



Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

ACTIVITIES

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- Mediterranean Youth Photo Contest
"Youth across the borders: one click for one change"
- Med Youth Porta@I
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- Best Practices

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

- Judit Batalla Odena –Andorran Red Cross

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- Signing of the collaboration agreement with CP/RAC
- Workshop for facilitators of the Italian Red Cross on Strategic Aims 2020
- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
- 20th European Youth Cooperation Meeting
- Launch of the Arab Development Challenges Report 2011
- Humanitarian aid for the residents of Homs and Daraa
- High Level Movement Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in the Mediterranean

OPINION

International Migration and Multicultural Policies: the perspective of CECU-UNESCO, by Javier Zulaica Leoz; President of CECU-UNESCO



Migration is one of the primary basic phenomena accompanying humanity since its very beginning, and it has always been a source of new opportunities and perspectives for the migrants and their hosts, but also a source of distress and humanitarian needs.

Nowadays, migration is seen as the result of a set of interrelated causes: economic crisis, environmental degradation, climate change effects and political and social insecurity, pushing vulnerable communities to move from their place of origin in search of better living conditions and regionally turning the Mediterranean into one of the world's largest migratory scenarios.

In this regard the IFRC, with its Policy on Migration, compels the RC/RC Movement to do more and calls for solidarity: "*National Societies in countries along the migratory trails will work together to optimise their humanitarian action, including the restoration of family links*". Likewise, IFRC Strategy 2020, encourages National Societies to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need throughout their journey, provide them with assistance and protection, uphold their rights and dignity, empower them in their search of opportunities and sustainable solutions, as well as promote social inclusion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

All the above mentioned issues were discussed in the High Level Movement Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in the Mediterranean and tackled in the Youth Seminar on the 'Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migrations', jointly organized by the Italian Red Cross and the CCM.

ACTIVITIES

●Youth Seminar “Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration”:

In order to provide the follow up of the Mediterranean Conference and to promote the implementation of Strategy 2020, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM), as the Permanent Office of the Mediterranean Conference, and the Italian RC, in cooperation with the IFRC North Africa Regional Office, organized a four-day Mediterranean Youth Seminar to tackle the ‘Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration’.

The Seminar took place in Rome from the 2nd to the 6th of May. It involved over 30 young volunteers and/or youth coordinators from the following National Societies: Algerian RC, Egyptian RC, French RC, Italian RC, Lebanese RC, Libyan RC, Malta RC, Moroccan RC, Palestine RCS, Portuguese RC, RC of Serbia, Spanish RC, Tunisian RC.



The Seminar consisted in three morning theoretical sessions and two afternoon parallel workshops. The theoretical sessions were facilitated by representatives from the ICRC, the IFRC North Africa Office, the UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean (Rovira i Virgili University of Tarragona, Spain), the Red Cross/EU Office, the PERCO network, the Italian Red Cross, the Portuguese Red Cross, the Malta Red Cross, the European Institute of the Mediterranean, the United Nation Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the Carlos III University of Madrid. The Seminar also included sessions on the sharing of best practices on migration programmes in which National Societies were able to exchange their knowledge and experiences on the topic.

Below are some of the main points of the sessions and workshops.

Forced Migration at Mediterranean Level: causes

and consequences: The 2 hour session delivered by Xavier Aragall (Euro-Mediterranean Policy Specialist at the European Institute of the Mediterranean), illustrated how migration flows are linked not only to economic distress and environmental degradation, but also to the lack of political and civil rights. Furthermore it acknowledged that migrations flows, regardless of restrictive policies in source, transit and destination countries, cannot be stopped and those policies targeting this aim ultimately lead to the shifting of migration trails.

Moreover, tightened EU migration policies have put a strain on the institutional capacity of certain transit countries as migrants get stuck in those territories due to stricter border controls. In such a scenario, forced migrants can become a burden to receiving areas, especially when they cannot find livelihoods or a job, and start being perceived as threats to social cohesion and security, which further stresses their need for protection.

