



*Be Rural, Believe in You(th), Create
the Europe of Tomorrow!*

ACTIVITY REPORT

2013



MIJARC EUROPE ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

From the 1st of January to the 31st December 2013

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About MIJARC Europe



Mission Statement

MIJARC Europe is a non-governmental organisation for rural youth, by rural youth. We promote sustainable agricultural, rural and international development, European citizenship, youth policies, gender equality, environmental protection, interculturality and human rights. Considering the Christian values, we strive to implement and raise awareness about these issues and goals by facilitating inter-cultural exchanges, camps, seminars and non-formal learning opportunities in a sustainable and culturally sensitive manner. Employing our methodology of 'see-judge-act', we encourage the participation of young people to build the Europe of tomorrow.

Executive board of MIJARC Europe (European Team)

In 2013 MIJARC Europe's executive board was composed by its members: Lyubomir Todorov, Florian Aurbacher, Oliver Dugrain and Anna Caryk who are continuing their mandates. During the Orientation General Assembly in August 2013, Jan Vanwijnsberghe was elected as new European team member for a 3-years mandate.



Lyubomir Todorov
(Bulgaria)



Anna Caryk
(Poland)



Florian Aurbacher
(Germany)



Olivier Dugrain
(France)



Jan Vanwijnsberghe
(Belgium)

About MIJARC Europe

MIJARC Europe Secretariat

The secretariat is composed by staff members who implement the decisions of the General Assembly, under the guidelines of the European Team. The main responsibilities of the secretariat are: fundraising, administrative and financial management, communication, project management and organisation of statutory meetings.

In 2013 MIJARC Europe secretariat was composed by:



Ana Silva, the European Secretary, working full-time at the headquarters in Brussels since July 2010.



Yordanka Petrova, secretary working full-time in Bulgaria since August 2010. She finished her contract in October 2013.



Magdalena Puć, secretary working in Poland from November to December 2013 in a part-time basis.



From April to August 2013 we have hosted a trainee at our headquarters in Brussels:
Tanja Köglmeier

About MIJARC Europe

General Objectives of 2013 Work Program

In 2013 we have reached an important milestone in our organisation's path: the adoption of a new 4-years Action Plan and Specific Objectives, during the Orientation General Assembly in August.

It was a year focused on evaluations and consultations but also in the successful conclusion of the previous Action Plan.

Thus, we have kept working to empower rural young people to improve their villages and defend their rights, making their voices heard all over Europe.

MIJARC Europe continued to pursue the aim of educating and involving rural young people on the topics of:

- youth inclusion and participation in society and decision-making processes;
- sustainable rural development, farming and global markets;
- environmental protection, such as climate change, natural resources and biodiversity loss;
- promotion of Human Rights and full equal participation in society for everyone;
- migration;
- importance of the recognition of non-formal and informal education;

As European platform, MIJARC Europe always has in its activities the aim to promote European Citizenship, mutual understanding and tolerance by cultural differences and diversity existing between its member and partner organisations and empower new partnerships between them.

Our goal is to allow these rural young people, normally with fewer opportunities, to get together, share, learn and grow together with the sense of cooperation to achieve easily their goals.

MIJARC Europe team members also engaged in several representation meetings in 2013, in order to bring to the higher decision-making institutions at European Level, the voice of the rural young people in Europe, their concerns and their proposals for a rural sustainable development, as well as to get in contact with new like-minded organisations with which we could join efforts and work together in a near future.

After the Orientation General Assembly in August, MIJARC Europe started implementing the new Specific Objectives and Action Plan 2013-2017. Both are available here: <http://mijarc.net/en/node/56> and annexed at the end of this report.





MIJARC Europe campaign

“Migration – Challenge for European Rural Development”

When? January - December 2013



Where? All over Europe

Who? Member movements and contact movements of MIJARC Europe

Why?

- To follow-up and disseminate the results of the seminar “Migration – Challenge for European Rural Development” in 2012;
- To disseminate campaign materials from national levels down to grassroots allowing everyone to participate actively in this campaign;
- To empower MIJARC Europe member movements and all rural young people to engage in putting forward the commitments and demands expressed in the position paper and taking concrete actions concerning migrants' situations, especially in rural areas in Europe.
- To give ideas for actions based on Non-Formal education methods.

How?

*This year we have created **3 campaign tools**:*

- A campaign video, gathering general information about migration, our seminar in 2012 and some commitments and demands which resulted from the work developed during the seminar. We invite you to watch it on the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4ram-9G18o>
- A Toolkit compiling several activities/games that were used during our seminar, to help youth leaders exploring the topic of Migration in their own groups;
- A Position Paper built from the conclusions of our seminar, expressing the commitments and demands of MIJARC Europe member movements, as we have been doing in the previous years. This document constitutes a lobby tool for MIJARC Europe and its member movements.
- A special campaign page was created on our website and all tools are available from there: <http://mijarc.net/en/node/6720>



MIJARC Europe Summer Camp

“Building Bridges for a More Inclusive Rural Europe”



When? 25th July - 1st August 2013

Where? Harghita County, Romania

Who? 39 rural young people from MRJC France, KLJ Belgium, KLJB Germany, YMDRAB Bulgaria, EiR Poland and APSD-Agenda 21 Romania

Why?

