



## Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

### ACTIVITIES

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- Mediterranean Youth Photo Contest on social inclusion
- Mediterranean Exchange on social inclusion

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- European Year Photo Contest
- World Blood Donors Day

### OPINION

**Believing in Change**, signed by Aitor Murciano, National Director of Spanish Red Cross Youth



### Water and Conflicts

Water is becoming worldwide, and the Mediterranean is no exception, a source of conflict and clashing interests. As to water scarcity, we must keep in mind a number of issues.

First of all, the close relationship between environmental degradation and the ecosystem, along with the lack of water leads to imminent food security.

On the other hand, we are living a moment of human history in which we expect more extreme weather events, that will inevitably increase the occurrence of natural disasters. As a result many people experience a decrease in their availability of potable water. This has very important consequences on human development.

The debate on water management is also still open, especially as to the recovery cost in relation to its distribution

This brief synopsis of the situation aimed at highlighting the fact that water is increasingly becoming a matter of emphasis and concern in many parts of the world that live in fear of its scarcity, with particularly in the Mediterranean Basin, where conflicts over the issue are relevant throughout the region.

Therefore, the awareness and environmental education campaigns on responsible consumption and efficient use of this as scarce commodity represent one of the central matters of action of Red Cross and Red Crescent, especially by young people as agents of positive behavioural change.

## ACTIVITIES

● **Seminar on water and environment:** The CCM and the Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia have organised the international seminar “Water, environment and sustainable human development in the Mediterranean” in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Environment, the City Council of Barcelona, the MENA Zone of the IFRC, the *Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production*, the Department of Environment of the SRC and the “la Caixa” Foundation.

The seminar took place in Barcelona in the conference hall of the Caixa Forum.

The objective was to create spaces for reflection and debate about the water crisis and possible alternatives based on different visions and areas of responsibility.

Around 140 people have participated, from 15 National Societies of the RC/RC in the Mediterranean and other organisations. Different experts from: MENA and Europe Zones of the IFRC, and public and private organisations at national and international level have intervened in the five sessions of the seminar: Strategies and policies; Water, habitat and health, Global change and climate change; Environmental education and sustainable consumption, and Water and vulnerability.

The sessions and debates highlighted that water scarcity, environmental degradation and climate change are interconnected and that they depend on the model of development carried out by human beings. This reality is especially relevant in the Mediterranean area, where high environmental risks exist; evident economic and social inequalities persist, and where the projections of climate change show us a region dramatically suffering from an environmental, social and economic point of view.

During these days of seminar we realised that we are still in time to alleviate the magnitude of negative impacts of the projections. And therefore we need to achieve a sustainable development, which includes a change of behaviour, a change on our culture of consumption and on our relationship with natural resources.

The world is changing. And from the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement we are working to slow down the negative effect of these changes. We need to change minds and behaviour and focus on the social and economic impact of environmental challenges.



Moreover it was shown Water is a fundamental right and a basic tool for a sustainable development in the Mediterranean. And it was highlighted that we need a Mediterranean strategy for water and sustainable development which frames the action that can be carried out as much by the Red Cross as by other public and private institutions.

Place: Barcelona

Dates: 29th and 30th of June

[water and environment](#)

● **Mediterranean Photo Contest:** The CCM has organized the **2nd Photo Contest for Youth in the Mediterranean** which was launched during XI Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent, celebrated in Cavtat, Croatia.

In the framework of this very special *Year of Fighting against Poverty and Social Exclusion* and in the framework of the *IFRC Strategy 2020*, we had the opportunity to count on a great participation of Youth from the region, committed to promote the Humanitarian Values of Red Cross and Red Crescent and raise awareness towards the most vulnerable part of the population within the region.



Winning photo by Maria José Trapiello

From the 65 photos received, a selection of 15 photos was made regarding technical requirement and attending the rules of the contest. A Jury took the decision of the winners. It was set up by: Departments of Youth, Communication, Social Intervention and International Department of the Spanish Red Cross; the Art Commission of Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia; the French Red Cross, the Croatian Red Cross, the Hellenic Red Cross and our Centre.

