



Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

ACTIVITIES

- Seminar on Current Challenges of Migration, Murcia (Spain)
- Employment Observatory
- Awareness campaign in Algerian schools on climate change

YOUTH

- Atlantis V, Mehdia (Morocco)
- Photography contest for young people _ Environment and climate change
- Common project for RC/RC Mediterranean Youth

PARTNERSHIP

- XI Mediterranean Conference
- Training and funding opportunities for Euro-Med youth:
- Tracing and Migration Services _Italian Red Cross
- The Rome Consensus Europe Conference
- 2nd Meeting of Young Researchers around the Mediterranean
- Solferino 2009 celebrations

OPINION

SOLFERINO 2009



EDITORIAL

The XIth Mediterranean Conference is just around the corner. In the course of a week in March 2010 Croatia will stand as the meeting point of 25 different National Societies willing to define the new challenges and goals for the upcoming next three years. Thus, this year 2009 has to be considered not only as year of transition towards new objectives to be met, but also one in which to cement those projects that are still running.

In turn, since the last Mediterranean Conference held in Athens 2007 the CCM has worked in an ever-increasing number of projects, focusing on the follow-up of the last Conference lines of direction: Migrations, Youth, Millennium Development Goals, Environment and Principles & Values.

Some examples of the many events currently organized by the CCM in partnership with Mediterranean National Societies according with the Conference's priorities are the *Seminar on current challenges on Migration* to be held in Murcia, the youth camp *Atlantis V* in Morocco and the *Employment Observatory*.

At the same time, this year offers the possibility to search new ways to face future challenges. 2009 is the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, a perfect opportunity for the CCM and the National Societies to encourage and "raise awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development" as stated by the European Commission.

Thus, in order to improve the capacity and range of actions of a XXIst century International Movement, it is a must for the CCM and the Mediterranean National Societies to bet on creativity, innovation and partnership as essential principles in every volunteer's daily work.

Imagine. Create. Innovate!

ACTIVITIES

● **Seminar on Current challenges of Migration:** The CCM together with the Italian Red Cross and the support of "la Caixa" Fondation presents this international seminar, which will take place in Murcia (Spain) the 2nd and 3rd of June.

This seminar is thought as a follow up of the international meeting co-organized with the Italian RC, held in Palermo in February 2008. The Palermo meeting was structured in such to promote the exchange of experiences, especially within the perspective of migration and gender.

The seminar in Murcia is meant to function as a Mediterranean forum for dialogue on a variety of topics surrounding the current needs of migrants, all in hopes of creating a platform to spur creative key approaches to meet the updated challenges and perspectives. In other capacities, this forum is also seeking for better cooperation in both shores of the Mediterranean and mapping of creative solutions of current and future implementation' actions.

It will open the participation to a wide range of stakeholders on the field of Migration in the Mediterranean region, such as: research institutes, universities, Public administration, non profit organizations, public administrations and, of course, the International RC/RC Movement. The program is divided in three themes: The migration's reality in the Mediterranean in the present framework; Strategies and policies and Current challenges and perspectives.



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

● **Employment observatory:** Progress is needed. Of our most pressing issues to confront, poverty and social exclusion the problems thereof must take centre stage if we wish to create a more equitable world. To this end, the fight to end poverty has remained a central objective of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The UN and other international organizations, among them the International RC/RC Movement, are already approaching this key issue on a number of fronts. Poverty can be addressed with a multitude of different strategies; however, the most long term successful strategies are those adapted towards focusing on confronting poverty via employment opportunities.

Thus, the CCM is currently underway creating a comprehensive employment observatory to promote the different employment best practices as put in place by the Mediterranean NS. As suggested in the previous seminar organised together with the Tunisian Red Crescent, last June, a more transparent collective network of information and practices would further help to propel employment practices throughout the Mediterranean. In turn, this enables a more proactive and cooperative response towards to needs of the most vulnerable.

The dissemination of best practices if used and created properly, will enable Mediterranean NS to access a variety of different programs already used, or currently underway, in turn, giving them a better understand of the complexity of options presented before them.

الهلال الأحمر الجزائري
Croissant-Rouge Algérien

تغير المناخ يقتل من مخزون المياه.
Les changements climatiques réduisent les réserves en eau.

قف! عن قندير الماء.
Halle! au gaspillage de l'eau.

إن تموت الشجرة إنسان لا يموت.
La ou l'arbre meurt, l'homme ne peut vivre.

تلفحة التصحح.
Ensemble luttons contre la désertification.

