



Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

ACTIVITIES

- Technical Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Gaza
- Seminar on the Current Challenges on Migration
- Seminar on Water, Environment and Sustainable Human Development in Barcelona
- Seminar on Youth and Employment in Algeria

YOUTH

- Online Youth Platform
- Mediterranean Youth Camp – Atlantis VI
- Mediterranean Youth Camp – Atlantis V

PARTNERSHIP

- Technical Meeting on Climate Change
- Collaboration with the Italian Red Cross
- Workshop on Climate Change
- Med Conference: Values in Action
- Clown Camp in Sarajevo
- Anna Lindh Foundation
- European Years 2009-2010
- Sant Pau Initiative

OPINION

YABC, signed by Principles & Values Department, IFRC



Mediterranean Conference

This March, from the 16th to 19th, the Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will take place in Cavtat, Croatia. It will be organised and hosted by the Croatian Red Cross.

The Mediterranean Conference is set up by 25 National Societies of RC/RC, with the objective of strengthening cooperation and encouraging dialogue between National Societies from the region with distinct cultural and historical features.

The Mediterranean Conference is held every 3 or 4 years. The first one was held in 1980, in Belgrade. Since then, 10 Mediterranean Conferences have been celebrated.

The CCM, created in 2005, is hosting the Permanent Office of the Mediterranean Conference with its headquarters in Barcelona, as per agreed by the Mediterranean National Societies.

In this 11th Med Conference, under the slogan "**Mediterranean: Values in Action**", the Mediterranean National Societies will have an excellent opportunity for creating a link between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa in order to learn about problems facing, in one way or another, all countries in the region and to discuss how to meet these challenges and work together. At the same time, it is a chance to discuss mutual fields of activities for the region and possibilities of cooperation in meeting specific challenges, both within the RC/RC Movement and with other intergovernmental and other partners.

The topics for each Conference are being decided by the Steering Committee. For this occasion, four panels are being set up: migrants, youth, climate change and the environment, and the social effects of the world economic crisis. The panelists will present an overview of their activities, emphasizing their lessons learned and giving different proposals on how to improve response and how to contribute to the continuation of delivering more optimal Red Cross and Red Crescent services to the most vulnerable.

ACTIVITIES

● **Technical meeting on the humanitarian situation in Gaza:** This event, jointly organized with the IEMED (European Institute of the Mediterranean), aimed to raise awareness of the current humanitarian crisis in the Gaza strip. The session was divided into two-round meetings: a technical one (in which the humanitarian and social situation was discussed), and a conference, open to the general public to discuss the topic. The final purpose of these meetings was to exchange opinions and promote social dialogue about the situation in the region. Moreover, it was a good opportunity for the RC/RC to reinforce their partnerships with local humanitarian actors and to improve capacity of response when facing new social challenges in the region.

The speakers invited to the technical meeting and the open conference included the President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Mr. Younis Al-Khatib, relevant experts in the zone, academics and journalists, such as Mr. Ferran Izquierdo and Mr. Joan Roura.

Place: Barcelona (Spain)
Dates: 9th of December 2009



● **Seminar on current challenges on Migration, Murcia (Spain):** The seminar discussed current challenges of migration on both shores of the Mediterranean and attracted about 120 participants, including representatives from 17 National Societies, more than 20 national and international public and private organizations and representatives from the IFRC and the ICRC. The aim of the seminar was to provide a wide overview of the causes, effects and implementation's alternatives to the different aspects of migration and incorporating it into the daily work of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent National Societies with the community.

As a result of the seminar, an extensive report was released containing not only objectives and programs, but also the key inputs from the open discussions held, the organizational structure of the seminar, the visibility of the seminar, a participants list, and the results of surveys conducted after the meeting. It is also available at the CCM web site.

The main idea of the seminar was to strengthen the Mediterranean partnership on migration by facilitating interinstitutional work through a close collaboration between civil society and public administrations.

Location: Murcia (Spain)
Dates: 2nd and 3rd June 2009

● **Seminar on Water Environment and Sustainable Human Development:** it will take place in Barcelona next June. It will be organized by the CCM and the Environmental Department of the Spanish Red Cross and will be hosted by the Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia.

The seminar will focus on the consequences of environmental degradation and lack of access to safe water and sanitation with disproportional effects in the poorest communities. The participation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the region, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent and experts from major national and international agencies involved in the issue is expected.

