

11th INTERNATIONAL SHORT STORY  
CONTEST

**A SEA OF WORDS**

Memory and Identity: Rethinking Cultural Heritage

[www.iemed.org/seaofwords](http://www.iemed.org/seaofwords)

Organised by:



## Introduction

---

We invite you to participate in the 11th year of the literary contest "A Sea of Words", organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Anna Lindh Foundation under the motto "**Memory and Identity: Rethinking Cultural Heritage**", in the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

This year's contest seeks to provide a forum for youths to tell us about their own experiences and emotions in relation to cultural heritage. Cultural heritage, whether tangible or intangible, is a fundamental part of our identity; it is a shared value and a sign of identity in villages and towns, natural landscapes and emblematic centuries-old constructions that bring us together in diversity. It is not just a legacy of the past but also helps us to forge the path to follow and design our future. Cultural heritage contributes to creating more united societies and to fostering growth and employment in cities and regions.

In this context, short stories are a tool that enables us to explore our deepest beliefs and experiences. The literary message can provide a personal, historical and anthropological view of human complexity while bringing similar experiences from diverse origins closer.

## Objectives

---

“A Sea of Words” is aimed at the production of short stories **focused on building a common future based on shared values derived from stories of real or fictional experiences** to showcase the diverse social sensibilities and realities in the Euro-Mediterranean region from the point of view of the young people living there.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Create meeting points to foster debate.
- Share values, projects and working methods.
- Promote knowledge of the environments and political, social, cultural and economic complexities of the Mediterranean and European countries.
- Strengthen the links between the Euro-Mediterranean civil society national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

## Call and Conditions

---

Conditions of the call:

- People aged 18 to 30 on the date of the deadline for submission of texts.
- The stories must be original and can be written in any of the official languages of the 43 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- Only one story per author will be accepted.
- The stories must not exceed 2,500 words.
- 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.

The authors of the 15 best stories, selected by an international jury, will be invited to Barcelona to attend the awards presentation ceremony (19 September) and to participate in the different cultural activities set out in the "Schedule" section of this document, to be held from 19 to 21 September 2018.

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

## Schedule

---

### 1. Call for stories

(20 February – 20 April 2018)

**On 20 February 2018, 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 the other networks in which it participates and on its Facebook and Twitter accounts.**

**20 April** 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 country of origin of the author and later sent to the coordinators of the national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

**2. National selection of stories**  
**(20 April – 20 May 2018)**

**From 20 April and once the stories have been classified, the national juries will have one month to assess the quality of the stories submitted by the participants of their country, select the 5 best and send them to the international jury.**

**3. International selection of stories**  
**(1 June – 1 July 2018)**

An international jury will assess the works pre-selected by the national juries and will have one month, from **1 June 2018**, to undertake the selection process of the best stories. The international jury will select the authors of the **15 best** finalist stories, who will be invited to Barcelona. From these, the jury will 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.

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 (19 September – 21 September 2018)

On **19 September** the awards presentation ceremony will take place in Barcelona.

On **20 September** a creative writing workshop will be held along with diverse activities aimed at fostering mutual knowledge.

On **21 September** the awardees will participate in a guided tour of Park Güell by the Catalan Art Nouveau architect Antoni Gaudí, and will have the opportunity to attend the different activities held during those days in Barcelona on the occasion of La Mercè, the city's festival.

A SEA  
of words