



## Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

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- International Year of Youth 2010-2011

### OPINION

**Young People... partners in the Euro-Med Region**, signed by Euro-Med Youth Platform Secretariat, Malta



### International Year of Volunteering



## ACTIVITIES

### ●Mediterranean Exchange on Social Inclusion Programs:

The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, in collaboration with the Social Intervention Department of the Spanish Red Cross, organized a Mediterranean Exchange on Social Inclusion Programs, from the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2010.

In the frame of IFRC Strategy 2020, the Dubrovnik Declaration of the 11<sup>th</sup> RC/RC Mediterranean Conference and the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Exchange aimed at offering a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices on social inclusion that will help increase awareness and to foster humanitarian values throughout the Mediterranean area.



The Best Practices Exchange focused on five fields of action: Migrants, Employment, Gender, Childhood and the Elderly, considering community participation as the fundamental cross-cutting element. It was developed throughout 5 days of technical visits, debates and group sessions and it was hosted by the Spanish Red Cross regional branches of Madrid and Valencia.

19 participants from 11 Mediterranean RC/RC National Societies (Andorra, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Spain and Tunisia) took part in the Exchange.

The participants visited the SRC Headquarters where they had the opportunity to know more about: Social Intervention Department, Volunteer Department, International Cooperation Department, Red Cross Youth and Coordination Centre.

The agenda included several technical visits to:

- ✓ the Reina Sofia Centre in Madrid, a day care centre that runs programs for the elderly and provides services for people affected by Alzheimer and other dementias
- ✓ the Community Pozas Centre in Madrid, an open space to Diversity, Coexistence and Participation
- ✓ the Provincial Office of SRC in Castellon and its different programs (Employment Plan, Day Care Centre for the elderly, Health School)
- ✓ the Community Centre of the SRC in Castellon
- ✓ the Children's cerebral palsy school of the SRC in Valencia
- ✓ the Valencia SRC provincial office and the projects about migrants and tele-assistance.

Participants could also share experiences about each NS's program on social inclusion in three specific group sessions, meeting the main objective of the exchange: provide a floor where to exchange best practices among NSs and create new synergies for future cooperation schemes.

One of the main achievements of the Exchange was granted by the commitment of participants to cooperate and learn from each other about programmes and issues of common concern, and by the relevance given in all programmes to *community participation*. Notwithstanding the tight agenda, through its comprehensive approach - that yet focused on the priorities and recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> RC/RC Mediterranean Conference – the Exchange asserted itself as a positive scenario for participants to foster cooperation, with the objective of improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable across the Mediterranean region.

In order to provide all National Societies a constant follow up - not only of social inclusion programmes but also of the main subjects of the Mediterranean Conference (migrants, role of the youth, fight against poverty, environmental and climate change issues), during the Exchange the CCM presented a new tool: a web- based Collection of Best Practices.

This initiative stems from the need of making RC/RC Mediterranean programmes available to all National Societies and giving the opportunity not only to share experiences and know how, but also to create new patterns of cooperation for the future, thus fostering the Red Cross/Red Crescent action throughout the region. The project is currently in its initial phase but will soon be available on the webpage of the CCM.



Location: Madrid, Valencia, Castellon  
Dates: 29<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010

[Social Inclusion Exchange](#)

### ●Mediterranean Seminar on Social Inclusion and Employment:

The Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Portuguese Red Cross will organize a seminar in regards to the social inclusion of the most vulnerable people focussed on employment programs.

In line with the Strategy 2020 of the IFRC, with the goal of promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace, the seminar aims to track one of the main priorities of the 11<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference: social inclusion within the context of the global economic crisis.

Location: Lisbon (Portugal)  
Date: Last quarter 2011

[Seminar on Employment - Portugal](#)

## YOUTH

● **Atlantis VII “Young Volunteers in action”:** The CCM and the Tunisia Red Crescent are organizing the seventh edition of the Atlantis youth camp. This event will take place in Hammamet (Tunisia), during the first week of July 2011 and will be hosted by the Tunisia Red Crescent.

Atlantis is a youth camp for Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in the Mediterranean; it has become a reference point for cultural dialogue and the exchange of regional experiences. Six national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have hosted previous Atlantis camps: Italy, Turkey, Syria, Serbia, Morocco and France.



