



Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

Atlantis X

*Engaged Youth for
Stronger National Societies*

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PARTNERSHIP

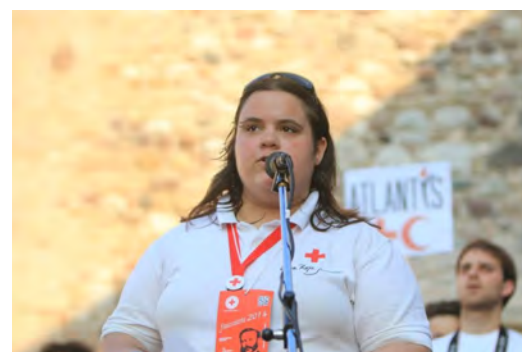
12th Mediterranean Conference



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VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Ana María Sansegundo Barbosa,
Spanish Red Cross



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With the collaboration of:

Osborne Moses, Ashanta
IFRC Youth Commission
ChairSoubie, Caroline
French Red Cross

Photos by:

Abdulrahman, Shafik

French Red Cross

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Red Cross of Serbia

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Malla. Ibrahim

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Group picture during the Atlantis X Youth Camp (Jesolo –Italy)

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150 years closer to people

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of a number of Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies across the Mediterranean region, the continued adaptation and response to the constantly changing circumstances defines the distinctive feature of our action as National Societies.

150 years 'closer to people', as underlined by the Spanish Red Cross, summarizes the process of adjustment by the institution to the changing humanitarian priorities - as the ones currently posed by the economic crisis - while the campaign of the Italian RC 'no human being is illegal' organized for the celebrations of Solferino 2014 responded to the National Society's ongoing strife towards the assistance, protection and the advocacy in favour of vulnerable, undocumented migrants.

The celebrations underline the ongoing priorities of the Dubrovnik Declaration yet, such celebrations, followed by the RC/RC campaign on World Humanitarian Day 'Protect our Volunteers', also stand as the opportunity to raise the question on how can National Societies, and namely their backbone: the volunteers, keep delivering their service at their best, safely and under the full respect of International Humanitarian Law, aiming to preserve minimum human dignity in times of war.

Working towards 2015 - and the celebration of 12th Mediterranean Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent under the 50th anniversary of our Principles - the Permanent Office for the Follow up of the resolutions of the Mediterranean Conference, in partnership with Mediterranean RC/RC National Societies and the Movement at large, hopes to contribute to raise awareness on the importance of advocating for the implementation and the respect of those Principles that define us as a Movement, and work on their underpinning values across the region in safer environments for volunteers.

Seminar ‘Bridging the gap towards intergenerational dialogue: Volunteering as a vector of social cohesion’

Following the first enabling action of IFRC Strategy 2020, which aims to build stronger National Societies, Volunteering stands at the basis of communities*, and as such it is a means to foster dialogue between all members of society and a vector to bring generations together.

In this vein, in a context severely affected by the ongoing economic crisis affecting the Mediterranean region at various levels, the CCM and the Spanish Red Cross carried out the seminar ‘Bridging the gap towards intergenerational dialogue: Volunteering as a vector of social cohesion’ held in Madrid, at the Spanish Red Cross headquarters, from the 23rd to the 25th of May.

The seminar engaged 11 Mediterranean Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in sharing existing best practices and planning new and innovative programmes aimed at promoting the value of Volunteering, intended as a vector of social cohesion, with a special focus on the implementation of new technologies as a means of promoting intergenerational dialogue.

In order to tackle the general objective of the seminar, the meeting was structured into seven thematic sessions as follows:

- Volunteering in time of crisis: from challenges to opportunities
- New technologies and Volunteering – strategic alliances

- Innovation and vulnerable groups – practical implementation
- Youth and Volunteering: a global perspective
- Volunteering and Youth
- Youth Volunteering and Innovation: how ICT improve social cohesion
- Social innovation and Entrepreneurship

All sessions counted on the expertise of RC/RC National Societies, the **TECSOS Foundation**, as well as experts of external institutions such as the **Vodafone Foundation**, the **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)** and the **APROCOR Foundation**. The seminar’s format offered a floor for participants to share their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, and it counted on the deployment of a special session, implemented each day through the Sharing of Best Practices and Working Groups, as well as a Visit to the Spanish Red Cross Coordination Centre.

‘Every session gave us the chance to acquire a better view of the crisis’ impact both on the community level and on the National Societies’ activities. [...] session 4 titled "Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship" was one of the sessions that gave me innovative ideas to implement at national level, especially now that the crisis has created new vulnerable groups in our country’.

Olga Antoniou, social worker
Hellenic Red Cross

* “Strong and cohesive communities are the foundation for practical delivery by National Societies. This acknowledges that people themselves are the most important resource for their own progress, which can only be sustained through their own leadership and ownership of the process” (IFRC Strategy 2020).





Photo by CCM ©

'Participating in the Seminar was a truly enriching experience, particularly for the connection between volunteering, social cohesion, new technologies and intergenerational dialogue. All of the sessions were important but I would like to highlight the session on new technologies and volunteering. The work of the Red Cross Red Crescent in the Mediterranean must keep up with new sociological trends and it is evident that the era of technological engagement is here. Volunteer work and volunteer management should make use of new technologies [as shown by the Spanish Red Cross]. They allow a close monitoring of

'I brought two things with me from this seminar: first, the motivation to work more within my NS, because this seminar is the best translation of "think global, act local". The second thing is the project of "Academy" which I developed from the Portuguese RC and contextualized to a cohesion or values and principles academy for the Syrian crises within the Lebanese communities'.