The first prize, “Sea of dreams”, has been for Ms. Maria José Trapiello Suárez (Spain), and the second for “Desert Hope”, by Ibrahim Malla (Syria)

The winner is invited to participate at the Youth Camp Atlantis VI which will take place in Grans, France, organised by the CCM and the French Red Cross, this summer. The second prize will be a digital camera.

All selected and awarded photos will be exhibited during the Youth Camp Atlantis VI, in Grans. They will also be uploaded to the CCM web page.

[Photo contest](#)

● **Mediterranean Exchange on Social Inclusion:** In the frame of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and RC/RC Strategy 2020, at the end of November a Mediterranean Exchange will take place in Madrid and Valencia (Spain). Organized by the CCM in collaboration with the Social Intervention Department of the SRC, it is meant to be a scenario where to share best practices, highlighting the importance of partnership when dealing with issues such as Migration, Employment, Gender, Childhood and the Elderly. Promoting humanitarian values throughout the Mediterranean area is the objective to be accomplished.

Place: Spain

Date: 29 November-3 December

[Mediterranean exchange](#)



## YOUTH

● **Atlantis VI:** The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, in collaboration with the French Red Cross has organized the sixth edition of the Mediterranean Youth Camp, Atlantis, which has become a reference meeting point for young Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers. The aim was not only to enable young volunteers to meet and share experiences and knowledge, but also to support youth to become agents of change within their national societies.

For this reason Atlantis VI brought together young people between 18 and 28 years with a specific role within their National Societies. Atlantis was structured as informal platform as well as a forum for discussion and exchange of experiences through workshops, and theoretical and practical sessions.

This year the camp focused on Social Inclusion in line with the *IFRC Strategy 2020* and the *2010 European Year of combating poverty and social exclusion*. Throughout the whole week sessions were conducted in relation to youth and employment, sustainable environment, migration, principles and values and leadership skills through the methodology YABC, as well as activities aimed at the experiences of other Mediterranean young people.

68 young people from 18 Mediterranean National Societies, as well as the IFRC MENA and Europe Zones Offices, participated. The camp took place in Grans, near Marseille, in France.

The workshops were taught by international speakers from different organizations, such as: the European Institute of the Mediterranean, UNESCOcat, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, IFRC Department of Principles and Values and the CCM.

Moreover, in its sixth edition, Atlantis counted on the support of the IFRC MENA Zone and the firm Abertis.

Place: Grans, France

Dates: July 24<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>



[Atlantis VI](#)

● **Seminar on Youth Leadership:** Aimed at Youth Coordinators, will be organized by the CCM and the Palestine Red Crescent, with support from the IFRC Zone MENA. Some of the topics covered in the seminar will be: international humanitarian law, project management, communication, teamwork, conflict resolution, community work, principles and values, among others. Participants will include young volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent and other Mediterranean National Societies. After the meeting participants are expected to be able to apply the knowledge gained at national level to strengthen their structures of Youth.

Location: Ramallah, Palestine

Date: 20-27 September

[Youth leadership](#)

● **Mediterranean Youth Exchange on Blood Donation:** From May 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> Barcelona held an exchange of experiences between youth of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Mediterranean with the aim of sharing good practices and strengthening public health networks, blood donation and prevention of disease transmission and HIV/AIDS.

For a week the participants went on technical visits, workshops, exchange of experiences and role dynamic. The technical visits included the Blood Bank of the Valle de Hebron Hospital, the University Attack from the UAB, and the HIV/AIDS prevention project of the *Centre Jove d'Anticoncepció i sexualitat*. We would like to emphasize the workshops held with the young people, in order to analyze the role of the youth in global campaigns on donating blood, and working on leadership skills to promote the role of youth as social agents for change.



As a result of the intense days of work the young participants produced a final document which highlighted the ability to share both knowledge and experience of the 13 participating NSs, thus opening the way for new cooperation between the NSs of RC/RC. Among the different activities carried out the youth participants emphasized the knowledge to prevent HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, practical workshop of a blood donation campaign and the activities of the Youth Red Cross project on risk reduction in drug use SOMNIT.