For its seventh meeting, Atlantis will center on volunteers and youth within the context of the International Year and European Year of Volunteers and the International Year of Youth. Volunteers create an atmosphere of trust and reciprocity. Through the work of the volunteers, people are encouraged to be responsible citizens and they become immersed in a learning environment wherein they are educated on the rights and responsibilities associated with democratic participation.

Place: Hammamet (Tunisia)  
Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011

### [Atlantis VII](#)

● **Med Youth Port@I:** As was mentioned in previous editions of this bulletin, the CCM is promoting a Mediterranean Youth website. The design of this online tool for Mediterranean youth began in 2009 as a group project for the youth of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Mediterranean, as an instrument for strengthening the dialogue between youth volunteers in the region and to provide technical support in the implementation of initiatives through the establishment of technical committees.

For the design of this new tool there have been two phases of consultation between the youth leaders in the region, especially in the context of Solferino. The CCM has worked on the design of the Terms of Reference of the project, in order for it to be a useful tool that responds appropriately to the concerns of Youth Sections and so that it reaches the largest possible number of youth.

The unveiling of the Mediterranean Youth Portal is a priority of the CCM for 2011-2012.

● **Photo Contest-Youth and Volunteering:** In light of the 2011 International Year and European Year of Volunteering, the International Year of Youth and following the recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the CCM has launched its third photo competition for Mediterranean Youth on “Youth and Volunteering.”

The theme of the competition can be interpreted in different ways by each participant and it can be related with a diverse range of aspects, such as international disasters, services offered to the local communities, youth actively volunteering, principals and values in action, intergenerational and intercultural dialogue, and many more.

The competition is directed at youth, between the ages of 18 and 30, from Mediterranean countries and neighbouring ones. The criteria by which the pictures will be judged are the following: the relationship between the picture and the proposed theme, the artistic quality of the picture, its originality and its ability to convey the principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The deadline for entries will be the first of June. The first place prize will be the opportunity to participate in the RC/RC Youth Camp in the Mediterranean, Atlantis VII, which will take place the first week of July 2011.

The selection of the best pictures will be displayed in Atlantis and will be published on the CCM website.

The guidelines for the competition and the participation forms can be found on the CCM website.

From here we encourage all of you to participate!!!

Deadline: June 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

### [Photo Contest](#)

● **Seminar on Youth Leadership:** The CCM and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, with the support of the IFRC Middle East and North Africa Zone, organized a Seminar on Youth Leadership. It counted on the partnership of the Spanish Red Cross Youth, the Italian Red Cross Youth and the French Red Cross Youth, as well as the IFRC Principles and Values Department.



The main objective of this workshop was to strengthen the knowledge and skills of Youth volunteers, in order to enhance their performance within their daily community work. The final report of this activity is now available at the CCM web page.

Place: Ramallah (Palestine)  
Dates: September 2010

### [Youth Leadership Seminar, Palestine](#)

## VOLUNTEERS CORNER



Name: Sanja Faraguna

Age: 34

Croatian Red Cross

### ● Since when have you been a volunteer for your National Society?

I have been a member and volunteer of the Croatian Red Cross since 2007. In the beginning I was engaged in the promotion of blood donation, and later I became active in youth activities. My involvement in the Red Cross activities gradually grew more extensive and diverse.

### ● What is your current commitment as a volunteer?

On the local level, in my Red Cross branch, I perform various tasks depending on the needs. Lately, I have been involved in the casualty simulation for the purposes of first aid courses and competitions. I am also a member of the first aid team and of the Assembly. I am a member of the county emergency response team and specialized in water treatment and hygiene promotion. As a representative of my National Society, I am also member of the ERU and RDRT. My experience, with lot of trainings and field work, makes me qualified to train new volunteers.

### ● How did you hear about your National Society?

The Red Cross is an organisation that people often come across and hear about in their everyday life. In a country with troubling history, values and dedication of the Red Cross are recognized and very much respected. So, my memory and awareness regarding the existence and work of the Croatian Red Cross goes far back to my childhood.

### ● What information about the International RC/RC Movement did you know before you decided to become a volunteer?

Prior to my involvement with the Croatian Red Cross, I was informed about the Movement only through printed media and television. After becoming a member of the Movement, I learned more about its structure and the way it functions. I accepted the Fundamental Principles and I respect them always and fully. Gradually, the ideas and principles got faces. Faces of all the wonderful people I met, noble people who make all the wonderful Red Cross stories happen

### ● Why did you join the Croatian Red Cross?

I joined the Croatian Red Cross because it promotes and fosters the ideas and values that I try to apply in my own life. Through volunteering in the Red Cross I can help many people. In general, I am not the type of person who joins many organizations and associations. The Red Cross is the only one to which I gave my heart because I deeply believe in its goals and efforts to put a bandage on humanity where it bleeds.

