



NEWSLETTER

Highlights autumn 2022 and spring 2023

The past year has been an exciting time for the Dialogue Institute. In the autumn of 2022, the Institute moved into its permanent premises, co-located with the Embassy of Sweden in Amman, and was inaugurated in connection with the state visit to Jordan by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf. Since then, the Institute has reached a full staff and has continued to develop its programmes and activities in line with its mandate and strategy.

This newsletter highlights and summarises some of the main activities organised in the past year. More information about the activities can be found on our [website](#) – just follow the hyperlinks.

The Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa *Building trust, promoting pluralism and peace through dialogue*

The Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa is a governmental agency that serves as a platform for contacts and dialogue between Sweden and the countries of Europe on the one hand, and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa on the other.

It was established by the Swedish Government in 1998 and is an integral part of the Swedish Foreign Service. The Institute is located in Amman, Jordan (previously located in Alexandria, Egypt, as the Swedish Institute Alexandria/SwedAlex).

In its activities, the Dialogue Institute addresses issues that are important for the political, economic and social development of the MENA region, or for relations between the countries, or that help increase mutual understanding in the areas of culture and religion. It also promotes the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The Dialogue Institute operates through conferences, workshops and other activities and primarily focuses on the following areas: Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Participation.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND PRIORITIES

The past year held a lot in store for the Dialogue Institute. In the autumn of 2022, the Institute moved into its permanent premises, co-located with the Embassy of Sweden in Amman, and was inaugurated in connection with the state visit to Jordan by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf. Furthermore, the Institute's Advisory Committee was appointed. In November 2022, alongside its inauguration and the first meeting of its Advisory Committee, the Institute also held its first major regional conference on 'Inclusivity in Peace and Development'.

Since then, the Institute has reached a full staff and has continued to develop its programmes and activities in line with its mandate and strategy. The Institute has organised conferences, meetings, workshops, and other activities within each of its focus areas: Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Participation.

During the spring of 2023, the Institute's main priorities were a) *EU-MENA dialogue*, as part of supporting Sweden's EU Presidency, and b) a knowledge-creating process to enhance and promote *Intergenerational Dialogue*, which has been a key recommendation coming out of many of the Institute's meetings over the past years.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In accordance with its regulation, the Dialogue Institute has an Advisory Committee to provide the Director with proposals for activities. The Committee also participates in the evaluation of various activities.

In 2022, the Advisory Committee was appointed for a three-year term. It is a distinguished group of leaders from the MENA region and Europe, representing a breadth of expertise and perspectives. The chairman of the Committee is Dr Omar Razzaz, former Prime Minister of Jordan.



The Advisory Committee is expected to hold two regular meetings per year. Members of the Committee is also invited to participate in various discussions and projects.

[Here](#) is a presentation of all the distinguished members of the Advisory Committee.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee

The first meeting of the Committee was held on November 16th, 2022. It was an in-person meeting, which took place in connection with the formal inauguration of the Institute and the regional conference on 'Inclusivity in Peace and Development'.

The meeting served as an occasion for the Advisory Committee to become more familiar with the work and vision of the Institute, for teambuilding and exchanges, and for the Institute to get valuable input for its future work plan. The discussions covered insights regarding regional trends and development, as well as advice on target groups, areas of work and working methods.

The meeting was attended by most members of the Dialogue Institute's eminent Advisory Committee. For more information about the meeting, see the [full report](#).



The first meeting of the Dialogue Institute's Advisory Committee, in Amman November 2022.

The second meeting of the Committee was held online on March 20th, 2023. During this meeting, Director Charlotta Sparre gave an overview of the Institute's work and priorities, to focus on EU-MENA relations during the spring of the Swedish Presidency of the EU and to continue its work on the environment and climate change, peace & security (incl. WPS and YPS) and gender equality.

The committee also discussed the Institute's work on intergenerational dialogue. Deputy Director Erike Tanghøj informed the Committee members about the vision and plans for the year and they, in turn, gave valuable input to the process.

INAUGURATION AND REGIONAL FORUM

Inauguration of the Dialogue Institute

Even if the establishment of the Dialogue Institute in Amman began in 2021, it was only in November 2022 that the Institute could move into its permanent office in Abdoun, where it is co-located with the Embassy of Sweden. In connection with the state visit to Jordan by Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia, the Institute was formally inaugurated.

