

Call for Applications

Mediterranean Youth in Action, MYA

TRANSFORMATIVE YOUTH – TY

CALLING ALL ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE EURO-MED!

Application deadline: 23 May 2026 (23:59 CET)

Read the full call and application form here.

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About the MYA Programme

The Mediterranean Youth in Action (MYA) Programme of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) embodies a dynamic approach toward fostering positive change in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Grounded in gaining experience and learning through action, MYA empowers young pioneers to become catalysts for transformation and advocates for societal progress. With a steadfast commitment to peer sharing and learning, MYA cultivates a vibrant community where young leaders collaborate, exchange ideas, and harness their collective potential.

Embracing a Euro-med vision, the Programme bridges cultural divides and promotes dialogue, understanding, and cooperation across borders. Through initiatives aimed at empowering young people to shape public policy and promote active citizenship, MYA positions youth as the true agents of change, envisioning a future where they play pivotal roles in shaping the societal landscape of the Mediterranean region.

About the Transformative Youth in Action Programme

Step into the world of transformative action with MYA!

This call is designed to empower young community leaders to create tangible and lasting impact in their communities.

Through MYA, young community leaders from both shores of the Euro-Mediterranean region are invited to



implement grassroots initiatives that inspire community-led solutions to address home needs, while promoting inclusion. It is a call for hands-on involvement and real change.

Selected initiatives will act as inspiring prototypes at the local level, showcasing the relevance and effectiveness of community action on the broader Euro-Mediterranean scale.

This call offers an extraordinary opportunity for young leaders to unleash their creativity and drive lasting, positive change in society. So, if you're ready to roll up your sleeves and be a part of something truly meaningful, MYA is calling your name. Join us, and let's turn vision into action!

What should your initiative be like?

Your initiatives should be locally transformative, and they should directly address clearly identified community needs. Applicants are encouraged to showcase how their projects contribute to inter-cultural dialogue, diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities in their communities. The initiatives must bear an impact in Euro-Med communities in any of the eligible countries and address relevant priorities introduced under the Pact for the Mediterranean (more info on https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/joint-communication-pact-mediterranean_en).

In your application, you should demonstrate why your project is unique and how it effectively addresses the identified need or problem. Initiatives can have a social, economic, or public policy focus, provided they directly address the community challenges identified and seek to achieve inclusion, yielding sustainable results.

TY: Step-by-Step Guide

Embark on a vibrant journey with the ALF by acquainting yourself with the process. Here is a detailed breakdown to guide you seamlessly through each step:

1. Application submission

You will start your journey with MYA by applying by the set deadline, while ensuring that you meet the criteria listed below, and demonstrating your commitment to contributing to the Euro-Med vision. This includes the submission of an outline for a transformative initiative of up to 500 words. The outlines should depict transformative initiatives at the local level, addressing community needs and promoting inclusion in an innovative manner.

2. Online practical training (up to 75 pre-selected young community leader initiatives)

A selection committee will pre-screen the most transformative outlines (up to 75). If your proposed outline is among the pre-selected 75, you will be invited to engage with an enriching online training programme. Led by expert facilitators, this training will bolster your skills in project cycle management, communication, and dissemination, preparing you for the subsequent phases.

3. Extended proposal

Following the online practical training, you will be tasked with developing an extended proposal, providing a detailed description of your initiatives, a budget breakdown and relevant indicators. Based on the evaluation of the extended proposal and a set of final selection criteria, up to 35 initiatives will be selected for award.

4. Face-to-face kick-off engaging meeting (up to 35 selected young community leaders)

The selected young transformative leaders will convene for an immersive in-person kick-off meeting in one



of the Euro-Med countries. This meeting offers a unique platform for sharing approaches, refining methodologies through peer reviews, and fostering collective engagement. Special attention will be given to reviewing all aspects of the proposed initiatives, ensuring clarity in narrative and financial reporting.

Moreover, this gathering presents a unique opportunity to foster a sense of community and collaboration on the Euro-Med scale, enhancing connectivity and synergy among young leaders from diverse backgrounds.

5. Implementation of community-based transformative initiatives

With up to **8,000 euros**, the selected young community leaders will implement their initiatives, emphasising multiplier effects and alliances with local entities. Robust measures, including online intermediate sessions and continuous accompaniment, will be in place to maximise results and address potential challenges.

6. Face-to-face evaluation and results-sharing meeting

Around 35 selected young community leaders will be invited to participate in a face-to-face event that brings together youth, decision-makers, stakeholders from the Euro-Mediterranean region, and beneficiaries under the other MYA Programme areas and beyond. It provides a platform for sharing insights, fostering collaboration, and addressing key issues related to youth empowerment and intercultural dialogue. The event will provide the opportunity to evaluate the methodology applied and to improve future editions.