### ● In a few words, how would you describe your experience as volunteer of the Red Cross?

I feel like the richest woman in the world. My wealth are innumerable smiles on the faces of people who are touched by our work, words of gratitude intertwined with tears, countless friendships with unusual and interesting people, and landscapes of distant lands that I have framed and stored in the gallery of my mind. I try to give my best. It is one of those things in life that goes beyond what words can describe. You have to experience it to be able to understand it.



### ● What has been your favourite experience as volunteer of the Red Cross thus far?

There were many touching and beautiful moments and I am proud of each of them. But one of them was a turning point for me because it was my first and longest mission so far. In 2010, I was member of the Water and Sanitation ERU in Haiti, responsible for hygiene promotion. It was one of experiences that you remember for the rest of your life. Being a part of the team is like being a part of the family; giving part of me to others is what I want to do and repeat in future as well. But, regardless of the extent of mission or activity you are involved in, they all have their impact on the emotional level.

### ● In your opinion, which aspects of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement stand out the most?

Someone might say that one person does not make a difference, but the largest and strongest walls of this world have started to be built with one brick. Desire to help, humanity and true philanthropy adorn each volunteer of this huge humanitarian organization. And they are just a part of the substance of which this magnificent wall is made, people who defy all the odds. These people, individuals with whom I work and cooperate, are a constant reminder that in the darkest of times there are still many men and women whose commitment and generosity can make gruesome things beautiful. When we put on our uniform and our emblems, we lose our names, gender, age, religion and nationality and become one - Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.



HRVATSKI CRVENI KRIŽ

u službi humanosti od 1878.

Official Name: Croatian Red Cross

Date of foundation: 22 October 1878

Main programs: first aid, voluntary blood donation, tracing service, youth, disaster preparedness and response, water life saving service, assistance to migrants and victims of human trafficking, water well cleaning, mine awareness, assistance to older people, dissemination of the international humanitarian law.

Contact: [redcross@hck.hr](mailto:redcross@hck.hr)

## PARTNERSHIP

● **Year of Volunteering 2011:** The United Nations celebrates the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers of 2001 and follows up the progress of the four pillars of the previous celebration: recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of the volunteering. As outcomes of this celebration the UN is preparing the first report on the State of the World's Volunteerism which aims to promote debate on volunteering.



Furthermore, the IFRC has launched an International Campaign in occasion of the 10th anniversary of Volunteers and Volunteering, focussing in protection, recognition promotion of volunteering globally.

Taking advantage of this celebration, the European Commission has declared the European Year of Volunteering with four main objectives: to lower obstacles to volunteering in the EU; to improve the quality of volunteering; to reward and recognise volunteering activities; and to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering to the economy, society and the individual.

[www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/volunteers/](http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/volunteers/)  
[www.worldvolunteerweb.org/iyv-10.html](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/iyv-10.html)  
[www.europa.eu/volunteering/es/home2](http://www.europa.eu/volunteering/es/home2)

● **Euro-Arab training on Youth projects:** A long-term training course was organized by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States with the aim to develop the capacity of youth organization active in Euro-Arab cooperation, in the areas of non-formal learning, training and intercultural dialogue; as well as to support the development and the implementation of innovative project for youth policy development, youth participation and intercultural dialogue through non formal learning.

The CCM participated in the training through its Youth Desk and presented the Med Youth Port@I.

A second meeting is foreseen in December in order to put in common the results of the different projects presented by the participant organizations.

Place: Strasburg (France)  
Date: 5-13 December 2010

● **“A sea of words” Award ceremony:** The contest «A Sea of Words» (organized by the IEMed and the Anna Lindh Foundation since 2008), in its 2010 call, had the aim of contributing to fostering dialogue between peoples, and exchange of knowledge between different local and international traditions. However, in the framework of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the project was aimed to promote social progress and struggle towards more just, inclusive and fairer-minded societies.

The story “Milena è una bomba” of Alfredo Zucchi (Italy) won this literary competition. The second prize was shared by Ayelet Gunder (Israel) and Ana Pesoa (Portugal). The awards ceremony took place last December at the Picasso Museum in Barcelona, during a ceremony celebrated with the young authors of the 20 best stories, up to the 350 original short stories received.

