a web-radio can be added.

The current mini-page is not popular, but we will try to update some minimum information.

It is very important that the organisations of the network create videos about their activities, goals etc.

Every member of ALF, should add to their website that they are members of ALF.

There should be process with which we will identify which members are active or not and if active members are willing to remain members of ALF. Generally there is a need of active new members.

During the heads meeting, Greek National Network is going to discuss the following:

- The goals of UN for the period 2015-2030 and if they can be added to the goals and activities of ALF.
- The flexibility of the budget allocated to the network and if the network can move funds to another period. Also the issue of geographical spread of Greece, the case of the distant islands.
- Refugee issue and what we can do about it.

