



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures  
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures

مؤسسة أناليند الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات

## EURO-MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITIES FORUM ESTABLISHED

**The creation of a Euro-Mediterranean space of Higher Education and Research as of 2007 was the theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean University Forum organized in Malta from 8 to 10 June 2006 by the University of Malta and the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, based in Alexandria, Egypt.**

330 representatives of universities, national and international institutions and organizations from 38 countries discussed possibilities and problems of direct cooperation and exchange between universities in Europe and the whole Mediterranean region.

The Malta Forum agreed on three concrete steps necessary for best use of these opportunities: development of international cooperation and exchange offices especially at universities in the Arab countries for facilitating mobility of students and academic staff; more North-South and South-South research cooperation; and the establishment of a network of networks of Euro-Mediterranean universities, open to all universities and existing networks or cooperation programmes.

The Mediterranean University Forum will be transformed in a Euro-Mediterranean University Forum to meet for the first time 10 to 12 June 2007 in Alexandria, Egypt.

**The 2007 Forum will be hosted by the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.**

**The Executive Director of the Foundation, Dr. Traugott Schoefthaler, explained the objectives: " We are living in a deep crisis of North-South relations, with political and economic conflicts aggravated by cultural and religious tensions and misunderstandings. Universities can contribute a lot to creating mutual respect through cooperation and across frontiers. Academic cooperation benefits from cultural diversity in our region. The first Euro-Mediterranean University Forum 2007 in Alexandria will be dedicated to two personalities who symbolize exchange, cooperation, tolerance and respect: Fernand Braudel and Ibn Khaldoun".**

Ibn Khaldoun (1331 – 1406) is considered as the founding father of history of civilizations and modern political sociology. He applied a rational method for the study of human societies and civilizations.

Fernand Braudel (1902 – 1985) is one of the main figures of the modern history. He distanced himself from the previous methods of studying history, which focused on "Great Men", and considered the common citizen as the main player of history. To study the Mediterranean region, F. Braudel based his analysis on maritime commercial roads, major roles of port cities for regional development, changes in mentality in the region and, above all, mobility of ideas and persons.

For any further information please log on the Anna Lindh Foundation website: [www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org) or write to [info@euromedalex.org](mailto:info@euromedalex.org)