The CCM participated in the ceremony represented by its Vice-president, Ms. Marta Corachán.

[www.iemed.org/seaofwords/2010/a\\_guanyadors.php](http://www.iemed.org/seaofwords/2010/a_guanyadors.php)

● **Collection of RC/RC Best practices:** The CCM according with its mission, following the Mediterranean Conference recommendations and in line with the IFRC Strategy 2020, has foreseen the set up of an inclusive platform that aims to connect different best practices throughout the Mediterranean National Societies.



The aim of the database is to serve as a tool to transfer know-how regarding the main topics of the Conference. The collection of information will enable Mediterranean National Societies to access a variety of different programmes already used, or currently underway, providing them with a better understanding of the complexity of options that may arise.

With this tool the CCM will answer to a request expressed by Mediterranean partners regarding the need to develop strong ties of communication with other National Societies as to create a more interconnected front. The tool was introduced at the International exchange on best practices of social inclusion programmes held in Spain, last December.

[Collection of Best Practices](#)

● **7th MENA Conference:** The Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) met from March 24th to the 26th in Abu Dhabi to celebrate their seventh Conference. The Conference was hosted by the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent and was co-organized by the MENA Zone of the IFRC.

In line with the Strategy 2020 of the IFRC, the Societies that met committed themselves to bettering their preparation in order to respond in a quicker and more appropriate manner to emergencies, to reach a higher level of cooperation and coordination in the region and to work together to follow a common strategy. Furthermore, the need to ensure means of providing humanitarian pass-corridors in emergency situations was stressed.

During the first sessions of the Conference, the humanitarian situation in Libya was analyzed along with its consequences for bordering countries. The issue of volunteers was also raised along with the issue of youth involvement in the International Year of Volunteers and the Global Campaign of the Movement. The importance of Humanitarian Diplomacy in order to increase both national and international support of the National Societies was also discussed.

#### Mena Conference

● **Social crisis in North of Africa:** The International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent aims to provide a response to the humanitarian crisis that arises from the social conflicts that have taken place in some North African and Middle Eastern countries. This social crisis has been particularly violent in Libya, which has affected its bordering countries. More than 430.000 have left from Libya into neighbouring countries and many more remain displaced within Libya.

The National Societies of Libya, Tunisia and Egypt merit special attention since they are the ones responding to the humanitarian needs that have arisen. The Libyan Red Crescent is attending to the injured, providing first aid and transportation to hospitals.

The Tunisian Red Crescent has helped the displaced people who are fleeing Libya via the border, traversed by more than 210.000 people, and among them are 30 different nationalities. In Tunisia, various refugee camps have been set up, among them a transit camp for an estimated 10.000 people.

Another route the displaced Libyan population has taken is to cross through Sollum into Egypt, a route through which more than 170.000 have crossed. The Egyptian Red Crescent has dispatched volunteers to distribute food, refuge and medical assistance. Other countries that have also been affected by the movement across borders owed to the conflict in Libya are: Nigeria, Algeria, Sudan, Chad, Italy and Malta.



The International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent has set up an emergency call to the need for financing in order to fund the assistance being provided to the refugees and those injured in the conflict. The national societies have mobilized in order to facilitate the supply of the resources needed to attend to the injured and the refugees that have arisen as a result of the conflict.

*(The statistics concerning displaced persons and refugees come from reports issued by UNHCR)*

#### Movement position statement

● **Lampedusa – Land of arrival:** Eyes staring at you full of hope. Hands seeking help. Faces turning happy as soon as they realize that they have reached Europe, safe and sound. All this and lots more is Lampedusa, an island of 21 square km, a land that right now stands as the first safe port in Italy for thousands of migrants. In the past months they have been departing from Tunisia, mostly from the cities of Sfax and Zarzis. They are Tunisian youths, aged 20 to 30, who seek a better future in the old continent.



Since the state of national emergency was ordered, the Italian Red Cross has been coordinating the humanitarian actions at national level, together with UNHCR and IOM. At Lampedusa, the presence of the ItRC aims at providing first aid to those migrants who have just reached land. This is the reason why an Advanced Medical Post was set on the pier of Favarol, the mooring for the boats arriving from Northern Africa. Almost a month ago, a team of volunteers, among whom are two doctors specialized in emergencies, were sent to Lampedusa. And in the past few weeks, in order to respond to the migration flows that continue massively, the team was doubled and the ItRC gave its availability to the various Institutions concerned with regards to the setting up of another Advanced Medical Post and, if necessary, a field hospital. Moreover, to support the citizens of Lampedusa, exhausted by a continued emergency situation, the ItRC proposed to the city council the implementation - when needed - of social and health care activities for the local population.

