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EDITORIAL

MIJARC Europe presents the first issue of the biannual magazine Info Europe. In 2017 our annual topic is the rise of extremist attitudes in Europe, this is why this first issue focuses on European and international initiatives aimed at fighting extremism offline and online such as the Council of Europe's Action Plan and the "redirect method" recently introduced by YouTube. Also, it presents the results of our two statutory meetings - the European Coordination and the Orientation General Assembly, which led to the adoption of our new mid-term strategic objectives and a four-year action plan. You can also explore the results of our international study visit and find information about the newest project developed by our member movements: KLJB-Germany, KLJ-Belgium, S&G-Turkey and RYA-Austria. We dedicated a special section to our former European Team members who finished their three-year mandate this year and we took advantage of the interviews section to introduce our new Team members. In the end, make sure you check our calendar of upcoming activities.

Enjoy the reading!

INTRODUCTION

2017 - a year of changes



Change is a natural and vital process in the life of any organization. It helps us improve, become more efficient and adapt to new realities. 2017 is a year of major changes for MIJARC Europe. First our four-year strategic objectives and action plan will end, inviting us to evaluate the achievements reached and the points we still need to work on and decide on our mid-term strategic approach. Secondly, all three members of the European Team are finishing their mandate this year and in autumn there will be an entirely new team. Also, some of our observer members are already planning to apply to join our network as full members which means the network's respon-

sibility will be even greater and the new team will have to develop an internal communication strategy.

2017 is also the year when we direct our attention towards the rising extremist attitudes and radical voices in Europe, towards opinions that leave no room for discussion, words and acts of hate and intolerance. This topic is the guiding pillar of our activities this year and it reflects the concerns of our member movements about young people becoming too radical in their opinions, in the speech and sometimes in their behaviours. Even though violent radicalisation is not a new phenomenon in Europe, the ways it has been manifesting recently, the scale of the events and the use of new communication tools is bringing about new challenges when it comes to how to address the phenomenon and identifying its root causes. Today extremist attitudes are not triggered by just one single event but they are the result of very intricate and sometimes long-term processes based on drivers such as fear, a strong sense of personal or cultural alienation, social marginalisation, xenophobia, discrimination, limited education or employment possibilities, political factors and ideological and religious beliefs. Rural

youth is especially vulnerable to this, because they are more affected by all these drivers, especially limited education and resources, high unemployment, uncertainty about their future and social exclusion. Therefore, they are more susceptible to radicalisation fuelled and inspired by violence-inciting narratives, ideologies and political propaganda online and offline.

The rise of extremism in Europe will be tackled in our annual work plan "Radically against extremism" which is co-financed by the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation and by Renovabis, but it will also be discussed during the summer camp we organize in Armenia and which is co-financed by the European Commission through the ERASMUS Plus Programme.

To sum up, 2017 will be a special year for MIJARC Europe which will set the grounds for the next four years while addressing some of the most alarming realities in Europe today. Read all about it in this first issue of our magazine.

MIJARC Europe Secretariat

NEWS FROM MIJARC

COE - Action Plan - The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism



In 2015 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a three-year Action Plan aiming at fighting against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism. The period the Action Plan covers ends in 2017 and it will be interesting to see how far the Action Plan has achieved its objectives and what steps will be taken next as the risk of young people turning to extremism is still high and the threat of terrorism lurks all over Europe.

The two major objectives of the Action Plan were to reinforce the legal framework against terrorism and violent extremism and to prevent and fight violent radicalisation through concrete measures in the public sector, in particular in schools and prisons, and on the Internet.

