



Anna Lindh -säätiön Suomen verkosto

Coordination of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Finland's National Network

Semi-annual report, edited version from the original
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Summary

The main purpose of the coordinator of the national network is to represent the ALF in Finland and to share information of its activities in Finland, to coordinate the activities of the Finnish Network, and to participate to the planning and implementation of the overall ALF plan of action and various programs.

Aims of the project and actions taken during the reporting period

Aim 1: FIME works as ALF's official representative in Finland.

It provides information on the ALF upon request as well as actively promotes the visibility of ALF in Finland by informing, reporting and advertising its activities in social, cultural and human affairs.

Actions:

a) FIME applied for and received an **extension for the management support funding** (5/2019-12/2020) for 1.1.2021–31.5.2021. With extension, extra funding amounting to c. 10 735,6 euro was granted for the activities of the spring period 2021.

b) **Newsletters for members** and others interested in following the news of ALF programs and activities, as well as other information concerning intercultural dialogue. Information on funding opportunities, international meetings, local events, introductions of members and their advertisements. Five newsletters were sent during the reporting period.

c) An international call for participants for the Celebrating our Diversity virtual forum, organised by the Swedish network, was shared.

d) **www-pages updated** regularly to inform of ALF activities and other



intercultural activities. 15 updates and 1055 page-viewers.

e) **Social media** 27 updates in Facebook and Twitter.

f) **ALF resources and programs:** Launch of the Anna Lindh Intercultural trends survey was shared in our newsletter and webpage. Call for participants for Young Mediterranean Voices leadership seminar was shared in email and Facebook.

Aim 2: FIME participates to the international ALF

Work. The coordinators communicate with the ALF secretariat on a regular basis and welcome any international ALF events to take place in Finland. FIME also prioritizes sending members of the Finnish Network to participate to international ALF activities. The coordinators actively participate to the development of governance, activities and communication of the Foundation with emphasis on the need to address issues crucial to the region, transparent governance, well-defined work schedules and open and youthful methods of communication. The coordinators also are in regular online communication with ALF network coordinators in other countries and work in collaboration with the ALF Board of Governors.

Actions:

FIME participated in monthly webinars organized by the ALF Secretariat and stayed in active e-mail communication with the Secretariat and other network coordinators and contributed to discussion on the ways to improve the communication and cooperation between the secretariat and the national networks.

FIME is a partner in an accepted 1+1 funding application by the Swedish Network for "Celebrating our Diversity 2". Other partners are the German and Lebanese networks.


A virtual Heads' of Networks Meeting was held on 30.11.–3.12.

FIME shared a short history of its activities for the 15 years ALF review.

Communication between the networks concentrated on the proposed network guidelines and strategies. Another issue has been the concern of some HoNs, that the networks remain underfunded when simultaneously the foundation is expected to return funds to the commission. Microgrants, presented to the HoNs in Thessaloniki meeting 2019, have not yet been implemented.

Aim 3: FIME strengthens the Finnish network.

The coordinators actively promote the network's membership and inform potential new members about activities and possibilities of support and assistance the ALF can offer. FIME facilitates the improvement



of the project management, financial and organizational capacity of network members. FIME organizes and coordinates national and international seminars and training related to ALF activities and ensures that the ALF Finnish network is transparent and democratic one.

Actions:

Together with Nicehearts ry, a capacity building **webinar on gender sensitivity** was organised on 9.10.2020, 17 participants.

A **workshop for anti-racist communications** was organised on 11.11.2020. The workshop was organised in collaboration with FemR, 37 participants.

A general assembly was organised in virtual format on 18.11.2020, 18 participants. The focus was on updating the network rules. The assembly was accompanied by a Timeout dialogue on representation of the minorities' voices in Finland.

A joint event with network members, the event with Department of Orthodox Theology in University of Eastern Finland, was cancelled due to the corona.

During the reporting period, network was broadened with 1 new member. We finished the membership reconfirmation process. By the end of the year, we removed 8 members for their own request and 8 inactive members who could not be reached after several attempts.

Challenges and Achievements

International level


The activities of the international ALF network have been directed towards the spring of 2021, in addition to some high-level meetings and joint events with Friends of Europe and European institute of the Mediterranean. The program of the 2021 will be held online, which makes them less prone to the effects of corona.

The position of the outreach manager was temporarily replaced with an external consultant, Dimitrios Cavouras, who has history in working with the foundation. Recruiting the new outreach manager is still in process.

The Finnish network

The corona virus pandemic has slowed down the civil society activity. The downwards trend in receipt of the network's newsletter continues. It is hard to get visual material for marketing from online events. Building and strengthening the network identity is difficult without shared experiences. Facing these obstacles, we have admitted that this is a time for upkeep and not for building the network identity.

At the beginning of the fall seasons, we made a few inquiries on organising small-scale networking events f2f. However, it became clear that organisations were reluctant to commit in planning physical events in this time. For this reason, we stuck to online events.



During the fall semester, the network activities comprised mainly of online capacity building. With these events we had very much the same experiences as with the webinar series last spring: it's easier to attract audience if the event is online.

There was a change in the focus of our activities, however. Our events during the fall were smaller, capacity-building oriented. The drop in the number of participants to the events was drastic, 79%, but the drop in members' participation was much less steep (28%). The non-members who participate in our events participate only in one event (97 % in 2019–2020). This tells that non-member mostly participate because of an interesting theme, not because of networking possibilities our events offer.

In summary, if the spring was a time for outreach, the fall was a period for a time for serving the members in their capacity building needs. Online events are a good medium for sharing information but not for networking. For this reason, we will do our best to organise a f2f general assembly during the spring of 2021.