

“Translation for Dialogue” Euromed Conference

23-24 June 2016 – Piran, Slovenia

#Translate4dialogue

RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR EURO-MED TRANSLATION FOR DIALOGUE

The Anna Lindh Foundation during this conference has explored and presented 3 main approaches that will be part of a long-term strategy aiming to establish a permanent programme supporting translations for dialogue at Euro Mediterranean level. These recommendations will constitute the bases for the Translation for Dialogue Road Map.

The Foundation will work on the recommendations, suggestions and good practices discussed during the conference and will define the main characteristics of each proposal.

As a result of the workshops discussions, the following initiatives will be promoted as main tools for Translation for Dialogue in the region:

1. A Fund supporting translation as a mean for intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Med area.

During one of the workshops, the parameters of a future fund for translation as a vehicle of intercultural dialogue has been explored, defining its strategic approach and potential operational principals. During the sessions, concrete proposals to support instruments for dialogue, such as networking, residences and the mobility exchange of translators, writers and publishers have been presented.

The main recommendations established that the Found should be conceived as a long-term mechanism for circulation of translation. This can be combined with specific ad hoc support addressing key challenges linked with the intercultural mission of the Foundation. Funding mechanisms should avoid duplications and be open to invite key stakeholders and private and public donors, including coming up with a bigger common project. Some global players should be taken into consideration such as European Union, UNESCO, World Bank, Google or Amazon.

The uniqueness and added value of this fund will be its multilateral composition rather than bilateral, the equality in the partnerships promoted, the sustainability of the supported projects, the importance provided to the promotion and to reach new audiences, the focus on professional development and it's specific components in intercultural dialogue as added value.

2. Permanent interactive platform in the field of translation for dialogue.

It has been underlined the unique moment provided by this conference to consolidate a permanent network of actors present in the chain of translation and with an interest in intercultural dialogue. The engagement of the relevant networks and actors present here

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today constitutes the bases for the establishment of a permanent Euro-Med community on Translation for Dialogue.

One of the first proposals aiming to reinforce the creation of such a community of actors is the development of an interactive platform for promoting the exchange and the involvement of different translation initiatives working on dialogue. This platform will have two main sections: a directory of actors involved in translation for dialogue and a forum where actors can discuss topics of mutual interest. The uniqueness of this platform is its euro med dimension, the focus on the current socio cultural challenges and the fact that will be open to the interaction among the overall initiatives on intercultural dialogue in the region.

A mapping of existing schemes will be carried. The development of a Newsletter as a as a tool of exchange and promotion of the current existing initiatives has been explored. It will ensure a first stage of exchange of information about the different agendas of the region aiming to bring them together in cross cultural and collaboration projects, and making its work recognizable.

3. Flagship Euro-Med initiatives aiming to visualise and recognise the translation have been identified

Translation is a transversal activity that is present in our daily life to an extent we are often no aware of. Explicit translation is part of daily communication and artistic and cultural expressions. Youth, audience and creators are relevant actors in this regard.

The workshop defined initiatives that can promote translation as a tool to deconstruct stereotypes and allow citizens from the region to deal and appreciate different cultural identities and social values. Some of the recommendations for initiatives supporting translation as primary tool for intercultural dialogue are: (i) the relevance to support activities involving refugees and migrant writers and artists living in Europe, making them ambassadors of cultural diversity; (ii) support of existing initiatives to make them more sustainable and help them fundraise and ensure that they are recognised; (iii) proactive involvement of youth and the need to focus on current challenges such as the current refugee crises.

Concrete modalities to be encouraged have been proposed:

- Specific programme for organisers of live events (e.g. festivals) offering networking and fellowships programmes to learn and improve practices.
- Encourage audience development event forums embedded in existing events such as festivals or book fairs, by bringing people together and including workshops, performances and exhibitions.
- The promotion of Awards and prizes for translation between languages of the South and North with a special focus on migrant writers and artists in word based genres in order to promote diversity and support their work. It has been advised to link these awards to the promotion of campaigns aiming to promote and advocate translated works.