In order to tackle the challenge of forced migration, it is important to continue promoting the assistance and the social inclusion of migrants in countries of destination and also advocate in favour of better policies to manage migration flows, addressing sustainable solutions which ultimately depend on stable economic, political and social conditions.

IFRC Policy on Migration and future steps for advocacy work:

The session, presented by Catherine Stubbe (Red Cross/EU Office) and Sarah Kingleberg (Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants) underlined the need for each RC/RC National Society to commit itself to the implementation of the IFRC Policy on Migration and the Migration Resolution n°3 (2011 – 31st International Conference) in its daily activities. Furthermore every RC/RC National Society ought to take action and advocate the protection of migrants and the respect for humanitarian principles. Underlined was also the promotion of networking and partnership between the National Societies so as to raise the global voice of the Movement and to organize the work along migratory trails.

IFRC North Africa Office: regional perspective on migration:

In the context of Strategy 2020, the IFRC urges RC/RC National Societies to tackle migrants' vulnerabilities by addressing the underlying causes of forced migration. Assisting and protecting migrants, as well as promoting social inclusion, are actions directly linked to the implementation of the IFRC Strategy 2020.

As underlined Amelia Marzal (Organizational Development Delegate) and Soufia Galand, (Youth and Principles and Values Project Coordinator), in order to achieve the above mentioned goals the IFRC North Africa Office, following the IFRC Long Term Planning Framework North Africa 2012-2015, supports National Societies in building an auxiliary role with the authorities, in promoting RC/RC Principles and Values, in strengthening Youth involvement, in improving disaster management capacities and reinforcing humanitarian diplomacy, as well as organizational capacities.

With the overall objective of improving the protection and living conditions of international migrants, the IFRC North Africa Office aims to promote social inclusion by encouraging the dissemination of the humanitarian principles and values among communities and the provision to migrants of means for a decent life.



Workshop - Climate Change and Population Movement: The workshop facilitated by Jesús Gamero, researcher at Carlos III University of Madrid, put forth several suggestions on how to deal with the fact that climate change, which particularly affects the Mediterranean region, is currently leading to population movements across certain countries. This should be seen as a warning sign of the seriousness of the situation.

It suggested that in order to find solutions to this rising problem, work needs to be done in different areas. For example, through research and comparative studies and through discussions related to international protection mechanisms, but also through political action at different levels, and ultimately, through civil society and organizations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Finally, it was recalled that one of the future recommendations of the organization is to create mechanisms to promote information, debate and raise awareness about climate change and human mobility in the Mediterranean.

Workshop - YABC Module on Migration: Run by Soufia Galand (Youth and Principles and Values project Coordinator, IFRC North Africa) and Nouha Yeferni (Training Coordinator for Youth/Principles & Values projects, IFRC North Africa), the workshop on Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change introduced the initiative of the Principles and Values Department of the IFRC, shared by more than 40 National Societies worldwide, with the aim of empowering youth in playing a lead role in transforming mindsets, attitudes and behaviours in their local community.



In North Africa, almost 200 youth have embarked upon the project and devoted themselves to work on the Fundamental Principles and their underpinning Humanitarian Values, especially regarding migration issues. Currently, they're applying the YABC initiative on the specific domain of migration, using behavioural change tools to enable youth to take the lead in changing their communities' perspectives towards migration issues and biased attitudes towards migrants.

Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers are encouraged to practice YABC and use this toolkit in their National Societies within Youth programmes in order to make a positive change in their communities, focusing the attention and proposing ideas and recommendations on migration issues, remembering that the best way to overcome fears of outsiders and live and enjoy diversity is starting by trying ourselves to be a living example of humanitarian RC/RC Principles and Values.

Workshop - Setting up an awareness campaign: One of the main actions that youth can put into practice in order to play a role in advocacy is running a campaign through mass communication tools and instruments. This enables to raise awareness on specific matters, such as the causes and consequences of migration, and the need for intercultural dialogue when approaching the issues.