تلفحة زرع الرمل طاب ان نخون المياحة حتى ان نبي الموتى لنتنضو.
Luttons contre l'avance du desert plantez chaque année plusieurs arbres chacun.

Changements Climatiques
Défis Humanitaires

تغير المناخ
تحديات إنسانية

الماء: منبع الحياة
L'eau : source de vie

CRA Tél : (213-21) 63.31.85 / 63.38.62 / 63.39.86 Fax : (213-21) 63.43.14 / 63.36.80
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● **Awareness campaign in Algerian schools on climate change:** The Algerian Red Crescent considers as more and more dangerous the effects of climate change on public health and social cohabitation and decided to take action with the technical and financial support of the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

In February 2009, the initiative of an awareness campaign on environmental issues and climate change in schools was launched. The beneficiaries of this campaign are young students from primary and secondary schools from each of the 48 territorial districts (wilayas). In accordance with the pair-to-pair training's methodology, Algerian Red Crescent's youth will be in charge of overall carrying out of the project. The latter will last 7 months and will also include reforestation's actions and school contests in synergy with the Algerian ministries of agriculture and environment and visibility initiatives.

The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean was also present at the official launch of the campaign and, given the widespread feature of this initiative, facilitated a one day long session on communitarian approach as opposite of charity's approach. This idea was also inspired by the IFRC's global campaign "Our world. Your move". Algerian Red Crescent's youth feedbacks were extraordinary: in the plenary brainstorming, many creative ideas were shared such as the one to create in each wilaya one Red Crescent's park as a place for children and young adults to meet, play and get familiar with the RC/RC principles and values.

Location: Algeria
Dates: January to July 2009

YOUTH

● **Atlantis V:** The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean in partnership with the Moroccan Red Crescent, is organizing the fifth edition of the Mediterranean youth camp Atlantis, which has become a regular meeting point for youth volunteers from the Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in the Mediterranean.



The objective of Atlantis is not only to allow young volunteers to meet and share experiences and knowledge, but also to build their capacity to be dynamic models of change within their National Societies.

This fifth edition of Atlantis will mainly be dedicated to environmental themes and will take into account issues such as the increasingly greater effects of global warming on affected populations in the Mediterranean and the active role youth can play to face this humanitarian challenge.

Atlantis V will also have the honour to be the first youth camp to include in the program the "P&V skills-based toolkit to empower youth as agents of behavioural change". This project has been developed by the P&V Department of the International Federation and will be officially launched in Solferino 2009.

Moreover, Atlantis will host an exhibition of the best pictures on environment and climate change sent by youth volunteers in the framework of the photos' contest explained in the next article.



Like in the past editions, we expect the participation of two volunteers from the Mediterranean National Societies. They will have the opportunity to enjoy a unique experience and gain consciousness of their strength within the RC/RC Movement, in a camp carried out by youth for youth.

Location: Mehdia (Morocco)
Dates: 1st to 8th August 2009

● **Photography contest for young people – Environment and climate change:** The CCM organizes a photography contest with the objective to sensitize and promote participation of the young Mediterranean people on the issue of climate change. The contest seeks to encourage members of the Youth Sections of NNSS in the Mediterranean to express their views about the changes taking place on our environment in the last years. The pictures should be treating issues like pollution, climate change, desertification, sustainable development, natural resources or any other relevant subjects.

From the CCM we consider this as a good opportunity for the young people to use creativity and artistic expression in order to seek innovative ways to change attitudes towards our environment achieving the highest diffusion. All the pictures will be published on the Centre's web page and a selection of the 15 best pictures will be exposed in the Atlantis Youth Camp 2009. The author of the best picture will be invited to participate in the V Atlantis Youth Camp that will take place in Medhia (Morocco).

We can accept pictures until the 30th of May. For the instructions on how sending the pictures, please check: <http://www.cruzroja.es/ccm>

Location: Mediterranean
Dates: May 2009



Creativity
and Innovation
European Year 2009

● **Common project for RC/RC Mediterranean Youth:** Mediterranean Youth is the greatest source of volunteers for RC/RC Movement in the area. They contribute to the humanitarian tasks in a decisive manner and with extraordinary enthusiasm and commitment. Local communities are the beneficiaries of this voluntary work as youth is naturally capable to come close to the most vulnerable and work together with them on their needs. This tight local relationship with their community sometimes risks making them loose another as much important aspect of their voluntary service: the feeling of being part of an international and global humanitarian Movement. As for Mediterranean youth, this also means having the consciousness to belong to a basin of cultures and traditions which have kept on meeting and exchanging during history. The Mediterranean youth camp Atlantis, organized every year by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, was right conceived as a place of encounter and intercultural dialogue for RC/RC Mediterranean youth. Now, time has come to make a step further and work on a common project able to structure this dialogue on a permanent base. For this reason, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean has in mind to launch an on-line platform the "BazarMed" for RC/RC Mediterranean youth through which they will be able to exchange ideas, experiences and information on their ongoing activities. More detailed information about this common tool will be shared on the next numbers of our newsletter.