Two weeks ago, the ItRC tent was moved to the commercial pier, where about 2,000 migrants are living a very difficult situation, as the reception centre is now completely crowded and there is no room left for new arrivals. In such a context, the presence of the Red Cross acquires greater importance, as it is the only reference point at the harbour for the migrants, who recognize in the emblem a symbol of protection and aid.

Tommaso Della Longa, spokesperson Extraordinary Commissioner  
Italian Red Cross - [www.cri.it](http://www.cri.it)

● **Partnership with the Italian Red Cross:** One of the main objectives of the CCM is the promotion of a partnership between the different Youth sections in the Mediterranean. The Italian Red Cross actively supports this objective and has collaborated with the CCM since 2007 by providing a Youth officer. Since 2010, the Italian Red Cross is also supporting the CCM by providing a Desk officer.



Robert Fusacchia, has collaborated with the CCM for a year and a half as a Youth officer. Roberta will be replaced by Enrico di Lena, who has great experience with the *pioneri* (youth division) of the Italian Red Cross. We deeply thank Roberta for her dedication, for the amazing job she has done with the CCM and we wish her the best in this new stage of her professional life. Of course, we would also like to welcome Enrico into the family that is the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the Mediterranean.

● **International Year of the Youth 2010-2011:** The General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed August 2010 to August 2011 to be the International Year of the Youth. By doing so, the United Nations showed the importance that the international community gives to the integration of youth issues in global, regional and national development programs. Characterized by a theme of dialogue and mutual understanding, this year's objective is the promotion of peace, with respect to human rights and solidarity between different generations, cultures, religions and civilizations.



To the United Nations, the world today is faced with multiple crises, often overlapped, like the financial crisis, security and environmental. Furthermore, there are other socioeconomic problems which make difficult the achievement of the development goals agreed upon by the international community. Investing in and the promotion of the youth is essential to finding a sustainable solution to today's problems. We should celebrate all that today's youth can do to create a safer, more just world and we should double our efforts to include them in politics, programs and the decision making processes that will benefit their future as well as ours

<http://www.un.org/es/events/youth2010/>

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## OPINION



### Young People... partners in the Euro-Med Region

Youth...

- ✓ ...a short and yet complex word which represents a significant percentage of the world's population;
- ✓ ... trigger apprehension or expectations;
- ✓ ...different concepts, determined according to space and time.

Youth in the Euro-Med region...

- ✓ ...represent ample diversity of languages, cultures, traditions, religions
- ✓ ...factors which enrich the area and yet may embed alienation;
- ✓ ...are significant actors 'responsible for choosing identities that fit, with a view to the public good and making human solidarity prevail'<sup>1</sup>.

Way back in 1995, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Agreement (Barcelona Process) coined a political framework based on political and security dialogue; economic and financial partnership; social, cultural and human partnership – aimed at promoting peace, security and shared prosperity. Though agreements were made between policy makers, young people are an important element in the implementation process. As a matter of fact the Euro-Med Youth Platform (EMYP) supported by the Commission of the European Union and the Government of Malta was set up on this same prospect. Through the process of bringing youth NGOs together, the EMYP contributes to co-operation between young people in the European and Mediterranean region. The EMYP promotes networking as it leads to an environment of tolerance, mutual understanding and identification of areas of common approach between young people in the region; capacity building; participation and exchanging good practice.

You(th)...

...are invited to play an important role in the development of civil society in the Euro-Med region.

HOW?

- ✓ Enroll your NGO in the EMYP's database and eventually engage in long-lasting partnerships;
- ✓ Contribute in writing in the EMYP's yearly magazine;
- ✓ Visit the EMYP's website [euromedp.org](http://euromedp.org) and facebook fan page and keep updated with upcoming activities – especially Our White Sea III Empowering Youth through NGO's (Turkey 2011);
- ✓ Contact the EMYP [euromedp.eupa@gov.mt](mailto:euromedp.eupa@gov.mt).

Euro-Med Youth Platform Secretariat - Malta  
<http://www.euromedp.org>

With the support of:



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