The workshop facilitated by Irina Vicente, Head of Youth at the Portuguese Red Cross, aimed at deepening participants' knowledge as regards the importance and the technical methodology of creating an effective awareness campaign. Participants learned, through the IFRC's Project Management Cycle, to plan with a result-based approach by focusing on defining measurable results, and on the methodologies and tools to achieve those results. Developing a monitoring system also helps to know whether the project is reaching the objectives or if it is necessary to adjust some actions.

Workshop - Role of Youth Volunteers: strategies for action at local level: Through the Youth Declaration and Youth Policy the RC/RC Movement recognized the great importance of building the capacities of youth as key agents for social change and economic development, and to further promote youth volunteering.



The workshop facilitated by Sarah Mallia, Humanitarian Officer at the Malta Red Cross, highlighted that, being migration a controversial and very sensitive topic, different strategies can be taken into consideration at Youth level: a non-cognitive and peer-education approach, live daily our seven Fundamental Principles and celebrate our diversities, focusing the attention on intercultural dialogue

When dealing with migration challenges, two factors have to be ensured during volunteering action: on the one hand, psychological support should be adopted in all situations to respond to the need of the people concerned, while on the other, the inclusion of migrants in humanitarian activities and programmes should be fostered.

International Humanitarian Law - legal aspects related to migrants and refugees:

The session presented by Laura Greco (Italian Red Cross) highlighted the current lack of a universal consensus on what migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and other population movements are. Such lack of consensus also leads to a lack of protection and assistance of the affected actors. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a fundamental instrument to advocate for the rights of people affected by armed conflict and their protection, and both RC/RC staff and volunteers working with forced migrants should be trained on IHL in order to provide the ones in need with a better assistance. Moreover, it is necessary to disseminate IHL and domestic law among migrants in order to let them be aware of their rights and duties.



Restoring Family Links (RFL): In conflicts and disasters, families can easily get separated from each other. Long after the disaster has struck, the separation and uncertainty about the fate of children, spouses or parents cause great anguish and pain for the family members and relatives. In order to live or rebuild a dignified life, people need to be informed of the whereabouts of missing relatives and to maintain and restore family links. Being a worldwide network, the RC/RC Movement is able to conduct widespread research of missing persons, including migrants. The work includes tracing people, exchanging family messages, reuniting families and seeking to clarify the fate of those who remain missing.



The session delivered by Koen Van Kooten (ICRC - RFL and Migration Delegate), and Andrea Pettini (Head Office of Tracing Service, RFL and Social Protection of the Italian Red Cross), underlined that the aim of RFL cannot be achieved without the support of the National Societies, which should better cooperate in order to inform the relatives about the fate of their loved ones, underlining the principle of Independence in every related action.



Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking: One of the main issues of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, as underlined by Francesca Bosco (Project Officer at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) is that they are under documented forms of violence. As vulnerabilities arise, the phenomenon grows and there are many and multi-dimensional threats, both at personal and social level, that make smuggling and human trafficking increase, such as: poverty, absence of income, employment and educational opportunities, lack of health care, social exclusion, strained relations at home, displacement by natural disasters, armed conflict, cultural biases and traditional harmful customs and practices.

In order to tackle the root causes of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, it is necessary to reduce vulnerabilities and focus on the cooperation between States as well as the dissemination of lessons learned.

Social inclusion of migrants and intercultural dialogue:

The session by Nour Oughli and Stefan Galve, researchers of the UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean of the Rovira Virgili University of Tarragona (Spain) underlined the importance of the social effects and impacts of the displacement of people and its consequences in the community of reception, as well as the role of intercultural dialogue when working towards the social inclusion of migrants.



Often, discrimination is a matter of economic issues, where migrants nowadays represent the scapegoat of the economic crisis and are perceived as dangerous for one's own welfare. Only in rare cases is the basis of discrimination due to racist reasons, as it often arises from the fear of losing one's possessions and rights. To prevent discrimination and to foster social inclusion it is important to promote the dialogue among cultures, since stereotypes and discrimination arise from the lack of knowledge of the "other", which may trigger fear.