To make the participants:

- reflect on and share their realities/experiences of social exclusion in Europe;
- experience intercultural learning, getting connected and identifying similarities with other young Europeans with different cultural backgrounds;
- be aware of the importance of their active citizenship (at national and European levels) and active participation/initiative as well as a European cooperation to build the Europe we want and need;
- develop self-confidence, creative and critical thinking and overcome their fear of expressing feelings and opinions;
- adopt attitudes of mutual understanding, tolerance and solidarity towards cultural differences in order to build social cohesion within the EU;
- debate youth unemployment reasons and consequences, understanding that creativity and entrepreneurship can be the best tools to succeed;
- think about projects to implement on their local communities to become more inclusive.



How?

Through many non-formal and informal educational activities such as field visits, pedagogical games, icebreakers and energizers, clues game, debate/discussions on the topics of the activity, quiz, International and Romanian evenings, presentations by each country, plenary sessions, world café, interaction with the host community. A leaflet was created for dissemination and exploitation of results.

More info:

Webpage: <http://mijarc.net/en/node/6969>

InfoEurope magazine: [http://mijarc.net/sites/default/files/files/Info%20Europe_02_2013_English\(1\).pdf](http://mijarc.net/sites/default/files/files/Info%20Europe_02_2013_English(1).pdf)

MIJARC Europe Seminar

“Rural Youth Leading the Change in Society”



When? 9th - 15th August 2013

Where? Nowy Gierałtów, Poland

Who? 37 participants from JARC Portugal, MJRC Spain, MRJC France, KLJB Germany, KLJ Belgium, EiR Poland, YMDRAB Bulgaria and APSD – Agenda 21 Romania

Why?

To give the participants the opportunity to:



- define which changes (long term and short term) have come into importance in the last years;
- ask themselves what they want to focus on and how we can be an influential actor in the change of the society we live in;
- analyse and exchange realities specifically in politics, rural economy and diverse societies;
- establish a vision of our "perfect world" - how we want to see the future of rural areas;
- identify ways to overcome the mutual exclusion and to increase the involvement of rural youth in the social life in local communities, developing projects with an intercultural approach.

How?

In order to explore such a broad topic in only 5 days, before the seminar a “Think Tank” was set up, constituted by people from different member movements who deeply engaged in the preparation of this seminar organised in 3 different thematic working groups: **“Rural youth leading the change in... politics”**, **“Rural youth leading the change in... rural economy”** and **“Rural youth leading the change in ... diverse societies”**;

All activities were organized through non-formal and informal education methods and techniques, such as plenary sessions, discussions, interaction with guest speakers, field visits, role-play games, etc.

- A very nice Newspaper was created by the participants in order to disseminate the results.

More info:

Website: <http://mijarc.net/en/node/9318> where you can find the full report available for download

InfoEurope magazine: http://mijarc.net/sites/default/files/files/Issue3_ENG.pdf

MIJARC Europe Training Session

“NGO management Training”

When? 27th November – 1st December 2013



Where? Dilbeek, Belgium

Who? 6 participants from JARC Portugal, MRJC France, KLJB Germany, EiR Poland, YMDRAB Bulgaria and APSD – Agenda 21 Romania

Why?

We have been assisting to youth organisations, namely our member movements, struggling to get the greatest impact and most successful results from their activism, with limited resources, especially in the last years due to the big financial crisis that has been aggressing Europe. Additionally, each member movement of MIJARC Europe is differently organised, has different needs and it is focusing in different challenges, depending mainly on the reality of its country, how long it is established and its dimension (number of members and resources). Many of our smallest members identify as problematic a decreasing number of members and the difficulty to find new leaders/youth workers/volunteers to renew their structure.

Following the adoption of MIJARC Europe's Specific Objectives 2013-2017 and in order to tackle specifically the point on “Strong Youth Organisations”, MIJARC Europe decided to provide some practical and technical support to its members, so that our European platform will become itself more sustainable, with active and strong member organisations, enjoying their full potential.

How?

This training was based in peer learning with exchange of realities and best practices from each organisation, focusing mainly on the topics of Strategic Planning, Communication in youth organisations, Fundraising, Leadership (session in the European Parliament), Advocacy and Policy Development and Quality Assurance of Non-Formal Education (special training provided with the support of the European Youth Forum).

A Follow-up strategy is in place with a continuous sharing of material and best practices in a peer-to-peer learning perspective.