Their Majesties, accompanied by H.E. Foreign Minister Tobias Billström and other members of the delegation, participated in a reception, at which the Institute's Director, Charlotta Sparre, made a presentation on the background, mandate and activities of the Institute. The Institute's Advisory Committee participated in the meeting and shared their reflections on the importance of dialogue.



*T.M King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia and H.E. Foreign Minister Billström at the inauguration.
(Photo credit: Pontus Lundahl/TT)*

Regional Forum on Inclusivity in Peace and Development in the MENA Region

Alongside its formal inauguration, the Dialogue Institute hosted its first large in-person forum on the theme of 'Inclusivity in Peace and Development in the MENA region' on November 17th, 2022.

The meeting was a one-day regional roundtable conference, which brought together some 50 participants and thought leaders from across the MENA region and Europe, representing diverse parts of society – public sector, civil society, private sector, academia, think tanks, media, international organisations, and other experts. Members of the Institute's Advisory Committee played key roles as speakers and moderators.

Through a solution-oriented and interactive set of conversations, the conference aimed at exploring how to create more inclusive and participatory processes and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration between diverse sectors of society in work on peace and development, in the MENA region and between the region and Europe.



The discussions addressed the underrepresentation of women and youth in policy and decision-making processes and the need for intergenerational and gender-sensitive dialogues. During the discussions participants highlighted the need for safe and conducive spaces for sharing information, experiences and ideas regarding the challenges and opportunities in these fields, as well as the need to strengthen connectivity and networks amongst professionals and organisations, from different parts of society and from across the region.

The conference resulted in a set of policy recommendations and ideas on implementation. These included a) bridge existing multiple trust gaps (between generations, between state and citizens, etc.); b) place people at the center when designing and implementing programs (including youth and women); and c) break silos between different sectors of society (public sector, private sector, civil society, etc.). Participants also stressed that the relationship between EU and MENA requires transformative dialogues to foster better mutual understanding and spaces for jointly developing new ideas on how to address mutual challenges, such as security, economic developments, green and digital transitions.

More information can be found in the [full report](#). The [opening session](#) is also available to watch in addition to this [short video](#) from the conference.

PEACE & SECURITY

REGIONAL SECURITY: EU-MENA RELATIONS

A key element of the mandate of the Dialogue is to promote increased contacts and understanding between Sweden and other countries in Europe on the one hand, and countries in the Middle East and North Africa on the other. Europe and the MENA region are increasingly intertwined, and dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration are prerequisites to addressing common challenges and to finding sustainable solutions.



During Sweden's EU presidency in the spring of 2023, the Dialogue Institute arranged meetings on the EU-MENA relations, with a view to explore how strengthened dialogue can improve the conditions for more favourable political, economic, and social developments in the region and for the relations between the two regions. These meetings have been organised in close collaboration with the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU, and other European colleagues.

Informal EU-MENA meetings in Brussels

On May 5th, the Dialogue Institute, in coordination with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU, hosted an informal roundtable discussion in Brussels to discuss challenges and opportunities in the relationship between the broader MENA region (Middle East, the Gulf region and North Africa) and Europe.

In a candid and constructive exchange, participants (analysts from the region and EU officials) reflected on the state of EU-MENA relations. The analysts from the MENA region argued that the geopolitical shifts create a strong imperative for enhancing the EU-MENA cooperation in all fields, from political dialogue to sectoral cooperation (e.g. energy), the issue of mobility (future of work in Europe and the MENA) and responsible business.

The meeting provided specific recommendations to advance the relationship, including the need for a higher sensitivity from both regions in understanding the challenges and grievances of "the other". Other recommendations included a) a stress on maintaining a value-based agenda, while b) working more seriously on economy and trade, with support to the development of a competitive private sector with political economy at the heart, using EU leverage in IFIs and EBRD; and c) underlining an increased importance of EU dialogue with the GCC on cooperation with countries in the Southern Neighbourhood.

Enhanced work on people-to-people contacts was also highlighted, including Europe's maintained strong pull factor, not least as attractive destinations for higher education. EU support for educational exchanges and for "knowledge production" in the MENA region were also considered valuable. The importance of soft power should not be underestimated.

Participants also stressed the importance of strengthening EU communication and visibility in the region, as well as communication in Europe about the MENA region, beyond the regions' conflicts and crisis.

