



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

Joint Statement

Bridging Youth Across the Mediterranean

Barcelona, 7 – 9 May 2017

Background

In May 2017, thirty-five young women and men, representing youth organizations from 22 countries of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean basin met in Barcelona under the joint theme “Bridging Youth Across the Mediterranean”, in a seminar jointly organised by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and the Regional Program South Mediterranean of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

This declaration is the outcome of the discussions as agreed upon by the participants.





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With this statement, we want to present our common vision and our strong commitment towards joint action in contributing to peace, preventing violence and building human and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean youth engaged for Mediterranean issues: Based on our wish to build and live in a peaceful, diverse and developed Mediterranean region, we commit ourselves to further enhance youth engagement, in particular to ensure sustainable development and peace.

Looking at the policies in place in the different countries and national contexts, we believe that we need to engage more and provide viable path ways for more engagement, cooperation and exchange between both shores to provide useful examples, identify common challenges and best practices.

Inclusive and peaceful societies: We want to build a peaceful society based on tolerance, dialogue, diversity, respect and understanding. Cultural exchange and dialogue at regional level are useful tools to fight stereotypes, identity-based discrimination and radicalization to allow citizens from different backgrounds to live peacefully together in the same community. We want to resist radical ideas and violence by promoting dialogue and cooperation.

Creating social and economic opportunities: We want to propose more inclusive structures and practical solutions to boost youth employability and prevent social marginalization. Giving access to economic opportunities for youth will continue to lead to more stability and inclusive societies in our region. Quality and secure jobs form a primary concern for young people from all walks of life.

Creating new channels of communication: We want to build platforms for dialogue, communication and exchange to share knowledge, expertise and experiences. We want to link youth, youth associations and youth initiatives across the region.

We are eager to learn from each other. We want our voices to be heard and our opinion to be taken into consideration. Through physical gathering or digital platforms, we want to create structured communication with civil society organizations, the corporate sector and decision-makers.

We believe that a proactive, structured and continuous communication between us, with different stakeholders and various communities will be a key point to build prosperous societies and developed economies.



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Joint Action to Bridge Youth Across the Mediterranean

We want to continue the useful exchanges held, exploring, in particular the following – in close links with existing initiatives already ongoing in the region:

- Building thematic clusters or sub-groups and ensure sustainability through focus groups, regular meetings, formalized organization, use of technological tools and mutual support system and partnerships
- Supporting existing platforms and networks of youth and youth organizations and act as a network of networks
- Mapping common challenges that still need to be solved and offer practical actions for youth
- Leading or contributing to innovative social initiatives, linked to UfM priority areas of cooperation, yielding public recognition and consolidating regional interactions in various fields.
- Launching a social innovation award or competition to promote new ideas and initiatives of youth associations
- Creating mobility opportunities through scholarships, internships, fellowships, volunteering or work exchanges, fostering both understanding and practical capacity building
- Orienting our work towards recommending public policies, publishing research, creating and implementing common projects to reach our objectives