More info:

Website article: <http://mijarc.net/en/node/34415>





MIJARC Europe/ECVC Study Session

“More Young Farmers, Better Food”

When? 3rd – 8th February 2013



Where? European Youth Centre in Budapest, Hungary

Who? 32 young people from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, UK

Why?

The main objectives of this study session were:

- to discuss about the situation of young farmers in Europe;
- to learn more about Via Campesina, Nyeleni Europe and the Council of Europe;
- to empower youth within Via Campesina to reinforce their participation at all levels
- to strengthen the youth group of ECVC;
- to develop action plans and follow-up the previous activities;
- to explore and train participants on key concepts related to CAP, seeds, agro-ecology, access to land and social aspects in agriculture (migrant workers, gender issues);
- to share and provide action tools related to land issues, as well as campaign strategies to influence agricultural policies.



How?

The first day was dedicated to give information to the participants about Via Campesina, Nyeleni Europe and the Council of Europe. During the next days there were many workshops, experiences' exchanges, discussions connected to agro-ecology, access to land, problems of young peasants, gender issues and migrant workers. There was a field visit to a farm near Budapest where it was possible to learn more about Hungarian realities. The last day was to work individually – every person tried to create a plan of different kinds of actions connected to the main topics of the study session.

More info:

MIJARC InfoEurope magazine **issue 1/2013**:

http://mijarc.net/sites/default/files/files/Info%20Europe_01_2013_English.pdf

Webpage of MIJARC Europe: <http://www.mijarc.org/en/node/6885>



KLJB Germany

IGW 2013: "Networking in Rural Areas"

When? 18th – 27th January 2013

Where? Berlin, Germany

Who? KLJB's department of rural development and guests from MIJARC Europe (around 5000 visitors)

Why?

As it has been usual, KLJB was an exhibitor at the annual International Green Week (IGW) in Berlin. KLJB sees itself, and other youth organizations in rural areas, as a valuable, strong network for rural youngsters. The importance of networks for youth work and the improvement of young people's living conditions on the grassroots need to be increased significantly for (rural) youth. On the other hand, to involve (rural) young people for sustainable development of rural areas, networks must be such that (rural) young people can contribute and co-determine their interests, needs and ideas.

The main goals of this activity could be seen as:

- To present the ideas of KLJB and MIJARC;
- To get in contact with different actors of church, society, and politics as well as people from all over Europe;
- To create networks for a common representation of the interests of rural areas.

How?

During the week KLJB was present with a stand, with different and interactive activities such as the "Personal Network Configurator" or the "interactive bus stop", to stimulate the dialogue with the public and raise awareness about rural areas' networking possibilities. Different existing networks in rural areas were presented: family assemblies such as farmers' associations or nature protection associations, church and rural youth movements, such as KLJB. Other actions took place, such as a demonstration at the central station on the topic "We are tired of agribusiness!"



More info (in German):

KLJB website: <http://kljb.org/projektarchiv/igw20130/>

Members' Activities

KLJ Belgium

“T Groep”

When? 14th April 2013

Where? Sint Niklaas, Belgium

Who? KLJ East Flanders and Staff of MIJARC Europe (around 500 visitors)

Why?

This event brought the members of KLJ East Flanders together to play and enjoy themselves, discovering the opportunities to participate within KLJ and also MIJARC Europe.



How?

KLJ volunteers from different regions have set up a “MIJARC working group” to spread the word inside the movement about MIJARC Europe’s existence and which possibilities are there for young people to have an international experience and exchange ideas and experiences with other rural young people around Europe.

This working group has created a “MIJARC Game” to attract local leaders of KLJ to come to their stand during this event. After playing

the game they could see some publications from MIJARC Europe, watch videos of previous activities and win a badge. This game was shared with the other MIJARC Europe member movements so they could also use it to inform their members about MIJARC.

More info:

KLJB Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/407000136057519/>

Website of MIJARC Europe: <http://www.mijarc.org/en/node/7991>

Members' Activities

KLJB Germany

72 Hours Action: "We are heaven sent"

When? 13th – 16th June 2013

Where? All around Germany

Who?

More than 100.000 people in total took part in this big project (439 groups of KLJB, meaning approximately 19.000 youngsters)

Why?

The idea of the 72 hours campaign originates from KLJB Oldenburg, one of the dioceses of the German "Catholic Rural Youth Movement" (KLJB) in 1993. The concept is to put children, young people, and young adults, during 72 hours, helping with works that no one was willing to do or there was no money to support the projects. The campaign has been driven by the conviction that acting out of the Christian faith can make the world a better place.

This unique campaign was a raving success and created impulses and a positive impact that goes far beyond 72 hours. And it has proved once again that young people can make a difference and that they are indeed "heaven sent".

How?