Benefits of Participation

- 1. Skills enhancement and capacity building opportunities:** Elevate project management, communication, and transformative leadership skills through an online training programme. And participate in a kick-off meeting in person in one of the Euro-Mediterranean countries for peer review and discussions. Refine methodologies, build connections, and prepare for the initiative's implementation phase.
- 2. Financial support (up to 35 selected young community leaders):** Receive up to 8,000 euros for implementing community-level initiatives.
- 3. Networking opportunities:** Connect with leaders, stakeholders, and civil society representatives. Build a robust network for potential collaborations and future endeavours.
- 4. Evaluation and learning support:** Receive continuous accompaniment and support. Engage in online intermediate sessions, ensuring timely and collaborative problem-solving. The ALF Secretariat is committed to supporting participants at every stage.
- 5. Enhanced visibility of your initiative:** Actively contribute to communication initiatives, creating diverse content to share your insights. These will include direct testimonies from the young community leaders about your experiences and knowledge gained during your participation in the MYA Programme. Ad-hoc financial support will be provided for these contributions.

Additional benefits:

- 1. Participation in Euro-Mediterranean dialogues and ALF Youth Conference.**

As a selected young community leader, your journey with the ALF offers an exclusive opportunity to actively engage in participatory and policy dialogues in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This includes participation in events such as: **ALF Dialogues, ALF Youth Conference, etc.**

Young leaders who have shown excellence in implementing their initiatives will have the opportunity to actively participate in dynamic events and dialogues organised at the Euro-Mediterranean scale, amplifying youth voices and perspectives, fostering dialogue, and connecting with stakeholders and peers across the



region. Participating in these events not only enhances your visibility and network but also provides a unique platform to contribute to meaningful dialogues shaping the Euro-Mediterranean narrative.

2. MYA Alumni

Being pre-selected and completing the online training programme automatically grants you membership in the MYA Alumni scheme, a growing and dynamic community of young change-makers from across the Euro-Mediterranean region. As a MYA Alumnus/a, you will have the opportunity to attend and actively participate in the upcoming Alumni activities, keeping you connected to the MYA network well beyond your initial engagement with the Programme.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be of age between 18 to 35;
- Be affiliated with youth-led or youth-oriented community-based organisations;
- Be nationals of one of the 43 Member States of the Anna Lindh Foundation;
- Implement a transformative and innovative initiative within the 43 eligible countries

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria will be disqualified.

Application process

Submit your online application via the available online form [only](#) (hyperlink) before **23 May 2026, 23.59 Central European Time, CET.**

Applications must be submitted in any of the three ALF languages: Arabic, English or French

In your application, you must ensure alignment with the criteria, demonstrating your commitment to driving positive change in your local community. In your application, you will need to craft a concise initiative outline, limited to 500 words, focusing on local transformative initiatives that address community needs and promote inclusion.

Only complete applications, meeting the criteria and submitted before the deadline will be considered.

Please note that it is not possible to save the application as a draft or to make any changes after submitting it. By the set deadline, only the most recently submitted version of the application will be considered. The same applicant cannot submit more than one proposal under this call.

Applicants may only apply to ONE call under the MYA Programme that best reflects their profile. Submission of applications under more than one MYA call may result in the disqualification of all applications submitted.

Due to the expected high volume of applications, only pre-selected candidates will be contacted.

There will be an info session scheduled for live questions and answers. In case you miss that or have any further questions or face any technical problems, please write to us at: mya.transformativeyouth@alfsecretariat.org



Selection Criteria

Selection criteria will be based on the quality of the applications received in terms of measurable impact.

The selection process is designed to ensure fairness, equal treatment, diversity, and relevance. Below are the selection criteria:

1. Alignment with local community needs (25%)

Demonstrated understanding of local community needs and a clear articulation of how the proposed initiative addresses these needs at the grassroots level. Analysis of context weighs at 15%, and the targeted beneficiaries at 10%.

2. Feasibility and clarity of the implementation plan (35%)

Provision of a feasible and well-detailed implementation plan, including a clear description of activities, appropriate indicators for outputs (products) and outcomes (impact at the community level).

3. Innovation element of the transformative initiative (15%)

Application of new perspectives with the goal of improving the impact of the proposed initiative, develop tailored solutions challenging the status quo and thinking outside the box, to achieve breakthrough results in relation to the most pressing identified problems or address unmet needs.

4. Background and experience (15%)

Demonstrated diverse background and experiences showcasing the applicant's ability to contribute unique perspectives and approaches to the initiative, and that they have sufficient community engagement experience.

5. Applicability and relevance at the Euro-Med scale (10%)

Demonstration of how the proposed initiative is relevant to and aligned with the broader Euro-Med context, taking into account the unique socio-cultural, economic, and political factors of the locality and those of the region.

The ALF is dedicated to promoting an inclusive and non-discriminatory atmosphere within the Transformative Youth in Action.

A gender and geographical balance between regions and countries will be observed. This commitment underscores our goal to create a diverse and equitable community, fostering sustainable and inclusive development in the Euro-Med region.

Important note: Due to the large number of applications expected, the limited resources available, and the aim of diversifying the beneficiaries, priority will be given to applications that did not receive funding in the previous "Mediterranean Youth in Action" and "Young Civil Society Leadership" Programmes calls launched in 2023, 2024 or 2025.

Please note that for the extended proposal phase, detailed selection criteria will be applied. They will be shared with the pre-selected applicants during the pre-selection and online training phase.