Mohammad Allaw

Project Coordinator

Dissemination of Humanitarian Norms project

Lebanese Red Cross-Youth Department

activities, a close relation and communication with volunteers, a quick dissemination of results and are definitely time saving, making the Movement more efficient in answering humanitarian challenges'.

João Miguel Gomes

Head of Youth

Portuguese Red Cross

For the Seminar's Key Issues [click here](#).

6th Mediterranean Youth Photo Contest: 'Be the voice of the youth from all over the world'

A very high participation rate and over 100 photos were received for the 6th edition of the Mediterranean Youth Photo Contest which has reached its end once again, with a new and very motivated winner.

Under the theme 'Engaged Youth for Stronger National Societies', this year's edition aimed at promoting the idea of youth as agents of positive change, displaying the possible scenarios of active youth participation within the RCRC, such as leaders, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Shafik Abdulrahman is the young volunteer of the Lebanese Red Cross Youth Department who won the Photo Contest. With his photo 'Youth as beneficiaries' he captured a moment of a Red Cross service in an elderly home, portraying an old woman and a young volunteer sitting next to each other, and both with the happiest faces. "We all know that a person who lives in an elderly home often lacks the attention and affection of loved ones, and we also know that Red Cross Volunteers are repaid by love and appreciation towards their mission"



says Shafik.

The contest is an opportunity for all youth of the Mediterranean to represent their National Society and its activities, a way of sharing ideas and best practices, as well as "a way to show their hard work and devotion to the world".

Continues from previous page...

As winner of the contest Shafik had the opportunity to participate in the Atlantis Youth Camp, held near Venice in June. “Even though I managed to take my Visa while heading to the airport on the same day as my flight, I never lost the excitement and enthusiasm to participate in Atlantis X. Just the thought of representing my local RC department to the world was overwhelming. Being part of such a significant camp was a privilege. The fact that I was spending time with volunteers from other Mediterranean countries, sharing with them our ups and downs, laughing and crying together, working in groups and teams was very helpful as an individual and as a Red Cross volunteer. The topics were highly relevant with the photo contest. This was reflected by the workshops and activities during the camp such as

leadership, youth engagement in the RCRC Movement... It enriched me on so many levels: personal, social, intellectual and most importantly humanitarian level. I made so many new friends and even felt like they were my family, my RCRC family.”

It was a pleasure for the CCM to count on Shafik and the many other participants of the Photo Contest among which we would like to mention the second and third place winners, which are respectively Mohamed Meftah of the Tunisian Red Crescent and Ahmed Omar of the Egyptian Red Crescent.

We hope to see more and always enthusiastic youth in next year’s Photo Contest “so that they can be the voice of the youth from all over the world”.

Atlantis X - Engaged youth for Stronger National Societies

The 10th edition of the Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth Camp Atlantis reached its end, and this year more than ever it left both participants and facilitators with a strong sense of union and of truly being part of the International RC/RC Movement.

55 participants from 16 different National Societies attended the Camp organized by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean with the close collaboration of the Italian Red Cross. The camp was organized in Jesolo (Venice) from the 18th to the 26th of June, and took place in the ‘Foresteria Casa di Croce Rossa’ – the regional training centre of the Italian RC in the region of Veneto.

The training week was very intense, and participants took part in many different workshops and sessions, all focusing on one common theme ‘Engaged Youth for Stronger National Societies’. The workshops were held by a team of international facilitators and experts coming from



Photo by Ibrahim Malla ©

Atlantis facts:

10th edition: 55 participants, 16 National Societies

8 days of learning, knowledge sharing, exchange, dialogue, discovery and fun!

The European Youth Coordination Committee has been invited to the last two editions of the Youth Camp in order to foster partnership and networking with young leaders from the Mediterranean Region.

National Societies hosting the event actively take part in its organization and roll-out, in order to develop youth’s capacities.

The National Societies that have hosted the previous editions of the Youth Camp are: Andorran Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Moroccan Red Crescent, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Tunisian Red Crescent, Turkish Red Crescent.

A contest for the creation of the logo was launched by the Italian Red Cross Youth for this edition. Alessandro di Liberto, a young volunteer from Caltagirone (Sicily), won the contest among over 20 logos, and was invited to join Atlantis. Here is his logo:





both the RC/RC Movement and other organizations, which all used an interactive, dynamic and participative approach in their sessions. "When I go back home I will use this Camp to raise awareness about Youth Engagement in order to build a strong National Society" says Haris, from the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The sessions focused on Youth Engagement in the RC/RC Movement, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Social Media, Youth Leading a culture of Non-violence and Peace, Leadership Skills, Project Cycle Management, Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC), Leaders & Leadership, Communication Skills for Leaders and a final session of conclusions, in which the participants could start drawing the future for youth in the Mediterranean. When asked what he will take back from this experience, Hamad, from the Egyptian Red Crescent says that "Atlantis taught me that you never stop learning and you must continue to learn".

This year's edition marked the 10th anniversary of Atlantis, reason for which the CCM and the Italian Red Cross decided to celebrate the event by giving participants the opportunity to take part in the 'Fiaccolata', the eight-kilometre torch lit walk which commemorates and symbolises the birth of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by the initiative of Henry Dunant. Furthermore, some participants had the chance to open the walk by carrying the Principles of the RC/RC which saw the participation of over 5.000 volunteers this year, in occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Italian Red Cross.

