



Adopted on 25 November 2024

The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) was founded in 2004 by all EU countries and all countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to promote intercultural and civil society dialogue given the growing mistrust and polarisation in the world, including our own region. Each member country encourages the formation and development of a national civil society network as described in this document. No membership fee is applied but members are expected to become active members in the Network.

The Network Internal Rules (NIRs) settle the main rules and activities of the Dutch National Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation referred to hereinafter as National Network or the Network. This document formulates:

1. The mission and vision of our Dutch Network;
2. Basic principles we adhere to;
3. Regional scope;
4. Activities;
5. The rights and the obligations of its members and the Head of Network;
6. Governing bodies of the ALF Network;
7. The Committee of Senior Advisors and Recommendation;
8. Fundraising;
9. Friends of the Dutch Anna Lindh Foundation Network;
10. Changing of the Internal Rules.

This document is an expansion of the previous document that was adopted on 29 February 2024 and will remain a draft until after all network members have been consulted and a Committee of Senior Advisors and Recommendation has been established. Each draft text will be dated.



1. NATIONAL NETWORK MISSION AND VISION

The network is open for membership on behalf of all organisations, institutions and non-formal groups that consolidates their efforts to achieve the following objectives:

- Supporting the recognition of Anna Lindh Foundation's values through promoting and implementing its objectives and activities;
- Establishing and developing an effective National Network of organizations, institutions and non-formal groups;
- Developing thematic priorities which are described in a different document;
- Building sustainable partnerships in The Netherlands and in the Euro-Mediterranean region, both in line with these thematic priorities but also in line with the priorities of individual members;
- Promoting Euro-Mediterranean Partnership at the national and international level;
- Contributing to the development of the international Foundation's priorities and programmes, sharing the visions among other National Networks and with the ALF Headquarters;
- Promoting common activities at the national level among Network members and uses for its activities the Anna Lindh Foundation label, and the Anna Lindh Network Logo;

2. BASIC PRINCIPLES

We adhere to the [core values of the Anna Lindh Foundation](#) in the realization that the EU-MENA region houses very different cultures with norms and values that are regarded as normative to members of a specific (sub) culture but not necessarily so to members of other cultures. We live in a world with much fake news, including using generalizations, omitting relevant context and more to advance certain (political) objectives that contribute to polemics, division and can be used to justify oppression of minorities. We therefore adhere to certain principles:

- a. We believe all humans are equal, regardless of religious and non-religious convictions they hold, and they need to be treated equally according to the standards of international law.



- b. Humanity developed diverse cultures resulting in a pluralistic world. We believe we are very much in need of a pluralistic ethic for living together in a diverse society: not just tolerance or relativism, but the real encounter and commitments.
- c. We operate on the basis of empirical truth and historical facts but are aware that interpretations of these facts can differ. Claims that are evidently not true are harmful and need to be exposed as fake news. We realize that in conflict situations conflicting narratives exist. The Dutch Network, therefore, believes in the need to develop inclusive narratives.
- d. Dialogue encompasses all areas of life, including art, literature, philosophical, religious, and also political questions. Individual members of the civil society network may expose political views, but the Anna Lindh Foundation network will not adopt any other political views than the statements made here.
- e. We adhere to good dialogue principles such as not using concepts without explaining what they mean in a given context. Examples are disputed terms such as Islamophobia, Antisemitism, Zionism, fundamentalism, extremism and populism. Terms can only be used if meanings are fully explained.

3. REGIONAL SCOPE

The Anna Lindh Foundation encourages networking between civil society partners of EU and MENA countries and between peoples of different convictions within these member countries. Since the Anna Lindh Foundation was founded the MENA region has witnessed dramatic changes, including revolutions, civil wars, religious extremism (the total lack of respect for people of different convictions) that brought millions of refugees to Europe which in turn gave a boost to populist sentiments and movements throughout the region. We believe populist views provide a too simplified view of the complexity of various problems we are facing our modern world, often blaming particular groups in society. The answer to populism is transparency with explanations of the complex problems we face. Dialogue, therefore, is also needed in the Netherlands between people with roots in the MENA region, people who for various reasons feel affinity to people groups in the region and people who believe they were affected by developments in the region. Members of our network are ready to talk with anyone in society which in no way means agreement with their convictions.