Also at the event, the participants committed themselves to know and use the methodology YABC (youth as agents of behavioural change), to continue the initiative of the Club of 25 and apply it in their respective youth sections and to advocate for blood donation launching a joint campaign in the frame of the World Blood Donors Day 2011 and keep in touch through electronic networks for sharing thereby initiatives.



Place: Barcelona, Spain

Dates: May 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

[Youth exchange on blood donation](#)

## PARTNERSHIP

### ●Youth on the move climate change initiative:

According to the commitments of the 2009 Solferino Youth Declaration and the commitment of the IFRC to empower young people, an initiative has been launched regarding climate change of two years' duration. Its aim is to promote participation of Red Cross Red Crescent youth in order to enhance their voice and advocate for greater support in helping vulnerable communities adapt to climate change impacts.



To meet this objective, there will be a contest that seeks to identify and select ten young volunteers from around the world to act as spokespersons for the Red Cross/Red Crescent at the UNFCCC Climate Conference to be held in Mexico in December 2010. To be prepared for this experience, the ten spokespersons will be offered professional advocacy training in November.

From July 15<sup>th</sup>, young volunteers wishing to participate in this initiative can send their presentations. Participants must be between 18 and 25. To be effective advocates they should be aware of the challenge of climate change. Youth can participate in many different ways including sending pictures with captions, brief videos to highlight the differences achieved in their communities, or written accounts of what they are doing in their local context.

More information: [www.ifrc.org/youth/climatechange](http://www.ifrc.org/youth/climatechange)

●Green Shots award: The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of United Nations has launched the *Green Shots* award to select the best ideas on sustainable consumption, turn them into animated videos or *Green Shots* and distribute them broadly.

The 10 best ideas will be presented at the ECOMEDA Green Forum in November in Barcelona, and the winner will travel to the Earth Summit in Rio+20 in 2012.

More information: [www.greenshotawards.org](http://www.greenshotawards.org)



●Solferino 2010: From 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June a yearly meeting was organized by the Italian Red Cross in Solferino. The goal of this event is to remember the millions of volunteers working through the Values that inspired the work of Red Cross Founder, Henry Dunant, and the renewal of a strong and proactive action to meet the challenges of the future. Fittingly for the natural disaster the theme of this year has been *Solferino 2010 for Haiti*.

Solferino have had participation from volunteers around the world, from over 20 RC/RC National Societies and have included different activities, such as: a Summer Youth Camp with four working topics; a National Meeting of Representatives of the Youth Council, a workshop for the analysis of the emergency response operation to the earthquake in Abruzzo; a training on international humanitarian law, a meeting on "Youth as Agents of Change" and, finally, a camp of the National School held June 28 to July 12.

Location: Solferino, Italy

Date: June 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>



●Congress Ortho Mare Nostrum: On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October will take place in Barcelona IV International Mediterranean Congress of Orthopedic Surgery (Ortho Society Mare Nostrum). The aim of this conference is to facilitate communication and sharing of knowledge between specialists in the field of Mediterranean medical societies.

The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, as an agent of the Mediterranean region has been invited to organize a round table in the frame of the opening session of the Congress, in order to present the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the medical response face to emergencies.

Place: Barcelona

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October

More information: [orthomarenostrum2010](http://orthomarenostrum2010)

●World Blood Donors Day: On 14 June, Barcelona hosted the World Blood Donors Day. To celebrate, several activities were organized, with the participation of the Spanish Red Cross and the regional Assembly in Catalonia, among others: a human mosaic in a drop of blood, by donors and volunteers, the performance of *castellers* (human towers groups), a show at the fountain of Montjuic, a free concert and institutional events between organisations attending the celebration and local and regional authorities.

For its part, the CCM with SRC in Catalonia hosted a Mediterranean youth exchange on blood donation, as part of the global campaign.



