

*Terms of Reference*

**ATLANTIS VIII**  
**“Youth across the borders:  
Principles and Values  
for stronger communities”**

**Andorra, 1-8 July 2012**



**Centre for the Cooperation  
in the Mediterranean**

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**Mediterranean Youth Camp of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

**ATLANTIS VIII**

**"Youth across the borders: Principles and Values for stronger communities"**

Andorra, 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**SUMMARY**

The Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM) together with the Andorran Red Cross will set up the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Atlantis Youth Camp. This event will take place in Andorra, during the first week in July 2012 and will be hosted by the Andorran Red Cross. In compliance with its main purposes, the CCM will be the link and interface between participating National Societies. The event will also count on the support of the IFRC MENA Zone and the European Youth Foundation, the fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide support for youth activities in the European context.

The Atlantis Youth Camp has consolidated itself as a mandatory meeting point to bring young volunteers together from across the region and to empower them to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and to counteract stereotypes and discrimination. Its overall objective is to use intercultural dialogue as a tool to build young volunteers' capacities as agents for positive change within multicultural societies. Seven Red Cross and Red Crescent National societies have already hosted the Camp in its previous editions: the Italian Red Cross, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Syrian-Arab Red Crescent, the Red Cross of Serbia, the Moroccan Red Crescent, the French Red Cross and the Tunisian Red Crescent.

Atlantis Youth Camp **aims to be a melting-pot for cross cultural exchange and dialogue, a valuable opportunity to share experiences beyond the borders.** This event will gather the Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth around a common focus: **the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles (Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality) and Values (the protection of life, health and human dignity; the respect for the human being; non discrimination; mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace among people; service by volunteers)** as a basis of youth behavior in benefits of their community. These Principles and Values will be the connecting thread of the workshops and extra activities.

By applying the above mentioned Principles and Values in their work with communities and vulnerable groups, Red Cross Red Crescent Youth can be a catalyst for change and make a difference in the way people behave towards each

other, becoming promoters of a culture of respect for diversity, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, equality and peace.

The event aims to be **dynamic, participative, practical and useful** so that participants will be able to hand over their knowledge to their peers within their community. The workshops will be based on a learning process which stimulates creativity, active participation and initiative and they will be facilitated by international experts.

The Atlantis Youth Camp is being displayed in the framework of the **Strategy 2020** of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, 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, and culture of non-violence and peace.

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 on how we relate to each other. Moreover the Atlantis Youth Camp wants to fulfil the vision of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as defined by its Constitution (*Article 4, version 2007*): *inspire, encourage, facilitate, and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.*

Moreover, the **11<sup>th</sup> RC/RC Mediterranean Conference** emphasized the need to mobilize human resources, especially young people, as actor of behavioural change to strengthen the dialogue with governments and to promote humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy so as to change mentalities towards a more encompassing social inclusion of those who are the most vulnerable.

In this context, the **Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM)**, as the permanent office for the follow-up of the Mediterranean Conference, is organising the Atlantis Youth Camp with the aim of building the capacity of young people and supporting their work in order to create a common strategy to promote a culture of peace, understanding and non discrimination.

## ACTION FRAME

### 1. RC/RC framework

The general motto of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** “saving lives and changing minds”, in the scope of Strategy 2020 acquires special relevance in the Euro-Mediterranean region due to the recent events which have affected and are still affecting its countries. The region is experiencing economic crisis, climate changes, environmental degradation, social instability, population movements, new vulnerabilities and social exclusion. In this context the RC/RC have to deal with unpredictable circumstances and maybe more than ever their Principles and Values have to be stressed to advocate in favour of the increasing number of vulnerable people.

The IFRC encourages RC/RC National Societies to tackle vulnerabilities and highlights the fundamental role of young people, as intercultural ambassador and peer-to-peer facilitators, promoting youth empowerment in order to let youth lead and participate in their community.

IFRC Strategy 2020, in its strategic aim 3 – *promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace* - underlines the importance of promoting the practical application of the Fundamental Principles: “We advocate for a wider understanding and fuller, practical application of our Fundamental Principles. In the context of our mandate, we promote social inclusion through all our activities and services. We promote behavioural skills to communicate, mediate and diffuse tensions in a peaceful manner. We actively counter social prejudice, and encourage tolerance and respect for the many different perspectives that are to be expected in a diverse world. That includes advocacy on the adoption of non-violent approaches to bridging these differences and pre-empting violent conflict”.

