

Annual Report Highlights 2023



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, the Institute reached a full staff and continued to develop its programmes and activities in line with its mandate and strategy. The Institute organised conferences, meetings, workshops, and other activities within each of its focus areas: Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Participation. The Institute's two main priorities for the year, were EU-MENA dialogues and Intergenerational Dialogue.

During Sweden's EU presidency in the spring of 2023, the Dialogue Institute arranged meetings on the **EU-MENA relations** and on the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood policy, with a view to explore how strengthened dialogue can improve the conditions for more favourable political, economic, and social developments in the region and for the relations between the two regions. Meetings were held in Brussels and in Amman. The Institute also continued its work on intercultural dialogue. In October, roundtable dialogues were held with scholars, decision-makers, and representatives of the international community, from MENA and Europe, to discuss the relationship and what can be done to overcome gaps in trust and understanding between the two regions. This question was also explored at a regional conference hosted by the Institute at the end of November.

The work on **intergenerational dialogue** included a range of activities, workshops, focused roundtable discussions, bilateral meetings, a survey, and a regional meeting with diverse stakeholders working in peace and development. The result of the process was the publication of a guidance note on intergenerational dialogue, developed in collaboration with the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The guidance note sought to provide an analytical framework, as well as practical considerations and methodology when conducting intergenerational dialogue, providing understanding for its importance both for the advancement of the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda as well as for a range of other salient issues.

During the year the Institute continued its work on promoting the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. In the autumn, the Institute should have been part of a large regional forum, that due to regional developments had to be cancelled. Instead, online meetings were held with prominent MENA actors working on WPS.

In 2023, the Institute also continued its engagement on the climate agenda, with a view to contribute to inclusive participation and the need for intersectoral solutions. In June, the Institute partnered in organising a panel discussion on the theme 'The role of women leadership in advancing the climate agenda' at in Abu Dhabi. In the autumn, the Institute partook in a conference on climate vulnerability, and it held a dialogue meeting on regional water challenges. In the lead-up to COP28, the Institute conducted an online meeting, which brought together climate actors from across the region and Sweden. Furthermore, the Institute attended the COP28 in Dubai, and held meetings with climate actors from the region.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In accordance with its regulation, the Dialogue Institute has an Advisory Committee to provide the Director with proposals for activities. The Committee also participates in the evaluation of various activities. In 2022, this distinguished group of leaders from the MENA region and Europe, representing a breadth of expertise and perspective, were appointed for a three-year term. The Committee is expected to hold two regular meetings per year. Members of the Committee are also invited to participate in various meetings and projects. More information about the Advisory Committee can be found on our website: [Advisory Committee - Sweden Abroad](#).

The first meeting of the year was held online on March 20th, 2023. During this meeting, Director Charlotta Sparre gave an overview of the Institute's work and priorities, i.e. focus on EU-MENA relations to support the Swedish Presidency of the EU and on a longer process on intergenerational dialogue. Deputy Director Erike Tanghøj presented the Institute's work plan on intergenerational dialogue and committee members gave valuable input to the process. Furthermore, the institute informed about continued work on peace & security (including on WPS and YPS) and gender equality, as well as on climate change and environment.

In connection to a regional conference held in November, the second annual meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Amman. This meeting aimed at assessing past activities and to get the Advisory Committee's recommendations for the upcoming year, considering effective ways to navigate the current situation and the developments in the region. On this link you can read the [full report from the Advisory Committee meeting](#).



Members of the Advisory Committee meeting with the staff of the Dialogue Institute.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2022

Below is a summary of the main activities carried out by the Dialogue Institute. They are divided into the different thematic areas – peace and security, sustainable development, and inclusive participation.

PEACE & SECURITY

REGIONAL SECURITY: EU-MENA RELATIONS

A key element of the mandate of the Dialogue is to promote increased contacts and understanding between Sweden and other countries in Europe on the one hand, and countries in the Middle East and North Africa on the other. Europe and the MENA region are increasingly intertwined, and dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration are prerequisites to addressing common challenges and to finding sustainable solutions.



During Sweden's EU presidency in the spring of 2023, the Dialogue Institute arranged meetings on the EU-MENA relations, with a view to explore how strengthened dialogue can improve the conditions for more favourable political, economic, and social developments in the region and for the relations between the two regions. These meetings have been organised in close collaboration with the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU, and other European colleagues.