●**Euro-Med Youth Platform:** The Euro-Med Youth Platform contributes to the implementation of the Youth in Action Program of the European Commission. Its objectives are to have young people from the Mediterranean region work together, support the building capacity of youth organizations, increase their participation, and promote exchanges of information and best practices. This platform provides support in finding partners and networking of institutions, and other program information about Youth in Action and Euro-Med Youth programs.

The CCM has collaboration with the platform in various areas. On the one hand, Ms. Marvic Debono, Head of Platform programs, participated in the XI Mediterranean Conference, held this March in Cavtat, Croatia, to present the basic lines of action.

Moreover, the CCM has been invited to the conference organized by the Platform "Our White Sea II" whose first edition was held in 2009 and covered the topics such as the role of institutions in the development of youth policies and organizational management projects.

More information: [euomed platform](#)

●**Red Cross World Day:** On May 8 the World Day of Red Cross and Red Crescent was celebrated worldwide. In the *Circo Massimo* in Rome, the Italian Red Cross organized various activities to inform about the work of the Red Cross.

Through drills; participants had the chance to know the job of the water rescue, the canine unit and emergency with special means unit.



Photo by: Claudio Vitale

Free health checks were carried out, as well as first aid workshops and a photo of the major ItRC humanitarian interventions. Younger children, including 18 Haitian children hosted by ItRC, enjoyed performances and clown entertainment.

[Italian Red Cross](#)

●**European Year Photo Contest:** Under the 2010 *European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion* the Socialist Group in the Committee of the Regions is organizing the third edition of its European youth photo contest under the theme "In search of solidarity." This contest is an opportunity for youth to reflect on the concept of solidarity and to propose concrete solutions in the fight against poverty.

Winners will also be rewarded with semi-professional photographic equipment, will be invited to a meeting of the Committee of the Regions in September at a conference on added value of the European Union. Their photos will be displayed in an exhibition as well.

More information: <http://www.pes.cor.europa.eu/>

## OPINION



### Believing in change

That "youth is no longer what it used to be" is a fact. In one of those fads that never cease to exist, they tend to be negative to the image of youth, drawing a crisis beyond the economic: a tendency to have a crisis of values.

Although there exist as many realities as there are people it is true that there is a reality to be changed. Because of this, there are many youth organisations that struggle to survive in an environment that does not make it easy to emancipate ourselves or have a decent job. But this same youth is giving an answer, a responsible answer; to the problems we lived through in our childhood and that we do not want reproducing when we are capable of changing them.

Thousands of young volunteers spend entire evenings trying to change a very close reality, that of their surrounding neighbourhood. The centres of social mediation, such as recreational centres and, generally speaking, places where child and youth participation projects are in development, become a melting pot where all the pieces are joined together to return to order, thereby creating a new image. This is why young volunteers feel that subtle changes signify large steps for the people who tomorrow will decide which neighbourhood or environment they will want to have.

It is here where the young volunteers feel particularly comfortable: giving a twist to what seems hard to believe, breaking models, tearing down roles and verifying false assumptions; promoting healthy behaviours, providing school support, or just playing with the last piece of plastic that remains there alive. Finding a place where time stops, society offers opportunities; all can be restarted or changed and YOU, you can have fun again.

The combination is not so strange, nor so hard to find: a young person with values (yes, values) willing to change things and who knows that his/her time is the most important asset in achieving the objective to **change things**.

The youth Red Cross volunteers continue believing in the children with whom we work. We continue to believe that change is possible and that volunteerism is the best tool to reach them, with education being the best ally of course.

Pythagoras says: "Educate the children and it will not be necessary to punish men." Because.... urgent things are not always the most important...

Aitor Murciano, National Director, [Spanish Red Cross Youth](#)

e-mail: [mediterraneo@cruzroja.es](mailto:mediterraneo@cruzroja.es)

Av. Portal de l'Angel,7, 4th floor · Office J-K · 08002 Barcelona (Spain) · Fax: +34 93 30 20 75

With the support of:



Phone: +34 93 302 15 85  
[www.cruzroja.es/ccm](http://www.cruzroja.es/ccm)