A Sea of Words contest was launched in 2008 by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) in collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation. This initiative gathers the voices of young people, essential agents of change, about social, cultural, economic or political dialogue topics that prompts the 1995 Barcelona Declaration.

This contest gives voice to young people from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and the European Union, promoting the debate around common problems and shared values.

Each edition focuses on different current topics for young people from all over the Mediterranean basin to write about, making their realities and conceptions known through the creative tool: writing. Through the narration of life or fictitious experiences, young people contribute with a personal, historical or anthropological vision of issues and realities that, despite geographical or cultural distances, are common to the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The authors of the 10 best texts—selected by an international jury—will be invited to Barcelona on November 30th, 2021, in the framework of the Mediterranean Day, to participate for three days in the awards ceremony, creative workshops and cultural exchanges to create common spaces of encounter.
Historically, the Mediterranean basin has been a place of movements and migrations (sometimes forced) of its populations, that have forged the societies we now share.

Mobility allows us to get closer and to know the social and cultural diversity and the richness of the two shores in such a way that we discover there are common values and challenges. Thanks to the flows of people, differences can become a veritable richness to create and build a future together towards a region of peace and stability.

Through this edition we want to reflect upon the importance of mutual knowledge and exchange to advance towards the creation of a citizenship that embraces the entire Euro-Mediterranean region.

Mobility means exchange, getting closer and knowing each other.

What is mobility for you? How could the movement and flows of people help moving towards a shared citizenship from? Tell us a story about mobility and exchange!

Participate sending your story!

UNTIL JUNE 25th
concurso@iemed.org
Participation is open to young people between 18 and 30 years of age at the deadline for submission of the texts.

People with nationality and residence from one of the 43 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area*.

The story must be original and may be written in any of the official languages of the 43 states of the Euro-Mediterranean space. Only one piece per author will be accepted.

The text cannot exceed the maximum length of 2,500 words.

People who have been selected in any of the previous editions are not eligible.

The document must be sent in Word format to the following address: contest@iemed.org. The message must include the title of the work along with the author's personal data: name, telephone number, postal address, email address and date of birth.

The selected works will be published in a book in digital format with the texts in the original language and their corresponding translation into English.

* In the event that a person with nationality from one of the Euro-Mediterranean countries but residing outside that area wishes to participate, the travel costs to Barcelona will only be assumed from a Euro-Mediterranean country.