The **Mediterranean Conference** of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which convenes 25 National Societies who have historical or geographical link with the Mediterranean, creates a link between countries of Europe, Middle East and North Africa and aims at strengthening cooperation and encouraging dialogue between National Societies from the region with distinct cultural and historical features, contributing to the fulfilment of the International RC/RC Movement’s purposes.

The mission of the **CCM** is to facilitate the follow up on the resolutions of the Mediterranean Conference, specifically as regards the Dubrovnik Declaration stemming from the last Conference held in Croatia in 2010 and which tackles the role of youth; environment and climate change; the social effects of the world economic crisis; assistance and protection to migrants: all interrelated areas in which youth play a fundamental role.

Some of the most remarkable points compiled in the **Dubrovnik Declaration** emphasize:

- “the principle of respecting diversity, tolerance, peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent who have different histories, cultures and ways of functioning”;
- “the need to Mobilize human resources, especially young people as actors of behavioural change”;
- the commitment to “reinforce the role and the action of youth as the key factor in social change and development”;
- the commitment to “secure respect through diversity and social inclusion within our Movement in order to set an example for others in the domain of humanitarian action”;
- the need to “promote specific programmes which favour social inclusion of young people and which reduce risks related to marginalization and social and health calamities”.

With this in mind, CCM’s strategic lines for 2011-2014 focus on the capacity building of youth, the promotion of intercultural dialogue, the setting up of technical tools and on strengthening partnerships.

By building the capacity of young people to establish networks, engage in intercultural dialogue and use technical tools, the Atlantis Youth Camp has been designed as the key tool to deliver the strategic lines above mentioned and aid Mediterranean National Societies in the implementation of the recommendations of the Dubrovnik Declaration for the profit of the most vulnerable in the community.

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## 2. International framework

The international community is concerned about the arising number of new vulnerabilities and emphasizes the role that youth may have in making a difference by taking up a leading role in positively influencing mindsets, attitudes and behaviours in their local communities.

The **United Nations** has long recognized the importance of investing in youth. In 1995, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to guide national and international action to create an environment in which young people can flourish and develop their potential to the fullest. It recognizes that investments which target the large numbers of young people today will not only improve the wellbeing of a large generation of young people, but will also produce long-lasting benefits for the social and economic development of countries and regions.

Indeed, the ability to achieve several of the **Millennium Development Goals** is directly linked to the progress in empowering young people. Youth are among the most vulnerable of all persons the Millennium Development Goals aim to reach. Whether it is poverty, hunger, lack of education, maternal mortality,

unemployment, environmental degradation or HIV/AIDS, the impact on young people can be far greater than on their older counterparts. This is because many young people often lack access to information, schooling, social influence and basic rights, and are often overlooked in national development agendas. Therefore, young people's participation and inclusion in efforts to achieve all of the goals are crucial to ensure a successful and sustainable outcome.

The **European Commission** recognizes the importance of "developing youth's 'social capital' as a priority for their own empowerment in order to provide them with the wings to fly by themselves and to ensure enough social and political cohesion for the ground in which they are to plant their roots. Most young people will develop social capital by themselves. The role of institutions is to help create opportunities by encouraging youth civil society organisation or collective endeavours, to engage youth in their governance processes and to help those who encounter material, cultural or social obstacles to overcome them. Personal strength comes from the stability in social and civic life acquired through the set of rights and obligations granted to citizens. While national citizenship remains the more meaningful concept to them, it may be useful to consider extending the rights linked to European citizenship to non nationals who have been residing in the EU but are not yet in a position to obtain a national citizenship. The basis for being an active citizen is a sense of belonging which is acquired by living the experience of exchange and responsibility. Initiatives of youth councils taken at local and national level create advances in this field"<sup>1</sup>

The **Council of Europe's** youth policy aims at providing young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

One of the priorities of the Council of Europe is "Living together in diverse societies". This priority is focused on two strategic elements: empowering young people to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and cooperation and preventing and counteracting all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and extremism.

In this frame, the campaign "All different- All equal" (2006- 2007) is one example of the efforts made by the Council of Europe to address discrimination and to promote an acceptance and a positive evaluation of diversity. The Council of Europe's recent White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue suggests specific strategies and measures to promote dialogue and positive exchange over the coming years.

Another important pillar of the Council of Europe's action is to develop approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children in order to strengthen their contribution at all levels: local, national and regional. In this context, the action of the **European Youth Foundation (EYF)**, a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe, provides financial support for

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<sup>1</sup>(Investing in youth: an empowerment strategy, April 2007).