For the achievement of the first objective, the Action Plan set three major courses of action which focus on making use of the relevant instruments the Council of Europe has already developed such as the *Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (2005 - No 196)* or the *Additional Protocol on "foreign terrorist fighters" to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (2015 - tbc)*. In support of this objective the Council of Europe has also elaborated a new recommendation on terrorists acting alone, providing guidelines to member States on how to efficiently prevent and suppress this particular form of terrorism which is harder to prevent than that associated to organized groups. Also, it has focused on disseminating updated and relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The second objective is planned to be achieved with coordinated actions in three areas: education, prisons and the Internet. In the field of education, the Action Plan focuses on building inclusive societies and on setting out the competences required for democratic culture and intercultural dialogue in order to strengthen democratic societies and promote equality

and cultural diversity. More concretely, the Council of Europe has already completed the model on competencies which has been tested since 2016, it has promoted the introduction of education for democratic culture and intercultural dialogue in school and it has promoted the model of competencies during the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy. Also, the Council of Europe has continued the dissemination of the publication "Signposts" and it has developed an Action Plan for building inclusive societies for the period 2016-2019. One specific sub-measure which is of interest to MIJARC Europe refers to providing a counter-narrative to the misuse of religion. The focus is on giving exposure to religious leaders who speak about the contradiction between terrorism and religion, extremist attitudes and religious values.

Through its annual work plan "Radically against extremism", MIJARC Europe wants to contribute to the achievement of this Action Plan's objectives, especially in the field of fighting the misuse of religion and promoting the competencies for democratic culture and intercultural dialogue.

YouTube and other online companies are working on ways to prevent the spread of extremist content online



YouTube has engaged in the fight against terrorism by introducing an interesting and smart tool which redirects all searches for violent extremist content to anti-terrorism videos. This is part of a wider engagement of Google and other online companies to combat terror online. Google is well aware of the potential its platforms have in being used by terrorists to promote their messages, to radicalize people and lure them into joining their cause and even as platform to organise terrorist attacks offline and online. As they said in their

announcement: *"Terrorism is an attack on open societies, and addressing the threat posed by violence and hate is a critical challenge for us all. Google and YouTube are committed to being part of the solution. We are working with government, law enforcement and civil society groups to tackle the problem of violent extremism online. There should be no place for terrorist content on our services."*

This is why the "redirect method" will be implemented first on YouTube as part of a four-step plan to combat terrorism online. The redirect method works with the help of a targeting tool which signals and flags keywords in searches and comes to us with a list of videos "debunking" narratives which extremists use in order to attract followers on the Internet and recruit them. This is part of YouTube's efforts to "provide more resources and more content that can help change minds of people at risk of being radicalized" as they have explained in an article posted on their official blog. Besides the redirect methods, the four-step programme Google is implementing also includes

measures to update and increase technological tools to identify extremist and terrorism-related videos, measures to make videos that have an "inflammatory potential", but which do not violate policies, harder to find and bringing 50 NGO experts into YouTube's Trusted Flagger programme. *"Collectively, these changes will make a difference. And we'll keep working on the problem until we get the balance right. Extremists and terrorists seek to attack and erode not just our security, but also our values; the very things that make our societies open and free. We must not let them. Together, we can build lasting solutions that address the threats to our security and our freedoms. It is a sweeping and complex challenge. We are committed to playing our part."*

<https://www.blog.google/topics/google-europe/four-steps-were-taking-today-fight-online-terror/>, retrieved July 10th, 2017.

NEWS FROM MOVEMENTS

European Coordination - our first planning meeting of the year



Our first planning meeting of the year reunited 15 representatives of our member movements for a very special task - starting the evaluation of our four-year Action Plan which finishes this year and setting the grounds for new mid-term strategic objectives. The Don Bosco centre in Dilbeek - Belgium, the already-traditional host of our European Coordination meetings, welcomed us for two days on 8th and 9th April.

Nine member movements were directly represented at the meeting, six of them being full members and we benefited from the presence of a special guest from MIJARC World, Daniela Ordowski - World Coordinator for Europe.