The projects were diverse and implied for e.g. construction works and educational programmes. Projects dealing with social inclusion were also part of the campaign. One of the KLJB groups, a group from Kastl, worked with people with disabilities. They took a horse-cart ride together, visited the city hall and the museum of local history, and met the mayor in order to show and promote a better inclusion of people with disabilities. Another group refurbished the garden of a home for the elderly, yet another group prepared an international festival with young people from Slovakia.

This project is becoming stronger and stronger, achieving now an international dimension (partner countries in Africa and Latin America are also implementing this concept now).

There was a strong impact on the recognition of rural youth work towards the church, the policy/decision-makers and society in general.

More info (in German):

http://www.72stunden.de/fileadmin/media/Bilder_Fotos_Dateien/Dokumentation/72-Stunden_Dokumentation.pdf

KLJB website: <http://kljb.org/72-stunden-aktion/projektmarathon/>



KLJ Belgium

“Landjuweel” – rural youth sports festival

When? 25th August 2013

Where? Merchtem, Belgium

Who?

3.000 participants from 60 local groups of KLJ Belgium and MIJARC Europe guests

Why?

Seen as the Olympic competition of KLJ's special sports (the tug of war, flag waving, wriggle, dance and pyramid building,...), this event happens every 2 years.

Despite competitive, this event is based on cooperative sports and it is seen as a way of gathering rural young people by means of sport and outdoor activities.



How?

This year KLJ has involved the other MIJARC Europe member organisations by asking them which traditional games they have in their countries. A group of volunteers has set up a tent during this event where the visitors could get to know more about games of different countries and the opportunities MIJARC Europe provides to rural young people to learn about different cultures.

The game created by the “MIJARC Working group” is also present.

More Info (in Belgian Dutch):

KLJ website:

<http://www.klj.be/Default.aspx?tabid=1620&language=nl-BE>



External Communication

INFOEUROPE MAGAZINE



Thanks one more time to the support of the European Youth Foundation (Directorate of Youth and Sport from the Council of Europe) in 2013 MIJARC Europe continued to publish its quarterly magazine Info Europe. It is available in English, French and Spanish, spread through hard copies and online (published in our website and sent by email) to member and partner organisations, public and private institutions and donors.

This communication tool provided by MIJARC Europe aims to:

- disseminate the results of our activities increasing our visibility;
- keep our members informed about each other and to give them the opportunity to exchange different realities and best practices;
- be a non-formal education tool allowing rural youth to get aware of how the main issues concerning youth, namely related to the priorities of the Council of Europe, are being dealt with at local, regional, national and European level;
- raise awareness among young people about the relevant European issues connected to them;
- provide space for rural youth to express themselves and to be the voice of the European rural youth.

In 2013, the broad topic was "Let's rural youth leading the change in society" and each issue has focused on a specific topic:



Communication Activities

- **Issue 1_2013** was released in the mid June and focuses on MIJARC Europe's Migration campaign and on Intercultural Dialogue.
- **Issue 2_2013** is under construction and will be released in the beginning of October. It will highlights the results and outcomes of our youth exchange on the topic of social inclusion and what it means for young people in rural areas.
- **Issue 3_2013** will be released in the beginning of November and will focus on youth policy and the role of young people in the society at economical, political and social level.
- **Issue 4_2013** will be released in Mid December and will focus on recognition of competencies and skills acquired in non-formal education and youth work.

All issues in all languages are downloadable at: <http://mijarc.net/en/node/261>

FACEBOOK PAGE <https://www.facebook.com/MIJARCEurope>

Following the tendencies for social networking among youth organisations and young people, MIJARC Europe continues to use its Facebook page to publicize campaigns, post about interesting news from Europe and its partner movements, as well as to create event pages for daily reports on its activities.



MIJARC Europe Дневник Наскоро

Състояние Снимка/клип Събитие, важно събитие +

Campaign Video

Position Paper

Toolkit

Toolkit MIGRATIONS

MIJARC EUROPE

MIGRATION Campaign 2013

<http://mijarc.net/en/node/6720>

MIJARC EUROPE

755 харесвания • 5 говорят за това

Промяна на описанието 2

Описание

Снимки

Харесвания

Събития

Бележки 13

Организация с нестопанска цел
The International Movement of Agricultural Rural Youth in Europe is a movement comprised of 130 000 youths between 12 to 30 years who commit themselves to

Rural Youth leading the change in Society

Le Die Tour: A sun on the road!
This summer, KLJB at MRJC are going to live


Communication Activities

 **WEBSITE**
www.mijarc.net/europe



In 2013 we have been updating our website regularly in all its sections. A webpage is created for each main project, the News section is including MIJARC News, News from our partners, our donors, and any information it might be pertinent and useful for rural young people in Europe.

This year we have more concretely tried to improve the “Partnership” section, where local/regional/national groups can propose exchanges of best practices with other countries’ groups. This section has the form of a forum and the messages posted there need to be approved before appearing.