4. ACTIVITIES

In order to achieve its mission and goals, the Network performs the following activities:

- Organizes informative and educational events (seminars, workshops, conferences, debates, campaigns, etc.) for members of the Network, with the aim of strengthening their capacities and strengthening the Dutch Network;
- Develops and implements joint Network projects;
- Participates in the activities of members of the Network, if the members so request;
- Participates in the activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation;
- Collects and exchanges information;
- Promotes dialogue and tolerance and
- Cooperates with various national and international actors, including civil society organizations, public institutions and bodies, the economic sector and the media.

5. THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS

5.1. Membership the National Network:

- a. The Dutch National Network is independent, autonomous; and represents not any specific political tendencies;
- b. The Dutch National Network is part of the Anna Lindh Foundation Network that is acting in the frame of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
- c. The Network is open to all institutions, organizations and other partners who adhere to: 1. The nature, principles and the mission of the Anna Lindh Foundation as defined in art. II.1 of [the ALF Statutes](#), and which work on the basis of democratic, pluralistic, and multilateral values and 2. The internal rules as established here. First and foremost, the Network represents civil societies;
- d. Their members could belong, as a rule, to the following categories: NGOs; Public institutions, including local and regional authorities; public and private “not for profit” foundations; educational institutions, religious institutions, individual members; political party committees that address dialogue within the EU-MENA region, media outlets, other "for profit" partners promoting "not for profit" activities and corporate social responsibility policies;



- e. National Networks reflect the diversity of their own civil society and are invited to associate partners involved in the ALF thematic fields such as: International/Cultural relations, Peace Building, Heritage, Religion, University and research institutes, Human Rights, Democracy and Community Development, Arts, Youth, Education, Gender, Environment/Sustainable Development, Media;
- f. The Steering Board retains the right of rejection of membership applications as well as of exclusion of existing members, when the concerned organizations do not comply with the mission of the Anna Lindh Foundation as per art. II.1 of the ALF Statutes;
- g. The Steering Board retains the right to exclude existing members when the concerned organizations do not act according to their responsibilities, specified in art. 4.f, g and h. of the Internal Rules;
- h. Membership applications are addressed to the Dutch Head of Network and the ALF international secretariat, using the [online form](https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/) on the ALF website; <https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/>;
- i. The Network can be considered valid if it includes at least 20 members;
- j. The Head of Network is entitled to provisionally limit the maximal size of a Network in order to consolidate it and improve its performance.

5.2. Termination of membership

- a. in case the legal structure/ non-formal network is dissolved;
- b. A request for exclusion on behalf of the member is submitted
- c. The member does not respond to any requests/letters on behalf of the Head of Network or does not cooperate with the Network members and/or contribute to the Network development for 1 year

5.3. Network members criteria and values

- a. The following moral standards are given priority;
- b. Substituting competition with cooperation;
- c. Sharing personal and organization experience;
- d. Sharing information;
- e. Providing personal expertise for the benefit of the network activities;
- f. Showing respect and tolerance towards the other;



- g. Accomplishing conscientiously the commitments and obligations undertaken;
- h. Being active and responsible in the processes of decision making and problem solving;
- i. Consolidating personal and organizational potential with the respect to achieving significant goals

5.4. Rights and Obligations

4.4.1. Rights

- a. To participate in the common initiatives of the Network;
- b. To propose and suggest activities of the Network
- c. Expect support for their networking activities among members in the member countries of ALF;
- d. Respond to the Calls for Proposals that include funding for activities that include networking for dialogue;
- e. Access to Network-organised training and capacity-building;
- f. To elect and to be elected
- g. To vote in the decision making
- h. To terminate its membership in the Network

