rendez-vous
FOR THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE
9/12/2016 > 10/12/2016 • UNESCO • Room II

PROGRAMME
Launched in October 2001, the Euro-Arab Dialogue Initiative (EADI) was created by National Commissions for UNESCO on the basis of the deeply rooted belief that peace can only emerge through dialogue and mutual understanding. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Euro-Arab network of National Commissions for UNESCO and the MBI Al Jaber Foundation jointly organize a meeting to elaborate new perspectives for this initiative at UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris (France) on 9 and 10 December 2016. With this ambitious aspiration freshly in mind, which is to be seen in the context of the Action Plan of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), National Commissions for UNESCO and a wide variety of other partners and stakeholders gather on this occasion as a broad network for cooperation and action.

Over the past fifteen years, the Euro-Arab Dialogue Initiative has mobilized both UNESCO and civil society actors around Euro-Arab concerns on culture and education for intercultural dialogue. A wide range of activities have been initiated in this context, culminating in two meetings of the Task Force of National Commissions for UNESCO in Paris (January 2010) and in Muscat (January 2011), as well as in the High-Level International Conference on Euro-Arab Dialogue held in Vienna in May 2012, which led to the adoption of the Vienna Declaration. These encounters, followed by the conference in Algarve (November 2013) and in Lisbon (March 2015), which have reinforced the Euro-Arab cooperation in UNESCO’s fields of competence and strengthened the relations between involved partners on the basis of equality, mutual interest and a search for the common good.

In line with what has been achieved in this field since the Vienna Declaration, the 2016 meeting on EADI consolidate and expand Euro-Arab cooperation by framing its inherent aspirations in the current international context. Since the launch of EADI, social and political instability and surges of radicalization and violent extremism have escalated to alarming levels. In the current environment - marked by humanitarian crises, mass movement of populations and the destruction of irreplaceable cultural heritage and threats to cultural expression, identifying effective responses has become urgent.

Reflecting the Action Plan of the United Nations Secretary-General for the prevention of violent extremism (UN resolution adopted on 12 February 2016 – A/RES/70/254), the focus of this 2-day conference lies in the capacity of National Commissions for UNESCO, and particularly young personalities, to energize and drive forward Euro-Arab cooperation on the prevention of violent extremism and social inclusion. Building upon the efforts of recent years, it aims at scaling up action in an increasingly challenging environment, while calling for ever-closer Euro-Arab collaboration on education, media, cultural heritage and between local governments. The participation of young personalities runs like a thread through the event: their involvement is planned at all stages, their partaking potentially being the first step towards a more long-term Euro-Arab youth engagement.

These efforts to relaunch and further strengthen EADI will be dedicated to four sessions at the level of National Commissions for UNESCO in order to prepare the first draft of the Action Plan, with the strong involvement of young personalities as rapporteurs and designers of a young leaders’ programme on the prevention of violent extremism and the promotion of social inclusion. The final conclusions of the meeting will be presented during the closing session.
FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2016

08.30 AM REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09.30 AM OPENING SESSION

Moderator: Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, Founder and Chairman of MBI Al Jaber Foundation

Harald Stranzl, Ambassador, Alternate Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO

Samira Mohamed Moosa Al Moosa, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate of Oman to UNESCO

Daniel Janicot, President of the French National Commission for UNESCO

10.15 AM ADDRESS: “Culture, a new key-element for geo-political dialogue” by Metin Arditi, UNESCO Special Envoy for Intercultural Dialogue

10.35 AM SCREENING OF WORDS AND RADICALISATION*, 1: “Barbarian”, by Barbara Cassin, Philologist and Philosopher¹

10.40 AM I. PRESERVING AND HARNESING CULTURAL HERITAGE TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION

Radicalisation and violent extremism go hand in hand with the destruction of cultural heritage as well as with the threatening of the diversity of cultural expressions and the universal values they convey. In response to these threats, which initiatives can maintain these essential shared values at the core of Euro-Arab Dialogue?

Moderator/Chair: Rita Brasil de Brito, Secretary-General of the National Commission of Portugal for UNESCO

Rapporteurs: Youth representative and Mohamed Ould Khattar, Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Speakers:

Moncef Ben Moussa, Director of the Bardo National Museum, Tunisia

¹ Words and Radicalisation: Four short interviews in which four personalities, experts in the fields of philosophy and philology, choose a notion, present its etymology, uses and misuses.
Mounir Bouchenaki, Special Advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO on World Heritage

Elias Sanbar, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Palestine to UNESCO


12.20 – 12.25 PM SCREENING OF THE VALUE OF HERITAGE, #HERITAGESTORY, produced by the UNESCO Beirut Office in the framework of the Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project

12.25 PM PRESENTATION OF 15 YEARS OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE INITIATIVE: OUTPUTS AND PERSPECTIVES

An educational toolkit project, a comparative study of textbooks, the Vienna Declaration: how to take stock of what has been achieved in 15 years of the EADI, by National Commissions for UNESCO, given the changing context?