Location: Mediterranean
Dates: 2009_2010

PARTNERSHIP

● **XI Mediterranean Conference:** *The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of the past and the next host country (chair), National Societies members of the Federation's Governing Board and of the Centre for the Cooperation in the with its Office in Barcelona. It is enlarged with supporting representatives from other Mediterranean National Societies who offer expertise and advice in planning the Conference.*

Members of the Mediterranean Regional Conference Steering Committee and supporting representatives convened three times in November 2007 and in May and November 2008. It was proposed and accepted that the next Conference would be organized March 16 – March 21 in Cavtat, a small town near Dubrovnik. Accommodation facilities and translating services are prearranged.

The goal of the conference is to further promote cooperation, encourage and intensify dialogue among National Societies from this culturally and historically distinctive region. National societies will be urged to participate proactively and contribute to a successful meeting.

In 2008 a questionnaire has been sent by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean to all 25 recognized Societies to compile a follow up of the previous Conference organized in Athens and facilitate decision about the agenda and the topics for the next Conference. Taking into account the results of the survey and proposals of the Steering Committee participants, it has been decided by consensus that the topics of the 11th Mediterranean Conference will comprise:

- Migrants- as this is one of the wide-spread phenomenon in the whole region
- Climate and environmental change with the emphasis on what needs to be done with the current situation rather than what will be
- Social issues-poverty reduction, public health, drug abuse
- Youth –setting up the Mediterranean Youth Council

Well prepared presentations of the topics will contribute to lively and fruitful discussions both during official meetings as well as during unofficial gatherings.

Location: Cavtat (Croatia)

Dates: 16th-21st March 2010

● **Training and funding opportunities for Euro-Med youth:**

As you may already be aware, the European Commission launched the new "Youth in Action" program for 2009. This program is mainly aimed at European youth, even though youth coming from Mediterranean countries other than European could also take advantage of some of the included actions. Specifically, this is the case of the "European Voluntary Service" and the "Youth exchanges with neighboring countries". Find more info at: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc443_en.htm

Besides, the SALTO-YOUTH (Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities) Euro-Med Resource Centre of the European Commission published its planned training courses for 2009. These are great learning opportunities aimed at Euro-Med youth. All fees will be covered for selected candidates, so check it out your chances at the following link: <http://www.salto-youth.net/tceuromed2009/>.

The Euro-Med Youth IV program will be hopefully launched in the second half of 2009. The first call for proposals should be published by the end of the year. Be prepared and keep updated at <http://www.euromedyouth.net/>. Good luck!



● **The strategic action in the Mediterranean of Italian Red Cross – Tracing and Migration Services:**

Due to its geographical position in the Mediterranean, Italy is in the front line to face the migration phenomenon. According to its auxiliary status in the humanitarian services, the Italian Red Cross (IRC) does not escape its responsibilities toward the most vulnerable individuals and has taken action since 2005 through its project "Praesidium".

With the support of the ARGO program of the European Commission, and in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UNHCR and the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Praesidium operates in the Lampedusa first aid and reception centres to help consolidate the migratory flows' reception capacity. In particular, the IRC, through its Regional Committee in Sicily, is engaged in providing health care and assistance, and in spreading *ad hoc* information and guidance materials in 8 different languages, with particular attention to women and minors. Moreover, as for minor migrants, the IRC made available its centres all over the country, such as the Jesolo training centre, to face the first aid and reception centres' overcrowding emergency and take care of minor migrants through the extraordinary work of its volunteers. In the framework of its activities in support of migrants and refugees, the IRC pushes for more and more coordinated protection initiatives.



The IRC's Tracing Service is engaged in searching new instruments tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable. This is why, following the conflict in the Gaza strip, it has put into operation an "emergency tracing service" specifically aimed at Palestinian families in Italy, counting on the synergic coordination with the IRC's delegation in Palestine and the ICRC representative in the area. The effectiveness of such an initiative has already been tested in the occasion of the still persisting humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when the *ad hoc* "emergency tracing service" was highly appreciated by the Congolese community in Italy.