4.4.2. Obligations

Each member is obliged:

- a. To respect and comply with the Network Internal Rules (NIRs)
- b. To collaborate in order to help achieve the mission and objective of the Network
- c. To maintain the trust and tolerance between the network members
- d. Reconfirm membership every three years
- e. To regularly inform the HoN on activities related to the Network



6. HEAD OF NETWORK

6.5. Election and Mandate of the Head of Network

- a. A candidate for the Head of Network position needs to be an NGO, public or private “not for profit” foundations, an educational or research institutions that is at least one year a member of the National Network.
- b. The Head of Network is elected by the Network Members following a simple majority vote of all Network Members during the first Network Meeting of the year or via an online survey. The election is monitored by the Dutch representative in the Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation.
- c. The Head of Network fulfils a mandate of 2 years, with possible extensions of 2 years -if re-elected-with simple majority vote.

6.6. Accountability and responsibilities of the Head of Network:

- a. Acts as national coordinator of the Dutch National Network;
- b. Acts as official national representative of the Foundation in the country;
- c. Promotes the Foundation's image as Euro-Mediterranean institution established for strengthening the regional dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership – Union for the Mediterranean in social, cultural and human affairs (the Third Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration);
- d. Manages Network membership; Identifies potential active actors of the civil society in the country, who can join the network;
- e. Contributes to the development of the ALF multi-annual programmes. In this exercise, the Head will take into consideration the interests and orientations of its national network;
- f. Supports and supervises training and capacity building for the national network;
- g. Acts as a public relations agent, producing information material for dissemination, and contributing to the national ALF website
- h. Informs network members on the announcement of calls for proposals, organization of events, modalities and procedures on how to apply;
- i. Facilitates the search for project partners for the members of the network. In the development of partnerships with foreign partners, the Head of network could



- pay particular attention to partners having organizational or other kind of difficulties in taking part in the ALF activities;
- j. Assists the members of the network or other international partners in project development and project financial management;
 - k. Monitors applications for project funding of the network;
 - l. Participates in the annual meeting of the ALF Heads of network. Before this meeting, the Head shall organize a meeting of the members of the network, or ensure other appropriate forms of consultation and discussion at national level;
 - m. Co-ordinates with the ALF headquarters on a regular basis.
 - n. Consults with the Dutch member of the Board of Gouvernors whenever needed.
 - o. Maintains an electronic mailing list for newsletters to all members;
 - p. Maintains a national website using the domain name www.annalindh.nl that will at least contain the internal rules, network news, organigram, names of the members in the National Steering Board and the members of the Committee of Senior Advisors And Recommendation (please refer to section 8 for information about this Committee);
 - q. Takes the initiative for Board of Governors meetings of the network, leading these meetings and taking the minutes. The minutes need to be approved by all members who participated. Approved minutes will be shared with the ALF secretariat in Alexandria.
 - r. Works within the financial parameters as provided by the Anna Lindh Foundation and is entitled to do additional fundraising to carry out its activities;
 - s. Provides draft annual narrative and financial year reports for discussion and advise with the Committee of Senior Advisors and Recommendation and approval by the Steering Board.

7. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ALF NETWORK

The governing bodies of the ALF Network are:

- Network Assembly;
- Steering Board of the Network and
- Head of Network (section 6).