The week of Atlantis was truly engaging, both for the sessions and the training obtained, but also for the moments of knowledge and experience sharing participants carried out throughout the Camp. "Diversity was the most interesting

aspect of the Youth Camp" says Melike from the Turkish Red Crescent, and Hajar from Egypt sates that "Even if we seem so different, I found that the Mediterranean countries have a lot in common and should work together to achieve a common goal." In an [interview](#), Alessandro, from the Italian Red Cross, says: "The biggest gift I will take back from this experience are the strong ties that were created amongst all the participants in the Camp, which I am proud to call FRIENDS. Each and every one of them has been for me a unique and once-in-a-lifetime gift."

From the CCM we would like to take this occasion to thank the Italian Red Cross, for the strong collaboration and constant support provided for the successful completion of Atlantis, with the hope that youth will continue being strongly engaged to build strong National Societies.

For further information on the Workshops and Sessions, as well as the final Report of the Camp, please visit the [CCM webpage](#). To watch the final video of the Camp, please [click here](#).



Youth training on Migration: empowerment and action

During 2013 more than 40,000 migrants arrived in Italy and thousands more reached other countries in southern Europe. Yet, the numbers are increasing; during the first eight months of 2014, over 100.000 migrants reached the shores of Italy. Tragedies on the Mediterranean migration route continue, causing hundreds of deaths. In the Middle East, since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, more than 2.6 million people have fled their homes to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

With the continued aim of raising awareness on the migration phenomenon and respond to the humanitarian challenges it entails, the Italian Red Cross Regional Branch of Sicily organized, in partnership with the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, a Mediterranean Red Cross/Red Crescent Youth Training on Migration, that took place in Piazza Armerina (Sicily) on the 4-11 October 2014.



Building on the awareness campaign launched by the Italian Red Cross for its 150th anniversary 'No human being is illegal', and standing as a follow-up of the Seminar 'Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration' held in Rome in 2012, this seminar aimed at providing participants with practical tools, to help them become true agents of change in the dialogue on migration, countering generalised stigma and discrimination, negative stereotypes and the refusal of 'others'.

The training focused on two practical tools: the **'Youth on the Run'** –a 24 hour role play game in which participants lived in the shoes of forced migrants- and the **Anti-Trafficking Campaign** developed by the National Societies of the Balkan Region. These tools, together with



the 'theoretical' sessions facilitated by experts of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, as well as external partners, aimed at providing a 360° overview on the topic, with a number of possibilities of replication/adaptation of the contents and tools acquired during the week.

The training was attended by 77 participants, comprised of 38 volunteers representing 5 Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies. The National Societies partners of the project were the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Italian Red Cross, the Red Cross of Serbia, the Tunisian Red Crescent, and the Turkish Red Crescent, each of whom participated with a delegation of 8 youth. Additional partners of the project were the IFRC Migration Unit, UNHCR, the Icelandic Red Cross – experts on the role play game and the implementation of the project.

Trainings are first steps towards empowerment, and the expected result of the activity was that all delegations would generate a strong multiplier effect once they return home. Once more the ground is provided to use our know-how for the benefit of the most vulnerable. Our action is needed.

The report of the activity will soon be available following this [link](#).

Photos by Italian Red Cross ©





Ana María Sansegundo Barbosa

22 years old

Spanish Red Cross

When did you start volunteering for your National Society?

I started volunteering in September 2008

What is your current commitment as a volunteer?

I am a volunteer of the Red Cross Youth, and I also volunteer in the departments of communication, administration and voluntary work.

How did you hear about your National Society?

I heard about the Spanish Red Cross when I saw the work and activities of the relief and emergency teams in my local community. But I also saw on TV that every time there was an emergency situation, the Red Cross was there.

What information about the International RCRC Movement did you know before you became a volunteer?

To be honest, not a lot. I knew that the RC/RC was present and working in many countries and that they helped people wherever there was a natural disaster or armed conflict... but that was about all I knew.

Why did you join your National Society?

My dad came home with information about another organization where I would have liked to do voluntary work. I wanted more information so I went to the address that was written on the brochure. The minimum age for participating was 18 and at the time I was only 16, so I walked back home. On the way back I saw a poster that part of a recruitment campaign of the Red Cross in my city, so I thought: why not?!

I went to the local branch to ask for more information, and since they did not have any age restrictions, I decided to stay.

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

It is hard to define my voluntary work in a few words, so I will mention some of the most important things: learning, self-improvement, feeling of belonging, personal growth, team work, self-fulfillment, friendship, hugs and smiles... a lot of hugs and a lot of smiles.

What has been your favourite/most significant experience as volunteer of the Red Cross/Red Crescent so far?

I am lucky to say that I have had many happy moments during my time with the organization. To only mention one of them would take away importance from a lot of those people I am working with day after day and which are always offering me their support, and all of which are making me very happy. Without them supporting me in my voluntary work, everything would have been different.

But I think I will mention my two international experiences (European voluntary service and participation in Atlantis X), because they have meant and still mean a lot in my life. They are part of my everyday life, both the moments and the people who were in them, have been shaping me and helped me grow as a person; made me more open minded; made me look at life from a different perspective and made me share not only work spaces, but also other experiences, points of views and relaxing moments. When I was told that I had been chosen to be a part of such experiences, it was a time of incredible happiness, not only for me but also for my family and friends. With such experiences I learned to get out of my comfort zone and I realized that once an opportunity like this appears, it tends to



be the start of a big adventure. Although the reunions are also moments of great joy...to be able to see people that I have not seen in a lot of time is magic, and in some occasions, I contribute with all my motivation that is necessary to participate and enjoy the activity. The days before a meeting I am already thinking about hugging those people again... and I then I just cannot stop smiling.

