SESSION CONCEPT – ALF in COP31 Mediterranean Pavilion

November 13th, 17.30

Proposed title: Bridging Generations and Sectors: Euro-Med Youth Digital Advocacy, Food Security, and Local Climate Action

Organised by Anna Lindh Foundation in collaboration with the Coordinators of the ALF Network of Civil Society in Türkiye

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Necdet Sağlam, Anadolu University & Co-Coordinator of the Anna Lindh Foundation Türkiye Network

Panellists:

- Dr. Ayşe Kalav Köken, Akdeniz University
- Wiem Ibn Cheikh, ALF Young Leader & Climate Content Creator and Advocate, Anna Lindh Foundation
- Haci Ahmet Unlu, ALF Young Leader & Youth Fellow, Blue Peace Middle East
- Josep Ferré, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation

Concept:

The Mediterranean basin is one of the most vulnerable climate change hotspots globally, facing severe risks related to urban resilience, environmental degradation, and agricultural sustainability. Among these, food security emerges as an existential challenge requiring urgent, multi-stakeholder adaptation strategies.

Under the overarching framework of COP31 and the strategic priorities of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) alongside its active national networks, empowering youth, leveraging digital climate advocacy, and bridging civil society with academic and institutional actors are vital. This panel brings together academic rigor, international leadership, and youth-led digital communication to address the nexus of climate change, food security, and cross-border cooperation across the Euro-Med region.

Objectives

- Integrate Food Security into Youth Climate Agendas: Highlight the direct impacts of the Mediterranean climate crisis on food security and explore community-driven adaptation models.
- Empower Youth Digital Advocacy: Showcase the role of young climate advocates and content creators in driving regional awareness and grassroots mobilization.
- Strengthen Euro-Med Diplomacy: Foster sustainable dialogue channels between institutional leaders, academic researchers, and youth advocates within the ALF framework.

Panelists' Bios



Prof. Dr. Necdet Sağlam, Anadolu University & Co-Coordinator of the Anna Lindh Foundation Türkiye Network

Prof. Dr. Necdet Sağlam serves as a faculty member at Anadolu University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. Standing out with his extensive contributions to civil society, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Civil Society and Development Institute Association (ACSDI) and the Co-Coordinator of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Türkiye Network. Alongside his academic career, he is the founder and CEO of 2N R&D Innovation, which develops financial audit and AI-powered software solutions. Continuing his work in civil society diplomacy, intercultural dialogue, financial reporting, and corporate software architecture, he actively takes part in national and international platforms as a panellist, trainer, and speaker.



Dr. Ayşe Kalav Köken, Akdeniz University

Dr. Ayşe Kalav Köken received her bachelor's degree in American Culture and Literature from Hacettepe University in 2010. She later completed her master's degree in "Women's Studies and Gender" (2014) and her Ph.D. in "Political Science and Public Administration" (2022) at Akdeniz University Institute of Social

Sciences. Her doctoral dissertation focused on *"The Transformation of Food Regimes and the Dynamics of Change: A Study on Alternative Food Initiatives in Turkey."*Her research interests include urbanization, environmental issues, social and political sciences, gender studies, and alternative food networks. She continues her academic career as a research assistant in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Akdeniz University



Wiem Ibn Cheikh, ALF Young Leader & Climate Content Creator and Advocate, Anna Lindh Foundation

Wiem Ibn Cheikh is a Tunisian Climate Migration Researcher, Content Creator, and Climate Activist dedicated to bringing the human stories behind the climate crisis from local communities to global policy platforms. With a Bachelor's in Geopolitics and International Relations and an Erasmus+ exchange semester studying development and sustainability at Uppsala University in Sweden, she is currently pursuing a Research Master's degree in Migration Studies. In her thesis, she explores how climate change acts as a threat multiplier leading to human mobility. Believing that knowledge only creates change when it is accessible to all, Wiem translates the complex intersections of Geopolitics, Society, and the Environment into impactful digital narratives. As a climate storyteller within the Mediterranean Youth in Action (MYA) program, she has led an advocacy campaign highlighting climate change and social vulnerability. With over a decade of experience in civic leadership at both the national and international levels, Wiem combines rigorous scientific research with storytelling to advocate for sustainable development and lasting social impact.



Haci Ahmet Unlu, ALF Young Leader & Youth Fellow, Blue Peace Middle East

Haci Ahmet Ünlü is a policy researcher specializing in the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE+) Nexus and Euro-Mediterranean resource diplomacy. Currently an Anna Lindh Foundation Mediterranean Youth in Action (MYA) Researcher and Youth Fellow at Blue Peace Middle East, he focuses on transboundary water governance and the climate-security-migration interface. His background includes research and diplomatic support roles with the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye, contributing to cross-border dialogue and regional policy analysis. He is a member of the International Water Association (IWA).



Josep Ferré, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation

Josep Ferré has served as Executive Director of the ALF since September 2021, leveraging his 25+ years in policy research and development cooperation. His expertise encompasses managing networks and steering publications on Euro-Mediterranean topics. He was the Director General (2017-2021) and the Managing Director (2007-2021) of the IEMed. He was the Director General of the Spanish branch of AMREF (2004-2006) and the Executive Secretary of the Azahar Program to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) (2001-2004).