7.1. Network Assembly.



- The Network Assembly is the highest organ of the Network. The Assembly is composed of one representative of each member of the Network that has the legitimacy to make decisions related to the work of the Network;
- Decisions cannot violate art. II.1 of the ALF Statutes (art. 5.1.c)
- Invitations for meetings are sent at least one month prior to the date of the Assembly meeting and must include date, location and agenda.
- Network members have the right to dispatch more than one representative from their organization for the Network Assembly but in voting the Assembly will only accept one vote per registered member in the Network;
- Network Assembly meetings are presided by the chairman of the Head of Network organization. The Head of Network either provides the secretary or asks a member of the Network to provide the secretary;
- The President of the Network Assembly manages the work of the Network Assembly and maintains order and atmosphere for normal meetings.
- Secretary of the Network Assembly convenes the meetings of the Network Assembly, prepares the working material and agenda of the meeting and delivers it to the members before the meeting, keeps the minutes of the Network Assembly and delivers the minutes of the meetings of the Network Assembly to the members of the Network and to the Head Office after approval by the Network members who were in attendance. Members are considered to have approved minutes if after one week after mailing the draft minutes no response was obtained. The minutes must contain: place and time of the meeting; names of present members; the start and end time of the meeting; adopted decisions and conclusions with a statement of voting results and the name and surname of the person who kept the minutes. The draft minutes must be sent to attending members within five days from the day of the completed meeting. Final minutes must be sent within two weeks after the completed meeting to the ALF head office in Alexandria.
- The Network Assembly meets at least once per year;
- The Assembly makes decisions by a two-thirds majority of the members present. Quorum for decision-making is 50% + 1 member.
- The Network Assembly supervises and evaluates the work of the Network Steering Board.



7.2. STEERING BOARD OF THE NETWORK

The Dutch Network has a Steering Board consisting of the Head of Network and at least four representatives of our other Network Members and is comprised of at most nine members (hereinafter referred to as the Board). In the case of a smaller or larger number of members of the Network, a new minimum and maximum number of Board members can be defined. The Steering Board meets prior to each national network meeting (online or in person). These are at least two meetings per year but are expected to be 4 per year. Invitations for meetings are sent at least two weeks prior to the date of the Steering Board meeting and must include date, location and agenda.

a. Eligibility

Any member of the Network is eligible to become a member of the Steering Board. Candidates for Steering Board membership will be asked to put into writing what they commit to do for the national Network. Candidates will be presented to all Network members for election. Candidates need to obtain a simple majority of the votes brought out.

b. Purpose

To encourage members to be actively involved in the national network, help find new entities that are believed to be an asset to the national network, present network activities to the media and help find entities including corporates and private sector with relevant interest that are ready to support our Dutch network through their CSR program and other potential funding agencies.

The Steering Board approves the narrative and financial year reports of the Head of Network and presents these for input to the Committee of Senior Advisors and Recommendation.

c. Governance

The chairman is the president of the Network Assembly. The election and tasks of the secretary are the same as mentioned for the Network Assembly;



Board decisions are valid if the quorum of 50% of the board members+1 member of the Board has been met.

d. Duration

Election is for the duration of one year which is renewable.

e. Visibility

Members who are elected to the Steering Board will be mentioned on the page of the Anna Lindh Foundation in the Netherlands.

f. Rights of the Steering Board

- The Head of Network will share all relevant documents received from the ALF office in Alexandria, including agendas for Heads of Networks meeting in the entire ALF region as well as the minutes resulting from these meetings;
- Contribute to setting the agendas of all online and in person meetings of national Network Members and international network meetings;
- Get involved in any decision regarding (new) membership;
- Get involved in proposals regarding thematic priorities, network participation in the ALF forum and other activities
- Have the right to submit a written proposal for a decision or conclusion on a specific issue on the agenda.;
- Inform decisions about dates and time of (online) meeting are made in mutual consultation;

g. Decisions

Decisions are made by a two-thirds majority of the board members present, and the decision must be accompanied with reasoning. The quorum is 50% + 1 member of the Board. A member of the Board can also appoint a deputy representative for membership in the Board with his/her written authorization, in order to maintain continuity of work. Also, a member can authorize, in written



form, another member if neither the elected member nor the deputy can participate in the work of the Board.