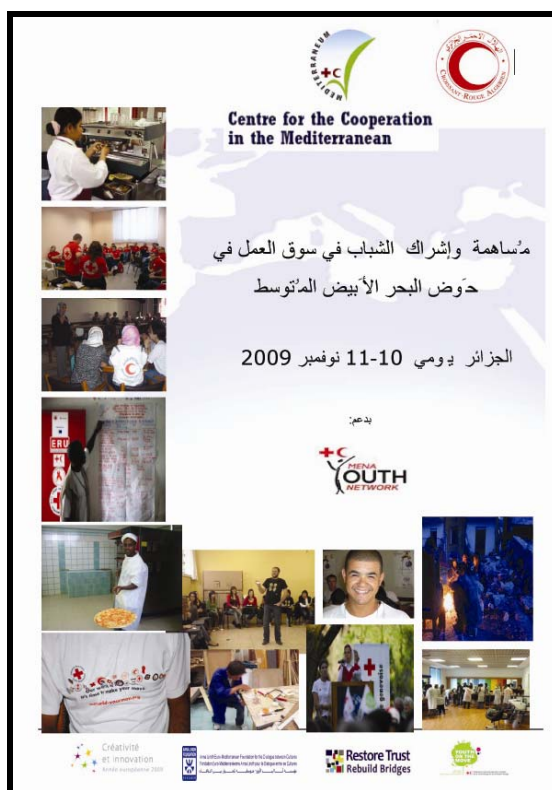
Place: Barcelona (Spain)
Dates: 29th and 30th of June 2010

● **Seminar on Youth and Employment in the Mediterranean:** The CCM, in partnership with the Algerian Red Crescent, organized a two-day seminar on Social Inclusion of Youth and Labor Market held the 10th and 11th November in Algiers. This activity is part of the RC/RC commitment to the fight against poverty. Also, it was used as a follow-up to the seminar held in 2008 in Tunisia on the issue of Employment and Social Exclusion.

The sessions focused on the difficulties experienced by young people in the Mediterranean when trying to enter the labor market and their interrelation with social inclusion. They were conducted with the participation of professionals from NNSS and other organizations with relevant experience in the programs of youth and employment such as the UNDP, the Algerian Ministry of Labor and the Barcelona City Council, among others that have helped to facilitate the coordination and partnerships among different agencies working towards common goals.

The seminar depended on the technical support of the Spanish Red Cross, both, the Social Intervention Department and the Youth Section and the collaboration of the IFRC MENA Zone. It was also developed within the framework of the Youth on the Move campaign and the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

Place: Algiers (Algeria)
Date: 10th and 11th November 2009



YOUTH

● **MED Youth Port@I Consultation Process:** as explained in the previous Newsletter, the CCM is promoting this portal with the aim of enabling a permanent and easy-to-access virtual communication platform for the RC/RC Mediterranean Youth

The Port@al has been conceived in the frame of the 2009 European Year for Creativity and Innovation, and built up on Atlantis, the Mediterranean youth camp organised annually by the CCM together with Mediterranean National Societies. The MED Youth Port@I is being set up to enhance and simplify the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences on the ongoing RC/RC Mediterranean Youth activities to encourage and strengthen the youth partnership internationally. Increasing the number of youth volunteers, improving the quality of youth programs, and enhancing the networking are among the expectations of the portal.



In June 2009, profiting from the celebration of the “Youth on the Move Encounter” in Solferino, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean launched a consultation process for the project “MED Youth Port@I”. More than 35 youth representatives from the 12 NNSS in the region participated in a side meeting organized by the CCM and expressed their commitment with the initiative. The emergent idea from the fruitful discussions was the need to enable the sharing of good practices among Youth sections and to set up thematic commissions that are able to give technical advice on several areas of the daily work of RC/RC volunteers in the region.



● **Atlantis VI:** next edition of Atlantis will take place in Marseille (France), organised by the CCM and the French Red Cross. This edition, the camp will be devoted to social inclusion, respect for the diversity and non-discrimination.

Place: Marseille (France)
Dates: last week of July 2010

● Atlantis V:

The CCM, with the Moroccan Red Crescent, organized the fifth edition of the Mediterranean Youth Camp Atlantis, with the support of the IFRC MENA Zone, the firm Abertis and the Spanish Ministry of Environment through the Spanish Red Cross - Environment Department and Youth Section. It was carried out in the frame of the European Year for Creativity and Innovation and as a follow-up to the RC/RC World Youth Encounter “Youth on the Move” held in Solferino (Italy) in June 2009.

In this edition, Atlantis was focused on climate change, the environment and sustainability themes.

The camp was attended by 69 participants, being volunteers representing 14 Med National Societies (Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Spain, Syria, and Tunisia) and the IFRC MENA Zone, and international facilitators and speakers.

The agenda included 6 workshops both in English and/or French (Sustainable Consumption: How to Make a Diffusion Video on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction: How to Carry Out an Awareness Campaign, and Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change).