The screenshot shows the MIJARC Europe website. The top navigation bar includes links for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and World. The main banner features a map of Europe with the text "Building Bridges, a more inclusive rural Europe" and "Summer Camp 2013". A quote on the right says "Be rural, believe in youth, create the Europe of tomorrow!". The left sidebar contains links for "About us", "Our Work", "News", "Publications", "Login", and "Partnership". The main content area is titled "News" and features a section for "MIJARC World" dated 07.09.2013. The text in this section discusses the Solidarity Fund and the Emergency Fund, and provides contact information for Anna Caryk and Klaus Bettele. Below this is a section for "Funders" mentioning the Administrative Grant of the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe). The bottom section is titled "Creating New Opportunities for Young People – What is needed now?" dated 05.09.2013, and includes a photo of a conference and text about COMECE and MIJARC Europe's participation.

News

MIJARC World
07.09.2013

!!We are looking forward to support your project!!

As you know MIJARC World has a Solidarity Fund, which supports rural youth work worldwide every year. Normally this money is collected by rural youth groups and each year it is distributed among the different continents, MIJARC World and the Emergency Fund. In 2013 it will be the first time, when 5 percent (about 1350EUR) of the money collected for this Solidarity Fund (27.000EUR in 2013) will go directly to local, diocesan or national projects in each continent.

There is an Emergency Fund which is aimed at being distributed for member organizations or people that really had big difficulties or suffered from catastrophes. With this money (in 2013 2.700€) the situation should be improved.

Now it is time to apply for these funds available: Project funding and/or Emergency funding. As application we ask for now a one-page description of the project/purpose where these available funds would be used, together with the full contact details of a responsible person until 30th of September.

To send your application or if you need some more information, please contact Anna Caryk (a.caryk@mijarc.net) or Klaus Bettele (ks21@elektro.net).

Please find here the whole Call in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish!](#)

Funders

In 2013 MIJARC Europe is supported by:

The Administrative Grant of the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe)

Creating New Opportunities for Young People – What is needed now?
05.09.2013

COMECE (the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community) organized a conference this Wednesday, 4th of September 2013, in the European Parliament, calling for concrete political and practical responses to tackle the main obstacles today for youth personal development: unemployment and lack of participation and inclusion of young people.

MIJARC Europe was present, represented by Ana Silva, the European Secretary, who describes us the main key points of this conference:

"I can summarize this conference as very interesting and challenging discussion moment allowing different points of view to be put on the table by the speakers, but also an active contribution from the (young) public to enrich the discussion."

Communication Activities

Internal Communication

INTRANET



Integrated in our Website there is an Intranet, accessible to members only. There, each member can include information about itself, share documents and best practices (toolkits), build bi-lateral/tri-lateral partnerships, consult the Agenda and include the movement's activities as well and use the online chat. We started in 2013 to try to improve this section and during 2014 we hope to have it fully functional.



Intranet

[Home](#) [Movements Information](#) [Shared documents](#) [Best Practices](#) [Joint project opportunities](#) [Calendar](#) [Project Support](#)

[Home](#)

Movements Information

[View](#) [Edit](#)



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PORTUGAL

E-mail: jarc.nacional@gmail.com

Website: Face book page (http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1611595639&ref=tn_tinyman)



Name: MJRC - Movimiento de Jovenes Rurales Cristianos

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10134 Pizarro (Cáceres)

SPAIN

Email: mjrc@ozu.es

Website: <http://www.mjrc.es/>

Communication Activities

E-NEWSLETTER



Another internal communication tool of MIJARC Europe is our e-Newsletter. Targeting the National boards of our Member movements, every 2 months approximately is released a Newsletter which includes news from MIJARC Europe activities and internal functioning, news from European Institutions and decision-making bodies, mainly on topics concerning youth, and news from our member movements.

Hello << Test First Name >>,
We are happy to present this new edition of our Newsletter. Here you can find interesting news about MIJARC Europe's work, what is going on around Europe
In the youth field and the last news from MIJARC Europe member movements.
We hope you enjoy the reading.

MIJARC News

MIJARC Europe Summer camp 2013 "Building Bridges for a More Inclusive Rural Europe"



From the 26th to the 31st of July, 39 rural young people from France, Belgium, Germany, Bulgaria, Poland and

Romania gathered in Harghita County, Romania for MIJARC Europe Summer Camp 2013, thanks to the support of the Youth in Action Programme from the

 Join Us on Facebook



Hello! I'm Yordanka Petrova, secretary of MIJARC Europe. I'm responsible for the Edition of our Newsletter and I'm willing to receive any news you would like to figure in our next editions. Please send them to my e-mail: y.petrova@mijarc.net. Thanks to all the contributors to our Newsletter!

In 2013 7 e-Newsletters were prepared by MIJARC Europe secretariat and released to its mailing list.