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



I think that the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement gives a lot of hope to people. Not only the people participating in our programs and projects, but also to the volunteers, because we know that we are contributing, in some ways, to improve the world a little bit. Furthermore I would like to underline the importance of our seven Fundamental Principles, because they allow us to reach people and places that others may not be able to reach.

 Cruz Roja Española

Spanish Red Cross

Founded in 1864, the Spanish Red Cross was among the very first National Societies to sign the 1st Geneva Convention. Registered as an 'Organization of public utility', it has kept on evolving and adapting its services and programs to the needs of the most vulnerable in order to be 'Always closer to people'.

Contact: Informa@cruzroja.es

www.cruzroja.es

12th Mediterranean Conference – San Marino, May 2015

The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean is happy to announce that the next Mediterranean Conference will be hosted by the Red Cross Society of the Republic of San Marino.

The Conference will be held in May 2015. The CCM will assist the Red Cross of San Marino in the logistical aspects of the organization, as well as in the identification of the main areas of concern at regional level to be discussed during the Conference, on the basis of the information compiled through a questionnaire sent to all National Societies.

The Republic of San Marino stands as an emblematic space given its long history of neutrality and solidarity, in a region and a time of conflict and crisis. National Societies will soon receive more detailed information about the upcoming Conference.



Republic of San Marino

The Republic of San Marino is a small state situated on the north-eastern side of the Italian Peninsula.

Size: 61km²

Population: 30.000

Capital: City of San Marino

Red Cross of the Republic of San Marino



Founded in October 1949, it was recognised by the ICRC in 1950, and in 1952 its admission was formally approved during the General Assembly of the IFRC.



Collaboration agreement with the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce

A collaboration agreement was signed by the CCM and the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME) to strengthen their relationship. The agreement aims to contribute to the social development in the Mediterranean area through improving the partnership and cooperation between both institutions and their members.

The Vice-president of the CCM, Ms. Marta Corachán, and the President of ASCAME, Mr. Mohamend Choucair, signed the agreement during the celebration of SIL



Photo by CCM ©

(International Logistic and Material Handling Exhibition) in Barcelona on June 3rd. Both organizations committed themselves to develop, with actions and projects, their commitment towards the promotion of Peace, Human Rights and Solidarity, and to reduce the economic and social inequalities in Mediterranean countries.

ASCAME represents more than 300 Chambers of Commerce and other associated bodies from 23 countries around the Mediterranean Sea. It works with the major International organizations and institutions whose aim is the social and economic development for the Mediterranean region.

In the frame of the collaboration, on the 26th of November 2014 CCM participated in the *Mediterranean Entrepreneurship Forum* within the 'Week of economic leaders' organized in Barcelona by ASCAME, the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation, with the collaboration of the Union for the Mediterranean



ASCAME

(UfM), the European institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other institutions involved in the Mediterranean project. This was the 8th edition of the *Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders* and was entitled “A need for change” with a focus on green economy as a main driving force of the development of our region.

Ms. Marta Corachán delivered a speech on the role of social entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean from a Red Cross/Red Crescent perspective.



Photo by ASCAME ©

2Day(S) to write our tomorrow!

The year 2014 has also been under the sign of the 150th anniversary of the French Red Cross, an occasion for all its members to remember 150 year of history and of questioning the present to better build our tomorrow.

In this context, the French Red Cross has expressed a strong desire to provide as much space as possible to the youth that are part of the organization and that are engaged daily in serving its mission. For this reason the French Red Cross organized the 2nd Youth Meeting (Assises de la Jeunesse) which took place the 20th and 21st September 2014, and that gathered around 600 youth of the French Red Cross, from across the country, and also about 10 European National Societies of the Mediterranean basin.

The goal: generate ideas, motivation and... contribute to the future strategy of the French Red Cross!

Through this second edition of the Youth Meeting the aim was, firstly, that of creating a space for exchange, of action and of true participation in order to allow young people to discover but also to build the action of the French Red Cross of tomorrow... and by the sea side! As a matter of fact this edition of the Meeting took place by the Mediterranean, near Perpignan, as an occasion to share -with the National Societies from the Mediterranean



Photo by French Red Cross ©

basin- common issues, the same feeling of belonging and the possibility of new collaborations.

Following the spirit of the Youth Engagement Strategy of the International Federation, the meeting was also an opportunity of renewing the ambitions for and together with youth. After a moment of analysis carried out by some great witness-

es of society, youth exchanged ideas in several workshops offering many different focuses such as: **the position of youth in the governance of the association, the role of social ties in our mission, the role of young beneficiaries, changing minds, different ways of engagement, etc.** The result of the workshops was a collective document which has been sent to the board of directors, as the contribution of youth of the French Red Cross to the Strategy of the association.

A great moment of collective action on the theme of social ties then followed together with the wider public, the elderly, people facing unstable situations or living with disabilities, taking place in three different cities at the same time. This was an occasion to act together and discover some actions.

Through a special ‘speed date’ which allowed every participant to say what he/she does and discover what others do, participants were also able to value the actions carried out in different territories and discover them. With a bit of background music, all the participants then travelled back to their homes, full of ideas and dreams... to change the world!



