**Mediterranean Youth Academy Program:**Under the patronage of the Egyptian Prime Minister, Prof. Mostafa Madbouly, the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development, with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Egypt headed by Prof. Dr. Ashraf Sobhy, Minister of Youth and Sports, is lunching the second edition of the "Mediterranean Youth Academy” project, in partnership with civil, governmental and international organizations, through the Central Administration of Parliament and Civic Education, moreover the General Administration of Civic Education for Youth Leaders moreover the Central Administration for the Affairs of the Minister’s Office, General Administration of Public as well Foreign Relations.

**Importance:**

The Mediterranean is a platform for dialogue between East and West besides the meeting point of its three continents; Europe, Asia, and Africa. Accordingly on its coasts, the light of science and the merit of searching for rights and freedom in the countries of the Greeks appeared to the world, and the dawn of the first civilization in ancient Egypt dawned.
Furthermore, its history affected man in spirit moreover thought, further Andalusia was. Inspired by this unique mixture of humanity, the medium in place and spirit, we work on the unity of his thought also face its common challenges.
The “Mediterranean Youth Academy” seeks to prepare 120 young women in the second phase through a week-long training program aimed at enhancing awareness of Mediterranean issues moreover the challenges facing the Mediterranean countries, besides engaging young people in facing those challenges.

**Participation details:**

Number of beneficiaries: 120 young men and women from the Mediterranean region.

Place of implementation: Alexandria, Egypt

The proposed implementation date: from September 14 to September 19, 2022.

Accepted applicants will be informed of all details in a timely manner.

**Program agenda**

1. **MYA Topics Cluster Overview:**

During a 5-day training program, participants will work to create ‘youth-led initiatives’ tackling one or more of the topics cluster to be implemented next six months. Participants will be divided into three groups according to their experiences and preferences as there will be three workshops at the same time.

***The cluster 1: The Egyptian efforts in the national strategy for human rights:***

This cluster aims to raise awareness about human rights and the role of youth in achieving the goals of the strategy. The cluster includes three components:

•       **Component 1: Analytical review of the Egyptian national strategy for human rights** (e.g. principles for the strategy, stages for development, follow- up and evaluations of implementations, and international experiences for human rights issues).

•         **Component 2: The role of NGOs in the strategy** (e.g. strengthening the role and the engagement of civil society in promoting human rights)

•        **Component 3: The relationship between human fraternity and human rights** (e.g. solving international problems and conflicts or tensions, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights)

***The cluster 2: Youth & Gender equality:***

This cluster encourages the MYA participants to consider gender issues in the Mediterranean region and work to address equity concerns and create innovative solutions. The cluster includes three components:

•         **Component 1: Youth advocacy** (e.g. working on creating advocacy campaigns for gender issues and promoting gender equality/equity).

•         **Component 2: Engaging men in women issues** (e.g. raising awareness of men about women issues and contributing to achieving gender equality/equity).

•         **Component 3: Gender and technology** ( e.g. gendering technology and opening alternative channels that achieve gender equality) .

***The cluster 3: climate change & climate justice:***

This cluster aims to focus on how to engage communities to address climate change, natural resources and creation of a green sustainable community, and social entrepreneurship for environmental issues. The cluster includes three components:

•        **Component 1: The challenges of climate change** (e.g. the biggest obstacles of climate change in the Mediterranean region and the effects at communities).

•       **Component 2: The barriers to climate change adaptation and climate justice** ( e.g. the key barriers and lack of capacity for change adaptation and developing the climate justice in the Mediterranean region).

•         **Component 3: Development efforts for COP27** (e.g. creating innovation and sustainable solutions and efforts for implementing COP 27 in Egypt).

***The cluster 4: Youth empowerment and free mobility facilitation:***

This cluster aims to empower youth voices, build multigenerational connections, and provide community engagement, entrepreneurship and youth employment. The cluster includes three components:

•         **Component 1: Give voice to youth** (e.g. the youth challenges and needs in the Mediterranean region).

•         **Component 2: Youth empowerment** (e.g. youth strategies and policies, building the capacities of youth, community engagement, entrepreneurship and youth employment, and develop networking platforms and opportunities)

•         **Component 3: Mobility facilitations** (e.g.  the youth’s challenges of visa and mobility restrictions, and developing the innovative recommendations about this issue)

***The cluster 5: irregular migration:***

This cluster aims to focus on raising awareness and advocate the irregular migration issue in the Mediterranean region. The cluster includes two components:

•         **Component 1: Analysing irregular migration issues** (e.g.the status of refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants and the challenges of irregular migration).

•         **Component 2: Facilitate understanding irregular migration** (e.g. discussing this issue with decision makers and youth in the Mediterranean region).

**The partners:**

The Academy will be steered by an international coalition of partners and international experts. In this way, it will aim to enhance collaboration between youth organisations from the Mediterranean countries with other international and national project partners:

* UN Women - Arab Regional Office
* EU Delegation to Egypt
* Embassies of the Republic of Cyprus, Spain, Italy in Egypt (Other embassies might be invited later on)
* Erasmus+ alumni networks (OCEANS Network, Erasmus Mundus Association)
* Al-Azhar Al-Sharif
* The Egyptian Church
* Egyptian Ministry of Environment
* Union for the Mediterranean - UFM
* Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt
* Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures
* German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
* International Organization for Migration | IOM

The Egyptian National Council for Human Rights**Conditions for joining the program**

• **Nationality:** It is required that the applicant hold a nationality, or else have a permanent residence in one of the friendly countries that are members of the Union for the Mediterranean.
The list of countries can be found on the official website of the Union for the Mediterranean.

**• Age:** The applicant must be between 18-29 years old. Until March 1, 2022.

• **Communication:** The applicant should preferably be fluent in English, level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

**• Commitment:** The applicant must be 100% committed to attending the entire program, and a pledge will be signed.

**• Acceptance:** The applicant must pass the personal interview with the selection committee after completing the registration form designated for this.

A graphical balance as well as an equitable representation of young people of both sexes will be considered when nominating. The organizers welcome applications from all candidates whose Entry requirements apply to them, regardless of gender, disability, marital status, ethnic or social origin, color, religion or belief.

The organizers also encourage young men and women with less access to opportunities who live in rural, borderline or slum areas and who face social, geographical, economic or physical challenges.

**Participation cost:**

• The program affords the costs of training, accommodation and subsistence, moreover does not bear the costs of transportation/flight or entry visas to Egypt in case of need, for the participants from outside Egypt.

• Invitations to accepted applicants can be issued to support the visa application in case of need.

• Informational besides logistical support can be provided about internal transportation from the arrival station/airport in Egypt to the place of implementation of the program.

• Participants can extend the period of stay after the end of the program for the purpose of tourism, at their own expense, and great discounts can be offered on accommodation. Those wishing to extend the period are kindly requested to contact the organizers during the program for details.