European Coordination

According to the registered articles of MIJARC Europe, the European Coordination is an observing body composed by one delegate (European Coordinator) per full member movement and the European Team (Executive Board) which must meet once a year.

In 2013, the European Coordination met from the 15th to the 17th March, in Dachau (Germany). This year's agenda included:

- To gather the information on the situation of the member organisations;
- To present the timeline of MIJARC Europe events in 2013;
- To discuss the preparation and Advance Planning Visit of Summer Camp 2013;
- To discuss and approve the Migration Position Paper;
- To prepare the Agenda for the Orientations General Assembly in August;
- To discuss the preparation of the seminar "Rural Youth leading the change in Society";
- To update member movements on recent issues of MIJARC World;
- To present the results of Financial Strategies Working Group and approve the Sponsorship Guidelines;
- Find a host and topic for the Summer Camp 2014;
- To present the possibility of hiring someone in Eastern Europe to work for MIJARC Europe through Renovabis Grant;
- Launching the Campaign on Migration;
- Tasks sharing among the coordinators and European Team members.



Orientations General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of MIJARC Europe. According to the Statutes of MIJARC Europe, at least every four years, the General Assembly is called Orientations General Assembly (OGA). The tasks are the same like the General Assembly but additionally the OGA should draft the work plan for the next 4 years. In 2013, the OGA took place in Nowy Gierałtów, Poland, from the 16th till the 18th August. The following topics were tackled:

- MIJARC Europe Moral Report 2012-2013 was approved;
- Approval of the Financial Report 2012;
- Evaluation of Specific Objectives and Action Plan of MIJARC Europe 2009-2013;
- New Action Plan and Specific Objectives 2013-2017 were adopted;

Statutory Activities

- The Budget 2014 of MIJARC Europe was drafted and approved;
- Discussion about MIJARC World issues and election of new World Commissioner;
- Election of one new member for the Executive Board of MIJARC Europe;
- Election of five European Coordinators for a 2 years mandate;
- Delivery of our Carbon Offset Prize;

Executive Board Meetings

The Executive Board or European Team of MIJARC Europe and the European Secretariat are meeting physically, during 1 or 2 days, every 2 months approximately. In between, online meetings take place to follow-up the work of the Team and staff. In 2013, the European Team has met 6 times physically and 7 times online.

During the physical meetings the agenda includes the main topics of:

- following-up of member and partner organisations relationships;
- reporting and evaluating last activities;
- preparing and follow-up next activities;
- tasks sharing;
- following-up the financial situation of MIJARC Europe;
- following-up the secretariat's work;
- preparing the European Coordination / General Assembly (before those meetings);
- implementing internal decisions;
- evaluate the motivation of the team and staff members.

After each physical meeting the secretariat sends the summary of the main resolutions taken by the team to every member movement.



Other Activities/Meetings



MIJARC World

As a continental branch of MIJARC World, MIJARC Europe contributes for the work development of its international structure. The two coordinators representing the European movements of MIJARC are Klaus Settele (KLJB Germany) and Anna Caryk (European Team).

In 2013, our coordinators went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the whole length of MIJARC World's program which has included:



- **Participation on the World Youth Day** celebrations and different meetings around Rio

- **A seminar on Solidarity Economy** topic - during the seminar, participants discussed topics such as: what the Solidarity Economy actually is, its different aspects, why it is so important and what could be the possible solutions of promoting Solidarity Economy itself. As the Coordinators come not only from different countries, but more importantly, from different continents, they expressed different opinions and

different expectations. Thanks to such a big variety, participants could better understand what are the needs of the particular countries regarding Solidarity Economy and how does the implementation of Solidarity Economy work on different levels.

- the **World Coordination meeting**, where the representatives from each continent followed up the Action Plan and took important decisions on the work to be developed by the international structure.



Additionally to this program, there was also a physical meeting between MIJARC Europe and MIJARC World Presidents on the 26th of May, in Brussels, which aimed at having a very informal discussion leading to building trust and good relation within the structure of MIJARC, knowing better both structures' functioning and objectives; dealing with logistical matters on the sharing of the office building.

Other Activities/Meetings



European Youth Forum (YFJ)

The YFJ is one of the major tools for raising the voice of our members (young people living in the rural areas) towards institutions such as the European Commission, European Parliament and the United Nations. Being member of the European Youth Forum, MIJARC Europe tries as much as possible to actively participate in their activities and their structure. In 2013 MIJARC Europe was involved in the following activities:

Capacity building event for the League of Young Voters (Brussels, Belgium, 31st January – 2nd February 2013)

Anna Caryk attended this meeting. The idea of this meeting was to share, learn and build the capacity of Member organisations of the YFJ in the various issues connected with the European Elections Campaign 2014. During the Capacity building event for the League of Young Voters were discussed issues connected with starting up a campaign of the European Elections 2014. This meeting gave a chance to see how to inspire young people in the election process, how to develop promotion strategy of the elections, how to encourage people to vote as well as presentation of the best practices connected with the inspiring and being inspired to actively participate in this process. This meeting was important for MIJARC Europe in the sense that it showed the direction which MIJARC Europe can eventually follow during the Elections Campaign of 2014. What is more, it gave the ideas how to begin, promote and develop the campaign itself.



