

12th INTERNATIONAL SHORT STORY
CONTEST

A SEA OF WORDS

Young People's Commitment in Social Change

www.iemed.org/seaofwords

Organised by:



Anna Lindh
Foundation
EUROMED

Introduction

We invite you to participate in the 12th year of the literary contest "A Sea of Words", organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Anna Lindh Foundation under the motto **"Young's People Commitment in Social Change"**.

In this last decade, new social movements appear in the Euro-Mediterranean area and develop civic actions in which young people, women and men are especially involved. The demands from various public spaces, graffiti, youth cooperation, the new ways of mobilisation and interaction attempt to influence societal change and the way of understanding citizen participation and governance.

This edition aims to put forward the central role played by young people by giving them a voice to explain their own experiences and emotions in relation to the personal and social changes that are currently taking place. The narrative is a tool that allows us to explore our deepest convictions and experiences. In this sense, the literary message can provide a personal, historical and anthropological vision of human complexity, and conciliate similar realities from different origins.

Objectives

"A Sea of Words" is aimed at the production of short stories **focused on building a common future based on shared values derived from stories of real or fictional experiences** to showcase the diverse social sensibilities and realities in the Euro-Mediterranean region from the point of view of the young people living there.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Create meeting points to foster debate.
- Share values, projects and working methods.
- Promote knowledge of the environments and political, social, cultural and economic complexities of the Mediterranean and European countries.
- Strengthen the links between the Euro-Mediterranean civil society national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Call and Conditions

Conditions of the call:

- People aged 18 to 30 on the date of the deadline for submission of texts.
- The stories must be original and can be written in any of the official languages of the 43 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- Only one story per author will be accepted.
- The stories must not exceed 2,500 words.
- Stories must be sent in Word format to the following address: **concurso@iemed.org**. The message must include the title of the story together with the author's personal details: name, telephone, postal address, e-mail and date of birth.
- The stories selected will be published in a book in digital format with the texts in the original language and their corresponding English translation.

The authors of the 10 best stories, selected by an international jury, will be invited to Barcelona to attend the awards presentation ceremony (25 September) and to participate in the different cultural activities set out in the "Schedule" section of this document, to be held from 25 to 27 September 2019.

The organisation will cover **all travel expenses**, visa, meals and accommodation pertaining to the previously detailed activities.

A SEA Schedule

1. Call for stories (1 March - 25 April 2019)

On **1 March 2019**, the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), in collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), launches a new call for "A Sea of Words" among the organisations that make up the national networks. The IEMed will complement this call through the other networks in which it participates and on its Facebook and Twitter accounts.

25 April is the deadline for submission of original works in any of the official languages of the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

The texts will be classified by country of origin of the author and later sent to the coordinators of the 42 national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation for a first selection organised by a local jury.

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2. National selection of stories
(26 April - 26 May 2019)

From 2nd May, the national juries will have **one month** to assess the quality of the stories submitted by the participants of their country, select the 3 best and send them to the international jury.

3. International selection of stories
(1 June - 1 July 2019)

An international jury will assess the works pre-selected by the national juries and will have one month, from **1 June 2019**, to undertake the selection process of the best stories. The international jury will select the authors of the 10 best finalist stories, who will be invited to Barcelona. From these, the jury will select the 3 winners of the contest. The outright winner will be invited to form part of the international jury in next year's contest.

During this selection process, the jury will take into account both the literary quality of the stories and the personal experiences narrated in the texts and/or their relationship with the participation of civil society.

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4. Awards presentation

(25 September - 27 September 2019)

On **25 September** the awards presentation ceremony will take place in Barcelona.

On **26 September** a creative writing workshop will be held along with diverse activities aimed at fostering mutual knowledge.

On **27 September** the awardees will participate in a guided tour of Barceloneta neighbourhood, and will have the opportunity to attend the different activities held during those days in Barcelona on the occasion of La Mercè, the city's festival.