Informal EU-MENA meetings in Brussels

On May 5th, the Dialogue Institute, in coordination with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU, hosted an informal roundtable discussion in Brussels to discuss challenges and opportunities in the relationship between the broader MENA region (Middle East, the Gulf region and North Africa) and Europe.

In a candid and constructive exchange, participants (analysts from the region and EU officials) reflected on the state of EU-MENA relations. The analysts from the MENA region argued that the geopolitical shifts create a strong imperative for enhancing the EU-MENA cooperation in all fields, from political dialogue to sectoral cooperation (e.g. energy), the issue of mobility (future of work in Europe and the MENA) and responsible business.

The meeting provided specific recommendations to advance the relationship, including the need for a higher sensitivity from both regions in understanding the challenges and grievances of “the other”. Other recommendations included a) a stress on maintaining a value-based agenda, while b) working more seriously on economy and trade, with support to the development of a competitive private sector with political economy at the heart, using EU leverage in IFIs and EBRD; and c) underlining an increased importance of EU dialogue with the GCC on cooperation with countries in the Southern Neighbourhood.

Enhanced work on people-to-people contacts was also highlighted, including initiatives facilitating exchanges between the two regions, enabling individuals to engage in educational and cultural programs within the EuroMed region, were recognized as beneficial. EU support for educational exchanges and for “knowledge production” in the MENA region were also considered valuable. The importance of soft power should not be underestimated.

Participants also stressed the importance of strengthening EU communication and visibility in the region, as well as communication in Europe about the MENA region, beyond the regions’ conflicts and crisis.

The roundtable meeting was followed by a panel discussion, in which analysts from the MENA region and the Director of the MENA department at the Swedish Foreign Ministry shared their reflections with EU member state delegates to the EU Council Working Groups Maghreb-Mashreq and Middle East Gulf.

For more information, see the [full report](#).



Panel discussion at the Swedish EU Representation in Brussels, May 2023.

Informal meeting on the Southern Neighbourhood Policy in Amman

On May 21st, the Dialogue Institute hosted an informal consultation on the future of the Agenda for the Mediterranean. Those who participated in the meeting were senior officials from the Southern Neighbourhood countries (SN) and from Sweden as well as Spain (the incoming EU Presidency), the EEAS, and the European Commission.

The participants underlined that Europe and Southern Partners are facing common challenges and that there is a unique opportunity to create an ever-closer reinforcing partnership and to move towards a deepened partnership to build back better and promote a green, digitised and socially inclusive transition, in line with Agenda 2030. They also pointed to the complementarities that exist between the two regions, for example in the energy and food sectors. Other areas for increased cooperation included higher education and mobility.

In addition to deepened sectorial cooperation, participants expressed an interest in strengthening the political dimension of the Agenda for the Mediterranean and pointed to a need for more dialogue to better understand each other's interests, needs and positions.

For more information, see a [brief summary](#) from the meeting.



During lunch, Maria Hadjitheodosiou, EU Ambassador to Jordan, shared her reflections on EU-MENA relations.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (WPS)

The agenda on Women, Peace and Security has remained an important area of work and the Institute has taken part in several meetings, both online and in person during the last year. Some of these meetings had a thematic focus, while others were country specific.

How Inclusive is Peacebuilding in the Digital Age?

To mark the International Women's Day, the Dialogue Institute and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the AUB hosted a webinar titled "How inclusive is peacebuilding in the digital age?" on March 6th.

This was the third year that the two organizations co-hosted webinars on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) on the occasion of the International Women's Day.



The webinar in 2021 was titled "How Inclusive is Inclusive Peacebuilding?" and highlighted the need to diversify peacebuilding processes through a multi-layered inclusive approach across various sectors and actors. In 2022 the webinar was titled "How Inclusive is a Sustainable Tomorrow?", addressing the relationship between the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Like previous years' webinars, the focus of the discussion was on inclusivity in peacebuilding, recognising that diverse actors in society are needed to prevent and solve conflicts, to protect human lives, and in relief and reconstruction work. The webinar is available to watch [here](#).

Online meeting on Women, Peace, and Security

In October the Institute was supposed to be part of a Regional WPS Policy Forum, planned to take place in Beirut. Due to regional developments the forum was cancelled and instead the Institute opted to convene an online meeting on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in the MENA region, on October 16th. The meeting gathered a group of prominent experts from the MENA region, Europe, and Canada, representing diverse sectors such as academia, civil society, international organizations and public sector.

