

MIJARC

Call for members for
MIJARC Europe Commissions

EUROPE



MIJARC Europe Commissions

At MIJARC Europe's last Orientation General Assembly, which took place in Mainz-Germany, between 21st - 23rd July 2017, the delegates approved the creation of **three specialized work commissions** to work on the three thematic focus points and to help the European Board to implement the Action Plan and achieve the newly adopted Strategic Objectives.

Three new Commissions will be set up and will work on:

- 1. A sustainable culture for agriculture and rural youth**
- 2. Our European vision towards an interconnected world**
- 3. Citizenship and youth participation in rural development**

Tasks of members of the commissions:

- attend at least one Commission meeting per year (in 2018 the Commissions meeting is scheduled for **18th-20th May, most probably in Brussels** - however, this will be decided by the members of the Commissions). All travel, accommodation and meal costs will be covered by MIJARC Europe;
- attend the online meetings (via Skype; the number of meetings will be agreed by the members of each Commission);
- work on and take decisions about the methods to use and how to deal with the topics that are linked to the Action Plan;
- support the European Team as experts, ensure the external representation of the organization and set up the Think Tank if needed ;
- set up and run the European campaigns as written in the Action Plan of MIJARC Europe.

IT'S TIME TO START YOUR MANDATE AS A MEMBER OF ONE OF OUR THREE COMMISSIONS

In order to have a clearer image on what each Commission will be working on, here is the detailed content of each thematic focus points as laid out in our four years Strategic Objectives.

1. A sustainable future for agriculture and rural youth

The members of this commission will work on the topic of agriculture and the development of rural areas. Rural areas constitute a significant territory of Europe (51.3 % in 2012). As MIJARC Europe is a network of rural youth organizations, we are promoting and working to obtain a present and a future for the youth in rural areas. We promote livable rural areas, with infrastructure and opportunities for youth. Rural life and communities are spaces for engagement, the roots of our local groups. Rural life is marked by different economic activities, among which agriculture has a significant role. We defend agriculture which:

- o is sustainable;
- o gives opportunities to youth to get involved and have a future in rural areas;
- o secures affordable and fair prices for farmers and consumers;
- o is based on the concept of food sovereignty.

We therefore are in favour of a reorientation of CAP to sustain the above mentioned points on agriculture, using the opportunity of change of CAP 2020.

Our rural realities are affected by global rules set up to improve free trade and exchange. As a result, the production of our rural places is not sold locally or is not produced for the local market. We will raise awareness about how policy making and consumption behaviors affect agriculture by creating links between producers and consumers. We will support a trade system that prioritizes for local products and local markets.

Youth unemployment is a challenge everywhere in Europe, also in rural areas. Rural areas should offer youth a perspective in life and home for their now and future.

We will support youth in finding ideas to develop and promote jobs in the rural areas. We will advocate for specific support to guarantee the existence of job opportunities in rural areas.

2. Our European vision in an interconnected world

We are a European network in a world organization: MIJARC World. We are well aware of the challenges we are facing in the 21st century in an interconnected world. Within the EU and outside of the EU, the economic competition leads to a race of the cheapest. This leads us to a too intensive use of land, energy, and to the exploitation of humans. We promote cooperation with our neighbors to increase the respect of the earth, land, biodiversity and high social standards.

Europe is also the destination of many migrants escaping wars and famine. As Europeans, we will welcome them, respecting the right of Asylum in decent condition. We will be aware of the actions taken by our European governments that amplify the explosive situation in many countries of the world.

Many of the conflicts, famines and other reasons for such a high amount of migration towards Europe are linked to global warming and the lack of responsibility taken by the governments. We will continue to work on this topic to advocate for an improvement in European policies to ensure a human inclusive approach towards the migrants and to

challenge all the factors causing people to leave their home.

After the terrorist attacks around Europe, the answer from the governments is mainly an increase of intolerance and populist expressions, an increase of army forces instead of dialogue. Contrary to these policies, we will continue to promote this idea of dialogue, to raise awareness on the sensitivity of these and show that it is not to be solved by military action but by dialogue and by respect to social rights.

