



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 18 February 2020

Meeting of Ms. Athina Korovesi, Head of the Focal Point for Southern & Western Greece of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network, with Ms. Sophie Giannakis-Kagadis, Executive Director of the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture



On Thursday 31 January 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 **Ms. Sophie Giannakis-Kagadis**, **Executive Director of the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture**, at the ICBSS Hq, in Athens, in the framework of the collaboration of both member organizations within the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Representing the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** as the elected “Focal Point for Southern & Western Greece of the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network”, **Ms. Korovesi** informed **Ms. Giannakis-Kagadis** about the actions taken by the Head, Coordinator and Co-Head of the Greek National Network of the Euro-Mediterranean Anna Lindh Foundation during the period after the elections of the three Focal Points and Heads of the Network, held on September 2019.

Given the fact that the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture operates in a global environment for the understanding and advancement of the **European, Mediterranean and Global Civilization**, in addition to the development of a high-level curricula in collaboration with prominent foreign universities and their professors, **Ms. Giannakis-Kagadis** highlighted the importance of the promotion of the Center’s actions through the Anna Lindh Foundation.

As the Executive Director of the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture noted, the common audience of both Foundations, which are active in the wider Mediterranean region, is a reference point for the **implementation of joint actions** aiming to the **promotion of the desired multicultural dialogue**, with an emphasis in the fields of Higher Education, Arts and Research. Specifically, **Ms. Giannakis-Kagadis** proposed the launch of a series of activities in collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network, that can be implemented at the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture premises in Kefalonia, such as a **painting exhibition** with internationally recognized artists’ paintings, as the Ionian Center possesses both the know-how and the facilities for exhibiting and displaying the works of art.

Furthermore, **Ms. Giannakis-Kagadis** noted that she looks forward to the **active contribution and involvement of the Anna Lindh Network**, in order the joint actions to have a real footprint in the **Civil Society** under the prism of the expansion and stabilization of a healthy educational and cultural environment addressed to the citizens.

Agreeing on the above proposals, **Ms. Korovesi** emphasized **the significance of highlighting the activities of the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture** to the direction of becoming well known to the public that wishes to participate at the offered high level academic programs. As she mentioned, the Anna Lindh Foundation Greek Network is a **connecting link** that could bring together the interested member organizations, as well as the individuals that follow its activities, with the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture and hence the **Western Greece**, and in particular the **island of Kefalonia**.

At this point, **Ms. Korovesi** also referred to the need of the **promotion of the local communities’ efforts** while generating high-level international activities based on their own efforts. In addition, she considered the existence of organizations that can provide consultancy to self-taught artists while supporting their work, as well as guidance through their academic programs, necessary.

In this framework, both parties explored **opportunities for cooperation** between the International Centre for Black Sea Studies and the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture, with a focus on the **promotion of the cultural elements of the Mediterranean, the Balkans and the Black Sea countries** and their artists.

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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.

About the Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture:

The [Ionian Center for the Arts and Culture](#) operates in a Global environment in the fields of Higher Education, Arts and Research. It is located in the Greek island Kefalonia, Ionian Sea, a Mediterranean geographical cross point of great significance for the financial and cultural communication between East and West. This area through the ages keeps a considerable meaning for the understanding and advancement of the Greek, European and Global Civilization. The International Strategy of the Institution in accordance to its Establishment Act, is embracing the Globalization needs of the Academic and Art's World. Knowledge, Academic Research and Innovation in across borders model constitutes the core program of the Institution. The increasing needs of the professional environments and the high demands of the work markets, continuous changes in the global financial system, fast economic, geopolitical, social transformations, environmental issues, migration challenges in new multicultural communities worldwide, stability issues and fast changing societies are the crucial factors considered. Education is the key point for the leading program of the Ionian Center, advanced through the establishment of paths connecting the Art's and the Academic world above bounds. The significance of the communication and connectivity, the intercultural understanding, new training languages and practices, creativity, innovation, new technologies, experimentation are adopted into the International program of the Ionian Center.

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>.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες για το Διεθνές Κέντρο Μελετών Ευξείνου Πόντου (International Centre for Black Sea Studies) επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα www.icbss.org και επικοινωνήστε στο email icbss@icbss.org και στα τηλέφωνα +30 2103242321-2.

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