Throughout the discussions, participants engaged in a rich exchange of diverse perspectives, delving into the complexities of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and its implementation in light of recent regional developments. They called for a comprehensive reevaluation of peace strategies and for enhancing efforts to develop inclusive and sustainable processes. Central to the discussions was a unanimous recognition of the critical role of women's comprehensive participation within all societal frameworks and in all levels of peace building processes. Several participants expressed concern over women's involvement still being limited, in particular in more formal settings, among decision makers and around negotiating tables. Participants expressed an interest in continued engagement and suggested holding regular online meetings.

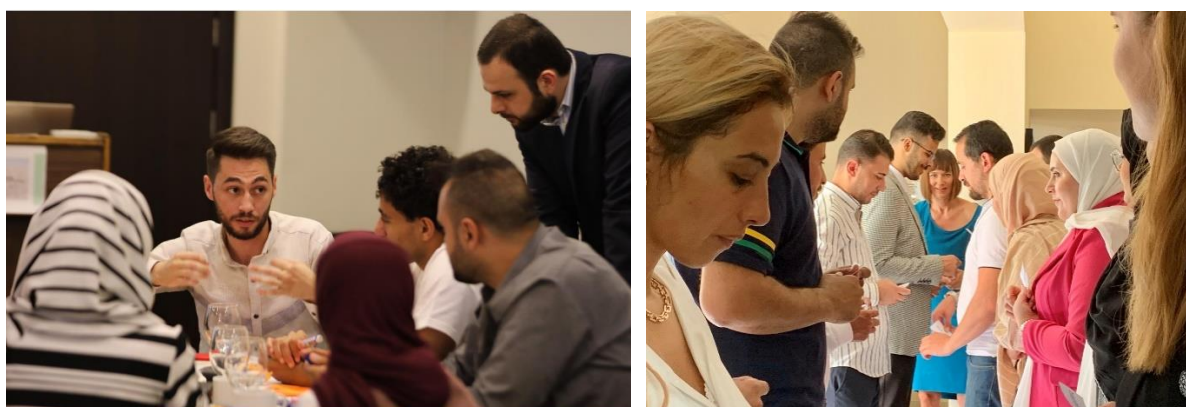
Read the full report [here](#).

YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY (YPS)

In the past years, the Dialogue Institute has engaged in numerous activities related to the implementation of the agenda on Youth, Peace, and Security. This has included a close collaboration both the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish Government Agency for Peace, Security and Development, and with the MENA coalition for Youth, Peace, and Security (MENA4WPS).

Collaboration with the MENA coalition for YPS on Intergenerational Dialogue

In the beginning of June 2023, the Dialogue Institute conducted a three-day interactive workshop focusing on intergenerational dialogue. The event had been prepared in close collaboration with the MENA Coalition for Youth, Peace, and Security and hosted 19 young peacebuilders from the coalition.



Interactive sessions with participants from the MENA Coalition for YPS, on intergenerational dialogue.

Through exploratory and reflective sets of conversations and interactive exercises, the workshop aimed at exploring and co-creating knowledge on what intergenerational dialogue is, what it entails, and what associated promising practices are. This included discussions on how the generational differences and gaps look like in the MENA region, what consequences they have on opportunities for young and old alike to participate across societies, and how the gaps interlink with conflict dynamics.

The role of dialogue between generations as a method to bridge these gaps and mitigate potential conflicts aggravated or caused by generational inequity was discussed in-depth. Additionally, the workshop aimed at promoting dialogue between on one hand young women and men and on the other hand policy- and decision-makers. For that reason, a multistakeholder meeting and intergenerational dialogue dinner was organized as part of the workshop. During this event, the young participants got an opportunity to dialogue with representatives from the United Nations, European Union, Jordanian and Swedish ministries and government agencies and civil society.

For more information about intergenerational dialogue, see below. And to learn more about the workshop – here is the [full report](#).

UN-FBA Joint Regional Learning Forum on YPS

In parallel to the Institute's workshop with the MENA Coalition for YPS in June, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) hosted a so-called UN-FBA joint learning forum on youth, peace, and security, in Jordan.

The forum was attended by approximately 30 UN representatives from across the system and the MENA region and aimed at mapping promising practises and identifying concrete actions on how to further the implementation the YPS agenda. In this, the great value of Team Sweden and the continued need of its strong engagement was highlighted and requested.

