

Terms of Reference

ATLANTIS VII

“Young Volunteers in Action”

Hammamet (Tunisia), July 2011



**Centre for the Cooperation
in the Mediterranean**

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ATLANTIS VII

Mediterranean Youth Camp of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies

“Young volunteers in action”

Hammamet (Tunisia). 2nd to 9th July 2011

Summary

The Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean, in partnership with the Tunisian Red Crescent will organize the seventh edition of the ATLANTIS youth camp. This event will take place in Tunisia, one week in summer of 2011 and be hosted by the Tunisian Red Crescent.

ATLANTIS is an encounter of the Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth which has been consolidated as a mandatory meeting point for intercultural dialogue and exchange of experiences in the region. Six Red Cross and Red Crescent National societies have already hosted ATLANTIS in its previous editions: the Italian Red Cross, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Syrian Red Crescent, the Red Cross of Serbia, the Moroccan Red Crescent and the French Red Cross.

For its VII edition Atlantis will be focussed on volunteering service as it is the heart of community-building. Volunteering promotes trust and reciprocity. It encourages people to be responsible citizens and provides them with an environment where they can learn the duties of democratic involvement.

Atlantis VII is meant to make more active participants as they will be better motivated, organized and supported. Young people bring much needed skills when working alongside the increasing numbers of older people. This is crucial to the intergenerational transfer of experience that is vital to both progress and stability in society. As also they contribute their time and skills regularly or occasionally in the delivery of services, in resource mobilization, administrative, governance or advisory functions.



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National Societies and so the CCM is committed to improve quality, standards, capacities and volunteer retention by creating a welcoming and socially inclusive environment. This environment means providing volunteers with training, supervision, and regular evaluation. This will enable us to operate on the much greater scale that is necessary to meet the needs and vulnerabilities that we should tackle, given our overall size, reach and potential.

Atlantis VII is being displayed in the framework of the new Strategy 2020, which aims at a better fulfilling of the potential of the Red Cross Red Crescent at all levels, and developing sustainable approaches in addressing three key areas: disasters, health risks and social exclusion. Crucially, the Strategy 2020 highlights that coping with increasing humanitarian needs also requires a change in mind-sets and attitudes on how we live, and relate to each other.

Moreover, the Strategy 2020 underlines the important of the voluntary service: “Voluntary service is at the heart of community-building. Volunteering promotes trust and reciprocity. It encourages people to be responsible citizens and provides them with an environment where they can learn the duties of democratic involvement. Volunteering within National Societies is carried out by people who are committed to the fundamental principles and motivated by their own free will without the expectation of material or financial gain. Our volunteers serve vulnerable people, and work towards a more humane and peaceful world. They contribute their time and skills regularly or occasionally in the delivery of services, in resource mobilization, administrative, governance or advisory functions. National Societies are committed to improve quality, standards, capacities and volunteer retention by creating a welcoming and socially inclusive environment”.



Thematic Context

As explained above, the 2011 edition of ATLANTIS will be focussed on topics regarding volunteering, by taking into account various issues such as voluntary activity, live solidarity, making a difference in our society, promoting social cohesion, and helping to preserve our environment. Apart from this, the need to concentrate efforts on prevention, raising awareness on topics regarding volunteering as part of promoting civic participation, empower volunteer organizations, and raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering, will also be discussed.

Volunteering is performed by a wide range of people with many levels of skills. Regional, local communities and civil society can achieve working towards an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering; empower volunteer organizations and improve the quality of volunteering; reward and recognise volunteering activities; and raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

With this Youth Camp in Tunisia focussed on volunteering we are giving more support to the 2011 International Year of Volunteers which will have an impact on the Euro-Mediterranean action for the year. People who want to help others and invest their free time in civil society can be found around the world, and with this kind of events we are giving support to each other.

There are economical, social and individual benefits brought on by the act of volunteering. 2011 is a Year for people to come together from many organizations to meet, learn and recognize the positive acts that volunteers do by coming to engage in activities to help each other and the community. Volunteering helps to build more cohesive communities, fostering greater trust between citizens and developing norms of solidarity and reciprocity that are essential to stable communities, and also cover the wholes that the state cannot fulfill.