The roundtable meeting was followed by a panel discussion, in which analysts from the MENA region and the Director of the MENA department at the Swedish Foreign Ministry shared their reflections with EU member state delegates to the EU Council Working Groups Maghreb-Mashreq and Middle East Gulf.

For more information, see the [full report](#).



Panel discussion at the Swedish EU Representation in Brussels, May 2023.

Informal meeting on the Southern Neighbourhood Policy in Amman

On May 21st, the Dialogue Institute hosted an informal consultation on the future of the Agenda for the Mediterranean. Those who participated in the meeting were senior officials from the Southern Neighbourhood countries (SN) and from Sweden as well as Spain (the incoming EU Presidency), the EEAS, and the European Commission.

The participants underlined that Europe and Southern Partners are facing common challenges and that there is a unique opportunity to create an ever-closer reinforcing partnership and to move towards a deepened partnership to build back better and promote a green, digitised and socially inclusive transition, in line with Agenda 2030. They also pointed to the complementarities that exist between the two regions, for example in the energy and food sectors. Other areas for increased cooperation included higher education and mobility.

In addition to deepened sectorial cooperation, participants expressed an interest in strengthening the political dimension of the Agenda for the Mediterranean and pointed to a need for more dialogue to better understand each other's interests, needs and positions.

For more information, see a [brief summary](#) from the meeting.



During lunch, Maria Hadjitheodosiou, EU Ambassador to Jordan, shared her reflections on EU-MENA relations.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (WPS)

The agenda on Women, Peace and Security has remained an important area of work and the Institute has taken part in several meetings, both online and in person during the last year. Some of these meetings had a thematic focus, while others were country specific.

How Inclusive is Peacebuilding in the Digital Age?

To mark the International Women's Day, the Dialogue Institute and [the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs \(IFI\)](#) at the [AUB](#) hosted a webinar titled "How inclusive is peacebuilding in the digital age?" on March 6th.

This was the third year that the two organizations co-hosted webinars on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) on the occasion of the International Women's Day.



The webinar in 2021 was titled “How Inclusive is Inclusive Peacebuilding?” and highlighted the need to diversify peacebuilding processes through a multi-layered inclusive approach across various sectors and actors. In 2022 the webinar was titled “How Inclusive is a Sustainable Tomorrow?”, addressing the relationship between the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Like previous years’ webinars, the focus of the discussion was on inclusivity in peacebuilding, recognising that diverse actors in society are needed to prevent and solve conflicts, to protect human lives, and in relief and reconstruction work. The webinar is available to watch [here](#).

YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY (YPS)

In the past years, the Dialogue Institute has engaged in numerous activities related to the implementation of the agenda on Youth, Peace, and Security. This has included a close collaboration both the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish Government Agency for Peace, Security and Development, and with the MENA coalition for Youth, Peace, and Security (MENA4WPS).

Collaboration with the Folke Bernadotte Academy on YPS

In December 2022, a delegation from the FBA (Folke Bernadotte Academy) visited Jordan and the Dialogue Institute held a series of meetings and consultations on the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda.

During the visit, the Institute hosted a roundtable discussion bringing together esteemed youth leaders and representatives from government and civil society, for a discussion on youth participation and the implementation of the YPS Agenda in the MENA region. Key takeaways included recommendations to increase interactions and trust building among different actors, to increase awareness, strengthen intergenerational dialogue, to enhance the work on capacity-building (on all levels), and on changing narratives.



Roundtable discussions together with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) on advancing the YPS agenda.

Another roundtable discussion was held with representatives from the UN, the EU and donor community, to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Agenda for Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) in the MENA region. The discussion focused on the need for collaborative efforts in advancing agendas on peace and development and on ways to contribute to better youth inclusion. Challenges that were highlighted included the existing intergenerational gap and lack of opportunities and spaces for dialogue between generations, where young people are often not involved in the policy and decision-making processes.

Participants emphasised the importance of meaningful and effective youth participation and stressed that initiatives by the younger generation are often insightful and innovative. They underscored the importance of partnerships between various stakeholders, including governments and civil society. They called for a strengthening complementarity across the respective mandates of humanitarian-, development-, and peace actors, and to improve the coordination and collaboration amongst the donor community.