The Director and Deputy Director of the Institute attended the final day of the forum. In addition to giving an ear to the conversation, the Institute got the opportunity to present its work related to YPS and intergenerational dialogue. This sparked both an interest and a lot of questions from the participants and the work undertaken by the Institute was very much welcomed.



The Dialogue Institute sharing reflections on Intergenerational dialogue - UN-FBA learning forum on YPS.

Training of NATO, UN, and EU staff

On the 27th of June, the Institute's Deputy Director, Erike Tanghøj, facilitated an online training session for a group of 23 employees from NATO, EU, and UN on the topic of intergenerational dialogue. The training session was part of the global training programme "Realizing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda" – which is a joint effort by FBA and the United Nation System Staff Colleague (UNSSC). The topic had been selected by the participants themselves through a voting process with the rationale that it is not only an emerging topic within EU and NATO but also a prioritised thematic area for the UN during 2023. UNSSC and FBA requested the Institute to facilitate the training session as a direct result of the positive outcomes of the Institute's work on intergenerational dialogue during the spring.

It became evident from the training session that the level of understanding and practical experience from engaging in dialogue across generations within these institutions is low. Several of the participants expressed that the training session had been eye opening and that they got a better understanding of the fact that they had this far been conducting consultations, not dialogues.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is a key pillar in the Institute's work and is closely connected to the other focus areas – Peace and Security and Inclusive Participation. Within this field, regional dialogue on climate change have been one of the main priorities. During 2022 and 2023, the Institute held several online and in-person meetings, with a focus on contributing to more inclusive processes in addressing the climate agenda. The Institute brought together people from across the MENA region, representing governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, donors, and international organisations for these meetings. This focus has been particularly relevant as both COP27 and COP28 has been hosted by countries in the region, Egypt and the UAE.

CLIMATE

Panel on the Role of Women Leadership in Advancing the Climate Agenda

On June 15th, the European Union Delegation to the UAE, the Embassy of Sweden in Abu Dhabi, the Dialogue Institute and the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) organised a panel discussion on the theme 'The role of women leadership in advancing the climate agenda'. The panel discussion brought together speakers and participants from the UAE, the MENA region and Europe representing international organisations, nongovernmental organisations, the private sector, youth organisations and the research community, all actively engaged in climate action and women's empowerment.

The meeting highlighted the vital role of women leadership in advancing the climate agenda and accelerating the green transition, but also the challenges and opportunities in the MENA region and beyond ahead of the upcoming COP28 conference in Dubai. Learn more about the event in the [full report](#).



Keynote speakers and panellists from the panel discussion in Abu Dhabi, June 2023.

Virtual Roundtable: “From COP 27 to COP 28”

On June 21st, the Dialogue Institute organised a digital roundtable discussion titled “From COP 27 to COP 28 – Experiences, Reflections, and Recommendations”. The objective was to gather climate experts and activists of diverse backgrounds and ages from the MENA region and Sweden to reflect on the experiences from attending COP27 and to exchange ideas and shape recommendations for the upcoming COP28. The discussion focused on inclusivity, sustainable development, and promoting participatory processes. Read more about the roundtable in the [report](#).

Dialogue on water challenges in the MENA region

In connection with a visit to Jordan by the prominent water expert Dr. Martina Klimes from Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Dialogue Institute hosted a roundtable discussion on regional water issues on September 26th. A diverse group of stakeholders with an interest in water and climate gathered to discuss existing challenges as well as recommendations for action. In addition to SIWI, the participants included representatives from academia, civil society, donor community, and media, from the MENA region and Europe.



One set of the conversation focused on the awareness issue surrounding water. Although water scarcity is a reality for many countries in the MENA region, the urgent nature of these challenges does not necessarily form part of the collective consciousness. Another part of the discussion focused on the central need for continuous collaboration between sectors. The conversation also covered challenges and opportunities for transboundary water dialogues.