Migrants are often perceived as a threat to cultural homogeneity. Intercultural dialogue, as intrinsically connected to migration, should be seen as a dialogue between equals. It is within cultural diversity that society grows, since no culture is isolated from others, and it is the contact between different cultures that enriches communities.

● **Mediterranean Youth Photo Contest “Youth across the borders: one click for one change”:** The CCM organize their fourth youth photo contest under the motto “Youth across the borders: one click for one change”. Youth members of the National Societies of the Mediterranean, aged 8-30, are entitled to participate in the contest, and so are youth and volunteers in the Mediterranean outside the Movement.

The photos shall be sent to photosmed@cruzroja.es in either jpg or jpeg format. The file size is limited to 1 megabyte and the size of the photo to 7 x 10 cm. The photo may be either in black and white or in colour, and it may be shot either vertically or horizontally. The CCM accepts photos until the 31st of May.



Winning photo 2011: “Running against AIDS”, de Mihailo Rakonjac;

The contest aims to represent the humanitarian values related to the fundamental principles of the movement: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality, and also promote the global campaign “Our World. Your Move”. Furthermore, it also aims to promote the concept of youth performing their role of agents of change towards shaping stronger societies and reinforcing the relations between different countries and cultures.

The outcome of the contest will be announced the 10th of June. In the selection process, the jury will look for an adequate relation between the photo and the given theme, as well as the artistic qualities, the originality, and also the ability to express the theme(s) through the photo.

The winner will participate in the youth camp Atlantis VIII to be held in Andorra the first week of July, in which the best photos of the contest will be exhibited. The second prize is a digital camera.

Rules of the contest

● **Med Youth Port@I:** The CCM presented the portal for the Mediterranean youth: MedYouth Port@I during the seminar “Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration” which was carried out in Rome (Italy) the first week of May. The platform aims at creating a space for interaction, counseling and creativity for and by youth volunteers within the National Societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. The platform will also be accessible to youth members of other organizations as well as the civil society of the Mediterranean.

Med Youth Port@I

● **Atlantis VIII:** L'Aldosa de La Massana, Andorra, will host the eighth edition of the Mediterranean Youth Camp Atlantis which will be held from the 1st to the 8th of July. This years' edition is organized by the Andorran Red Cross and the CCM, with the support of the Council of Europe and the IFRC MENA Zone, under the slogan of “Principles and values for stronger communities”.



This theme will be the object of participants' work through several workshops: "Human Rights and Environment"; "Migration and Intercultural Dialogue"; "International Humanitarian Law and Principles and Values"; "Gender and Sustainable Development", "Youth as Agent of Behavioral Change" and "Leadership Skills", among others. Participants will also have the opportunity to take part in some role-play games: "Raid Cross" on International Humanitarian Law and the "TERRA" game on environment and climate change.

Place: L'Aldosa de la Massana, Andorra

Dates: 1st July to 8th July 2012

Atlantis VIII

● **Best Practices:** The Croatian Red Cross and the “Smiling Hospital” Foundation (SHF) have been cooperating, since November 2010, in a project to ease the solitude of hospitalized children. The motto of the project is “For body and soul” and the goal is to aid children during their time of recovery. The idea of the initiative is to arrange various performances for children which include musical performances and magic tricks, puppet shows and storytelling, all aiming at improving the hospital environment in which children receive medical treatment.



The objective of the CMM is to compile best practices like the one mentioned above and create a data base for National Societies to have access to. We hope to receive more practices like the one from Croatian Red Cross, or those we already received from the Andorran Red Cross, the Red Cross of Monaco and the Egyptian Red Crescent.

‘Smiling Hospital’ Foundation

Collection of Best Practices

VOLUNTEERS CORNER



Name: Judit Batalla Odena

Age: 22

Andorran Red Cross (ARC)



●When did you start volunteering for your National Society?

In February 2004, when I did the first aid training which allowed me to start volunteering in relief.

●What is your current commitment as a volunteer?

I am currently volunteering in the departments of Youth and Communication.

●How did you hear about your National Society?