European Youth Cooperation Meeting: *'Be prepared. Be curious. Be demanding with your National Societies to make your voice heard'*

Last June the 21st European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (EYCM) took place in Volterra (31st May – 3rd June), prior to the 9th European Regional Conference. The meeting was hosted by the Italian Red Cross, and organized together with the close collaboration of the European Regional Zone Office of the IFRC, and saw the participation of the CCM, amongst others, as stakeholder given the strong collaboration established in the last two years.

This edition of the EYCM follows the one organized in 2012 in Sofia (Bulgaria) providing the ground to the past EYCC members to report on the work carried out and also to pave the way for the new members elected during the meeting. One of the main elements that were outlined is the great amount of work done to make the EYCC known in National Societies, as well as to make it become a reference point in terms of information and sharing of best practices.

The meeting provided space for National Societies to work together and learn more from each other, as well as to participate in thematic workshops on themes such as Enabling Environments for Volunteers, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Information and Communication Technology, Resource Mobilisation, Advancing Meaningful engagement of young people as leaders, which were all organized in a very dynamic and participative way.

An interesting session that took place in Volterra was the



'Open Space Technology session' in which participants identified and analysed the many different humanitarian challenges faced in the European region, creating a set of preparatory discussion which will become the basis and guide for the work of the new EYCC members for the two years to come.

Many National Societies appointed their delegates for the elections, proving that the past EYCC has worked on creating a great interest in the network itself, as well as the awareness that the future of it depends from every youth member in the region. The newly elected members for 2014-2016 are: Ms. Anna Gevorgyan (Armenian Red Cross Society), Ms. Jen Hardy (British Red Cross), Mr. Kristiyan Penyashki (Bulgarian Red Cross), Ms. Danielle Lindholm (Finnish Red Cross), Ms. Sabrina Konzok (German Red Cross) Vice-chair of the EYCC, Mr. Bas van Rossum (Netherlands Red Cross) Chair of the EYCC, Mr. Nabidzhon Sidikshoev (Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan).

We wish good luck to the new EYCC members, and would like to remember the motivational speech given by the President of the Italian Red Cross, and Vice President of the IFRC, Mr. Francesco Rocca, during the Closing Ceremony, hoping that they will represent a guide for the years to come. *'Be prepared. Be curious. Be demanding with your National Societies to make your voice heard'*.

For the Final video of the EYCM visit the following [link](#).



From left to right: Danielle, Nabidzhon, Anna, Bas, Sabrina, Kristiyan, Jen.

Photos by Italian Red Cross ©

“We cannot control the wind, but together we can learn how to use it”

9th European Regional Conference of the IFRC

Working on a tight agenda in order to tackle the main needs and increasing vulnerabilities in the context of the ongoing crisis—which is affecting the countries of the Europe Zone (comprised of 52 National Societies from Europe and central Asia), the 9th European Regional Conference, hosted in Florence by the Italian Red Cross from the 3rd to the 6th of June 2014, was structured around 6 main sessions*, all based on the data compiled in the ‘Think Differently’ Report which underlines the need for *innovation* as a necessary cross-cutting element and tool to find suitable solutions to the multifaceted reality we are facing.

A final document directed at governments, parliamentarians, the corporate sector, communities and the Red Cross and Red Crescent itself summarized the three days of discussion, exchange of experiences and commitments.



In the **Florence Call for Action**, the collective voice of the 47 National Societies taking part in the meeting state that new and innovative approaches and more investments are needed to turn the tide of the crisis and find lasting and sustainable solutions for and with the people affected by the current crisis, shifting from the emergency response mentality to an investment approach with sustainable funding that focuses on securing livelihoods.

Among the vulnerable groups most affected by the crisis, special attention was given to migrants**. In this regard, the need was underlined to: implement Resolution n°3 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, emphasizing the importance of dignity, respect for diversity, and social inclusion for migrants; ensure everyone, especially people fleeing conflict and insecurity, has unhindered access to basic human rights, in particular the right to protection, health care, education and social services, at any phase of their journey; highlight the positive contribution that migrants make to respective countries socially, economically, culturally and demographically; and equally recognize the substantial contribution of migrants to their country of origin, for example through remittances which far exceed the value of development aid and cooperation funds spent annually.

Youth also played an important role in the Conference, being actively involved in planning and leading a number of sessions and hence proving how Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are actually taking a significant step forward in engaging young people in planning and policy-

***Which were the sessions?**

New aspects of migration; Food security and livelihoods; Resilience; Changing mind-sets through non-formal education; How to create an enabling environment for volunteers; the Future of Humanitarian aid.

****About migrants...**

The CCM participated in the working group appointed to prepare the contents and structure of the session together with PERCO; the European Anti-trafficking Network; the Russian Speaking Network; the Psychosocial Support Network; the IFRC and the ICRC.

making processes at the highest levels.

As innovation also means being able to constantly adapt to new scenarios, the example was set - among others - by the Spanish Red Cross holistic response to the crisis, which include the launch of its first domestic appeal, as underlined by IFRC Secretary-General Bekele Geleta in his closing speech.

For the full text of the ‘Florence Call for Action’, please click [here](#).

Useful links:

[RCRC European Conference webpage](#)
[Introduction Video](#)



Photo by Italian Red Cross ©

RC/RC Mediterranean Platform on Migration and Exchange on Migration programmes

From the 22nd to the 25th of September the Tunisian Red Crescent hosted the annual meeting of the Red Cross / Red Crescent Mediterranean Platform on Migration.