At the first official meeting and especially this year - the year for strategic planning for MIJARC, the European Coordination's agenda was packed and the delegates had a lot of work to do. First, three new European Coordinators were elected: Tsvetilen Petkov (YMDR-AB - Bulgaria), Bogdan Teodorescu (Agenda 21-Romania) and Gino Van Moer (KLJ-Belgium). They will be the ones who will ensure the communication between their movements and MIJARC Europe and represent their movements in MIJARC Europe's statutory meetings. Another important point that was discussed was the webmap, a tool to help us visualize the movements and local groups active in MIJARC Europe, in order to facilitate exchanges between them. The movements agreed to look for volunteers to join the team from KLJ who is developing the map. On the financial side, the coordinators discussed the budgets and the spending and were happy to discover that the past two years have been really positive years which helped our organization to build some savings. The session on MIJARC World included a brief presentation of the decisions made at their last GA in India and raised a debate on whether the membership fees should be spent on paying the board members part time. Finally, it was decided to make an evaluation of the part-time payment next year and see if it worked or this should be changed.

Also, the coordinators started the evaluation of the current Action plan and tried to answer four questions: *Were the challenges and objectives of MIJARC Europe the good ones for our organization? Were the objectives achieved? Were the activities set up in the action plan the good ones to reach the objectives? What challenges still remain?* The conclusion of the working groups was that the objectives suited MIJARC Europe but they were too general and therefore difficult to achieve and measure.

One observation was that the activities were always the same, not ambitious enough and they did not involve the member movements in a visible way. One cause for not achieving the objectives 100% was the lack of human and financial resources. There is the impression that during our meetings we talk too much about things, we write a position paper but we do not reach any conclusions and there are no actions, or contacts with politicians.

Another important result of the meeting was the unanimous adoption of the Position Paper *"World Climate Challenge. A sustainable future for youth in rural areas"* which was developed by the participants at the international seminar *"Youth Energy Powering the Future"* in 2016.

Orientation General Assembly - new strategic objectives for MIJARC



KLJB Mainz was the host of the most important event MIJARC Europe has had this year: its Orientation General Assembly. Why was this event so important? Because it only takes place once every four years and it is the place where we set our strategic approach for the next four years. An Orientation General Assembly is composed of a larger number of participants from full member organizations. The tasks of the Orientation General Assembly are the same as those of a regular Assembly, the only addition being the task to set the guidelines and to draft a work plan for the following 4 years.

It was also an important event because the entire European Team was finishing their mandates and new members had to be elected. Fortunately, there were four great candidates who impressed the members present at the OGA and they were voted. Therefore, MIJARC Europe has a new

Team of four people: Arman Grygorian from FYCA-Armenia, Claire Perrot Minot from MRJC-France, Cristiana Palma from JARC-Portugal and Daniela Ordowski from KLJB-Germany. We also have one new European Coordinator for MJRC Spain - Maria Gomez.

Four was also the number of candidate movements to become full members. After spending three years as observer members: Bujrum from FYRO Macedonia, FYCA from Armenia, GYC from Malta and S&G from Turkey applied to become full member movements. The GA approved the candidacy of FYCA and GYC and they became full member movements.

Most of the time was spent working on the strategic objectives and action plan for the next four years which proved very challenging but finally resulted in very clear and specific guidelines for what MIJARC Europe will be doing in the future. **Three thematic focus points** were set: (i) *a sustainable future for agriculture and rural youth*, (ii) *Europe in a globalized world* and (iii) *citizenship- youth, promote youth work*. These focus points laid down the topics on which MIJARC Europe will be working in the next four years. They will complement the **four operational objectives** set: (i) *internal development of MIJARC Europe as a network for and with its member organisations*, (ii) *MIJARC Europe European System: advocate and*

cooperate for the interest of rural youth in a partners strategy, (iii) *MIJARC Europe in world perspective* and (iv) *MIJARC Europe Communication – Finances*. Each operational objective is divided in concrete sub-objectives which will guide the activities of the network and its approach. The strategic objectives were integrated into a concrete Action Plan which marks the activities developed and measures taken by MIJARC Europe every year. The two strategic documents reflect the views of all our member movements and will work as fundamental guidelines for the network.