Knowledge, tools, acquisition of behaviour skills, sharing of best practices, green actions and how to communicate these outputs effectively are some results of this wonderful experience.

The evaluation of the workshops was very positive. In particular, participants appreciated the methodology chosen and the interactive dynamics. Facilitators were considered highly skilled, friendly and flexible.

The final report of Atlantis V has been sent to the National Societies, sponsors, the IFRC, and is available on our website.

We would like to thank the Moroccan Red Crescent for the excellent collaboration and professionalism that ensured the achievement of the objectives.

Place: Mehdia (Morocco)
Dates: 1-8 August 2009



PARTNERSHIP

● **Technical Meeting on Climate Change:** considering the participation of the RC/RC Climate Centre as part of the IFRC delegation at the last meeting in Barcelona, prior to the UNFCCC Conference (Convention on Climate Change in the United Nations) held in Copenhagen in December, the CCM and Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia convened a meeting with the director of the Climate Centre, Mrs Madeleen Helmer.

This meeting took place on November, organized by the CMM and hosted by the Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia.

The meeting consisted of a technical encounter with Red Cross volunteers held at the Red Cross headquarters in Catalonia and was attended by about 70 staff and volunteers. The speech of the Director of the Climate Centre, was introduced by the CCM Vice-President and the President of the Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia.

Place: Barcelona (Spain)

Date: 3rd November 2009



● **Italian Red Cross Partnership:** One of the main aims of the CCM is to facilitate partnerships between youth sections on regional and sub-regional networks. The Italian Red Cross is actively supporting this objective and, therefore, has collaborated with the CCM since 2007 by providing a Youth Officer as a *staff on loan*. The Youth Desk is in charge of designing Mediterranean youth activities of the Centre, reporting on conclusions from technical workshops in the frame of Atlantis camp, developing technical tools and training initiatives and promoting the sharing of knowledge and the exchange of best practices, among other tasks.

Up to now three IRC youth officers have been collaborating with the CCM: Flavio Ronzi-2007-2008, Simona Ranalli-2008-2009 and Roberta Fusacchia since October of last year. Thank you to all of them for their commitment and excellent job and to the IRC for its great support!!

● **Workshop on Climate Change:** The council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, together with the Spanish authorities organized a workshop on "Climate Change Impact on Water-Related and Marine Risks" on October 26th-27th in Murcia, Spain. The aim of the workshop was to foster better preparedness and response for people living in European and Mediterranean areas that could be exposed to and affected by water related disasters induced by climate change.

The CCM participated in the workshop with a presentation on the Red Cross and Red Crescent action across the Mediterranean on climate change and disaster preparedness.

<http://www.coe.int/euoparisks>

● **Mediterranean Conference:** This March, the XI Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will take place in Cavtat, Croatia, and will be organised and hosted by the Croatian Red Cross.

Under the slogan "**Mediterranean: Values in Action**", the Mediterranean National Societies will discuss: migrants, youth, climate change and the environment, and social effects of the world economic crisis, in order to find out how to best meet these challenges and work together.

The draft of program is available at the CCM web site.

Place: Cavtat (Croatia)

Dates: 16th-19th March 2010



Mediterranean: values in action
Méditerranée: valeurs en action
Mediterráneo: valores en acción
الحوض المتوسطى قيم وتفاعل

● **Sarajevo Clown Camp:** The Sarajevo Clown Camp is an example of international cooperation between the Italian and the Bosnian Red Cross Youth in sharing best practices, expertise and activities. The story started in 2008 with the exchange "Torino – Sarajevo – Roma" between volunteers from Red Cross Youth of Canton, Sarajevo, and Turin.

From the 10th to the 16th August 2009, an Italian delegation of Red Cross Youth volunteers went to Sarajevo to show clownery to their Bosnian colleagues as a method of helping vulnerable people in different contexts.

Facilitators concentrated on transmitting not only the techniques, such as juggling, make-up, improvisation, and micro-magic, but, primarily, the real meaning of being a clown, the power of smiling and the magical energy of the "red nose".

"We decided to use an expressive approach to the clownery, presenting the clown as a "poet in action", a "packrat of enchanted moments". "Participants showed great commitment and enthusiasm to follow our lessons" explained Dr. Fabio Majo, Italian Red Cross Youth volunteer in charge of course direction.

"Young people of Sarajevo must live their own life, a life that has to not be poisoned by others' mistakes. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, fear is anywhere: youth can bring a new atmosphere into society" said Mr. Henry Fournier, Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sarajevo, showing his approval for the cooperation project. "Clownery is a challenging activity, because it implies creativity and poetry and it can be used in many different situations. I believe it could be useful for improving Red Cross Youth policy as well".