The meeting tackled its main theme - 'Protection at Sea' - through four main sessions: Peer-to-peer support; Vulnerable migrants: a focus on Women and Unaccompanied Minors; Advocacy for access to protection at international borders; Coordinating Movement action on RFL in the Mediterranean with a focus on missing migrants, all aimed at promoting the exchange of expertise and best practices among National Societies.

The Platform, which counts on the cooperation between the IFRC, ICRC and CCM, was established in 2013 following the Movement Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in the Mediterranean held in Barcelona and it aims to improve the coordination, cooperation and partnership within the Movement in the region so as to

provide coordinated responses in the context of the continued humanitarian emergencies linked to migration.

The first action point established by the Platform is the promotion of an in-person exchange on migration programmes. Building on the self-assessment carried out by National Societies through a basic questionnaire regarding the domains of assistance, protection and advocacy, four National Societies were matched in the 2014 edition of the activity according to their training needs. The Cyprus Red Cross; the Hellenic Red Cross and the Red Cross of Malta were hosted by the Italian Red Cross from the 24th to the 29th of November and they were given the opportunity to visit programmes, attend meetings and receive specific trainings.

Further information can be found at:

www.cruzroja.es/ccm

18th October: Anti-trafficking day

Trafficking in human beings remains a serious issue in the European Union. According to the estimations of the International Labour Organisation, 880,000 people in the EU are victims of forced labour, including forced sexual exploitation.

Since the 18th of October 2007, when the European Commission launched the EU-Anti-Trafficking Day, this day has been set aside as a day to raise awareness about anti-trafficking and its violations of human rights. The Red Cross National Societies of South-East Europe, a region where, according to the UN, most victims are trafficked from, have been active for several years in raising awareness as well as offering support and protection for victims themselves.

Each of the Red Cross National Societies are, between September and December 2014, organizing activities, events, and actions to reach out to different audiences, from ministries, the European Union to international organizations and corporate sectors. The Red Cross of Montenegro, the Croatian Red Cross and the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina are all organizing lectures and workshops at schools, collages, or asylum reception centres and holding public performances. This year the Red Cross of Serbia is putting its main focus on human trafficking and its relation to Health Care policies and regulations. Additionally, they are engaging in dialogue with their respective governments to influence policy making in a way that it effectively respects and protects the rights of victims of trafficking.

Furthermore, the Portuguese Red Cross publicized the project "(Anti) bodies" with the mission to prevent and intervene in the fighting against Human Trafficking and promoting gender equality as well as contribute to greater awareness on the topic. The project is an initiative of the Delegation of Braga of the Portuguese Red Cross. The project film can be found on the following links:

[Anti-Corpos Initiative](#)

[European Commission Press Release](#)

[IFRC news](#)

[Report of the activities of the Red Cross of Serbia](#)



Photo of the Red Cross of Serbia ©

A year of floods in the Mediterranean

While in May the Balkans were affected by three months worth of rain in 3 days, in December Morocco has witnessed the worst floods since the 1980s.

More than 600 Moroccan Red Crescent volunteers helped through the floods

The winter season has brought raining and floods in the southern parts of Morocco, causing numerous deaths and severe damage to the country's infrastructures.

600 volunteers were mobilized and 50 local intervention teams were formed to respond to the emerging needs. The National Society has collaborated with health, civil and military services to coordinate and deliver food and non-food items to those affected by the floods. On the other hand, IFRC has activated its operational teams to provide any help required by the Moroccan Red Crescent, and has allocated 245,000 Swiss francs to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to procure and distribute food and non-food items to refill the basic stocks of the Moroccan National Society, and to provide essential services including first aid and psycho-social support*.



Photo by IFRC ©

Figures of a Black May in the Balkans

The month of May has left its mark in the Balkans. Torrential rains have caused flooding and landslides in some of the poorest areas of the region which has needed immediate support from the National Societies of the affected countries and the International Federation. The rain has affected more than 3 million people and caused considerable damage to homes, livestock and livelihoods, leaving hundreds of thousands without water or electricity. 3 months' worth of rain concentrated in 3 days caused the worst flooding in the Balkans of the last 120 years**.

Upon completion of the search and rescue operations, the early recovery phase began in order to facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes.

Serbia

120,000 homes affected
31,873 evacuated
215 Red Cross mobilized troops to respond to the crisis
3,311 volunteers helping the affected

Bosnia and Herzegovina

100,000 (estimated) affected
3,000 reported landslides
40,000 evacuated
5,000 volunteers y 250 Red Cross tropas

Croatia

15,000 evacuated
2,732 displaced to emergency shelters
500 volunteers

To see the information published by the IFRC, click [here](#).

The National Societies of the three countries concerned have addressed the management of shelters for evacuees and care of the daily needs of people who cannot yet return to their homes by providing food, clean water and hygiene kits.

In late May, many were able to return home, but thousands are still in evacuation centres. The most affected regions resulted in destroyed homes, loss of electricity and running water. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the flooding moved the identification markers of landmines. The landmine locations still remain a huge concern.