To find out more about the Strategic Objectives and Action Plan for 2018-2021 go on our website: mijareurope.net



KLJB Germany and MRJC France celebrating peace and friendship



In 2018 the world will celebrate 100 years since the end of the First World War, a time of remembrance and reflection on the lesson learnt and still remaining to be learnt. On this special occasion, between 1st - 5th August 2018, in Besançon-France, KLJB-Germany and MRJC-France are organizing a joint event of impressive dimensions, planning to bring more than 5,000 young people together for a summer event. The aim is to celebrate peace, friendship and empower youth to work on cultural peace. The event will focus on five topics: agriculture, food sovereignty, economy,

employment and living together. Key speakers will be present there and even Pope Francis will be invited. MIJARC Europe's members are invited to join the event as participants, volunteers and even as facilitators. If you are interested in joining this event please contact MIJARC Europe's office.



Study visit - Visiting at the speed of radicalization



Yes, we had a study visit and yes, we walked and visited. A lot! MIJARC Europe's agenda between 8th and 11th May was a busy one and it included no less than 7 meetings with different institutions and experts in the field of extremism and radicalization. Nine energetic and diligent young people joined us and invested their time and energy to learn and become multipliers in

their local networks and prepare the seminar, the second phase of the workplan. They learnt about the "No hate speech" and the Council of Europe's Action Plan on radicalization and violent extremism, met experts from the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN), met a Member of the European Parliament - Ivan Jakovic from Croatia, part of the liberal (ALDE) group and visited the City Council of Molenbeek, the European Youth Forum and the initiators of the governmental project "Bounce".

Even though the topic of radicalization and violent extremism is a hard and broad topic to cover, overall the study visit managed to achieve its objectives. The participants discovered that radicalization does not necessarily have to be a bad thing but it is important to discern when it becomes extremism. During several of the study visits they learned about youth empowerment and youth awareness and why active young people are to some extent always radical. Becoming an empowered young person who believes in democracy or being a



young person who does not believe in democracy, instead motivates the activism on racial or religious grounds are both examples of a radicalization process where extremism could be a consequence of this process.

There were many different approaches presented during the study visits on mainly how to fight violent extremism and its consequences, awareness building and different legal actions. Most of the member movements of MIJARC Europe are probably not in a position from where they could fight violent extremism in their local rural areas. However, there is another equally important perspective as how to best fight extremism and with what tools or

methods and that is the work of prevention, by increasing the knowledge on radicalization and violent extremism. The participants have learned how to focus on being an open-minded democratic and transparent youth organization with inclusive values and positions where young people are not exposed to non-democratic or fundamentalist values. These are place where young people can be just young people, work and learn in an atmosphere where they will not feel judged on their ethnicity, sexuality or religion. Preventing violent extremism by being inclusive and democratic is probably the best method there is for organizations such as those working in the MIJARC Network. We hope that the skills the participants acquired during the study visit will show just that when later they are back in their own realities doing what they are doing best, and that is working with young people in rural areas.

While some of the participants already had some knowledge, for many this was a new topic. A topic to understand and at the same time a topic that relates to their local work. However, defining the concepts was difficult

and even during the visits we could notice that there were different understandings of the main concepts depending on the expert's experience or on the institution's orientation. The visits really covered a wide range of different actors, approaches and tools working on the topic and even though more time would have been necessary to go deeper into the topics and clearly understand them, at the end of the study visit it was obvious that all participants left with more knowledge than they had on arrival. Finally, some of the them joined the team who prepared the next phase of the workplan and all of them took back the experience and the knowledge in their local movements.

The study visit was part of our annual work plan "Radically against extremism" which is co-financed by the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation and Renovabis.

Article inspired by the evaluation report written by
Marcuz Haile
study visit trainer

NEWS FROM MOVEMENTS



KLJB NEWS

"Tacheles!" - A project opposing extremism!



"Tacheles!" study workshop participants follow the presentation of survey results

"Tacheles!" is a cooperation project launched by KLJB and BDAJ (Association of the Alevi Youth in Germany) in order to fight extremism, anti-semitism and xenophobia. Through different initiatives and activities, the project addresses a tolerant, heterogeneous and cosmopolitan society. "Tacheles!" is a platform that encourages young people to discuss and exchange opinions on extremism, anti-semitism and xenophobia and to reflect the world's latest social and political developments. All participants are enabled to overtake reflected positions, drawing examples of openness, kindness and friendship as multipliers in the society.