In a world of change; with threats to our democratic countries, with global warming, with migration, we want to take advantage of being part of a worldwide network to promote and build a peaceful vision towards the others and the world. To build this common vision the Sustainable Development Goals are a good compass.

All this will allow us to realize our aim of a Europe of cooperation, playing its role in a world of peace.

3. Citizenship and youth participation in rural development

As a youth organization with young people speaking up for their rights and interests as active citizens, we will support young people to grow in their role in society. Our work is based on non-formal education methods, with which we offer opportunities to develop skills and strengthen the empowerment of young people.

Youth organizations are spaces to learn the importance of taking responsibility, get used to democratic processes, to start and develop projects, to gain experience and to acquire new skills. We promote youth work and the principles of youth organizations, lead and animated by youth for youth.

Political institutions at the European level have to be representatives of the diversity of our societies: young and old, men and women, poor and rich or all in between. This also means that in European organizations and institutions gender equality and diversity need to be better represented.

We want to be one voice of the rural youth in these institutions. We want to be recognized as youth and be recognized as citizens and to have the deserved representation. As a Christian organization, our religious belief and its core values are a starting point for exchanges between people with different conviction. We will promote inter-religious dialogue and peace in this interconnected world.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

We are expecting our Member Organizations to nominate **AT LEAST 1 CANDIDATE** to be part of one of our Commissions. This is a wonderful opportunity for our member organizations to get more involved in the management structures of MIJARC Europe and give their young members the chance to gain experience in the management of an international organization.

Therefore, we invite you to spread this call in your network and/or local groups and identify people that might be interested.

Profile of the candidate

The ideal candidate is expected to:

- Have a good understanding of MIJARC Europe, its structure and its aims;
- Be aware of the rural realities in his/her country (and preferably beyond) and be familiar with the perspectives of rural youth;
- Be interested in one of the three thematic focus points and be ready to do more research;
- Be able to support young participants in their learning process;
- Be able to communicate in English;
- Be able to work in a multicultural team;
- Be available for at least one international meeting per year;

Rules of functioning of the Commissions:

- In each Commission there will be a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 6 people, representing 3 different countries and minimum 2 different regions (Western and Central-Eastern Europe);
- The candidates will be proposed by the member movements and approved by the European Board;
- Each Commission will be led by one member of the European Team or by a European Coordinator;
- The leader of each Commission will be nominated by the members of the Commission;
- The mandate of the Commission members will be of 2 years;
- The Commissions will report to the European Team about their decisions and the results of their meetings no later than 2 weeks after the decisions were taken or the meetings took place;
- The members of the Commissions can also be part of the Think Tanks that prepare the annual activities;
- The Commissions work and take decisions about the methods to use and how to

deal with the topics that are linked to the Action Plan;

- The Commissions support the European Team as experts, ensure the external representation of the organization, set up the Think Tank if needed and write at least one article per issue for the Info Europe;
- The members of the Commissions meet at least once per year;
- The Commissions set up and run the European campaigns as written in the Action Plan.

Timeline

- 1st March – Deadline receipt of applications
- 19th March - Announcing the members of the Commissions
- 18th - 20th May - Commission meeting - Brussels
- May - December - at least one Skype meeting
- *Optional: 2nd - 5th July - Youth Peace Camp – Portugal*
- *Optional: 6th - 8th July - General Assembly – Portugal*
- *Optional: 4th - 8th September - International Simulation - Romania*

Application procedure

Member movements are invited to nominate candidates by sending the following information to the MIJARC Europe Secretariat via email office-europe@mijarc.info :

- Full name of the candidate
- Email address
- Telephone
- Skype ID
- Facebook page (if applicable)
- A short description of the candidate and her/his role in the national organization.
- A short description of the previous experience of the candidate with MIJARC Europe (if any)
- The Commission the candidate is interested in joining

For more information on the call, please contact our Secretariat at:

a.solomon@mijarc.net

Best Regards,

The Executive Board of MIJARC Europe

MIJARC EUROPE

A large, stylized logo for MIJARC Europe. It features a light blue globe with a yellow wheat stalk in the center, set against a background of the word 'MIJARC' in large yellow letters on the left and 'EUROPE' in large yellow letters on the right.