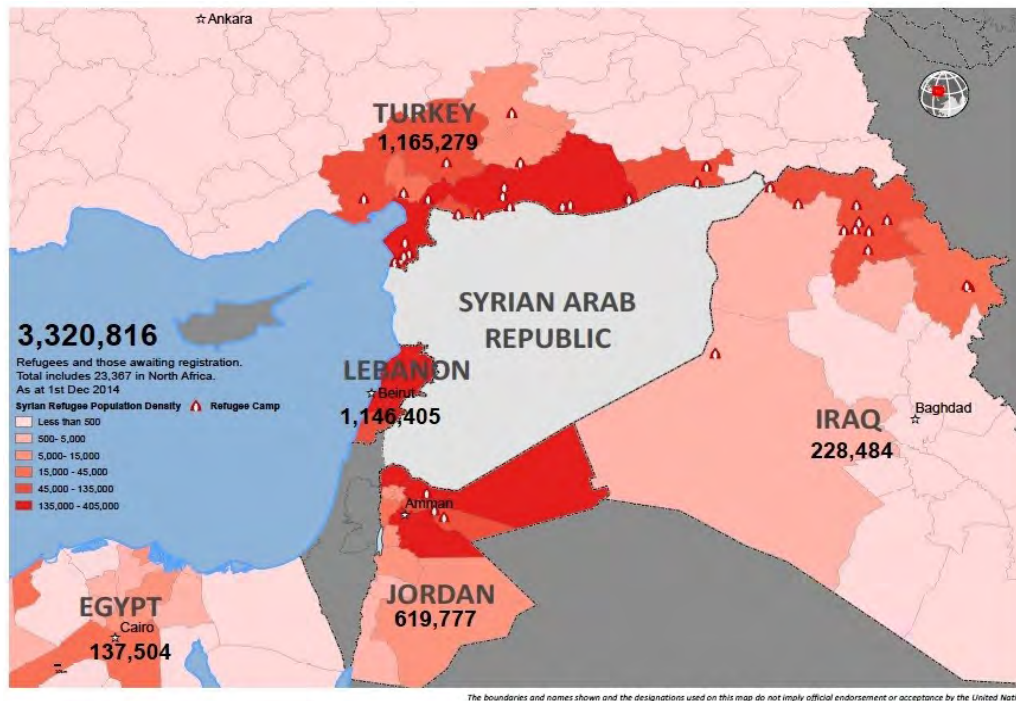
To date there have been no major health problems due to the flooding. However, in many areas there is still no access to drinking water.

The International Federation has released two emergency appeals to support the recovery of Bosnia and Serbia. The first of these calls, which launched on May 24, amounted to 4,522,235 Swiss francs to aid the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in assisting 10,000 families affected by floods. In the case of Serbia, the appeal was launched on May 27, with an amount reaching 4,485,096 Swiss francs which offer assistance to the Serbian Red Cross in supporting 12,400 flood affected families (approximately 49,600 people).

For more information: * [World News](#); ** [IFRC](#)

Update on the humanitarian situation in Siria

As the conflict in Syria continues, the number of refugees has drastically increased from 1,905,161 in mid-2013 to 3,250,417 in October 2014 with only 3,104,629 registered leaving 145,788 awaiting registration. These numbers will only continue to grow rapidly. The average rate of monthly registration continues to exceed 100,000 so far in 2014. Of that number over 50% of the refugees are children and 75% are women and children combined. Public services are on the edge of collapse and in many areas are non-existent, leaving humanitarian agencies to fill the gaps.



The dependency on aid from SARC by the refugees is growing exponentially. SARC volunteers, although being exposed to life threatening situations, continue to provide urgent assistance to those affected by the conflicts and, unfortunately, their death toll has recently risen from 32 to 38. The number of refugees keeps rising and by the end of the year it is expected that over half of the Syrian population, this includes an anticipated 3.45 million Syrian refugees and 6.8 million Syrians inside the country, will require aid from SARC. This means that the original target appeal

of July 2012 was CHF 27.5 million is not enough and has been adjusted to CHF 107.4 million as of November 2013. Only one third of the funds have been collected as of June 2014.

For further information:

[ICRC](#)

[IFRC](#)

Source UNHCR

[Syrian Refugee Response webpage](#)

updated December 2014

Libya unrest forces the Red Crescent to move offices Headquarters

The escalation of violence in the Benghazi region has forced the General Secretariat of the Libyan Red Crescent Society to relocate its offices in Sidi Hussein region to Qortoba School in Al Roueissat region. Earlier in November, it was moved to the Benghazi Medical Centre, but due to the ongoing clashes it had to move again where the Benghazi branch has its Operations Units. The blood bank of Benghazi branch, the only one of its nature in the region, was also relocated, from Sidi Hussein to Al Salmani area.

Since the outbreak of violence in Libya, there are around 400,000 displaced persons, around 100,000 just last October (source: UNHCR). Notwithstanding the escalation, the volunteers of the Libyan Red Crescent Society have continued to respond to the needs of the Internally Displaced People and evacuated families and individuals, trapped in damaged buildings and isolated roads. The Libyan Red Crescent mediation between parties of the conflict helped reaching a ceasefire agreement to secure safe passage, and volunteers managed the evacuation of more than 200 Libyan and foreign families from the

regions witnessing violence.

IFRC and ICRC are working with LRC Society in different aspects. ICRC has been helping and training volunteers in recovering dead bodies and treating them. While the IFRC has allocated food and non-food items: 3000 food parcels, 1000 packages containing cooking pots, 2000 blankets, 100 packages with first aid kits, 2000 mattresses and several locally-procured generators. The programmes aim at covering the needs of 20,000 people.

More information available in the following links:

[IFRC](#), [UNHCR](#)



Photo by
IFRC ©

Palestine: recovering from a dark summer

On July 7th the military activities started in the occupied area of the Gaza strip. Since then more than 2000 people have lost their lives and more than 11,000 have been injured, 70% of those are civilians and 1 out of 4 are children. The destruction of buildings and homes has resulted in displacement of more than 110,000 people that now are seeking shelter in temporary camps. On the other side of the occupied territory, in Israel, hundreds of rocket has been fired and at least 3 persons have been reported killed and 77 injured together with destruction and damage on civilian property.