h. Duties of the Steering Board

- Adhere to the description of your own responsibilities in promoting and strengthening the national network.
- Applying the Internal Rules of the Dutch National Network including:
Promoting the Anna Lindh Foundation's image as Euro-Mediterranean institution established for strengthening the regional dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership – Union for the Mediterranean in social, cultural and human affairs (the Third Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration);
- Planning and monitoring the activities of the Network;
- Contributing to the development of the ALF multi-annual programmes. In this exercise each member of the Steering Board will take into consideration the interests of its national network;
- Appears in public on behalf of the Network, in coordination with the head office;
- Establishes thematic work teams;
- Makes decisions on accepting new members;
- Monitors compliance with the Agreement and other acts of the Network;
- Supervises and evaluates the work of the Head Office of the Network;
- Monitors and ensures the quality of services;
- Encourages members to cooperate;
- Be watchful for activities of members that should be mentioned on our Dutch ALF page and/or in one of our newsletters and social media
- Support and co-supervise training and capacity building for the national network;
- Disseminating ALF calls for proposals in their network;
- Monitors applications for project funding of the network;
- Propose and suggest common initiatives of the Network;
- Be present when we meet and if in case of emergency and inability to attend to attend, to notify the Head of Network in time with the reason why;
- Submits reports to the Assembly



- Be accountable for the responsibilities accepted.
- i. Resignation from the Board:
 - A member of the Board may voluntarily decide to resign from the Board.
 - Also, if a member of the Board does not fulfill his/her obligations or violates the provisions of this Agreement, the member of the Board may be recalled by the decision of the member which the member of the Board represents, as well as by the decision of the majority of other members of the Board. In that case, the member whom the recalled member of the Board represents, will be invited to nominate a new member of the Board.

8. COMMITTEE OF SENIOR ADVISORS AND RECOMMENDATION

The Anna Lindh Foundation is all about fostering networking. The representative of the Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation, a representative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a member of this Committee.

The Dutch ALF network will invite prominent, experienced and well-connected citizens in the Netherlands to become advisors to the Dutch network. Their purpose is to help with connections and advice. They are not responsible for decisions made by the network or individual members of the network. Unlike the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other members of the Committee do not represent any entity or party.

The Committee will meet twice per year and whenever required due to unexpected circumstances with the members of the Steering Board, discuss annual reports and projects. They can provide advice, requested and unrequested. Their advice is not binding.

The agenda will be prepared by the Head of Network who will also be the secretary of these meetings and make the minutes.

The Committee of Senior Advisors and Recommendation has no fixed chairperson but will elect among themselves a chair for each meeting.



9. FUNDRAISING

For activities that are in line with the policy of the Anna Lindh Foundation ALF is searching for:

- a. National and municipal funding opportunities
- b. Entities including private sector that want to use their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Social Return of Investment (SROI). CSR/SROI funding needs to be approved by the Steering Board of the Dutch network. The company's name with logo, the amount and the purpose will be mentioned on the Dutch Anna Lindh Foundation website and in our national newsletter. The ALF network can possibly assist companies with networking in different member countries.

10. FRIENDS OF THE DUTCH ALF NETWORK

Outside the EU-MENA region organizations are active that support similar objectives. ALF welcomes links and exchanges with such organizations and will call them friends of our network, provided that they align with ALF mission and vision and affiliations to them are enriching to the Network and not harmful to its image. They will be listed on the Dutch ALF website.

11. CHANGING THE INTERNAL RULES

A simple majority vote of all Network Members present, as well as via an online survey can approve of any changes in the Internal Rules suggested by the Head of Network.



STATEMENT (for membership applications)

With this statement, we declare that we are familiar with the nature, principles and the mission of the Anna Lindh Foundation as defined in art. II.1 of the ALF Statutes and contents of the Network Internal Rules of the Anna Lindh Foundation Network in the Netherlands and that we fully accept the content as expressed in these documents.

Place _____
Date _____ 20____.

Signature of authorized person

On behalf of (name entity the authorized person represents)

E-mail:

Address:

Telephone: