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## EDITORIAL

MIJARC Europe is pleased to present the first edition of our magazine Info Europe this year. This issue focuses on the topic of climate change and sustainable development, looking at the recent commitments made at international level but also at specific national initiatives of our members. You can also read about the latest events and activities of MIJARC Europe and of some of its member movements - KLJB Germany, MRJC France, MJRC Spain, YMDRAB Bulgaria and S&G Turkey. In this issue we want to introduce to you our newest team members. For the moment they are just observer members, trying to understand what working for MIJARC Europe means so we invite you to meet Cristiana and Jessica. If you want to find out what we are planning for the second half of the year, have a look at the calendar of upcoming activities for 2016!

Enjoy the reading!

# INTRODUCTION

## Being 20 years old under the summer sun...

This summer MIJARC Europe celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And again, its AG was held in Macedonia on 23 and 24 July. It was an opportunity to assess a rich year, looking at the year ahead but also to celebrate these 20 years of MIJARC. 20 years of actions, meetings, exchanges of proposals, seminars and adventures celebrated as they should be!

Under the record heat of the summer 30 young people gathered for the July seminar on climate change, followed by 37 participants at the summer camp in August! From the understanding of the situation to the search of possible actions, between Macedonia and Malta we exchanged,

pondered, proposed, acted! Now, it's the turn of our movements to make these proposals heard, built on all their territories so that our voices against climate change are heard!

Being 20 years old under the summer sun in 2016 means also seeing Europe shrinking down on itself, is to see Europe build walls instead of welcoming migrants fleeing war, is to see the extreme right and its increasingly influential ideas, as evidenced by the election from this summer in Austria and Germany. So, we rural youth have decided not to give up and to choose this theme of the rise of extremism in Europe for the year ahead.

Thus, under the summer sun MIJARC has chosen to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by staying engaged, connected to the problems of the world and decided to take action to build with rural youth a better future!! So then, let's move on for the next 20 years!!

*Thibault Duisit*  
Vice-President of MIJARC Europe

## NEWS FROM EUROPE

### European Union Climate Action



Global warming has to be limited to below 2°C compared to the average temperature in pre-industrial times to prevent the most severe impacts of climate change and possibly catastrophic changes in the global environment. This was agreed by almost all countries worldwide in 1992 under the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC). To achieve this, the world must **stop the growth in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020** and reduce them by 60%

by 2050 compared with 2010. The latest scientific evidence suggests that, if little or no action is taken to reduce global emissions, by the end of this century global warming is likely to exceed the 2°C target and could be as much as 5°C.

Preventing dangerous climate change is a key priority for the European Union. Europe is working hard to cut its greenhouse gas emissions substantially while encouraging other nations and regions to do likewise. The key EU targets for 2020 include a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990, producing 20% of the total energy needed for consumption from renewable energy and achieving a 20% increase in energy efficiency. By 2050, the EU aims to cut its emissions substantially – by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels as part of the efforts required by developed countries as a group. Turning Europe into a highly energy efficient and low-carbon economy will also boost the economy, create jobs and strengthen Europe's competitiveness.

The EU is pursuing its climate targets through a combination of financial support and regulation. At least 20% of the EU's budget for 2014 to 2020 – as much as €180 billion – should be spent on protecting the climate. This is on top of funding from individual EU countries. The EU finances low-carbon energy demonstration projects from the sale of emission certificates. This includes technologies to trap carbon dioxide from power stations and other industrial installations and

store it in the ground, so-called carbon capture and storage (CCS). In terms of regulation, The EU's emissions trading system is the key tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industry at the lowest cost. EU countries are required to support renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biomass to reach the green energy targets. They have to reduce the energy use of their buildings and industries are required to improve the energy efficiency of a wide array of equipment and household appliances. Car manufacturers have to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new cars and vans. The European Commission has adopted an EU Adaptation Strategy and wants all its Member States to adopt national plans to cope with the inevitable impacts of climate change by 2017.

At international level the EU is part of the new global climate agreement agreed in 2015 and due to be implemented from 2020. The agreement is known as the Paris Agreement and it was adopted following the COP 21 which took place in Paris, in December 2015. Also, The EU has committed to a second phase of the Kyoto Protocol running from 2013 to 2020. Last but not least, as the world's leading donor of development aid, the EU also provides substantial funding to tackle climate change.

This information was provided by the European Commission in articles retrieved [here](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu/index_en.htm) ([http://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu/index_en.htm))

## COP 21 and the Paris Agreement

Human life, at its core, has always been characterized by founding institutions as a means of organization of groups, societies, countries, continents and nations. We are social creatures who need the creation of laws and organization for the sake of our cultural rules, social status, tradition and overall organization of our shared lives on our planet. When focusing on climate change, a global issue for any living organism on the planet, we can be happy that this need for institutions is a trait that comes with being human. Although the existing institutions have been criticized a lot today, when it comes to combatting climate change it has to be said that it is still better that they exist, than not existing at all.



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

The most widespread international democratic institution is of course the United Nations (UN). Founded in a world that was torn apart by war, 51 countries came together in 1945 with the main aim to prevent the devastating possibility of another similar event like the two World Wars. Instead of competition, the UN aimed to promote international



UNESCO, UNICEF and UNEP the United Nations Environmental Programme that created the UNFCCC, but indirectly also the Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The UNFCCC or United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the leading platform within

cooperation. Today 195 countries are members of the UN. The UN has five principal organs: the General Assembly, the main deliberative assembly; the Security Council, for deciding certain resolutions for peace and security; the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for promoting international economic and social co-operation and development; the Secretariat, for providing studies, information, and facilities needed by the UN; the International Court of Justice, the primary judicial organ. The main UN system agencies include the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme,

the UN to work on targets to reduce the negative impact of climate change. Every year the UNFCCC organizes a COP, or Conference of the Parties that are involved within the UN to work on combatting climate change. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. The agreement is due to enter into force in 2020. You can read more about the Paris Agreement following this link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris/index_en.htm)

## NEWS FROM MIJARC

### MIJARC Europe celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary



a theme party: '90s style. The pictures speak for themselves...

*MIJARC Europe was a life experience that shaped my personality and somehow my life. My experience with MIJARC Europe started in 1996 when my local leader and chaplain, Joaquin, invited me to participate in an International Summer Work Camp in Arcusa (Huesca). This experience awakened in me an interest in getting to know the European and World institutions much deeper, therefore I started to get more and more involved in the MJRC regional and national structures. After several MIJARC activities I was part of, in 2002 I was elected as member of the European Team. After the election, we had a moment of celebration and getting to know my new colleagues with whom I am still in contact today, Christian (KLJB) and Guillaume, then substituted by Agnes and Gaetan (all from MRJC). From my time in the European team (2002-2008) I keep stunning memories. It was a continuous learning process: rural development, youth issues, agriculture and global and international relations; the team meetings, the coordination meeting.*

**Berta Vizcarra Mir**

*youth organization like KLJB: meeting a lot of same minded people, having a lot of fun, creating friendships and the best: creating the Europe of tomorrow by not forgetting to stand in for our positions.*

**Tanja Köglmeier**

*MIJARC Europe gave me a lot! Actually ones of the best things in my life happened thanks to MIJARC. My first travel abroad was thanks to MIJARC - to the GA in Holland in 2008. Bulgaria had just become a member of the EU and I remember what an amazing adventure that journey was for me! After that I was already addicted to MIJARC's projects and I took part in more than 20 international youth activities all over Europe. Thanks to MIJARC I started to learn English. It gave me the possibility to make so many new contacts with young people from different countries. This opened my mind and changed my point of view to different people and cultures. Because of MIJARC I love youth work so much. Thanks to MIJARC I was motivated to work with passion in the youth field during the last 8 years. Now I am actively involved in our organization YMDRAB. Happy anniversary to MIJARC Europe! You gave me a lot and I am sure you will give a lot to many other rural youngsters from Europe! Thank you so much for everything!*

**Yonko Dodev from YMDRAB Bulgaria**

This year has been a really special one for us. It is already 20 years since MIJARC Europe was created and this was a wonderful moment to look back at the activities and results we have achieved but most importantly at all the people who have made MIJARC Europe what it is today. We tried hard not to become nostalgic and emotional but the truth is there are some many reasons to be proud. We have run so many seminars, summer camps, training courses and international meetings on topics such as human rights, migration, food sovereignty, rural development, youth unemployment, sustainable development or climate. We have positively influenced the lives of so many young people from rural areas in Europe, we have created a powerful network of organizations that are motivated, hard working and committed to support rural communities. Finally, we are proud that in such difficult times, when seeing the bright side and the good in people is becoming increasingly difficult, we have kept our hope, our will to make a change and our motivation to work and overcome any obstacles. It is the people whose lives have been touched by MIJARC Europe that keep the organization going. Therefore we celebrated our birthday with our friends throwing



*What does MIJARC mean to me? A lot! It's more or less the reason why I'm so active today in KLJB Germany. As I was searching for an internship in 2013, I just decided to write to MIJARC Europe and to ask for it. And what a surprise: I could do one! So, living for 5 months in Brussels and supporting MIJARC Europe was one of the best youth work experiences I could ever have had.*

*I got to know so much people from all over Europe, with which, in some cases, I'm still close till today. And I got shown what it really means to be active in a*



# Online Training course “In the mood for climate change”



launched the call for participants. Finally, on 2nd May, we published our first learning unit on teachable.com and from then on we spent eight challenging but really rewarding weeks of online interactions with the trainers, the lectures, the participants, videos, articles, games, photos and interesting online sources.

Inspired by our successful training course on youth unemployment and answering the request of several member organisations to offer training courses and contribute to the training of their members, MIJARC Europe decided to organize its first online training course.

## Why this title?

We initially wanted to offer the course on Moodle an open source software. This is why the course was called “In the mood(le) for climate change”, playing with the name of the platform and the expression “to be in the mood” which means feeling like doing something or fancying something. However, when testing the course on this platform it turned out it was a bit difficult for users to interact and build content on it so we switched to a platform that was easier to use and required minimum computer knowledge. That’s why the name changed into “In the mood for climate change?” which is a good question we should all ask ourselves: are we really in the mood for experiencing the consequences of climate change?

We started with a lot of doubts because the experience of e-learning was new to all of us, including the team, staff and our members. We did not know what to expect, how it was going to be like and if it worked. Fortunately, we found two enthusiastic and experience trainers who helped us and everything turned out well. Our first online course was a success and it was received extremely well by our member movements and by our partners. We are now proud that we entered the field of e-learning with this course and we hope that our initiative will inspire member organizations to use online tools for teaching and learning.

## How did it all start?

With a team meeting, of course, a meeting during which the team approved the activities for the current year following the topic that was voted by the general assembly: climate change and sustainable development. We included the training course in our annual work plan and after some months we received the good news that our work plan had been approved for financing. That is when the entire adventure began: send the call for trainers, read CVs and motivation letters, have interviews and finally select the team of two trainers: Thomas Gits and Florina Potirniche, who together made a great team of knowledge on climate change and sustainable development, training experience and e-learning tools savvy. Then, as they started working on the contents and structure, our team

## What is teachable.com?

Teachable.com is a free online learning platform on which anyone can start an online course and offer it to participants for free or for a certain fee.

## What was the course all about?

The course had a total of eight units, each spanning on one week with an active involvement of 3 hours, which meant that each week participants had to spend about three hours online to go through the lecture, fulfill the weekly tasks and take the unit quiz. Our participants were free to organize their time and decide for themselves when they wanted to work on the quiz. Each unit was published on the first day of the week and it remained available for the entire duration of the course. The first unit was an introduction unit in which we described how the course works, what are its objectives, how it is structured, what is the curriculum and answered participants’ questions. We also included in this unit a pre-course self-assessment questionnaire, with 19 questions, asking participants to evaluate their level for each of the competences the course was targeting. This gave us a reference point for evaluating the learning impact after the end of the course. In the second unit we wanted participants to get to know each other so we adapted the famous “Human Bingo” game to our online environment. We asked everybody to go on the website [www.ifitweremyhome.com](http://www.ifitweremyhome.com) and compare their country to at least five other countries. Then they had to shoot a 1-minute video presenting themselves and three insights they got from the website. In the end, we made a quiz with questions about who said what in their video. It was a really fun unit and the engagement of the participants was great. It made the course feel more alive and it improved the dynamics of the group. The next unit offered an introduction into climate change and why it is happening. It help participants understand how the Earth functions and why it is warming up. In unit 4, the knowledge acquired was consolidated with information on why human being should care about climate change looking at how it will affect us and they way we live. The next unit took par-

ticipants on a journey around the world, exploring see, land and air and the most vulnerable regions of the world in order to understand the effects of climate change and understand that just because we are not feeling it ourselves it does not mean that it is not happening. The next unit shifted the focus on the individual, exploring what role each of us plays in climate change and what we can change in our lifestyle and the way we do things in order to reduce our carbon and climate footprint. Unit 7 shed some light on how climate decision are taken at world level and how they influence national measures and policy. The participants got the chance to explore the SDGs, the results of the COP21, how human rights are related to climate change and what the Council of Europe is doing on the topic. Finally, the last unit included a final quiz, an interactive board for feedback and the after course self-assessment quiz.

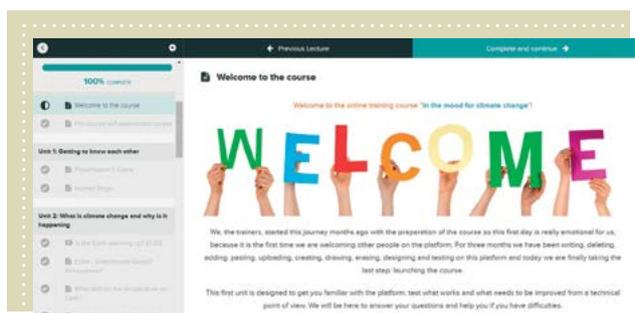
The last unit brought some extremely rewarding moments for the entire team as we were finally able to have a real measure of the learning impact and to hear from the participants how they saw the course and whether it was a useful experience for them or not. You can see it for yourself in their testimonials below:

*I thought the course was really interesting. I learned a lot about climate change in general and I learned some new things I could use in my lessons in high school. It was good the way it was, maybe we could have had some more interactive activities. Thank you for all the hard work!*  
Femke Nijs

*This course is something I was really interested in. One unit was not really for me but it was great to know more about it. It was very good to work with a lot of feedback to every units and to mix the training course with questions and videos. This course will be a huge advantage in the discussions and work during the Seminar and Summer camp. When I couldn't understand some words, I translated them and it was good to know the most important words related to climate change before we met face to face. Thanks Florina and Thomas for the energy you both put in the training course.*  
David Vermeulen

*This course was very interesting. I really learned a lot of things I didn't know. I knew climate change was a problem, but I didn't know it was so urgent to take action. Now I am more aware of my own ecological footprint and I really liked the information. The variation was very fun: videos, tests, reading material, pictures. Thank you for letting me be a part of this!*  
Sofie Slechten

*I have learned a lot in this more or less intensive training course. Now I am more aware of the urgency of Climate Change. The course was really well structured and rich in variety. In one lesson there were too many videos for my taste, but all in all I am very happy to be a part of it and to get the opportunity to attend the seminar in Macedonia. Thank you Florina and Thomas for your excellent work. Looking forward to seeing you in three weeks.*  
Julia Fritz



I learned a lot about climate change from this training. My interest increased and I am very motivated to do more to save our world. Thank you so much!

Hediye Şura Çan

So, did we convince you to learn more about climate

change? If so, you can still join our course on <http://imcc.teachable.com/p/imcc>, or you can use the offline learning manual that was created in order to be used in offline training course. Don't forget to let us know how it was by writing on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page!

The online training course "In the mood for climate change" was one of the activities included in the annual work plan of MIJARC Europe which was co-financed by the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.

## Seminar

### "Youth energy powering the future"



What happens when 30 people from ten different countries meet in Macedonia for 4 days? We have had this summer. Under the hot and unforgiving sun of Kumanovo, FYRO Macedonia, we all experienced for a short period, 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July, what it would be like every day in some of the regions of the world if the average global temperature would increase with more than 2oC. With the help of our member organisation, BUJRUM – Macedonia, we were able to bring everybody in time at the venue and start the seminar as planned. It was not easy with people coming from so many different places. First, we wanted to know who were our participants so we started with a lot of games and activities to help them find out interesting things about each other, how they got to the seminar and what they were expecting. For the next sessions, the participants worked in two groups or came together for plenary sessions. They were able to choose between two working groups, one focusing on the changes in the eco-system and the other on social justice. The choice of having these two working groups belonged to the Think Tank members, six wonderful volunteers who invested their time in preparing the contents of the seminar, choosing the methods and facilitating the entire learning process. They were: Daniela Ordowski, Magdalena Repshovska, David Vermeulen, Bledi Cami and they were coordinated by Veronika Nordhus and Jeroen Decorte, members of our European Team. The activities of the seminar were built on the knowledge acquired throughout the online learning course as the participants had to go through the course or the training manual before coming to the seminar. Therefore, they already had the basic knowledge need to start a real conversation on climate change. This is why at the seminar we could focus more specifically on what is happening on each county, what are the local realities, rather than

on general information or key concepts of climate change. The seminar started with a session dedicated to the results of the online training course in order to refresh participants' memory on the first stage of the work plan and the knowledge acquired. This session was organised as a competition between team which included six work stations. At each station, the groups had to perform certain tasks as fast as possible in order to win competition. For instance, in one of the stations that had to match ten of the key concepts explored during the TC with their definitions. One of the teams managed to this in less than 2 minutes!

The group on social justice started from the concept of vulnerability and went on to understanding what makes certain regions of the world vulnerable from a climate points of view, what are the already present factors that contribute to increased vulnerability, such as poverty, political instability, war or overpopulation and finally how these regions will be affected if the average global temperature passes over the 2°C threshold. The methods the Think Tank used to explore these issues were extremely entertaining but had thought-provoking results. For instance, the participants play the roles of different countries and had to follow the instruction on the country role card in order to answer the questions of the facilitators. This made them think that if those were the countries where they live they would see the threat of global warming in a much different way. Another great example is a simulation game in which divided in three teams they had to perform certain task, such as carrying balloons filled with water on a given itinerary (that went also through the swimming pool) using only spoons or only one of their feet, depending on the level of vulnerability the group had. The group which explored the changes in the eco-system had a lot of "aha" moments especially when they learned about factors that influences global warming, especially human factors. Their group tried to understand how all the elements of our planet are inter-connected through a great game of web of life and went deeper into looking at the disturbing factors of the natural balance of the Earth. They also used non-formal methods, such as simulations, games and buzz groups.

The plenary sessions were aimed at facilitating the sharing process between the two teams and at introducing information that was relevant for both groups. One of the most interesting plenary session was one in which the participants watch a short movie "5 ways to kill a man". They split in small group and discussed the movie that had seen using guiding questions such as: "How did the movie make you feel? What do you think was the message of the movie? What were the most interesting pictures in the movie and what do you

think they mean? Did you related to any of the situations?". In the end, the groups gathered to have a plenary discussion on what the movie aimed at and how such a tool can be used to teach or learn about climate change.

The third day brought an interesting field visit to the Ancient Megalithic Observatory of Kokino. The visit was led by a local geography teacher who took the participants on a historical journey of how the natural landscape had evolved through the years, highlighting the influence of man on nature and the natural balance of the eco-system. The participants had the chance to ask questions and discuss with an expert on climate change. In the afternoon, we met Aleksandra Davidovska, an activist who started working as a volunteer when the migration crisis in Macedonia began and ended up working for international organisation on the topic of migration and refugees. Her input was intense and provided a great correlation with the lectures in the online TC that focused on climate change caused migration. The last day focused on the ACT part and the participants spent all day creating tools and putting their ideas into practice. They created a position paper, a video message, a clues game and a flash mob idea.



# NEWS FROM MOVEMENTS

## KLJB NEWS

### KLJB and sustainability

KLJB and sustainability belong perfectly together. Whatever we do in our daily working lives (and beyond), we try to act in a way that neither burdens the environment nor has negative effects on our fellow humans. Our foundation is twofold: KLJB has adopted several resolutions about this topic in the last years. These range from a sustainable agriculture through the vision of how we see a 100 percent renewable energy supply in the future to an international trade in which Fairtrade is the basis of every decision made by companies and governments. Furthermore, our Christian values teach us to fulfil our responsibility towards creation and to leave a better world for the next generation.

Last year, the KLJB delegates decided upon a new focus that will influence our program for the next two years. The campaign, named "Turn it!", will deal with sustainability in all its aspects. Young members of KLJB will have the

possibility to participate in competitions and activities, all dealing with topics of sustainability. At our last assembly in June, KLJB members also decided to have a closer look at the seminar houses, where they hold meetings: do they serve Fairtrade coffee? Do they use green energy? Do they buy regional food? In the future KLJB will only book houses that have set strict criteria on the purchase of food and on sustainable procurement practices in general. Sustainability in the sense of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted at the UN summit in September 2015, also means to create global partnerships to reach these targets. MIJARC Europe and MIJARC World already show with its worldwide network that this is possible. To strengthen the bonds, KLJB and MRJC have decided to make a common meeting in November with around 50 people and discuss in Germany topics of theology, rural development, ecology and interna-

tional development. We are very much looking forward to hosting our friends from France.

*Natalie Hohmann*  
KLJB



## MRJC NEWS

### MRJC present at World Social Forum

In Montreal, 150 young people from CCFD are present for Another World! From August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a delegation of 15 young people from MRJC is present in Montreal (Quebec) for the World Social Forum. They participate in this event with a delegation of CCFD-Terre Solidaire reuniting a total of 150 young people and partners. Involved in the process of the World Social Forum since the first edition in 2001 in Porto Alegre, CCFD Terre Solidaire contributes to the World Social Forum on many levels. In 2016, in a desire to make them live an international experience of citizenship, CCFD Terre Solidaire brought together a delegation of 150 young people from 18 to 35 years old from the CCFD-Terre Solidaire network in France, church movements and services as MRJC and its Southern partner organizations. The participation of the CCFD-Terre Solidaire is part of a wider project having as target to make the link between local solidarity and international solidarity and to strengthen and extend the participants' commitment to a more united world. The stay takes place from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>,

2016 in Montreal. The week before the World Social Forum, the attendants could get involved in many activities of workshops, cultural events and meetings with the partners from the civil society of Canada around three major themes: citizenship and governance, social economy and solidarity, climate justice and food sovereignty. From August 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, they participated in the World Social Forum "We are all actors of the change." Over the next few days, thousands of world citizens will rally in Montreal to participate in this 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Social Forum, the first to be held in a country said "of the North". There are countless alternatives that bloom locally around the world to build more cohesive communities and respectful of the human being and the limits of the planet. The challenge is to reunite these actors for change beyond the north-south divisions, to enable them to exchange, to disseminate their messages and actions and to fuel a positive dynamic for change. The WSF 2016 from Montreal aims to promote a convergence of solutions, energies and humans of good will to build Another World.

It is a place for the convergence of social movements, free expression of alternatives, citizen exchanges, artistic events, claims and inspiration, concrete commitments. It opens a space for the development of networking strategies for actions to promote international solidarity, social and environmental justice, social economy, participatory democracy, and the recognition of the equal dignity of all. (excerpt from the program of WSF 2016).

This Tuesday, August 9 took place the opening march of the World Social Forum, a march marked by a particular context since many representatives of Southern civil society could not get there due to visa refusal. This includes 10 partners of CCFD.

Another world is necessary. Together, it becomes possible.

*Mouvement Rural de Jeunesse Chrétienne*  
MRJC



## YMDRAB NEWS

### We can too... to communicate

### New big international YMDRAB's project within "Erasmus+" Programme

The term "social communication" is used to describe the communication skills that are needed in normal social intercourse according to the rules that govern routine interpersonal interactions. Over 2% of the European young people have social communication impairments. These youngsters:

- have difficulties to understand the meaning of what is being said;
- face challenges to use language appropriately in different social situations;
- are not able to follow the commonly accepted rules in everyday communication.

Sometimes refugees and migrants also have social communication problems because often the "unwritten" rules for interpersonal interaction have cultural, religious and group differences. The inability

to communicate fluently with others leads to accumulation of various deleterious mental layers in young people - low self-esteem, fear, anxiety, depression, or vice versa - hatred, aggression, tendency to negative reactions. It is necessary to work with each affected youngster according to an individual program suited to his/her specific problems and needs, in order to have a chance

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





for normal development and successful integration into the educational system, labour market and society as whole. Unfortunately, in the rural areas of Eastern Europe, youth workers often continue to work with these youngsters using outdated methodologies. The main reasons for this are the relatively limited access to quality information on the latest working methods and lack of international interaction and exchange between organisations involved in this mission.

In response to these problems YMDRAB in partnership with 4 organisations from different European countries prepared a project called "We can too" which was approved for funding by the "Erasmus+" Programme. The project's main aim was to improve the quality of work of youth workers who are engaged in non-formal education of young people with social communication impairments in the rural areas of Eastern Europe, through their training and development of their cooperation for innovation and exchange of experience, skills and best practices. The main project activity will be an international training course. It will be held from 29.07.2016 to

07.08.2016 in the coastal village of Kranevo at the Bulgarian Black Sea. The training will bring together 42 youth workers from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania and Bulgaria. The participants will be speech therapists, youth advisors, social workers, psychologists, project managers and volunteers who support the socio-educational and personal development of rural youngsters with communication impairments.

We are confident that all this group diversity and experience with the support of great international team of trainers will lead to 9 days of learning, exchange of ideas and experiences, making contacts, partnership building, networking and a lot of fun.

Yonko Dodev  
YMDRAB

## MJRC NEWS

### We are a life alternative



"We are a life alternative," is the motto of the last campaign we have worked on within the Rural Movement of Christian Youth in Spain, through which we intended to make known our villages as a real life alternative, especially in the times we live in, because we believe in them,

this is why we intend to offer them as an attractive alternative for young people. From the MJRC, we want, without receiving "orders" from anyone, to "let you know" that our villages are, in the first place a pleasant place to spend the summer or for tourism, a life alternative, especially in these times in which the neoliberal society has taken our bread and hopes from us. For this reason and because we believe in the villages, as rural youth inspired by gospel values, we tell other youth that ....

- Before the depersonalizing individualism that is slowly propagating in our world we offer you to feel the life of solidarity, being a proper individual, who worries about his/her neighbour and who takes time with him/her to build their village.
- In a world of haste in which time has become a "gold that no one has" we offer you a life that you fully enjoy, with time to stay with the family, to be with friends, with moments to find yourselves or with creative leisure that helps to build your own personality.
- In the face of a labour market that each day devours the person more and more, we offer you employment alternatives that can range from agriculture (conventional or alternative) to the cooperatives for creation of basic commodities or other products such as mushrooms, chestnuts, etc., tourism or social services cooperatives ... In short, a job that not only serves to support yourselves, but also can help one to grow as a person and have a social sense.

But not only do we believe in the villages, we also love them and therefore, from the spirit of peaceful struggle and generous dedication of Jesus of Nazareth, we denounce not only the attitudes that, on a personal level, suppose us to look over our shoulder as if we were from a second category but also all those laws that claim to expropriate us from our freedom and our lands believing that we are not mature enough to manage our own lives. And at the end of the campaign we have made a video to show our work. The villages are not only a place of leisure, they are a life alternative.

See the video of our campaign here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f10s0CLYGL4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f10s0CLYGL4)

Movimiento de Jóvenes Rurales Cristianos  
MJRC



## S&G NEWS

### Youth for Nature - Green Society in Action in Albania, Italy and Turkey



"Youth for Nature - Green Society in Action" is a 9-day activity on three steps with 27 participants (in total 81) coming from 3 countries Turkey, Italy, Albania in Didim, Poggiardo and Durres for cleaning the beach, ecological workshops, making photography and recycling materials. During this exchange of 9 days in three countries, the participants will be encouraged to take part to different non-formal activities and through them to get to know more about different ecological issues and about different attitudes of European countries to the main ecological problems such as recycling, or looking for alternative sources of energy. Participants will have the chance to improve their creative skills and together create new art through creative recycling techniques. Besides the ecological workshops and creative recycling activities, the participants will have an opportunity to learn about photography and to prepare posters with the pictures they will take during the activities. At the end of the project the participants will have the opportunity to connect ecology, creativity and photography and share their knowledge through an ecological exhibition with local communities of their countries in Turkey, Albania and Italy.

Bledi Cami  
System and Generation - S&G

system & generation

# INTERVIEW



## Jéssica Cruz

Age: 21 years old  
Country: Portugal  
Position in the team: Observer member

### What can I bring to MIJARC Europe:

I have been part of the movement for 11 years already, but it was in 2015 that I had my first experience in MIJARC Europe at the Seminar in Belgium. At the end of that week I realized what it really meant to be part of this organization. I wanted to learn more, to know how it all worked and how I can transmit the message of MIJARC Europe to my movement in Portugal (JARC). So... in March 2016 I was elected as a European Coordinator for Portugal. It was a big deal for me despite the fact that my English is not the best, but I think that when we have so much motivation, these things are less and less important. At the GA in Macedonia, in 2016, I and Cristiana volunteered to become observer members in the European team. Now, I'm so excited because I want to help, learn and be part of this family. I really want to help in everything I can. I will try to do my best and I hope to do all that this adventure implies, from organizing activities, helping the team members to helping MIJARC have a greater future.

## Cristiana Palma

Age: 19 years old  
Country: Portugal  
Position in the team: Observer member

### What can I bring to MIJARC Europe:

MIJARC Europe is an organization of young people for young people. In my opinion MIJARC Europe is for people that want to make a difference in the world, and if this is not possible, at least they want to try. It is an organization for young people who want to become inspirational leaders in their areas and who want to become conscious of the current problems. There are many people who are not aware of these problems, that live in the world with just illusions and most of the times this happens not because they choose to live this way but because there isn't anybody or anything that can show them the reality. As observer member I want to provide young people from rural areas with opportunities to raise the awareness of citizens, I want to help rebuild the rural areas and make use of the great potential of young people. I think that I can give me energy and my optimism to all the members in the team. I can also contribute with new ideas and creativity, respecting the values of the MIJARC Europe, thinking permanently about the future and believing in the power of the young of today that will be adults of tomorrow.



## Calendar of upcoming activities in 2016

When...?	What...?	Where...?
19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016	Summer Camp	Malta
September - December 2016	Local campaigns	in all 13 member countries

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