Since I was a child I saw how Red Cross volunteers carried out their work and I was impressed by their social responsibility. Then I found out that Red Cross was also present in Andorra.

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

Before becoming a volunteer, I knew that it was an international movement, mainly driven by its neutrality and by the assistance of the neediest.

●Why did you join the Andorran Red Cross?

I always liked their work and the healthy environment in which they worked, with all the principles and the responsibility that entails. When I grew up and turned the minimum age to collaborate with the entity, I decided to spend my free time helping my community.

●What has been your favorite experience as volunteer of the Red Cross so far?

The possibility to share my experiences with the volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent from other countries, both through the participation in Solferino with volunteers from all over the world, and through the collaborations between ARC and the Spanish Red Cross or the Red Cross of Monaco. My most important experience was realizing that I have a family in every place where I shared moments of work with volunteers from other National Societies.

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

It is a unique experience which I am very proud of. As time passed, being a volunteer has meant a big personal change and now I cannot imagine my life without volunteering every day. I would lose something really important to me if I were not a volunteer for the ARC.

●In your opinion, which aspects of the RC/RC Movement stand out the most?

The 7 Principles are its essence and DNA. The philosophy of action of RC/RC is something everybody respects and understands, and lots of volunteers share and defend it in our day to day practice. It is not necessary to be a RC/RC volunteer in order to identify with these principles since they are very human values that are also found in the personal values of many people around the world.



Official Name: Andorran Red Cross

Date of Foundation: December 20, 1980, member of the International Movement since November 27, 1993.

Main Programmes: ARC is organized in 7 areas which give support to the vulnerable collectives of Andorra: Training in **First Aid**; **Life Saving**; **Social programmes** (support programmes to the elders, disabled, detainees...); **Communication** and dissemination of Values and IHL. **International Cooperation**; **Public Health**; **Youth**.

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PARTNERSHIP

● **Signing of the cooperation agreement between CCM and CECU-UNESCO:** On February 1st, the CCM and the Spanish Confederation of Clubs, Centres and Federations UNESCO (CECU-UNESCO) signed a cooperation agreement to develop common programmes and actions in the Mediterranean region. The agreement was signed at the Spanish Red Cross Headquarters (Madrid), by the President of CECU-UNESCO, Mr. Francisco Javier Zulacia Leoz, the President of the Spanish Red Cross, Mr. Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, together with the Vice president of the CCM, Ms. Marta Corachán, and the Director of the UNESCO Centre of the Canary Islands, Mr. Juan José Benítez de Lugo.

The cooperation will focus on strengthening peace relations, human rights and solidarity. Moreover it aims to take joint action to ease the consequences of the economic and social inequalities in the Mediterranean region. The two organizations will also work in the development of joint projects concerning the areas of education and culture in the Mediterranean, taking into account the new social order.



[Web UNESCO](#)
[CECU_UNESCO blog](#)

● **Signing of the cooperation agreement with CP/RAC:** On December 22nd 2011, the Vice president of the CCM, Ms. Marta Corachán, and the Director of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), Mr. Enrique de Villamore, signed a cooperation agreement to promote sustainable standards of production and consumption within the countries of the Mediterranean region. Through the agreement, the two institutions consolidate their cooperation regarding issues related to environmental sustainability and climate change.

Through the years the CCM and the CP/RAC have carried out many collaborations. The CP/RAC has in fact facilitated various workshops in the Atlantis Youth Camps and has participated in several debate panels during the seminar "Water, Environment and Sustainable Human Development in the Mediterranean", organized by the CCM in 2010.



● **Workshop for facilitators of the Italian Red Cross on Strategic Aims 2020:** The Italian Red Cross, following the endorsement of its Strategic Aims toward 2020, organized a workshop aimed at establishing a nationwide network of facilitators who will provide systematic support to local branches in internalizing the National Society Strategic Aims as well as in planning related actions.



This workshop was held in Settimo Torinese (northern Italy), from the 3rd to the 5th of February in collaboration with the IFRC Europe Zone Office. 70 participants, among volunteers and staff members coming from 15 different regions of Italy, took part to the event.