Even though International Humanitarian law should allow the volunteers and workers of the Red Crescent and Red Cross the safe access to conflict areas while attending those affected, still, two Red Crescents volunteers have lost their lives in the Gaza strip. Sandra Wicky, delegate from the Spanish Red Cross in Gaza, writes in her article in the newspaper *El País*, "The volunteers and the rescue teams are risking their lives to attend the victims and it is with sadness that I witness that the Red Crescent emblem that every volunteer and Red Crescent worker involved in the rescue operations are wearing, is not protecting them. Already on the third day of the hostilities, nine people from the Red Crescent were taken to the Al Quds hospital for minor injuries and fractures."

Mr. Francesco Rocca, Vice President of the IFRC, who visited the conflict area to witness the effects of the combat and the work of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, praised the volunteers whom, from the beginning, had been taking action and responded to the complex emergencies in this tough and challenging environment; "the volunteers here represent the true value of our seven Fundamental Principles, something that we need to remember in our daily work at home."

This latest conflict has generated substantial needs to the population of Gaza, more than one quarter of the population is lacking basic means of survival. Around 40% of agricultural lands are gone and crops have been destroyed. Around 60% of the people in Gaza under the age of 18 are severely traumatized.

Further, the infrastructure, that already before this conflict was weak from previous ones, is now worse than ever. Destroyed water networks are leaking waste-water into the environment and clean-water networks, worsening the risks to public health, and electrical installations have been severely damaged which all is making the health issues harder to address. In addition, large numbers of explosives that are left from the fighting, now litter civilian areas and are adding to the danger. Tens of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, and thousands



of houses and buildings have been entirely or partially destroyed, including four mayor hospitals, adding to the already stretched medical sector.

The ICRC has provided with human, financial and material resources from the beginning of the conflict and will keep providing resources. Since the beginning of the conflict it has carried out 20 projects to provide some 600,000 people with water and has helped restore over 80 per cent of the limited electricity service for inhabitants. Yet, as Robert Mardini, Head of operations for the Near and Middle East at the International Committee of the Red Cross, stated after completing his mission and visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, more help is needed and not only help to reconstruct the buildings, schools and farmland but to rebuild the hope for a better future.

For sources and further information, please visit the following webpages:

[ICRC](#); [IFRC](#); [El País](#)

*RCRC in shaping humanitarian landscape today and tomorrow...

While strengthening resilience of individuals and communities is the overarching RCRC approach to future global development, investments into volunteering and recognising particular role of young people in development are the key to achieving community-focused targets of the Post-2015 development goals.

It is common knowledge and often reiterated fact that the RCRC is as strong and as effective as its services and programmes in preventing and alleviating human suffering in vulnerable communities.

It is also a common knowledge and often reiterated fact that the unique value add of the RCRC is its volunteers; over 50% of which are young people.

And it is indeed a common knowledge and often reiterated fact that building strong, healthy, and resilient National Societies depends on our investments in nurturing, training, and empowering of our life line.

But the time has come for us to cease stating common knowledge as mere clichés and blindly stating facts as though they are badges. We are at a point in our history where this practice has never been less useful.

Only National Societies recognising and valuing and investing in the pivotal role of volunteers - as key pillars of a strong institution - in reaching the most vulnerable can succeed in saving lives and changing minds.

Only National Societies that provide opportunities and tools for children, adolescents, and young people can succeed as contributors to nurturing young and healthy, civic-minded citizens that are empowered and enabled to participate in and contribute to their own development and that of their communities and society as a whole.

And finally, only National Societies recognising and enhancing the capacity of youth as change leaders, young humanitarians, and engaging them as partners in leadership can succeed as relevant to humanitarian action and development.

Let us imagine that we are in the 2020, six years down the road to evaluation of our IFRC Strategy 2020. Imagine your National Societies fully capable to contributing to a better world through building strong resilient communities. Do you see young people? Do you see volunteers?

Where are they? What are they doing? Do you see your National Society capitalizing on volunteers and youth as resource through investing in their development and engaging them as equal partners?

We all have distinctive roles in strengthening our National Societies and the Youth Engagement Strategy (the Y.E.S.) provides us the practical inter-generational guidance, and compels us to finally act. The strategic directions of the Y.E.S. are very well articulated, but let us not mistake articulation with action. While getting from principles to action, we all must come with open hearts and minds, willing to recognise each other's unique contributions. Each stakeholder, be it the senior leader, the youth leader or a volunteer, must be ready and committed to actively and constructively participate in this change process for a better world.

"We have it all", we are in the era where we have learnt from our past, we have been informed by our challenges, and we have heard from the stakeholders. We are at the tipping point and it is time now to move forward with the new thinking, new attitude, with renewed commitment determined to fulfil our humanitarian mandate through strengthening our National Societies.

A wise man once said, leadership is about elevating others and creating environments where they can shine. In this era of self-transformation, let us apply unconventional thinking and approaches to finding solutions but not forget that people were, have been, and will always be our greatest resource.

Ashanta Osborne Moses
IFRC Youth Commission Chair

**This article was previously published on the IFRC Youth and Volunteering NewsFlash, June-July 2014*

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

With the support of:



Croce Rossa Italiana



Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

Av. Portal de l'Àngel 7, 4th floor 08002 Barcelona

Tel: +34 93 302 15 85 | Fax: +34 93 302 20 75

mediterraneo@cruzroja.es

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