Collaboration with the MENA coalition for YPS on Intergenerational Dialogue

In the beginning of June 2023, the Dialogue Institute conducted a three-day interactive workshop focusing on intergenerational dialogue. The event had been prepared in close collaboration with the MENA Coalition for Youth, Peace, and Security and hosted 19 young peacebuilders from the coalition.



Interactive sessions with participants from the MENA Coalition for YPS, on intergenerational dialogue.

Through exploratory and reflective sets of conversations and interactive exercises, the workshop aimed at exploring and co-creating knowledge on what intergenerational dialogue is, what it entails, and what associated promising practices are. This included discussions on how the generational differences and gaps look like in the MENA region, what consequences they have on opportunities for young and old alike to participate across societies, and how the gaps interlink with conflict dynamics.

The role of dialogue between generations as a method to bridge these gaps and mitigate potential conflicts aggravated or caused by generational inequity was discussed in-depth. Additionally, the workshop aimed at promoting dialogue between on one hand young women and men and on the other hand policy- and decision-makers. For that reason, a multistakeholder meeting and intergenerational dialogue dinner was organized as part of the workshop. During this event, the young participants got an opportunity to dialogue with representatives from the United Nations, European Union, Jordanian and Swedish ministries and government agencies and civil society

Learn more about the workshop in the [full report](#).

(For more information about intergenerational dialogue, see below.)

UN-FBA Joint Regional Learning Forum on YPS

In parallel to the Institute's workshop with the MENA Coalition for YPS in June, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) hosted a so-called UN-FBA joint learning forum on youth, peace, and security, in Jordan.

The forum was attended by approximately 30 UN representatives from across the system and the MENA region and aimed at mapping promising practises and identifying concrete actions on how to further the implementation the YPS agenda. In this, the great value of Team Sweden and the continued need of its strong engagement was highlighted and requested.

The Director and Deputy Director of the Institute attended the final day of the forum. In addition to giving an ear to the conversation, the Institute got the opportunity to present its work related to YPS and intergenerational dialogue. This sparked both an interest and a lot of questions from the participants and the work undertaken by the Institute was very much welcomed.



The Dialogue Institute sharing reflections on Intergenerational dialogue at a UN-FBA learning forum on YPS.

Training of NATO, UN, and EU staff

On the 27th of June, the Institute's Deputy Director, Erike Tanghøj, facilitated an online training session for a group of 23 employees from NATO, EU, and UN on the topic of intergenerational dialogue. The training session was part of the global training programme "Realizing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda" – which is a joint effort by FBA and the United Nation System Staff Colleague (UNSSC). The topic had been selected by the participants themselves through a voting process with the rationale that it is not only an emerging topic within EU and NATO but also a prioritised thematic area for the UN during 2023. UNSSC and FBA requested the Institute to facilitate the training session as a direct result of the positive outcomes of the Institute's work on intergenerational dialogue during the spring.

It became evident from the training session that the level of understanding and practical experience from engaging in dialogue across generations within these institutions is low. Several of the participants expressed that the training session had been eye opening and that they got a better understanding of the fact that they had this far been conducting consultations, not dialogues.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is a key pillar in the Institute's work and is closely connected to the other focus areas – Peace and Security and Inclusive Participation. Within this field, regional dialogue on climate change have been one of the main priorities. During 2022 and 2023, the Institute held several online and in-person meetings, with a focus on contributing to more inclusive processes in addressing the climate agenda. The Institute brought together people from across the MENA region, representing governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, donors, and international organisations for these meetings. This focus has been particularly relevant as both COP27 and COP28 has been hosted by countries in the region, Egypt and the UAE.

Pre-COP 27 Meeting Bringing Together Youth and Climate Advocates

On October 26th, 2022, the Dialogue Institute hosted an interactive online roundtable discussion on 'Best practices ahead of COP27'. The discussion brought together around 40 people from across the MENA region and Europe. It aimed at strengthening connectivity and exchanges between youth and climate experts from the MENA region and Europe, many of whom were to attend COP27. Additionally, the meeting aimed to put together first-time visitors to the climate summit with more experienced delegates. The meeting facilitated a space where the first-time attenders could ask questions, highlight concerns and receive recommendations.

Key recommendations for future COP processes highlighted the importance of making representation fairer and more inclusive, both across sectors of society and on the state level. More details can be found in the full report.