Participants, divided in three groups, were trained on Fundamental Principles and underpinned values, IFRC Strategy 2020, Italian Red Cross Strategic Aims, Accountability, Planning and Project Management Cycle, among others. The methodology of the workshop was comprised of mainly interactive and practical activities, with the addition of some very useful lessons.



Participants were trained by a team of facilitators which consisted in experts coming from the Italian Red Cross, the IFRC Europe Zone Office, the National Research Council in Italy (CNR) and the CCM who, through its Desk Officer, facilitated the session on the Project Management Cycle together with the OD and Youth Action Consultant of the IFRC Europe Zone Office.

Through the multiplier effect that participants will generate, the initiative will further strengthen the Italian Red Cross branches' ability to deliver relevant services to vulnerable people and be accountable to their members, the communities they serve, as well as to donors and partners.

[Workshop: "Facilitatori obiettivi strategici 2020"](#)

● **World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day:** As every year, the 8th of May the World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day was celebrated to commemorate the birth of Henry Dunant, its founder. In a speech delivered on the occasion, IFRC Secretary General, Mr. Bekele Geleta underlined the role of Youth and their potential to bring about positive change. For this reason the motto of this year's World Day was "Youth on the Move".



The Spanish Red Cross celebrated the day through the National Society's gold medals ceremony, which was held in the Congress Palace of the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz. The Prince of Asturias, Felipe de Borbón, was appointed to deliver the medals of the Spanish Red Cross to **14 institutions, personalities and companies** as a sign of gratitude for the work carried out by and for vulnerable people.

Among the attendees were the President of the Spanish Red Cross, Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, the Spanish minister of Health, Ana Mato, as well as the First Minister of the Basque autonomous government, Patxi López. The city of Vitoria was chosen to host the ceremony of the World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day on occasion of the 140th anniversary of the foundation of the Spanish Red Cross branch in the province of Álava.

[Mr. Bekele Geleta's speech](#)

● **20th European Youth Cooperation Meeting:** "No organization is an island" has been the motto of the 20th European Youth Cooperation Meeting (EYCM), the biennial meeting of European Red Cross Red Crescent Youth leaders, hosted by the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth in Sofia, from the 18th to the 22nd of April 2012. Eighty-one representatives from 41 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies from Europe and Central Asia gathered for the EYCM.



[European Youth Coordination Committee](#)

The Youth representatives actively attended the four-day meeting and participated to the workshops in order to discuss the revision of the structure and purpose of the EYCM. The meeting ended with the approval of the new Terms of reference of the European Youth Network and with the election of the new European Coordination Committee, the body responsible for the implementation of the strategies and recommendation developed during the meeting for the next two years.

The CCM was represented through its Youth Desk who had the opportunity to connect and share experiences with the other participants, in order to strengthen the role of youth and the networking in the region.

● **Launch of the Arab Development Challenges Report 2011:** On February the 27th the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) hosted in Barcelona the launch of the Arab Development Challenges Report 2011 "Towards the Developmental State in the Arab Region".

The presentation of the report counted on the participation of the General Director of the IEMed, Mr. Andreu Bassols; the acting Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr. Lino Caerdarelli and was led by the Director of the UNDP Regional Centre for Arab States in Cairo, Mr. Paolo Lembo, together with two of the main authors of the report, Mr. Mohammad Pournik and Ms. Noha El-Mikawy.

Building on the analysis contained in the first Development Challenges Report for Arab Countries launched in 2009, the Arab Development Challenges Report 2011 argues that, as a result of poor governance mechanisms, development in the region is neither socially nor environmentally sustainable. The report also argues for an end to the politics of patronage and the adoption of a new social contract of mutual accountability between the State and citizens, highlighting the need for a revitalized State to be socially and administratively accountable and capable of supporting a more inclusive and sustainable development process.

Lastly, the report illustrates how socio economic exclusion is perpetuated in the Arab region by weak participation and weak accountability, linked to the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a few. Thus to keep developmental states socially accountable and make sure that political rhetoric is translated into action, there is need for an inclusive political structure, maintaining separation of powers amongst the judiciary, the legislative and executive branches.