European youth activities. In occasion of its 40th anniversary, the EYF still supports Youth activities with the purpose of encouraging the promotion of peace, mutual understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect among young people in Europe.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE ATLANTIS YOUTH CAMP

The overall objective of Atlantis is to build young volunteer capacity as agents for positive change within multicultural societies through intercultural dialogue and exchange of experiences in accordance with the RC/RC Principles and Values.

The respect of the Principles and Values is the foundation of a common understanding in order to empower youth to promote a global culture of respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion.

The RC/RC “Solferino Youth Declaration” (2009) wants to be the milestone of this Youth Camp, as it states: *“In a world full of challenges, we the youth of the Movement commit ourselves to...“inner change and the development of skills to promote harmony and positive attitudes within communities”; “live our seven Fundamental Principles as agents of behavioural change”; and “renounce violence, promote non-discrimination and respect for diversity, and a culture of peace in the world.”*

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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Build and support capacities of young volunteers to carry out youth work for the most vulnerable in multicultural environments;
- Promote intercultural interaction and partnerships between young volunteers of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent of the Mediterranean region
- Train young volunteers to act as agents of change within their communities in order to combat discrimination and to build a culture of understanding and tolerance.

## CONTENTS OF THE SEMINAR

In order to achieve its objectives, the Camp will display a number of sessions that will provide the youth participants with specific knowledge and training.

### 1. International Humanitarian Law and Principles and Values

Participants will explore the IHL and the RC/RC Principles and Values driving the RC/RC Movement, as tools for positive change within multicultural environments. They will share experiences and develop ideas for multicultural youth projects.

### 2. Youth as Agents of Behavior Change (YABC)

YABC is an IFRC tool that empowers youth to play a leading role in transforming mindsets and behaviors in their local community. It integrates peer-education and non-cognitive learning and uses games and artistic platforms to promote community behavioral change.

### 3. Peace, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights

Participants will work on methodologies for planning and running youth projects to spread an understanding of peace, conflict resolution and human rights. Participants will discuss the importance of these issues within the context of their community and plan youth projects.

### 4. Leadership skills

The aim is to improve participants' capacities to play a leading role in their National Societies, promoting a positive change in attitudes and behaviors. Using games that develop trust, credibility, cooperation and communication skills, and participants will learn to use creativity to solve problems, to listen actively, to work and think as a team and to trust one another.

### 5. Migration and Intercultural Dialogue

Participants will discuss a range of related issues, such as sociological causes of migration, migration patterns and host country policies towards inwards migration. The second part of the workshop will focus on the management of migration, trying to reply the question "what can we do for integration?".

### 6. Sustainable Development: Cross Cutting Themes of Environment and Gender

Participants will use role plays and group work to consider the role of gender and the environment in youth programs and their daily lives. They will be given tools to integrate sustainable methods into their projects and lifestyles.

Additional side events are foreseen, such as the Terra Game (a role-play aimed at raising awareness and taking action towards environmental challenges as related to climate change); Youth on the Run (a role-play raising awareness on migration); Raid Cross (a role play based on the application of the International Humanitarian Law); a first aid exhibition and blood donation promotion. A cultural "flees market" and a photo exhibition is also foreseen.



## METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT

The Atlantis Youth Camp will be based on an interactive approach. The methodology, thanks to a long experience of facilitators on international Youth training and using a peer education approach, will be geared to interaction and active participation (role plays, exercises, real-life situations, discussions, sharing personal experiences about the participants' countries and also about their Red Cross/Red Crescent Youth structures and volunteers management). The group's philosophy will be open-mindedness.

At the same time, participants will profit from practical evaluation activities that will allow them to use the knowledge acquired during the meeting to measure the level of achievement of the objectives.

The team of facilitators will consist of RC/RC peer youth educators and field expert of other international organizations. In previous activities the CCM counted on the collaboration the UNEP experts, the UNESCO facilitators and the IFRC Principles and Values Department.

## 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 aged 18-28. The volunteers must be able to understand and express themselves in English. Additional 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 would like to remind National Societies that gender equality in the selection of participants is highly appreciated..

**WHERE:** Andorra

**WHEN:** first week of July 2012

**WORKING LANGUAGE:** English and French

Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean  
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**CENTRE FOR THE COOPERATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN  
PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE RED CROSS  
AND RED CRESCENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

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