

13th INTERNATIONAL
SHORT STORY
CONTEST

A SEA OF WORDS

Young People Faced with Climate Change in the Mediterranean
and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<https://seaofwords.iemed.org/2020>

Organised by:

IEMed.
Instituto Europeo del Mediterráneo



Anna Lindh
Foundation
— EUROMED —

Introduction

In the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the motto of the 13th edition of the literary contest “A Sea of Words”, called by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Anna Lindh Foundation, is **“Young People Faced with Climate Change in the Mediterranean and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.

Although climate change has a global impact, the Mediterranean, the second most biodiverse area on the planet, is one of the main areas affected. The effects of warming in the region are clear in the increased frequency of extreme phenomena, such as heat waves, droughts or floods that are threatening its natural resources and rich fauna and flora.

Both shores of the Mediterranean have, therefore, common challenges, as well as an immense potential for sustainable development. Moreover, there is a clear determination among young people for a change in paradigm and social transformation towards more sustainable and environmentally responsible and committed models.

This year’s contest seeks to give a voice to young people as essential actors and agents of change so that they can express their own personal experiences and emotions concerning these environmental changes that are transforming people’s lives and the societies in which they live.

The story is a tool that enables an exercise in introspection and the expression of deep convictions and experiences. In this respect, the literary message can contribute a personal, historical and anthropological vision of human complexity, thereby equating realities that are similar despite the geographical or cultural distances.

Objectives

“A Sea of Words” is a short story contest focused on constructing a common future based on shared values, in this case the concern and joint fight for the protection of the environment and sustainable development, through experience-based or fictional stories. One of the main objectives is to show how young people living in the Euro-Mediterranean region are experiencing this challenge, understanding their different specific social realities and how they feel about them.

The specific objectives of the contest are:

- To give a voice to young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region through writing.
- To make young people aware of issues related to the 2030 Agenda.
- To favour a more egalitarian future through knowledge of the environments and the political, social, cultural and economic complexities of the southern and eastern Mediterranean and European Union countries.
- To share values, projects and work methods.
- To create meeting places with the aim of fostering debate around common/shared issues and values.
- To strengthen the links between the national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Call and Regulation

Rules of the call:

- Young people aged between 18 and 30 can participate within the deadline for submission of texts.
- People with nationality and residence of one of the 42 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean area.¹
- The stories must be original and can be written in any of the official languages of the 42 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- Only one story per author will be accepted.
- The stories must not exceed 2,500 words.
- People who have been selected in previous years are not eligible.
- 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.

¹ In the case that a person with nationality of one of the Euro-Mediterranean countries but living outside the area wishes to participate, the trip to Barcelona will be only paid from a Euro-Mediterranean country.

The authors of the 10 best texts, selected by an international jury, will be invited to Barcelona to attend the awards presentation ceremony (30 September) and a creative writing workshop and a cultural exchange to be held from 30 September to 2 October 2020.

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



Schedule

1. Call for stories (17 March – 17 May 2020)

On **17 March 2020**, 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 other networks in which it participates and on its Facebook and Twitter accounts.

17 May 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 the author's country of origin and later sent to the coordinators of the 42 national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation for a first pre-selection by country carried out by a local jury.

2. National selection of stories (25 May – 25 June 2020)

From **25 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 (25 June - 20 July 2020)

An international jury will assess the works pre-selected by the national juries and will have 3 weeks, from 25 June 2020, 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 also 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 the 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.

4. Awards presentation (30 September – 2 October 2020)

On **30 September** the awards presentation ceremony will take place in Barcelona.

On **1 October** a creative writing workshop will be held, along with diverse activities aimed at fostering mutual knowledge.

On **2 October** the awardees will have the possibility of attending artistic and cultural activities in Barcelona that will be announced later.