The word "Tacheles!" derives from Yiddish language and means „to talk straight (with somebody)", which perfectly underlines the project's aim. Hence, all project participants should be enabled to talk straight against any kind of extremism, anti-semitism and xenophobia. The project is divided into five phases,

which chronologically overlap to some extent. Being stretched out over four years from 2016 to 2019, "Tacheles!" alternately focuses on actions by local groups, trainings for multipliers and actions in cooperation with third partners such as Jewish organizations.

At the beginning, the project started with an online survey in order to research on the target groups' assumptions and opinions regarding the project's main topics. Examples are questions addressing attitudes towards various marginal groups, political parties and general (daily) behavior. From September to December 2016, both organizations KLJB and BDAJ as well as others were able to join the survey on the project's website www.projekt-tacheles.de. The survey was also conducted in order to match activities and initiatives supported by "Tacheles!" adequate to indicate needs later on.

The survey was then evaluated and brought about key findings. The most interesting results are the following: Excursions and workshops belong to the preferential types of education. Interestingly, KLJB and BDAJ are considered as the most important medium of social and political education ahead of school. This shows both the potential and, even more important, the responsibility of KLJB and BDAJ towards their members and the society we live in as well as the one we want to live in. Furthermore, it turned out

that interdependencies between hostilities towards various groups, usually marginal groups such as religious, cultural or social minorities, exist.

"In this context, it was exciting to discover predominantly cosmopolitan and liberal attitudes. Nevertheless, statements express the need to educate and work against various kinds of extremism also in KLJB and BDAJ. Hence, even in our communities you can find opinions and attitudes which endanger a simple and peaceful society", says Daniel Steiger, national chaplain of KLJB.

As a next step, trainings for multipliers based on the survey's results are planned for 2018. At the same time, further activities by local groups will be put into practice. A training workshop already realized, was an input session with an expert journalist focusing on the topic of "media and racism". It highlighted how racism and discrimination still form part of



Group picture of all "Tacheles!" study workshop participants from KLJB and BDAJ

pictures, language and reports in the media and sensitized all participants in this regard.

We are content to already look back at many different and exciting activities. For instance, a theater visit dealing with the NSU (National Socialist Underground) in Germany, an excursion to a synagogue including a kosher meal afterwards, an anti-racism training and many more. Thus, "Tacheles!" has achieved a lot of things

at this stage already and we are looking forward to the upcoming "Tacheles!" events.

Linda Kürten
project manager "Tacheles!" and consultant for theology
KLJB-Germany

Input workshop on the topic of "media and racism" by an expert journalist (New German Media Professionals)



KLJ NEWS

World Players' project in Belgium



In Belgium, different youth movements started an amazing project for young refugees arriving in our country. One of those movements was KLJ. The dream is that every refugee shelter works together with local youth movements to include the young refugees in our society. Through this project, we wish to fight radicalisation. When different groups get to know each other better, radical ideas would stand no chance.

KLJ wants to include a focus on a nice leisure time. We want the kids to be kids. We want

them to be able to play, to see and to experience what youth movement in this country can be. We want them to become a part of us.

For that, we worked with other youth movements. Together we were able to supply a lot of fun activities in the weekend for young refugees in the shelter of Lint. The volunteers, who worked with the children were able to form ideas, tips and tricks about how to include those young refugees. Their experiences were all listed on the website so that other young volunteers could be inspired and maybe start a project on their own.

The project has gotten a lot of attention in Belgium. The minister of youth even came by to take a look. The project is still ongoing, even though the "refugee-crisis" is less acute and/or present in our media. The project now mainly focusses on local cooperation between the local groups and local refugee shelters. On that note, its website gives a lot of inspiration on how to include children who fled their homelands.

For KLJ, the cooperation in this project was, and still is, a success. Our volunteers are happy to work out different activities, and participate in what truly is 'youth work without borders'.

KLJ-Belgium



S&G NEWS

Imagine-Migrant journeys from Syria to Europe



The main goal of the project "Imagine: Migrant journeys from Syria to Europe" is to spread information about migration from Middle East to Europe and Northern Europe. We want to let people experience the journeys that migrants go on fleeing the war in Syria. Our aim is to create an interactive visualization of the dangers, the sacrifices and the difficult choices Syrian migrants need to make on these journeys. The purpose of the game is for the players to take on the roles of migrants from Syria travelling through Turkey towards Europe. The emphasis of the game is on planning, gathering and

putting together pieces of information and planning your next move while at the same time avoiding police raids. The idea behind this strategy board game is to get players to understand what a migrant has to go through in order to get to Europe.

We want to improve the knowledge about migration and the restless situation in the Middle East so that people are more aware of the reality of these refugees and hopefully improve the feeling of intercultural citizenship in Europe. In July we plan to make an exhibition in Izmir, Turkey and Gothenburg, Sweden. We will show 40 pictures and 10 videos from the events where we presented the game and will show testimonials from people that played the game. We are currently distributing the game worldwide by post and by our representative on various events and projects. The game is being translated into Turkish, Arabic and French and will be distributed to Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt soon. If you want to have a copy of it you can send us an email or contact us on [Facebook](#)

Our project "IMAGINE: migrant journeys" is becoming more and more popular! We won the Eurodesk Network award for 2017! On 13 April Eurodesk published the results in this wonderful [video](#)

You can read more about the game in the [Eurodesk Award Project Catalogue](#) for 2017

Bledi Cami
S&G Turkey



The Austrian „Landjugend“ (Rural Youth Austria) is with its around 90,000 members one of the biggest youth organizations in the rural area. The focus of our community is the advanced training of our members and the active composition of the rural area. This year's motto is "shop locally". The key subject is dedicated to the positive effect of purchasing local products instead of imported goods.

The aim of this new key subject is to make people buy local goods to strengthen the regional economy. Through this, Rural Youth Austria plans ahead and takes care of the future generations, too.

The consumption of locally-produced goods leads to an improvement in sustainability and the local job market. Buying regional products means influencing the economy in a positive way as the purchasing power within an area increases. The conscious decision to buy locally-

produced goods results in the emergence of new workplaces and the reduction of emissions as the transport routes get smaller. Moreover, the living standards of the future will rise. With this key subject, the Rural Youth Austria focuses on educating young teenagers on how to be a more conscious buyer and why it is important to act more environmentally-friendly.

Recently, a study of the Johannes-Kepler-University in Linz has showed that an additional 21,000 workplaces could be created if consumers bought 10 percent more regional products. Another survey, conducted by the Market Institute, proves that 61 percent of the population thinks that it is important that products come from Austria. Therefore, it is significant to deal with this topic.

We have already planned different activities all over the country such as the "At home I buy my

goods - tour" to raise awareness for local production among our population. As part of this tour, we will distribute around 20,000 cotton bags filled with regional products, pads, pencils and info-folders to let consumers and teenagers know about the importance of buying locally-produced products.

Rural Youth Austria



Goodbye, welcome and see you all again

Three wonderful years have passed since our European Team was elected at the General Assembly we had in 2014 in Marconne, France. This meant that at this year's Assembly their mandate of three years expired and new elections were in place. Veronika Nordhus, Thibault Duisit and Jeroen Decorte were inspiring examples of leaders, friends, facilitators, organizers, accountants and whatever else the long job description of European Team member included. Therefore, we invite you to get your inspiration from the testimony of Veronika Nordhus, former president of MIJARC Europe.

Looking back, three years of MIJARC meant for me an absolutely great and totally challenging time with many ups and downs which I managed with the most amazing and supportive team (including Alex and Florina) I had in 17 years of KLJB/MIJARC. I have the feeling we actually leave some good things behind. I learned a lot about myself being responsible for an organisation with staff, grants to catch, financial struggles, member organisations and participants and found some surprising talents of mine. All in all, I met great people from all over Europe who changed me with all their ideas, experiences and fun we had and have a place in my heart.



INTERVIEW



Inspired by the experience of the old team, enthusiastic, confident, "young enough to think they know everything" but also wise and patient, four new members decided to test their powers and convinced the Assembly to vote for them as new members of the European Team. Dear all, we introduce to you: Arman Grigoryan, Claire Perrot-Minot, Cristiana Palma and Daniela Ordowski.