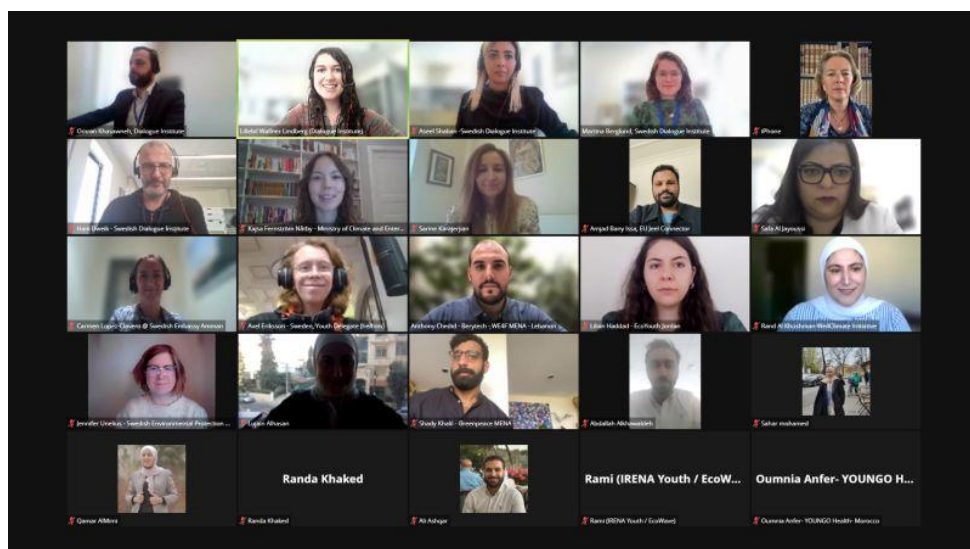
Read the full report from the dialogue [here](#).

Online meeting ahead of COP28

The Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa hosted an online meeting on October 31st focused on "Sharing Experiences and Best Practices Ahead of COP28". The meeting was moderated by Martina Berglund, the Institute's Deputy Director, and convened a wide array of stakeholders from the MENA region and Sweden, including a blend of first-time and more experienced COP participants across civil society, governmental, and private sectors.

Objectives were to enhance connectivity, share preparatory best practices for COP28, and encourage policy dialogues relevant to climate change, with an emphasis on youth involvement and inter-regional collaboration.

Read the full report from the meeting [here](#).



Participants in the webinar ahead of COP28.

Participation in COP 28



In early December 2023, the Institute took part in the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, that took place in Dubai, to meet with partners, and to participate in discussions and foster regional and cross-regional collaboration with civil society organizations, private enterprises, and climate actors from the EU and MENA regions, with a particular focus on engaging youth climate actors.

During COP, the Institute conducted several bilateral meetings and group discussions that aimed to facilitate constructive dialogues, share insights, and explore collaborative initiatives to address the global environmental crisis and the challenges posed by climate change.

Key takeaways from the meetings emphasized the urgency of addressing climate change, aligning policies with climate goals, and the importance of collaboration. Civil society organizations highlighted grassroots efforts, focusing on vulnerable communities and equitable solutions and actors from the private sector shared their thoughts on sustainability initiatives and corporate responsibility. Cross-regional collaboration and broadened dialogue were stressed during the meetings, with discussions exploring potential collaborations between different sectors. Recommendations included partnerships with academia, advocacy for stronger climate policies, business support for climate resilience, and community-driven solutions. The Dialogue Institute plans to build on these insights in 2024, focusing on EU-MENA connections and exploring cross-sectoral collaborations for a more sustainable and resilient world.

Read the [full report from the Dialogue Institute's participation at COP28](#).

INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

A cornerstone for reaching durable peace and security is to ensure that young women and men of diverse backgrounds and identities have the same rights, tools, and opportunities, to participate in and influence governance and peacebuilding processes as older generations.

Despite this and the fact that young people often make up a significant and growing proportion of the populations in the MENA region, they are systematically underrepresented in (political) decision-making. Consequently, their specific (security) needs, priorities and living conditions are rarely taken into consideration by decision-makers, especially in contexts affected by conflict.

The systematic exclusion has led to a "generational gap" that manifests itself in and affects various sectors and questions of vital importance for societies at large (such as e.g. climate security and social cohesion). Hence, in order to achieve inclusive and peaceful societies age-based discrimination needs to be properly addressed and the gap between generations must be bridged.

An important tool in bridging this gap is dialogue between generations, so-called intergenerational dialogue. In recent years, a growing number of international and regional actors working with the youth, peace and security agenda have brought together people of different ages for this purpose. However, these efforts have often had limited results and in some cases, the lack of "real" dialogue has rather sparked irritation between the groups as both "sides of the table" have felt accused, unheard, and/or disrespected.

