

# YOUNG MEDITERRANEAN VOICES: 'VIRTUAL' EURO-MED DEBATE AND POLICY FORUM

21 September & 30 September to 5 October 2020



#25BCNProcess

#YoungMedVoices2030

An initiative of



Co-organised by



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN  
INTEGRATION | CENTRE pour  
L'INTÉGRATION en MÉDITERRANÉE  
مركز التكامل المتوسطي



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## Introduction



The Euro-Med Debate and Policy Forum, an inter-regional dialogue-based high-level event that is taking place virtually from **30 September to 5 October 2020 (with a preparatory meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>)**, is a meeting of youth from the Mediterranean South and North, for a 5 days series of activities. Despite the limitations with mobility and physical meetings, we aim to create opportunities for dialogue and inter-cultural learning between young leaders from the Mediterranean north and south and breaking down barriers and stereotypes. Moreover, the Virtual Debate Forum will further develop capacity through learning from a variety of experiences, from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to business and politics, to build the networks for future collaboration. Through its various virtual innovative methods, the event enhances the dialogue on social engagement, and addresses issues of common concern to their communities. Finally, it naturally showcases Young Mediterranean Voices (YMV) and its importance in advancing the youth agenda and it advocates for its 'continuation'.

The Virtual Debate Forum is a continuation of the YMV contribution of Mediterranean youth to lead and drive the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are building on the successful forum held in Malta in July 2019. This year in addition to the 30+ young debaters and YMV programme participants from across the two shores of the Mediterranean, we are inviting relevant stakeholders, for joint events and participation in the Forum, as a means to generate dialogue and mentor the young debaters in sharpening their content in order to formulate more efficient policy recommendations.

## Context



### **#YoungMedVoices2030 and #25BCNProcess**

The overall objective of the Young Mediterranean Voices programme is to: **“Empower young people to enhance a culture of dialogue, to contribute to public policy and shape media discourses, and to create a shared understanding with peers across the Mediterranean on how to address issues of common concern to their communities.”**

As part of our collective responsibility to contribute to reaching the **Sustainable Development Goals** and those who will be in leadership positions by 2030 are the young people we are developing today. #YoungMedVoices2030 which started in 2018 has become a movement of connected champions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from across the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and the Balkans. The foreseen dialogue with EU policy makers will act as a catalyst to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition, **the COVID-19 crisis is predicted to have long-lasting effects** on youth. Indeed, even though young people seem to be less affected by the health crisis, they will most probably be impacted by the upcoming worldwide economic crisis. The crisis will exacerbate the challenges already faced by young people around the Mediterranean when it comes to migration, access to employment or quality and affordable education, in addition to challenges posed by environmental factors. The Euro-Med Debate and Policy Forum could represent an opportunity for young people from all around the region to exchange their views on the COVID-19 crisis and its impacts on their societies, and to find innovative and sustainable solutions to be implemented to counter the effects of the crisis.

Finally, the event coincides with the celebration of the **25 years of the Barcelona Agreement**, and it can be a departure point for a renewed discussion by youth and relevant stakeholders, around the policies and orientations that have shaped the conversation on the Mediterranean, and how our priorities can be shaped now, for the next 25 years.



## Contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



This forum will bring new SDGs to the foreground of the dialogue, in addition to returning to some discussed in 2019, specifically themes around reducing inequalities and climate action. Moreover, the national debate cycles in 2019 have shown that there are common issues discussed in all YMV countries. These are around economic growth and employment, mobility and migration, youth participation in decision-making, education, sustainability and climate action.

Overarching: Gender Equality and Inclusion will be expressed across all 4 SDGs, as an essential and cross cutting theme that will be needed to ensure greater equality and justice. Biodiversity and Sustainability will be expressed under SDG13, as climate action policies.

Therefore, for the 2020 Forum we propose the following SDGs:

*SDG 4 'Quality Education'*

*SDG 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'*

*SDG 10 'Reduce Inequality within and among countries'*

*SDG 13 'Climate Action'*

*SDG 16 'Peace Justice and Strong Institutions'*



## Debate to Action



The programme will prioritise online processes and methodologies that generate dialogue and foster intercultural exchange, centering on debates, feedback, networking, and policy recommendations -oriented opportunities. Young people forming debate clubs in the South Med have tested the action through their ability to highlight issues that their local community through hosting debates, and then pushing those in power to take actions, whether they are a local council member or the dean of a certain faculty. Young people from the Mediterranean North will bring their own voice to this forum drawing from their experience with inter-cultural dialogue through YMV activities around leadership and communications, to further enhance a culture of dialogue.

Each debate will feature mixed teams of young debaters from the South and North of the Mediterranean who will present evidence to validate their arguments for or against a policy motion linked to specific SDGs, generating in the process policy recommendations for the Policy Dialogue event and for dissemination to decision-makers in the Euro-Med.

<sup>1</sup> The Euro-Med Debate and Policy Forum in 2019, debate policies have targeted to SDG 4 "Quality Education", SDG 5 "Gender Equality", SDG 10 "Reduce inequality within and among countries", SDG 13 "Climate Action" and SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions".