Moderator/Rapporteur: David Fajolles, Secretary-General, French National Commission for UNESCO

Speakers:

Amna Al Balushi, Assistant Secretary-General, Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and representative of the Connecting Cultures Initiative, Oman

Jacqueline Costa-Lascoux, Research Director at CNRS, France

Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Gašper Hrastelj, Deputy Secretary-General, Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO and representative of Connecting Cultures Slovenia

Ramza Jaber Saad, Deputy Secretary-General of the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO

Sławomir Ratajski, Marjutka Hafner, Secretary-Generals of the Polish and Slovenian National Commissions for UNESCO

1.00 PM BREAK
2.30 PM  SCREENING OF *WORDS AND RADICALISATION*, 2: "Terrorism", by Tahar Ben Jelloun, *Writer*

2.35 PM  II. WHAT ROLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE INITIATIVE?

Local governments (municipalities, regions) play a major role in educational and cultural cooperation between Europe and the Arab world. What role can they play in a relaunch of Euro-Arab Dialogue through UNESCO’s programmes? And what is the role of diaspora leaders?

**Moderator/Chair:** Otmar Höll, *Former Director of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs, member of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO*

**Rapporteurs:** Youth representative and Linda Tinio, *Assistant Programme Coordinator, Section for Inclusion and Rights, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO*

**Speakers:**

Golda El-Khoury, *Chief of Section for Inclusion and Rights, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO and Secretary of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR)*

Bertrand Gallet, *Director-General of Cités Unies France (Member of United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG)*

Ziad Hawat, *Mayor of Byblos (Lebanon), ICCAR*

Nacer Kettane, *Member of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council and Director of Beur FM radio station (France)*

4.00 – 4.20 PM  ADDRESS: Francesco Rutelli, *Chair of the Priorità Cultura (Culture First) and of Incontro di Civiltà (Civilizations Meeting)*

4.20 PM  PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST CONCLUSIONS AND WRAP-UP SESSION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE EADI ACTION PLAN

Amna Al Balushi, *Assistant Secretary-General, Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science* and David Fajolles *Secretary-General, French National Commission for UNESCO*, coordinators of EADI

5.30 PM  CONCERT BY JOUSSOUR

A multicultural band performing a syncretic repertoire mixing Arab, Latin and jazz influences
SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2016

09.00 – 10.30 AM YOUNG PERSONALITIES’ WORKING SESSION (Room VI)

10.30 AM SCREENING OF WORDS AND RADICALISATION*, 3: “Charia”, by Ali Ben Makhlouf, Philosopher (Room II)

10.35 AM III. HOW CAN EDUCATION CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION?

Which education policies can mitigate violent extremism? How to develop pedagogies that promote active citizenship, critical thinking, and intercultural competencies? What is the role of education systems in dealing with youth at risk? How to enhance interactions between the education sector and broader society?

Moderation / Chair: Mohamed Benabdellkader, Deputy Secretary-General, Moroccan National Commission for UNESCO

Rapporteurs: Youth representative and Karel Fracapane, Senior Project Officer for Holocaust Education, Education Sector, UNESCO

Speakers:

Asiem El Difraoui, Co-founder of Candid Foundation, Zenith Magazin, Berlin, Germany

Michel Foucher, Geographer, former Ambassador, holder of the Chair of Applied Geopolitics at the Collège d’études mondiales, Paris, France

Michèle Hassen, Academy Inspector, Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), France

Soo Hyang Choi, Director, Division for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development, Education Sector, UNESCO

12.30 PM BREAK

2.30 PM SCREENING OF WORDS AND RADICALISATION*, 4: “Origin”, by Elias Sanbar, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Palestine to UNESCO

2.35 PM IV. MEDIA AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: NEW PERSPECTIVES.

Which initiatives in media and information literacy programmes, including social media, could be proposed and scaled-up to promote the values of intercultural dialogue and to prevent radicalisation?

Moderation / Chair: Suheil Shaheen, Cultural Attaché, Permanent Delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNESCO
Rapporteurs: Youth representative and Marius Lukosiunas, Programme Specialist, Section for the Freedom of Expression and Media Development, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

Speakers:

Slim Amamou, Former Secretary of State for youth and Sports, Tunisia

Divina Frau-Meigs, UNESCO Chair « savoir-devenir in durable digital development: mastering information cultures », France

Chafica Haddad, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Grenada to UNESCO, President of IFAP (Information For All Programme)

Boyan Radoykov, Chief of Section for Universal Access and Preservation, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

4.30 – 5.30 PM PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

• Outcomes of the four sessions by the young personalities - Introduction: Ann-Belinda Preis, Chief of Section for Intercultural Dialogue, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO

• The way forward - the Regional Coordinators of the Euro-Arab Dialogue Initiative: Amna Al Balushi, Assistant Secretary-General, Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and David Fajolles Secretary-General, French National Commission for UNESCO

• Closing remarks by Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO.