



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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Arab Youth Forum of the League of Arab States

**Amman, Jordan
24-27 November 2008**

CALL FOR EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS

Background

The Council of Europe's youth sector has an outstanding tradition of intercultural dialogue and including the points of view of young people from across the globe in its activities, be them organised at the European youth centres or supported by the European Youth Foundation. In its current youth policy priorities, the Youth Programme on Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue provides the framework for cooperation with other regions of the world, while placing emphasis on the role of intercultural dialogue for managing diversity within each society.

The most important area of cooperation has been in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular through the human rights education and intercultural dialogue of the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

Activities carried out so far in the framework of the Partnership confirm the opportunity and the need to deepen practices of human rights education as an educational approach valid and relevant to all the partners in Euro-Med projects. The publication of *COMPASS, the manual on human rights education with young people*, by the Council of Europe, now available in twenty five languages, including Arabic, provided opportunities to enlarge the circle and scope of human rights education while allowing reaching new target groups and organisations. This is complemented, within the Council of Europe, by other activities in the field of youth policy cooperation and of intercultural dialogue, including an intercultural Arabic language training course.

Intercultural dialogue and cooperation in the youth field include also activities that reflect the global dimension of the issues; such as the cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations or the participation in University on Youth and Development, co-organised by the North-South Centre.

Euro-Arab youth cooperation was initiated more than 10 years by the Council of Europe with a series of activities of Euro-Arab Dialogue. More recently, within the Youth Partnership, the League of Arab States has become a regular partner in the activities of the Partnership aimed at fostering exchange dialogue in the youth policy field. In 2009, the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe will take this cooperation one step further by initiating a joint programme for the training of youth leaders.

In 2007, the League of Arab States organised the first Arab Youth Forum in Egypt with the purpose of mobilising and consulting young people about the development of youth policies in their countries and the role of the League of Arab States therein.

The League of Arab States organising the forum to bring together young people from all over the Arab Region and to associate them with development of youth policies, within the context of the implementation of the Arab Youth Empowerment Declaration, signed by the Heads of the Arab States in 2006.

The 2nd Arab Youth Forum will take place in Amman, Jordan. It will gather around some young people from the Arab Region and Europe. The theme of the 2008 Forum will be the dialogue between cultures.

In view of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States decided to open participation in the forum to European youth leaders so as to favour direct exchanges, dialogue and cooperation between Arab and European youth leaders. This is done in cooperation with the European Youth Forum, partner in this project with the League of Arab States and a major youth partner for the Council of Europe.

Objectives of the European participation in the Arab Youth Forum

The participation of European youth leaders in the Second Youth Forum aims at supporting intercultural dialogue and cooperation between youth organisations and projects from the member states of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States.

Furthermore, this participation should also enable:

- A better knowledge of the realities of young people and issues affecting them in Europe and the Arab countries;
- Better cooperation in youth policy and youth work matters between participants;
- A better understanding of the meanings and practical implications of intercultural dialogue in a Euro-Med youth context;
- Contacts with potential partners for future Euro-Arab youth projects;
- The Council of Europe and the League of Arab States to define the scope of future cooperation in the youth field.

Profile of participants

The Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport would like to contribute to the forum by inviting and supporting the participation of 25 youth leaders and youth workers, active in intercultural dialogue with young people and representative of the diverse realities of youth work across Europe.

All the participants should:

- Have direct experience in working with young people or active within a youth organisation or a youth policy institution;
- Be interested in contributing to intercultural dialogue and able to share their experiences with other participants;
- Be motivated to develop contacts and youth projects with partners in Arab countries;
- Be aged between 18 and 30 years (exceptions are possible in justified cases);
- Be supported by a youth organisation or institution;
- Be able to work in English and Arabic;
- Be able to attend the full duration of the forum.
- Be resident in one of the member states of the Council of Europe or parties to the European Cultural Convention.

In addition to the participants being recruited by the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum will also recruit a similar number of participants from its member organisations through a distinct process.

Financial and administrative conditions

Board and lodging for the duration of the forum will be provided will be provided by the League of Arab States.

Travel costs will be reimbursed by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe via the European Youth Forum. The reimbursement will be done after the meeting, by bank transfer.

Procedure for applications

All those youth workers and youth leaders interested in attending the forum should register and fill in an on-line application form at <http://coe.opencontent.it> according to the instructions provided on the site. The application should be accompanied by a supporting letter of the sending organisation or institution which states the reasons why the participation of the applicant is important for the organisation.

The deadline for submitting applications is **19 October 2008.**

Further information:

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