National Societies are putting their efforts to promote volunteering and providing a range of activities in order to enhance the capacity of volunteers to deliver Red Cross and Red Crescent services. In this regards, the Tunisia Red Crescent has a large experience on this field of action, such as technical training, and awareness campaigns about climate change and public health in schools.

Considering all these premises, the Tunisian Red Crescent and the Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean have agreed to devote the 2011



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edition of the ATLANTIS Mediterranean Youth Camp of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to volunteering.

Specific context of ATLANTIS VII

Following the recommendations of the 2004 Mediterranean Conference of Cairo, the Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean assumed the organization of the yearly Mediterranean youth camp ATLANTIS. It is conceived as a common space where young volunteers from the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Mediterranean Societies can meet, exchange ideas and good practices and discuss the current humanitarian challenges.

ATLANTIS has arrived to its seventh edition, having the others been organized in Italy (2005), Turkey (2006), Syria (2007), Serbia (2008), Morocco (2009) and France (2010).

The working format in this youth camp is characterized by the interactive and participative youth exchange with theoretical contents and practical sessions. The methodology aims to create a platform for discussion and contribution between young people.

Also through Atlantis we will promote peer education methodology which has been demonstrated to be very useful in the transmission of information between young people and also workers. This is explained by the relation between two or more persons in similar situation and characteristics when is related to share information.

We also want to highlight that the latest editions of ATLANTIS (V, VI) were only focus in one specific theme. This has experienced to performed very good results. That is the reason why we propose the similar format for this 2011. Having a central topic of volunteering for the several workshops organised will offer more knowledge and will enable participants to solve doubts, as they will have access to ask and share with more detail there problems, situations or requests.



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Objective

The Mediterranean youth camp, ATLANTIS VII, will have the following objectives:

- To promote intercultural interaction and partnerships between young volunteers of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent of the Mediterranean region
- To consolidate the capacities of the young people participating in order to encourage the implementation of practical actions in terms of volunteering in each of the National Societies where they come from and to promote new initiatives and creative contributions from Youth
- To work towards an enabling and facilitating environment for develop and enhance volunteering at their own National Society and improve the quality of volunteering.

Format

Interactive and participative youth exchange with theoretical contents and practical sessions.

The methodology will be participative, dynamic and not formal with the aim of creating a platform for discussion and contribution between young people.

Six thematic workshops will be organised in regards to volunteering: young volunteer management, disaster risk reduction and volunteering, YABC (youth as agents of behavioural change), environmental education, principles and values and leadership skills. And some side events related to the target topics will be organized.

Period

2nd to 9th of July 2011

Place

Hammamet (Tunisia)



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Participants

Approximately 50 to 60 young volunteers coming from Mediterranean National Societies,; selected between those who are actively involved in the development of programmes and activities of their Youth Branch.

The requested profile of participants is RC/RC youth volunteers between the ages of 18 to 28 representing their National Societies.

The volunteers must be able to understand and express themselves in English. Additionally knowledge of French will be an asset.

Participants must be able to show a flexible attitude in an environment of intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

We expect National Societies to adopt the principle of equal ratio of male to female while selection their participants.

Facilitators

Considering the intercultural exchange character of ATLANTIS, and following a well established tradition of the preceding editions, the team of facilitators will be international and consist of experts and leaders of the Youth Red Cross and Red Crescent, with training and specific practice in the tackled subjects.

The participation of other components of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement, or external international organisations with distinctive experience regarding volunteering is appreciated as well.

Working languages

English and French

VISA requirements

All nationalities that need a visa are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible as the VISA issuing process might take a long time.



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Visibility

An invitation letter with the participation form, the programme and the terms of reference has been sent to the National Societies.

In a second phase, practical information will be delivered to the participants.

The deadline for submission of applications will be 15th of May.

The Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Tunisian Red Crescent commit themselves to disseminate the event through all the communication means at their disposal.

A CD with all the training and organization tools will be delivered to the participants at the end of the meeting.

For any further information, please, contact Enrico Di Lena

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