Arman Grigoryan

Age: 25

Country: Armenia

Why did you decide to join MIJARC Europe?

A few years ago I discovered MIJARC Europe as a reputable youth organization. I am happy that Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia is a part of this big family and I had an opportunity to join MIJARC Europe Team. For me it's a new step forward! It's a 3-year creative work and a new way of life, full of adventures, new skills and friends!

What do you think you can bring to MIJARC Europe?

First of all, my experience and knowledge, new way of thinking and creativity. Being the only representative of Eastern Europe, I'll add a new colour to the palette of MIJARC Europe, thus making it more complete.

Claire Perrot-Minot

Age: 26 years old

Country: France and living in Germany

Why did you decide to join MIJARC Europe?

I decided to join MIJARC Europe because I think that young people have to join their strengths in order to be heard on global topics such as: climate change or the kind of society we want to live in. Also RURAL youth have to raise their voice! Maybe we have less access to international experiences, maybe we have less infrastructures... but we also have to join the debate and speak up. Finally, I joined because international and intercultural exchanges are strong and beautiful experiences and it is a great thing that member organisations can offer this possibility to their young members through MIJARC Europe.

What do you think you can bring to MIJARC Europe?

I can bring a bit of experience in European projects, awareness on the challenges of interculturalism and a strong wish to strengthen MIJARC Europe!

Daniela Ordowski

Age: 24 years old

Country: Germany

Why did you decide to join MIJARC Europe?

Rationally I decided to join the European Team after I was elected for the MIJARC World Coordination, because I thought these two mandates would complement each other very well. After some reflection, I certainly realized that I had already decided in 2013, at my first GA in Poland, that at some indefinite future date I wanted to be a part of such an amazing task.

What do you think you can bring to MIJARC Europe?

After four years of attending MIJARC events I can bring a lot of experience to MIJARC Europe and contribute with my MIJARC World perspective. Working with intercultural groups made me more patient but also capable of seeing the hidden treasures behind complex international cooperation. My passion for this work, encouraging young people from rural areas to raise their voice and stand together as European citizens, and the love for MIJARC is my major contribution.

Cristiana Palma

Age: 20 years old

Country: Portugal

What is your experience with MIJARC Europe?

Last year (2016) in FYRO Macedonia I decided to become an observer member of the team. Therefore, I followed the team, their decisions, the activities and I learned a lot through the experience of Veronika, Thibault and Jeroen. I had one year to decide if I wanted to be a board member, and yesterday (21.08.2017) I decided.

Why do you want to be part of MIJARC Europe?

Because MIJARC Europe is me and you and everybody - it is because we have the same purpose - agriculture, rural youth and education. I know that my English is not perfect, but with the help of the team I will manage.



Meet our new intern

MIJARC Europe is happy to introduce Johanna Grießer, from Germany, who will do an internship with our organization between 7th August - 5th October 2017. We asked her some questions about her motivation to come and work for our network and her expectations.

Johanna Grießer

Age: 23

Country: Germany

Why were interested to work as intern for MIJARC Europe?

I want to get an inside view of the work of international youth organizations. Also, I like to work with young people from different backgrounds.

What do you expect to get out of this experience?

Because I am a strong believer in the "European idea", I hope I can help to connect young people from all over Europe and try to improve youth participation. And of course, I am looking forward to getting to know many young and active people from MIJARC.

Calendar of planned activities

When ...?	What...?	Where...?
23 rd - 29 th August 2017	Summer camp	Yerevan - Armenia
1 st August - 30 th October 2017	Round tables	all 12 member countries
2 nd - 5 th August 2018	International Festival for Peace	Besançon - France

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For more information about MIJARC Europe please contact us:

MIJARC Europe - European Secretariat

Joseph Coosemans 53 - 1030 Brussels

Tel: (00 32) 485 36 84 74 | Fax: (00 32) 2 734 92 25

E-mail: office-europe@mijarc.info



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