Panel on the Role of Women Leadership in Advancing the Climate Agenda

On June 15th, the European Union Delegation to the UAE, the Embassy of Sweden in Abu Dhabi, the Dialogue Institute and the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) organised a panel discussion on the theme ‘The role of women leadership in advancing the climate agenda’. The panel discussion brought together speakers and participants from the UAE, the MENA region and Europe representing international organisations, nongovernmental organisations, the private sector, youth organisations and the research community, all actively engaged in climate action and women’s empowerment.



The meeting highlighted the vital role of women leadership in advancing the climate agenda and accelerating the green transition, but also the challenges and opportunities in the MENA region and beyond ahead of the upcoming COP28 conference in Dubai. Learn more about the event in the full report.



Keynote speakers and panellists from the panel discussion in Abu Dhabi, June 2023.

Virtual Roundtable: “From COP 27 to COP 28”

On June 21st, the Dialogue Institute organised a digital roundtable discussion titled “From COP 27 to COP 28 – Experiences, Reflections, and Recommendations”. The objective was to gather climate experts and activists of diverse backgrounds and ages from the MENA region and Sweden to reflect on the experiences from attending COP27 and to exchange ideas and shape recommendations for the upcoming COP28. The discussion focused on inclusivity, sustainable development, and promoting participatory processes. Read more about the roundtable in the report.

INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

GENDER EQUALITY

Women's Participation on Twitter in the MENA Region

In August 2022, the Dialogue Institute, in collaboration with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Uppsala University, organised a roundtable discussion about women's participation on Twitter in the Middle East and North Africa, with experts, scholars, and civil society actors from the region.



The objective of the meeting was to better understand the barriers that women in the MENA region face when it comes to Twitter participation and their ways of navigating these barriers.

Women's low Twitter turnout in the MENA region was attributed to a variety of reasons. One reason was that social media, including Twitter, was seen as the extension of offline society. As one participant put it; *"Societies in the region are not hearing women's voices"*.

More details can be found in the [full report](#).

Regional Forum on Equality in Education in the Southern Mediterranean

On October 11th, 2022, the Director of the Dialogue Institute participated in a panel at a Regional Forum on Equality in Education in the Southern Mediterranean. The meeting, which took place in Amman, was organised by the Euromed Feminist Initiative. It gathered local and regional educational actors from ministries, teachers, civil society organisations and gender equality experts. The aim was to explore how the educational systems can be re-approached from a gender equality perspective and how education can be employed as a global tool bringing insights and raising awareness.



INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

A cornerstone for reaching durable peace and security is to ensure that young women and men of diverse backgrounds and identities have the same rights, tools, and opportunities, to participate in and influence governance and peacebuilding processes as older generations.

Despite this and the fact that young people often make up a significant and growing proportion of the populations in the MENA region, they are systematically underrepresented in (political) decision-making. Consequently, their specific (security) needs, priorities and living conditions are rarely taken into consideration by decision-makers, especially in contexts affected by conflict.

The systematic exclusion has led to a "generational gap" that manifests itself in and affects various sectors and questions of vital importance for societies at large (such as e.g. climate security and social cohesion). Hence, in order to achieve inclusive and peaceful societies age-based discrimination needs to be properly addressed and the gap between generations must be bridged.

An important tool in bridging this gap is dialogue between generations, so-called intergenerational dialogue. In recent years, a growing number of international and regional actors working with the youth, peace and security agenda have brought together people of different ages for this purpose. However, these efforts have often had limited results and in some cases, the lack of "real" dialogue has rather sparked irritation between the groups as both "sides of the table" have felt accused, unheard, and/or disrespected.

Against the above backdrop, and upon recommendations given by partners to the Institute, the need for understanding intergenerational dialogue has been emerged.

Participants in the Institute's activities have stressed the importance of acknowledging that intergenerational dialogue is something more than just having people of different ages "around the table", expressing their views. Rather, it is about active listening, transfer of knowledge and an increased understanding between generations for the purposes of greater inclusion, cohesion, and sustainability, both today and tomorrow.

Throughout 2023, the Dialogue Institute has therefore engaged in a knowledge-creating process, together with different actors, for the purpose of developing a "guidance note" on what intergenerational dialogue is and how it can be carried out so that it becomes meaningful for both older and younger generations. In this process several activities have been carried out, some of them are mentioned below.