A. Pettini, Head of Tracing, Restoring Family Links & Migration Office
<http://www.crisicilia.it/mondocultura/praesidium/index.html>

- **Solferino 2009:** celebrations taking place in June in Solferino, northern Italy, will see the presence of 186 National Societies and about **7,000 RC/RC volunteers** from all around the world, to celebrate **150 years since the birth of the International Movement**.

A 200,000 square meter campsite is to host the participants and will include all necessary logistical arrangements from welcome services, to accommodation, to meals, to security services. The camp will also serve as a platform for showcasing, through simulations, workshops, exhibits and drills, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at work.

In January 2009, the Italian RC launched the official website at <http://www.solferino2009englishversion.cri.it/>. It provides background and practical information about the events, news, an online registration system to the “**Youth on the move**” and the **Humanitarian Village**, the two main events within the celebrations, documents, pictures and videos.

Location: Solferino (Italy)

Dates: 23rd to 28th June, 2009

- **The Rome Consensus Europe Conference:**

Established in 2007 and now comprising 115 National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Rome Consensus acts as a catalyst for the RC/RC Movement to promote public health oriented drug policy and implement corresponding programmes. The RC/RC World Congress on Humanitarian Drug Policy (Barcelona, March 2008), co-organized by the Centre for the Co-operation in the Mediterranean, highlighted the need to tackle the specificities of each regional zone. One of the outcomes has been the development of the *Rome Consensus Europe* initiative in order to develop innovative solutions to Europe’s drug challenges.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF DRUG USE IN EUROPE

Rome Consensus Europe Conference
Madrid 26-27 March 2009



The *Rome Consensus Europe* Conference, an initiative supported by the European Commission and the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS – formerly known as The Senlis Council), has been hosted in Madrid by the Spanish Red Cross on the 26-27 March 2009. The *Rome Consensus Europe* Conference has brought together National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Europe, European Union institution representatives and other leading practitioners to exchange best practices in prevention, treatment and care, and explore concrete ways for National Societies to contribute to drug policy responses in Europe.

- **2nd Meeting of Young Researchers around the Mediterranean:**

The **2nd Meeting of Young Researchers around the Mediterranean** will be held in Oran, Algeria on 2-4 June. The UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean of the University Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona will organise once again this event with the collaboration of the Université d’Oran Es-Senia, the CRASC and the AUF, and with the support of AECID.

As in the previous edition, which was held in Tarragona (Spain), the Meeting aims at providing a space for reflection and exchange for young researchers. It will also give them the opportunity to publish their research work and have experts in the corresponding areas assessing them.

Furthermore, this time the meeting will also be the framework of the presentation of **MEDYRE – Euromed Young Researchers Network**.

All the information is available at <http://www.medyre.org>

e-mail: mediterraneo@cruzroja.es

OPINION



SOLFERINO 2009 CELEBRATIONS

In June 2009, some **7000 volunteers** from all 186 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies will gather in Solferino, Italy, to celebrate an historical landmark for the International RC/RC Movement: **150 years since the birth of the idea of Red Cross on the occasion of the Battle of Solferino**.

Several high-profile events will take place from **23 to 28 June, 2009:** the “**Youth on the move**”, 3rd World Red Cross Red Crescent Youth Meeting, a **Humanitarian Village**, the well-known **Fiaccolata** and a “**Journey of an idea**” from **Solferino to Geneva**.

The celebrations will be not only an occasion to commemorate the past actions of the Movement, but will also provide a global stage for the re-launch and reinforcement of the Movement’s humanitarian mandate for the next years, by reminding the world of the power that one person and one Movement do have to significantly ameliorate the lives of the most vulnerable.

In a world more and more devastated by environmental, humanitarian, social and sanitary emergencies, youth volunteers in particular must play a key role in tackling present and future global challenges and bringing relief to the lives of vulnerable people worldwide. Within and outside the International Movement of RC/RC, youth are indeed the protagonists of social change, the engine of progress and advancement, the hope of humanity for future generations.

The gathering in Solferino is expected to garner significant media attention. It will be part of a wider celebration, backed by a global communications campaign to be launched in 2009, under the slogan “**Our world. Your move**”. The Campaign will call for action on poverty, food security, climate change, health emergencies, disaster preparedness, community health, and armed conflict and will be jointly led by the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

<http://www.solferino2009englishversion.cri.it/>



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