You can check the League of Young Voters website at: <http://www.youngvoters.eu/eu> and see which campaigns in your country are part of this platform, contribute yourself and get ideas for your movement's actions.

COMEM (Council of Members) and Extraordinary GA of YFJ



SPRING COMEM and EX-GA (Brussels, Belgium, 18th-21st April 2013)

MIJARC Europe was represented there by Lyubomir Todorov (President) and Ana Silva (European Secretary).

The highlights of this event were the adoption of a policy paper on employment and the election of Lyubomir Todorov as representative of the Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe).

Other Activities/Meetings

FALL COMEM and EX-GA (Thessaloniki, Greece, 21st-24th November 2013)



MIJARC Europe was represented there by Lyubomir Todorov.

The highlights of this meeting were:

- Concrete amendments to the Statutes of YFJ were proposed by the Board;
- Several Policy Papers were discussed, namely on Quality Education, Citizenship Education and UN permanent youth forum, and a resolution on Roma youth.
- Lyubomir Todorov represented the Advisory Council on youth, by presenting it and its priorities in front of the YFJ Member organisations;
- The Financial report was presented and commented;
- The progress report on the work plan of the YFJ was presented and commented;

The regular participation in the statutory meetings of the YFJ is extremely important. As members of this platform, MIJARC Europe can raise the visibility of the specific needs of rural young people, strengthen the cooperation with other like-minded organisations (namely the faith-based ones), contribute to the inclusion of our views in the policy papers of the platform as a way of influencing the political agenda of YFJ but also to reach more directly the EU decision-makers, and finally, contribute to the stability of the platform and its development.

FCC (Financial Control Commission) of YFJ

In 2012, Lyubomir Todorov was elected as member of the FCC of YFJ. This commission aims at supervising the execution of the budget of the European Youth Forum and provide an assessment report to be presented to the General Assembly.

In 2013, our Lyubomir has participated in the regular meetings of this Commission.

This direct involvement in the structure of the YFJ is very important for the visibility of MIJARC Europe inside the platform from one hand, and for the deeper knowledge of the governance of the platform in another hand.

Other Activities/Meetings

🚩 **YOFest!** (Brussels, Belgium, 30th & 31st May 2013)

For the 3rd consecutive year MIJARC Europe participated in the YOFest! organised by the YFJ at the esplanade of the European Parliament, in the context of the European Youth Week. The main objective of this meeting was to raise awareness of the decision-makers at European level of the importance to invest in young people. Additionally, some activities also took place in order to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Youth Programmes.



MIJARC Europe also participated with a stand in front of the EU parliament. Visitors, passing by, were able to write on a graffiti wall and to express their experiences with the Youth in Action Programme. This wall was also used to present the events of MIJARC supported by the Youth in Action programme with photos and testimonials of former participants. Geographically skilled people could test out their knowledge on a puzzle from the map of Europe, particularly about MIJARC Europe member movements' countries. In addition, the visitors could also get their own badge, making some promotion for youth participation in Europe or for the next EU elections in May 2014. Some very artistic visitors even created their own badge with their personal slogans.

The highlight of this event was the visit of Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou to our stand.

More info can be found at:
<http://mijarc.net/en/node/9245>



🚩 **YFJ Academy** (Antwerp, Belgium, 18th to 20th June 2013)

In 2013, the YFJ had the idea to join the several Membership Support events in one week, calling it the YFJ Academy. Ana Silva, has attended the Funding Workshop where she had the chance to meet with a representative of the European Youth Foundation and exchange on their new funding rules and structure, learn with the other youth NGOs present, in a peer-to-peer basis, about funding opportunities for youth organizations, and have a training with a private foundations' consultant.

On the 20th of June it was the Secretary General's day. A day dedicated to exchanges on the experience of being secretary general of a youth organization, where we can learn about tools, strategies and procedures from different organisations' perspectives.

Other Activities/Meetings

YFJ Pool of Trainers (PoT)

Our European Secretary, Ana Silva, was selected to be part of the Pool of Trainers from the European Youth Forum, from 2013 to 2015.

What is the PoT?

The PoT is above all a resource pool made of 30 highly skilled and experienced trainers and facilitators coming from the member organisations of YFJ, to help and support in various ways:



- Run skill-based and thematic training courses and workshops on topics related to youth
- Facilitate seminars, conferences, trainings, meetings or evaluations
- Develop training tools and materials
- Provide input on training related issues, non-formal education and expertise on building up Pools of Trainers

If you need a trainer or facilitator simply send a call with an outline of the task, the conditions and a profile of the trainer you need to the Youth Forum secretariat. The members of the PoT that fit your needs and are available will then apply and it will be up to you to select who you want.

