Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

ideaborn

REGIONAL SEMINAR: CIVIC EDUCATION FOR YOUTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Outcomes of the regional UfM labelled project "Forming Responsible Citizens"

Barcelona, 28-29 June 2018

Background

The Euro-Mediterranean region is currently facing strong transformations that challenge its capacity to build inclusive, pluralistic and open societies, among them the increase of violence, intolerance and radicalisation of which youth are the main victims. These challenges are at the heart of the current debates about the future and stability of the region. Preventing violence and radicalisation and promoting inclusive and equal societies are essential levers to improve regional development and stability.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** stipulates that, by 2030, the necessity to ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

At a global and regional level we witness the emergence of several frameworks and initiatives, which demonstrates a growing interest for citizenship education: The **Paris Declaration** launched in 2015 by the **EU** Member States on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education; the **Council of Europe Global Citizenship Education** programme**;** the **Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism** launched by **UNESCO** in 2016, and **the Mediterranean University of Fes.** These initiatives, in addition to emerging national policies in this regard, aim to promote citizenship and values of non-violence, tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as intercultural dialogue.

In January 2017, the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** Member States adopted an action-oriented roadmap centred on **Mediterranean youth's potential for promoting stability and development in the region**. Ministers mandated the UfM Secretariat to focus on human development, in particular through youth and women empowerment, as a main contribution to addressing the root causes of the current challenges faced by the region including violence and extremism. Through its activities, UfM joins regional and international efforts to develop further high-impact projects and initiatives with a special focus on strengthening the role of youth and women.

Objectives of the Seminar

In this framework, Ideaborn, in collaboration with the UfM Secretariat, organise on 28-29 June 2018 in Barcelona a regional Seminar on **"Civic Education for Youth in the Mediterranean"** with the objective to discuss the **central role of citizenship education in the current emerging challenges in the region,** such as the prevention of violence, radicalisation and the promotion of gender equality. The Seminar will be held under the framework of the UfM labelled regional project "Forming Responsible Citizens" (FRC) which has been implemented since 2015 in Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon with the financial support of the governments of Norway and Monaco.

The Seminar responds to three objectives, namely:

- To discuss challenges and recommendations regarding civic education programmes across the Euro-Mediterranean region
- To share experience and best practices and explore regional perspectives on preventing youth radicalisation through civic education
- To explore the needs as well as sustainable avenues regarding capacity building and the contribution of different stakeholders.

Furthermore, the seminar will be an opportunity to launch the **Euro-Med Education for Citizenship Platform**, developed by Ideaborn and its partners to support education as a bridge for common understanding in the region.

Participants in the Seminar

The Seminar is expected to gather **institutions and educators as well as the concerned regional stakeholders on civic education from UfM countries**. Participants will include the main partner institutions and technical experts engaged in the FRC programme, as well as representatives of the national Ministries of Education of the countries involved; regional intergovernmental organisations; experts in the field of education, institutions and universities, as well as potential donors.

The project "Forming Responsible Citizens"

Launched in 2015 and coordinated by ideaborn, "Forming Responsible Citizens" (FRC) aims to contribute to strengthening the civic values of young people and promoting the role of schools and citizenship education as a main vehicle for preventing violence and transmitting values of tolerance and equality between women and men. The project is implemented in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia with the financial support of governments of Norway and Monaco. Further information available at: Union for the Mediterranean and ideaborn.