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Overview

Med Dialogue Fellows Bootcamp: Addressing ecological challenges in the Mediterranean

27-31st January 2020, GDA Sidi Amor, Tunis

The present activity falls within the larger framework of one of Med Dialogue's Programme's "**Supporting Young Leaders and Networks**". It focuses on enhancing the capacities of more than **30** young civil society leaders, selected through an Open Call for Interest, from 10 Arab countries¹, to strategise, cooperate together and advocate for rights and equality in the region, and who are committed to addressing specific Mediterranean policy challenges beyond their national borders.

The main purpose of this 1st Med Dialogue Fellows Bootcamp, is to facilitate the development of regional networks, mutual skill-building, promoting advocacy, building channels of cooperation and developing local actions inspired by ecological principles and/or addressing environmental challenges that countries of the region are faced with today.

Why address ecological challenges?

The Mediterranean is a unique eco-region. Its temperate climate, which has been domesticating the African heat and the Atlantic cold for millennia, and has produced extraordinary biodiversity, is in great danger today. Global warming is expected to severely hit the region. Unsustainable fishing, urbanisation and forest fires are threatening the richness of its biological heritage. Intensive farming and mass tourism are about to radically impoverish the beauty of our wild and rural sceneries. Preserving the Mediterranean eco-region is not only a matter of preventing species' extinction, nor only about defending our most celebrated healthy and diversified diet, or simply preventing the destruction of landscapes which have been created by Human Beings and Nature over the centuries. It is also about struggling against an advanced process of commodification of goods which belong to all humankind, the planet and future generations: water, soil, seeds and species, and air.

The **Med Dialogue Fellows Bootcamp 1** "Addressing ecological challenges in the Mediterranean", hinges on **3 key pillars**:

- **Familiarising** the participants with the main environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region, and principles of ecological sciences, political ecology and eco-management, by means of interactive presentations and discussions with the Facilitators, and working groups, etc.
- **Coaching** on elaborating and implementing a regional common action² within a commonly agreed framework and a central operational coordination; building the concept, identifying common characteristics, planning and operational aspects, etc.
- **Study-visits** to local environmental CSOs and projects working on ecological transition
- **Public debate** in the host country

¹ Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Syria and their respective diasporas, knowing that cooperation between the EU and Syrian government is currently suspended until further notice.

² The common action can be defined as a programme of several awareness-raising oriented actions (information/ advocacy campaigns, etc.) built upon the needs and local context of the area where they'd take place and implemented by an organisation or a consortium of organisations. It takes place through decentralized activities within a well-defined time frame, so as to embolden its critical mass.

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