[Arab Development Challenges Report 2011](#)

● Humanitarian aid for the residents of Homs and Daraa: Photos of the work of the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in response to the violence that Syria has been undergoing since March 2011. Ibrahim Malla took photos of the convoys of the ICRC and SARC, containing food and blankets, and also of the volunteers distributing supplies to the residents of Homs and Daraa. Ibrahim Malla participated in the 2010 edition of the CCM photo contest launched under the slogan "Social inclusion" and won the second prize with his photo "Desert hope".



● **High Level Movement Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in the Mediterranean:** On March 22nd and 23rd the 'High Level Movement Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in the Mediterranean' was convened in Rome, jointly called by the Italian Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC, and hosted by the Italian Red Cross at its Headquarters.

The meeting stood as a follow up of a previous one, celebrated in 2011 to discuss the crisis in North Africa and its humanitarian consequences resulting from increased migration towards Europe.

The 2012 meeting aimed at opening two main areas for discussion and dialogue among the representatives from the National Societies of Egypt, Italy, Libya, Malta, Tunisia and the IFRC, ICRC and CCM, specifically:

- discussion and review on how National Societies have dealt with migration flows since the previous meeting, including lessons learned;
- looking forward to, and strengthening the humanitarian response in the field of migrations whilst capitalizing on National Societies' experiences and the decisions made in the field of migration during the statutory meetings in Geneva.



Among the actions to be taken, it was agreed by participants that National Societies should establish focal points who will be acting as entry point for all issues related to migration in the Mediterranean area, including the aspect of Restoring Family Links. A database at Mediterranean level should also be established aiming at linking existing forums and documents related to advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy. The CCM will be in charge of this task, thus serving as a 'hub' of focal points and contacts at regional level, in close collaboration with the IFRC.

Moreover, participants agreed that the future of the platform for discussion represented by those attending the meeting, as well as those invited to participate, needs to be coordinated by the CCM who welcomed this initiative and agreed to take a lead in organizing similar meetings in the future. This task will be carried out in close cooperation and involvement of the IFRC (Europe and MENA Zone) and ICRC.

[High Level Movement Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in the Mediterranean](#)

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OPINION



International Migration and Multicultural Policies: the perspective of CECU-UNESCO

International Migration and Multicultural Policies have become a defining feature of our century. The freedom of movement has become an issue on which to work. Improve national policies in source, transit as well as receiving countries in order to manage the impact of migration on society is a common goal.

Since 1952, UNESCO has promoted studies on social and multicultural aspects of international migration. Since the very beginning, the overall aim of the UNESCO programme on International Migration has been, and still is, to promote respect for the human rights of migrants and their peaceful integration into host societies.

UNESCO, through its 'Global Migration Group' (GMG) programme, is monitoring all the actions related to migration. Furthermore, it is holding the presidency of the GMG, which aims to address the impact of climate change on migration from a new global approach in its multiple dimensions.

The Spanish Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Federations (CECU), which was founded in 1986 to share and disseminate the ideals of UNESCO, strengthens and coordinates the activities of the federations, associations, centres and clubs of UNESCO in Spain. Through its projects and activities it keeps a large number of multicultural contacts and this contributes to foster and support new forms of cultural diversity and the preservation of identities in our multicultural society.

The increase in migration in recent decades urges the pursuit of dialogue and partnerships towards action and cooperation in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The CECU advocates a participatory experience and effective associations of migrants to achieve a realistic and effective management of diversity, as well as social and cultural integration.

In 2012, the CECU seeks to fulfil the commitment made by the General Director of the UNESCO and President of the GMG, Ms. Irina Bokova, who stated that "...we will be committed to the research and promotion of public policies on migration, occurring as a result of climate change". All countries consider that this is an emerging problem; nevertheless, sufficient studies to relate climate change with the new migratory routes in the world have not yet been thoroughly carried out.

Javier Zulaica Leoz, President of CECU-UNESCO

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