Against the above backdrop, and upon recommendations given by partners to the Institute, the need for understanding intergenerational dialogue has been emerged.

Participants in the Institute's activities have stressed the importance of acknowledging that intergenerational dialogue is something more than just having people of different ages "around the table", expressing their views. Rather, it is about active listening, transfer of knowledge and an increased understanding between generations for the purposes of greater inclusion, cohesion, and sustainability, both today and tomorrow.

Throughout 2023, the Dialogue Institute has therefore engaged in a knowledge-creating process, together with different actors, for the purpose of developing a "guidance note" on what intergenerational dialogue is and how it can be carried out so that it becomes meaningful for both older and younger generations. In this process several activities have been carried out, some of them are mentioned below.



Engaging multistakeholder meeting on Intergenerational dialogue with officials, UN, EU, and civil society.

Multistakeholder meeting and intergenerational dialogue

In connection to the YPS workshop in June (see under YPS), a multistakeholder meeting and intergenerational dialogue dinner was organised as a way of promoting dialogue between youth from the region on one hand, and on the other, policy- and decision-makers, representing the United Nations, European Union, Jordanian and Swedish ministries and government agencies and civil society.

Some 50 guests participated, incl. the H.E. the Minister of Youth of Jordan, H.E. the Director General of Global Affairs at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ambassador of Sweden to Jordan. The meeting enabled important conversations between people of different backgrounds and walks of life. It generated hands-on experiences and promising practices on how to carry out an intergenerational dialogue.

Virtual Roundtable Meeting on Intergenerational Dialogue



On July 4th, the Dialogue Institute arranged a virtual roundtable discussion, bringing together 14 young peacebuilders and peace and security experts from both the MENA region and Europe. The purpose of the meeting was to advance the Institute's work on intergenerational dialogue by soliciting feedback from a diverse

set of actors on the preliminary conclusions drawn from the knowledge-creating process on intergenerational dialogue that the Institute has engaged in since the beginning of 2023.

Read more about the meeting in the [full report](#).

Multistakeholder Roundtable Discussions on Intergenerational Dialogue

In August and September, the Institute held dialogue meetings with a range of stakeholders, coming from the civil society, public sector, and international community, to solicit promising practices for intergenerational dialogue.

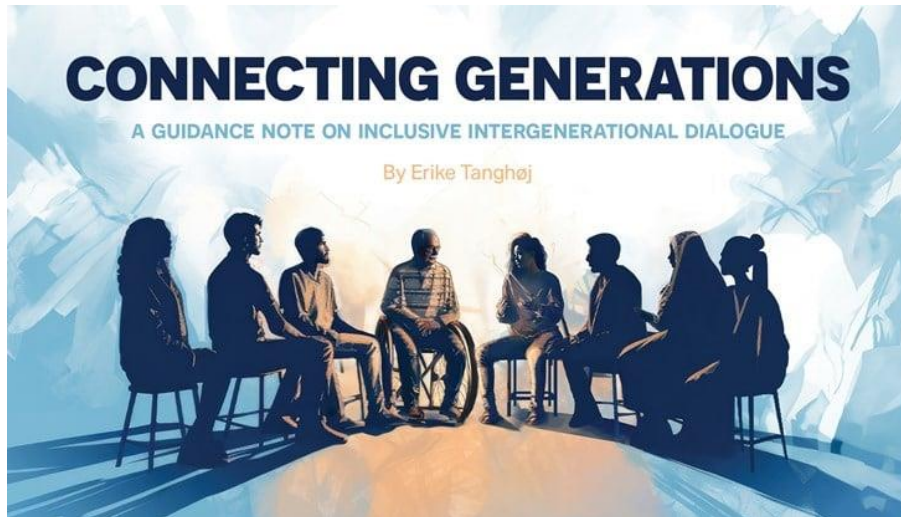
Participants reflected on the need for incentives for different generations to see the value of and to engage in mutually beneficial dialogues. Formulating sustainable and comprehensive solutions was brought forward as a central incentive for all generational parties to come together in dialogue and avoid the trap of a perceived zero-sum game.

The meetings also underlined the importance of introducing intergenerational dialogue in formal as well as informal spaces, both as a way to practice these types of exchanges and to promote a mentality shift. The family unit was highlighted as the cornerstone of early informal intergenerational exchanges to lay the foundation for further dialogues across generational lines.

Find the full report [here](#).