Bosnia-Herzegovina is a country where there is a concrete need of caring activities. Wounds of the conflict are still sadly visible not only on buildings, but also through social inequalities brought by a slow and difficult reconstruction.

This is the operational context where the young Bosnian Red Cross volunteers want to implement what they have learned with their Italian colleagues.

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● **Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF):** is an intergovernmental organization promoted by the European Commission for conducting Intercultural Dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean area within a network of 37 countries.

The CCM has been a member of the ALF since 2008 and has actively collaborated on ALF campaigns such as “1001 Actions” by promoting several activities related to intercultural dialogue and encouraging participation of RC/RC volunteers on the a “Sea of Words” campaign. The CCM has now been collaborating on the campaign “Restore Trust, Rebuild Bridges” to promote mutual knowledge and respect in the Euro-Med region.

The aims of the campaign are to revitalize confidence in dialogue by launching initiatives to promote a culture of co-existence and peace in the region.

<http://www.euromedalex.org/restoretrust>

● **EYCI:** Each year, the European Union elects a theme for a campaign aimed to raise public awareness on a specific issue. Hence, 2009 was designated the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (EYCI), with the aim to foster creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development through promotion campaigns, events, and initiatives at all levels.

The Centre for the Co-operation in the Mediterranean has been a partner of EYCI through several activities carried out in 2009 that aimed at looking for innovative RC/RC responses to face current challenges. Some examples are Atlantis V, the Youth Portal, Seminar on Youth and the Labor Market, and youth photography contest.

2010 has been elected to be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, which will be the framework in which the next edition of the youth camp Atlantis will take place, organized by the CCM and the French Red Cross in Marseille.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=637>



● **Mediterranean Camaraderie:** Barcelona is setting up an ambitious project to consolidate international organizations that are related to at the highest levels of health, international cooperation, education and social movements in the same historical space. The art nouveau enclosure of the Sant Pau Hospital is the location that has been selected for this initiative.

The pavilions built by the architect Lluís Domènech i Muntaner are currently in a restoration process with the aim to host several initiatives with the Mediterranean region as a main frame of action. The opening of an institute under the United Nations University is already confirmed. It will focus on the study of the Alliance of Civilizations. More high level contacts are in place and will be defined in the coming months.

The CCM is actively participating in the meetings, together with the representatives from universities, trade chambers, UNESCO, health and cultural organizations, European field-related organizations and city-related networks.

The encounters are leading to the setting up an international Mediterranean centre with the mission of facilitating a common working scenario for the organizations and networks operating in the region. It is meant to be a platform to give visibility to a number of initiatives and actors that are currently scattered.

According to the participants in the meetings, the camaraderie of organizations and networks will contribute to consolidating the role of Barcelona as a headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean.

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OPINION



IFRC's Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change and the CCM: A fun and productive collaboration

The IFRC promotes a global culture of respect for diversity, non-violence and peace, inter-cultural dialogue and social inclusion where human values are truly celebrated.

The Principles and Values and Organisational Development Departments in the Geneva Secretariat believe in the power of youth. Together with the IFRC Youth Commission, we thus created the initiative “**Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC)**” in April 2008. In line with the Declaration “Together for Humanity”, adopted at the 30th IC, YABC aims to empower RC/RC youth world-wide to take up a leadership role in influencing mindsets and attitudinal change in society

YABC does this concretely by equipping youth with behavioural skills such as, empathy, non-violent communication, mediation, dropping bias and non-judgment. It uses peer and “heart to mind” education and integrates creative platforms for social mobilisation. IFRC youth leaders from 42 National Societies have been working on the development of a draft skills-based YABC toolkit that was pilot-tested with 250 youth in Solferino in June 2009.

In July 2008, during the IVth Atlantis youth camp in Serbia, the P&V Department was given the opportunity to experiment with the “heart to mind” methodology in a workshop. In May 2009, the CCM, being a continuous partner of the YABC Initiative, extended its support to the organisation through the training of the YABC Solferino peer educators, which was held in Barcelona. In August 2009, the draft YABC toolkit was field-tested in the Atlantis V youth camp in Morocco. Thanks to Amelia and Simona of the CCM! We look forward to continuing this fruitful collaboration.

Looking ahead....

Until September 2010, YABC will continue to field-test the draft YABC toolkit in the Zones and RC/RC National Societies, while continuing to receive feedback. The finalised toolkit will be officially launched at the 31st International Conference in 2011.

YABC is all inclusive.... you are more than welcome to COME ON BOARD!

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