Indicative timeline*

- **23/04/26** Launch of the call
- **05/05/26** Online Information Session



- **23/05/26** Deadline to receive the submission of the initiative outlines
- **15/06/26** Publication of the pre-selection results (around 75 initiatives)
- **June 2026** Online training
- **Early July 2026** Deadline to receive the submission of the extended proposals
- **July 2026** Publication of the final selection results (around 35 initiatives)
- **September-October 2026** Face-to-face kick-off engagement meeting
- **October 2026** Earliest possible start date of the community-based initiatives benefiting from this call
- **March 2027** Latest possible end date of the community-based initiatives benefiting from this call
- **April-Mai 2027** Face-to-Face evaluation and results sharing meeting

*Please note that the timeline is indicative and may be subject to adjustments depending on the number of applications received and the overall evaluation process. The ALF Secretariat will make every effort to follow the proposed schedule while ensuring a fair and comprehensive selection process.

Background: The Anna Lindh Foundation

The Anna Lindh Foundation, (<https://alf.website/en/>), was created in 2005 as a Euro-Mediterranean intergovernmental organisation based in Alexandria. The ALF, inspired by Anna Lindh's legacy, is committed to fostering intercultural dialogue within its mission of nurturing inclusive societies where diversity is celebrated and everyone's voice is valued. By promoting peace, justice, and strong partnerships, the ALF strives to create a world where people from diverse backgrounds live in harmony through open and meaningful intercultural exchanges. ALF brings together organisations, institutions, policy makers, and other change makers from all Euro-Med countries to open a dialogue and cooperate. People meet, learn, and collaborate through the Foundation's different Programmes and initiatives in different fields to empower them to create a chain of positive change that touches more lives and communities. Its action is grounded on the two main ALF bodies: Its National Civil Society Networks, with more than 4.500 members, and the 43 States of its Board of Governors.

Framework and financial allocation

This Programme is developed in the framework of the Action Grant "Mediterranean Youth in Action-MYA" ref. NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/448-134. The indicative overall amount allocated to this call is 346,000 euro. The ALF Secretariat reserves the right not to disburse all available funds.



Application form

Section 1: Personal Information of the applicant

1. Full Name:
2. Date of Birth:
3. Gender:
4. Nationality:
5. Country of residence:
6. Email:
7. Phone Number with international country codes:
8. Please upload your CV

Section 2: About the organisation

(Remember: you must be affiliated to a civil society entity to be eligible and a letter of support from the below mentioned organisation will be requested if you are pre-selected!)

1. Full organisation name:
2. Legal person representative:
3. Country of registration: (Dropdown Menu)
4. Year of establishment: (drop down menu)
5. Links to the organisation webpage or/and any other social media links:
6. What is the mission or purpose of the organisation?
7. Please provide brief descriptions of relevant specific programmes or initiatives designed for or carried out by young individuals, supported by your affiliated organisation (With links if available) and what has been your role in those specific programmes or initiatives?
8. Is your organisation a member of one of the ALF National Civil Society Networks? Yes/No
 1. If yes, please paste your profile link on the ALF corporate website
 2. If not, have you applied to become an ALF member? Yes/No
 3. When? (Please note that membership is offered free of charge)
9. Website/Social Media Handles/Links:

Section 3: Outline for the Transformative Initiative

Transformative Initiative Outline Guidelines:

The outline for a transformative initiative can be submitted in the following languages: English, Arabic, or French (limited to 500 words). The outline should focus on transformative initiatives at the local level, addressing community needs, promoting inclusion and having innovative ideas and activities.

Below you will find the sections that should be included in the initiative outline:

1. **Title** (max. 130 characters with spaces):
Make sure that the title is concise, attractive, and reflects the type of initiative you are planning.
2. **Place of implementation**:
Please state the country, city, and neighbourhood
3. **Problem statement and context analysis (max. 100 words)**:
Describe the specific challenges or needs prevalent in the local community. Provide context or data supporting the urgency of addressing these issues. Identify the targeted beneficiaries.



4. Objectives and proposed activities (max. 100 words):

Clearly outline the objectives of your initiative and the specific activities that will be implemented to achieve your outlined objectives. Clearly detail the implementation plan with outputs and results.

5. Innovative approach (max. 100 words):

Describe the innovative approach and methodology your initiative will employ to bring about transformation at the local level. Highlight any unique features or strategies.

6. Usefulness at the Euro-med scale (max. 100 words):

Illustrate how the proposed initiative relates to and aligns with the broader context of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

7. Background and experience (max. 100 words):

Provide a concise overview of your background and qualifications, emphasising relevant experiences that position you and your organisation as capable leaders for the proposed grassroots initiative.

Did you make use of Artificial Intelligence in drafting the proposal? (Yes/No) If yes: why?

Where did you hear about this call?

By participating in this call, the applicant accepts the provisions of the ALF regarding patents, privacy, and intellectual property and the protection of personal data [link to the legal text] [Mandatory check box to be able to submit the application] and accepts to be subscribed to receive updates about the ALF's activities and future opportunities [Mandatory check box to be able to submit the application]