## Methodology



We propose 3 phases for the Virtual Forum to be as impactful as possible:

- 1) **Capacity-building and Teambuilding:** a preparatory meeting, which will include a crash course in debating, a discussion around inter-cultural dialogue in the context of debating and the policy orientation of the debates, aiming at the generation of policy recommendations. Moreover, the Center for Mediterranean Integration will lead a discussion of research, through an examples based approach, relating to their work. Finally, the preparatory meeting will create the teams of debaters, and explain the methodology of the online event, meant to start on September 30th, and the Facilitator/ Head Adjudicator will follow-up with two preparatory workshops for all debaters.
- 2) The **Debate phase** where debates will take place and content will be generated in the form of policy recommendations. The debates have the format of a championship, whereby a winning team of debaters will be announced after 2 rounds of debates.
  - The final debate of the Championship will be open to the public and it will be conducted following the Oxford style debate format whereby there is a system of voting (at the start and at the end of the debate) that determines the winner debating team.
- 3) The **Dialogue - Policy Lobbying and Networking phase** is a series of two discussions around policy recommendations generated in the Debate phase, with the involvement of high level guests and the broader YMV community, and a series of networking virtual meetings between debaters and other youth CSO representatives and Debate Hubs from the Euro-Med. The networking will center on sharing of ideas and formulating practical steps for the implementation of ideas and initiatives by the participants.



*The after-forum phase is the phase where the ideas shared by the participants during the Virtual Forum can be further developed through action plans, with the support of mechanisms by individuals, institutions and frameworks from the Euro-Med. For teams that wish to develop their idea into a project, YMV, can incorporate their idea into the next phase of the implementation of the project, subject to budget availability.*



# Programme Agenda

Group Composition: 16 South Med, 16 North Med

## Programme (CET: Central European Time / West Africa Time)

### (Preparatory Session) Monday 21 September 2020 – 2hrs30 (private event)

9:00 **Test**

10:00 **Welcome**

- Welcome, agenda presentation and the debate format

10:15 **Introduction by event partners / stakeholders**

- Introduction on Young Mediterranean Voices, cycle of activities/how it works
- Introduction by Center for Mediterranean Integration, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange and British Council
- Introduction by participants, facilitator/head adjudicator, adjudicators

10:30 **Introducing The Debate Forum format & Intercultural dialogue**

- Going through the methodology, sharing clips of best practices, division of debaters into teams, setting the rules and logistics of the debates, sharing the programme agenda, motions SDGs

11:30 - 12:30 **Research and Formulating Policy Recommendations: Youth Effectively Influencing Policy & Credible Research**

- Center for Mediterranean Integration reports on “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in MENA region” and on “Enhancing Mediterranean Integration”

### (Day 1) Wed 30 September 2020 – 3hrs30

16:00 - 17:30 **1<sup>st</sup> round of debates – 4 parallel sessions (private event)**

Preparation time for teams: 15 minutes

Debate time: 45 minutes

Adjudicators deliberation: 15 minutes

Debrief: 15 minutes

1. Team A/B-Team C/D (Virtual Room 1)
2. Team E/F-Team G/H (Virtual Room 2)
3. Team I/J-Team K/L (Virtual Room 3)
4. Team M/N-Team O/P (Virtual Room 4)

17:30 - 19:00 **2<sup>nd</sup> round of debates – 4 parallel sessions (private event)**

Preparation time for teams: 15 minutes.

Debate time: 45 minutes.

Adjudicators' deliberation: 15 minutes.

Debrief: 15 minutes

1. Team A/E-Team I/M (Virtual Room 1)
2. Team B/F-Team J/N (Virtual Room 2)
3. Team C/G-Team K/O (Virtual Room 3)
4. Team D/H-Team L/P (Virtual Room 4)

**Feedback on day 1, presentation of agenda day 2**

## **(Day 2) Thursday 1 October 2020**

### **16:00 - 17:30 3<sup>rd</sup> round of debates – 4 parallel sessions (private event)**

Preparation time for teams: 15 minutes

Debate time: 45 minutes

Adjudicators deliberation: 15 minutes

Debrief: 15 minutes

1. Team A/F-Team J/O (Virtual Room 1)
2. Team B/G-Team L/M (Virtual Room 2)
3. Team C/E-Team P/H (Virtual Room 3)
4. Team D/N-Team K/I (Virtual Room 4)

### **30' Gap time (if needed)**

### **18:30 Announcement of winning teams (public event)**

- Teams that will go to the Semi-Finals will be announced

## **(Day 3) Friday 2 October 2020 2hrs30**

### **10:00 - 11:30 Semi-Finals (public event)**

1. Semi-Final 1: Virtual Room 1
2. Semi-Final 2: Virtual Room 2

### **12:30 - 13:30 Great Debate Finals (Oxford style debate) (Public event)**

Preparation time for teams: 10 minutes

Debate time: 40 minutes

Voting: 10 minutes

## **(Day 4) Saturday 3 October 2020 – 2hrs30**

### **10:00 - 12:00 Networking Activities (registration required)**

- Morning Coffee: thematic networking activity
- Share your space (4 Debate Hubs, Debate Clubs Challenge – South Med / 4 CSOs – North Med)

## **(Day 5) Monday 5 October 2020 – 2hrs30**

### **10:00 - 11:30 High-Level Policy Dialogue (public event)**

- Share Policy Recommendations of the debate content discussed
- Debaters presenting the ideas/recommendations as initiators to the discussion, responses by high level speakers
- “What are the priorities on youth issues?”

### **11:30 - 12:30 Youth-led Consultation (public event)**

- What are the priorities of youth in these times of crisis?
- Reflecting on the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, how do you see youth activities developing to serve your needs better?
- How do you see youth programmes such as Young Mediterranean Voices and Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange continuing into the future in a way to better serve young people?

**Please log on 15 minutes before each meeting for an orientation and welcome.**

# Young Mediterranean Voices Programme

Young Mediterranean Voices is the flagship debate and dialogue programme connecting civil society, education and policy-makers across the Southern Mediterranean and Europe. The programme is coordinated by the Anna Lindh Foundation, co-founded by the British Council, and developed in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), Friends of Europe, the World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid, MEDAC and Soliya. The programme is funded by the European Commission (Directorate General of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and co-funded by the Government of Finland, World Bank Group and the British Council.

Coordinated by:



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