Publishing on the guidance note on Intergenerational Dialogue

In the end of 2023, the Institute published a guidance note – “Connecting generations – a guidance note on Intergenerational Dialogue”. It was developed in the participatory process presented above, written by Erike Tanghøj and produced in collaboration with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish agency for peace, security, and development.



"Intergenerational dialogue, as defined in this guidance note, is a two-or multi-way communication method rooted in active listening and mutual learning between individuals from different generations. Its primary objective includes fostering mutual understanding of generational perspectives, dispelling stereotypes, building trust and solidarity, exploring solutions to joint challenges, and bridging potential intergenerational gaps and inequalities"

To learn more, please visit our website [Connecting Generations - a guidance note on intergenerational dialogue](#) where you find more information, links to the guidance note (in English and Arabic) and also interviews and film clips.

Regional conference on Intercultural and Intergenerational Dialogue

On November 22nd, the Institute hosted a roundtable conference on Intercultural and Intergenerational Dialogue. The meeting took place in conjunction with the annual in-person meeting of the Institute's Advisory Committee. Participants from the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe, representing diverse expertise in academia, civil society, diplomacy, and international organizations, gathered to explore prospects for dialogue in times of crisis and to develop thinking on what and how collaborations can be developed, once there is a more conducive climate for such initiatives.

The meeting constituted an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities for cross-regional and intercultural dialogues. Furthermore, the Institute's recent work on intergenerational dialogue, including the newly published "guidance note" was presented and discussed. It provided a comprehensive exploration of dialogue prospects during crises.

While expressing frustration and sadness over the recent developments in the region, participants recognized the pivotal role of dialogue in achieving peace and security. The recommendations highlighted the need for inclusive, rights-based approaches and the significance of long-term transformative solutions. Despite its challenges, consensus emerged that dialogue in various forms is essential for achieving long-lasting peace, security, and sustainable development.

On this link you can read the [full report from the Regional conference on intercultural and intergenerational dialogue](#).



Presentation of the Institute's guidance note during the regional conference in November.

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation

In March 2023, the Institute took part in a regional network meeting with the [Anna Lindh Foundation](#), hosted by the Swedish chapter in Gothenburg. During the two-day meeting, the participants engaged in networking, exchange of experiences and discussions on intercultural dialogue and diversity.

The Institute's Deputy Director Erike Tanghøj held a presentation on the concept of intergenerational dialogue as a tool for bridging the generational gaps in societies. She stressed the importance of acknowledging that intergenerational dialogue is something more than simply bringing people of different ages together to express their views. Rather, she stressed the importance of active listening, transfer of knowledge and increased understanding between generations for the purposes of greater inclusion, cohesion, and sustainability, both today and tomorrow.

As a follow-up to the meeting in Gothenburg, Erike Tanghøj was a keynote speaker at an online intercultural morning coffee session called "Talkin' 'Bout My Generation" – arranged by the Swedish chapter of the Anna Lindh-Foundation (ALF) in May. The online session aimed at giving more time and space to the exploration of the topic of intergenerational dialogue. In the conversation, the importance of the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren and the power of storytelling was highlighted as important aspects of strengthening the social fabric between young and old.



Anna Lindh Foundation regional networking meeting in Gothenburg. (Photo credit: Ömer Hingora)

NETWORKS AND COMMUNICATION

In addition to the activities mentioned, the Dialogue Institute has participated in numerous meetings arranged by other organisations and has continued its work to develop contacts and build networks with relevant partners, in the MENA region and in Europe.

During the year the Institute has also increased its social media outreach. Apart from its website content, the Institute communicates primarily through [LinkedIn](#). In addition interviews and other video material are published on [YouTube](#).

The Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa
Building trust, promoting pluralism and peace through dialogue

The Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa is a governmental agency that serves as a platform for contacts and dialogue between Sweden and the countries of Europe on the one hand, and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa on the other.

It was established by the Swedish Government in 1998 and is an integral part of the Swedish Foreign Service. The Institute is located in Amman, Jordan (previously located in Alexandria, Egypt, as the Swedish Institute Alexandria/SwedAlex).

In its activities, the Dialogue Institute addresses issues that are important for the political, economic and social development of the MENA region, or for relations between the countries, or that help increase mutual understanding in the areas of culture and religion. It also promotes the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The Dialogue Institute operates through conferences, workshops and other activities and primarily focuses on the following areas: Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Participation.