Multistakeholder meeting and intergenerational dialogue

In connection to the YPS workshop in June (see under YPS), a multistakeholder meeting and intergenerational dialogue dinner was organised as a way of promoting dialogue between youth from the region on one hand, and on the other, policy- and decision-makers, representing the United Nations, European Union, Jordanian and Swedish ministries and government agencies and civil society.

Some 50 guests participated, incl. the H.E. the Minister of Youth of Jordan, H.E. the Director General of Global Affairs at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ambassador of Sweden to Jordan. The meeting enabled important conversations between people of different backgrounds and walks of life. It generated hands-on experiences and promising practices on how to carry out an intergenerational dialogue.



Engaging multistakeholder meeting on Intergenerational dialogue with officials, UN, EU, and civil society.

Virtual Roundtable Meeting on Intergenerational Dialogue

On July 4th, the Dialogue Institute arranged a virtual roundtable discussion, bringing together 14 young peacebuilders and peace and security experts from both the MENA region and Europe. The purpose of the meeting was to advance the Institute’s work on intergenerational dialogue by soliciting feedback from a diverse set of actors on the preliminary conclusions drawn from the knowledge-creating process on intergenerational dialogue that the Institute has engaged in since the beginning of 2023.

Read more about the meeting in the [full report](#).



Virtual roundtable discussion on intergenerational dialogue, July 2023

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Roundtable Meeting on Culture and Dialogue

In early November 2022, the Dialogue Institute hosted a roundtable discussion exploring interlinkages between culture and dialogue, peacebuilding and resilience. The event was centred around questions of how dialogue can benefit from a better integration of culture as a tool to foster empathy and understanding, and on the sharing of best practices in this field. The meeting was attended by a group of eminent people, working within both the cultural sector (music, theatre, film, and arts) and on dialogue and peacebuilding (international institutions, as well as think tanks and civil society).

A key message from the meeting was that culture has the power to foster empathy and understanding, and to help overcoming prejudices, divides and polarisation. Culture can play an essential role in breaking taboos and dealing with shortcomings in society, as well as being an effective tool in addressing trauma.

Find the full report [here](#).



Roundtable meeting on culture and dialogue in Amman, December 2022.

Lecture on intercultural dialogue



On November 21st, the Institute's Director Charlotta Sparre was invited to give a lecture in Linköping Cathedral, in Sweden.

The lecture, that was attended by some 100 people, focused on the relations between Sweden and Europe on one hand, and the Middle East and North Africa region on the other. Charlotta Sparre highlighted the importance of dialogue to foster understanding and to contribute to addressing common challenges.

Collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation

In March 2023, the Institute took part in a regional network meeting with the [Anna Lindh Foundation](#), hosted by the Swedish chapter in Gothenburg. During the two-day meeting, the participants engaged in networking, exchange of experiences and discussions on intercultural dialogue and diversity.

The Institute's Deputy Director Erike Tanghøj held a presentation on the concept of intergenerational dialogue as a tool for bridging the generational gaps in societies. She stressed the importance of acknowledging that intergenerational dialogue is something more than simply bringing people of different ages together to express their views. Rather, she stressed the importance of active listening, transfer of knowledge and increased understanding between generations for the purposes of greater inclusion, cohesion, and sustainability, both today and tomorrow.

As a follow-up to the meeting in Gothenburg, Erike Tanghøj was a keynote speaker at an online intercultural morning coffee session called "[Talkin' 'Bout My Generation](#)" – arranged by the Swedish chapter of the Anna Lindh-Foundation (ALF) in May. The online session aimed at giving more time and space to the exploration of the topic of intergenerational dialogue. In the conversation, the importance of the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren and the power of storytelling was highlighted as important aspects of strengthening the social fabric between young and old.



Anna Lindh Foundation regional networking meeting in Gothenburg. (Photo credit: Ömer Hingora)

NETWORKS AND COMMUNICATION

In addition to the activities mentioned, the Dialogue Institute has participated in numerous meetings arranged by other organisations and has continued its work to develop contacts and build networks with relevant partners, in the MENA region and in Europe.

During the past year the Institute has also increased its social media outreach. Apart from its website content, the Institute communicates primarily through [LinkedIn](#). Interviews and other video material are also available on [YouTube](#).