



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 21 February 2020

Meeting of Ms. Athina Korovesi, Head of the Focal Point for Southern & Western Greece of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network, with Dr. Vasileios Laopodis, Founder and President of CulturePolis



On Thursday 20 February 2020, **Ms. Athina Korovesi**, ICBSS Communications and Public Relations Manager and **Head of the Focal Point for Southern & Western Greece** of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network, had a meeting with **Dr. Vasileios Laopodis, Founder and President** of the private non-profit organization **CulturePolis**, based in **Corfu**, at the ICBSS Hq, in Athens, in the framework of the collaboration of both member organizations within the Anna Lindh Foundation.

The meeting was the continuation of their talks during the National Meeting of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network, that was held last October in Thessaloniki, where the two parties discussed the cooperation possibilities between the ICBSS and CulturePolis, both bilaterally as well as within the Anna Lindh Foundation framework.

Analyzing the aims and activities of CulturePolis, **Dr. Laopodis** referred to the planned actions and initiatives of the company and also to the need of supporting several of them by the Foundation, due to the relevance of their objects to the purposes of Anna Lindh Foundation. As main example he brought the actions of the **Hellenic Center for Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture** (*in greek: Κέντρο Ελληνικής και Αραβικής Λογοτεχνίας Κ.Ε.Α.Α.Π.*), the autonomous initiative under the umbrella of CulturePolis, as well as the planned dialogue meetings with citizens on cultural and social issues.

The fact that the Anna Lindh Foundation is the first Euro-Mediterranean organization based on a non-EU country, in Alexandria-Egypt, and the challenge of the immigration issue, advocate the need of capitalizing the experience of the “**1st Corfu Arabian World’s Festival**” organized by CulturePolis in 2011 within the framework of the Center for Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture, as discussed by both parties. As they also notice, the support of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network to educational activities regarding the learning of the arabic language, is a trigger for CulturePolis for stressing not only the importance of the utilization of the Festival but also the suggestion of new actions.

From her side, **Ms. Korovesi**, after briefing the Founder and President of CulturePolis for the actions taken by the Head, Coordinator and Co-Head of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network, underlined the importance of taking and promoting relevant to the abovementioned initiatives by the member organizations of the Greek Network, and especially by those that are established at the Regions of the South and the West, for the purposes of the achievement of the extroversion that it pursues to accomplish.

Both parties explored **cooperation opportunities in fields of common interest** between the ICBSS and CulturePolis, through the organization of joint actions addressed to the people of the Mediterranean, Balkan and Black Sea countries.

The respect for citizens’ particular cultural identities, the transfer of values to the younger generations, and the creation of networks of collaborating actors for the benefit of local communities, were parameters that were particularly emphasized during the discussion.

Last but not least, Dr. Laopodis exchanged views with the **ICBSS Research and Policy Development Manager, Ms. Georgia Chantzi**, regarding the research cooperation possibilities between the two organizations.

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About the ICBSS:

The [International Centre for Black Sea Studies \(ICBSS\)](#) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It is a supervised organisation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. Since its establishment it has fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. In the context of the above dual function, it undertakes a number of activities, such as events, publications, participation in research programs. The ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim to foster multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners. Mr. Georgios Mitrakos is the Director General of the ICBSS since July 2016. On September 2019, the ICBSS and Ms. Athina Korovesi, Communications and Public Relations Manager, elected Focal Point and Head for Southern and Western Greece of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network accordingly, for a three-year term.

Σχετικά με την CulturePolis:

[CulturePolis](#) is a private non-profit organisation based in Corfu, Greece belonging to the Civil Society Organisations – CSOs). It operates mainly in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. Its main aim is to contribute – through research, analysis, debate and dialogue, as well as targeted action in information / awareness raising on issues related to: (A) culture and the arts in the broadest sense, (B) intercultural dialogue and the promotion of different cultural identities, (C) sustainability in all its facets, (D) promoting innovative approaches and new technologies in society and economy, (E) the creative economy and entrepreneurship. CulturePolis aims to create a single area of sustainable development and culture where citizens feel they have common references – especially for members to the European Union – and a European cultural identity, arising through common values, goals and commitments to the democratic process. The aim is for CulturePolis to function as a catalyst in order for these ties to be strengthened, all the while respecting the concept of sustainability and the distinct cultural identities of citizens. Within this single area, there will be tolerance between cultures, which may be caused by differences between races, languages, religions, etc. This vision expands to embrace all neighboring peoples and countries, passing on the organization's values and goals.

Few words about the Anna Lindh Foundation:

The [Anna Lindh Foundation](#) is an international organization working from the Mediterranean to promote intercultural and civil society dialogue in the face of growing mistrust and polarisation. Founded in 2004, its Headquarters inaugurated in 2005 in Alexandria, Egypt. The Foundation has coordinators and management staff based across more than 40 countries. The Foundation is the first common institution for dialogue co-created by the European Union and its Mediterranean Partner countries and consists the largest network of civil society actors involved in Intercultural Dialogue in the wider Euro-Mediterranean region, with more than 4.500 member organizations across its National Networks in 42 countries. Read more about the Anna Lindh Foundation – Greek Network on <https://www.alfhellas.gr/en>.

For further information regarding the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) visit the website www.icbss.org and contact us at email icbss@icbss.org or tel.: 210 3242321-2.

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