

## EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE FOREFRONT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECT,  
EMPOWER, INVEST – Brussels, 5-6 June 2018

### PROGRAMME

#### ***ENSURING THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF GIRLS AND WOMEN***

##### WOMEN/GIRLS, PEACE AND SECURITY:

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

**13:00 to 14:15 D3 Lab Debate**

**Organised by:** Anna Lindh Foundation; British Council

***Young Mediterranean Voices: Women, dialogue and digitally-enabled peacebuilding -  
Leveraging the work of young women peacebuilders.***

The debate builds on the first Young Mediterranean Voices (YMV) Lab evaluated as a strong feature of the 2017 EDDs including the youngest panel and innovative format. Since last EDDs, YMV was profiled at the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan, and there is a relevant chance to enhance the reach across communities in the two regions. EDD 2018 will see the next step, with a debate focusing on how innovative technologies provide new opportunities to connect young women as dialogue actors and reach those who are most likely to be left behind. The debate will be an opportunity to provide evidence-based insights on ways to promote young women's participation and inclusion through innovative online tools such as Virtual Exchange Education.

#### ***STRENGTHENING GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S VOICE AND PARTICIPATION***

##### WOMEN / GIRLS IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING:

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

**14:45 to 16:00 S1 Project or Report Lab**

**Organised by:** Eurecna

***Empowerment of Women: the case of the National Commission for Lebanese Women -  
Exchange of best practices on effective women coordination and networking mechanisms in  
the MENA region***

Our project lab aims at illustrating the results of a project implemented by Eurecna S.p.A to enhance the institutional capacity of **the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW)**, the national mechanism responsible for realizing women's advancement and gender equality in Lebanon. The session will start with presenting the Lebanese case as a best practice for strengthening voice and women participation in power and decision making. An effective partnership between the government and the civil society has been achieved through the creation of a Coalition of NGOs advocating for women quotas in the parliament. Starting from

this, the debate will then include the perspectives and best practices from two organizations active in similar projects in the MENA region.

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

**16:15 to 17:30 B2 Brainstorming Lab**

**Organised by:** European Union; Med Culture

***Who defines our identity? Advocating for women leaders in the culture sector - Exploring best practices to empower women through culture and arts and promote an inclusive society in the Neighbourhood South***

There is a proliferation of programmes addressing women's rights and their empowerment in their respective societies but hardly any address their place in culture development. Women play an important role in the development of the culture sector in Mediterranean countries in contexts of serious discrimination. There is need for improving their positioning as policy makers, trendsetters, entrepreneurs and artists. This need is even more pressing when one considers that gender, culture and rights intersect and cultural rights also affects who in the community holds the power to define its collective identity. Med Culture will explore how to contribute further to women empowerment in the sector based on good practices at international level.

WOMEN / GIRLS AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

**13:00 to 14:15 S4 Project or Report Lab**

**Organised by:** SwitchMed; SEI; SwitchAsia; 10YFP

***Women Empowerment Through Green Business Development - The SWITCH Programme empowers Women in private sector development to promote sustainable lifestyles and an inclusive green economy***

The session presents stories of women entrepreneurs from around the world who have been agents of change driving the green economy transition and creating jobs. It builds on the experience of the SWITCH programmes in Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean and the 10-YFP Sustainable Lifestyles Education Programme, in developing partnerships with the private sector to shift behaviour and practice, towards SCP patterns. The lab is expected to generate a debate on capacitating Women as local business leaders, with a variety of roles, ranging from being enablers of new eco-entrepreneurship to providing new trends in sustainable consumption. The session will also focus on need for policy support to scale-up best practices and further support to women as promoters of green entrepreneurship.

WOMEN / GIRLS IN DIGITALIZATION:

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

**09:00 to 10:15 B2 Brainstorming Lab**

**Organised by:** European Commission

***Women in tech salon - Connecting women entrepreneurs from Mediterranean countries***

Why would a woman start a tech business, and how is it done in practice? What are the advantages for an investor to fund a woman led tech startup? What would empower capable women to take the leap?

The southern Mediterranean region is closely linked to the EU not only geographically but also culturally and economically. The session aims at stimulating a first-of-its-kind discussion between a mixed audience of entrepreneurs, investors, and policy makers from Mediterranean countries around the opportunities and barriers women tech entrepreneurs are facing when trying to setup/run a business in their countries. It will look into finding commonalities and differences in their experiences with the aim of identifying solutions to overcome them.