



## The Euro-Mediterranean Forum for Cultural Diplomacy

It is in the Euro-Mediterranean Region that the potential for cultural diplomacy is the most obvious. Not only can it contribute to the development of the newly created Union for the Mediterranean, but it can also help establish dialog between previously hostile nations and mutual trust between neighbors with different religions or ethnicities. Anyone who traveled through the Mediterranean can only be struck by the feeling that there is a similar culture, a similar mentality and a common past. Cultural diplomacy can help to foster and strengthen this feeling, providing a soft, sensible tool to prevent further conflicts.

Yet, despite the practical relevance of cultural diplomacy (CD) and its current prevalence in the academic discourse, much progress remains to be made. The aim of the Forum is to address both dimensions of CD – the academic and the practical – in the specific context of the Euro-Mediterranean Region. Building upon examples of successful CD projects, participants will discuss best-practices, with a particular emphasis on practical implementation. The Forum is conceived as an open process, with the aim of connecting participants and to build a sustainable network in this field, where practice will meet the academic world and a free flow of ideas will be possible.

The Forum will be held on the beautiful island of Rhodes in the Southern Rhodes Municipality. Thanks to our cooperation with partners such as the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) in Berlin and the Department of Mediterranean Studies of the University of the Aegean, participants will benefit from input from highly distinguished speakers, with whom potential and ongoing projects can furthermore be discussed. The organization will be ensured by the Chios Institute for Mediterranean Affairs (CIMA), which will additionally help to implement the CD projects presented and publish the best articles submitted.

### The design of the Forum

The Forum aims at fostering an interdisciplinary approach to Cultural Diplomacy and to its potential impact on the Euro-Mediterranean Region. Participants will therefore be selected from a variety of backgrounds: journalists, NGO and union activists, students, representatives from the academic world as well as young professionals. The forum is designed to allow for a process of ongoing progressive dialog and discussion. On the first two days, participants will attend plenary sessions, during which prominent keynote speakers will introduce the notions of Cultural Diplomacy and of Regional Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

During these first two days, young researchers and practitioners will also have the opportunity to present and discuss their current projects in the form of posters. During the last two days, participants will discuss concrete CD projects with a Mediterranean dimension, which will later be implemented through the network created by the Forum.

The Euromed Forum for Cultural Diplomacy will be the place where theory and practice meet, where proposals will become projects and projects become reality!

### Participation and Call for projects

An open call for papers will be published on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, accomplished by an open call for projects. The call will be published on the Homepage of the Chios Institute for Mediterranean Affairs.

The abstracts and project proposals will be sent to [euromedhouse@gmail.com](mailto:euromedhouse@gmail.com).

The Deadline for the calls will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2010

The Participation fee will be divided in three different groups, based on a regional categorization, ensuring participants from all over the Euro-Mediterranean to get involved in the forum.



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**COMPARATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK**



**EuroMed Forum for  
Cultural Diplomacy**



*EuroMed Forum  
for Cultural Diplomacy*

**Southern Rhodes  
11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010**