More info available at <http://www.youthforum.org/about/meet-the-pot/>

YFJ Training on development of Youth Policies (Vienna, Austria, 15th to 19th September 2013)

One of the the objectives of the YFJ is to provide capacity building to its members in order to build strong youth organisations. This capacity building training focused on **policy development from youth work perspective**.

Policies can take many forms: resolutions, charters, reactions on laws, guidelines or rules, meetings, policy papers,... The great conclusion of this training was that there is no perfect way of doing it, but each process for policy development needs to be adapted to the timeframe available and objectives of the



organization, ensuring it will be the most democratic process as possible. Ideally this process should be short, relevant, involve the relevant stakeholders, be representative, effective and results oriented. It was also an opportunity to, realise how much powerful our ideas can become if we work in cooperation with like-minded organisations. This training brought not only a new insight about how we could improve policy development in the future within MIJARC Europe, but it was again a great opportunity to showcase who we are, what we do and our aspirations for the next four years, through our fresh Specific Objectives and Action Plan.

Other Activities/Meetings

Youth Summit for Quality Jobs (Paris, France, 11th-13th November 2013)

Our newly elected team member Jan Vanwijnsberghe attended this important event organised by the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), National Youth Councils and National Trade Unions Federations.

On the first day there was a presentation of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee Plan in several countries and afterwards a discussion how this plan could be improved, what are the difficulties, etc.

In the evening there was a meeting with the French minister of labour to discuss the outcome of the working groups and to point out problems.

On the second day there was a round table discussion about the main challenges to ensure quality jobs in Europe, the social consequences, etc. In the afternoon there was a street action mostly organised by the trade union organisations. During the street action, there was a delegation of 10 people who had a meeting with the French President Hollande to discuss the issue of youth unemployment and the lack of quality jobs.

Finally, on the last day there was another working group session about how we, as youth organisations and trade union organisations, should continue in the future, how could we cooperate, what our objectives are and so on.



Via Campesina

The European Coordination Via Campesina regroups 27 farmers' and agricultural workers' organisations from 17 countries across Europe, including outside the EU.

The main objective of this platform is to struggle for other food and agricultural policies based on more legitimacy, fairness, solidarity and sustainability, which are necessary in Europe to ensure food security, food safety, public health, employment in rural areas and to tackle the issues of the global food crisis and climate change.

MIJARC Europe is a founder member and therefore tries as much as possible to actively participate in their activities and statutory meetings.

Other Activities/Meetings

✚ **ECVC Women Seminar** (Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 8th to 10th March 2013):



During the ECVC Women Seminar were touched several issues based on the current situation of the rural women. First of all, each of the participants was briefly presenting the situation of the women in their countries. This short presentation was followed by the presentation of the results of the current work, setting up the new objectives and preparation of the public day which was held in the city center of Santiago de Compostela. Additionally, there was a discussion about the situation of the rural women in times of crisis.

The ECVC Women Seminar was important for MIJARC Europe because according to its principles, MIJARC Europe works on the issues connected with

the rural world. What is more important, the topic of the rural women is barely discussed in the contemporary world. This meeting allows MIJARC Europe to let the voice of the rural women be heard.

More information could be found here: <http://www.eurovia.org/spip.php?article737&lang=fr>

✚ **General Assembly of ECVC** (Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, Spain, 15th to 17th of April 2013)

MIJARC Europe has sent its Vice-President Olivier Dugrain to be represented at the annual General Assembly of ECVC. Apart from a new elected Coordinating Committee, a yearly action plan was set up including the axes: Promoting agroecology; strengthening the Food Sovereignty movement (Nyeleni Europe) and Offering support to small- and medium-farmers at all levels.

More information can be found at: <http://www.eurovia.org/spip.php?article762&lang=fr>

✚ **VI International Conference of La Via Campesina** (Jakarta, Indonesia, 9th to 13th June 2013)

Our vice-president Anna Caryk has participated in this international conference, of LVC at its 20th anniversary of existence. This big event counted with several meetings, such as the 3rd International Youth Assembly, the 4th Women Assembly and the 6th Conference of La Via Campesina.

The main achievements were the displacement of the international secretariat to Zimbabwe; 33 new member organisations ratified (to bring the total of 183 members); and a new world wide Action Plan, based on small-scale farming and agro-ecology, food sovereignty, and self-determination of communities. *More info at:* <http://www.viacampesina.org/en/index.php/our-conferences-mainmenu-28/6-jakarta-2013>



Other Activities/Meetings



Council of Europe (CoE)

- ✚ **Seminar: EYF Reloaded: it all starts with Youth** (European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France, 4th to 6th February 2013)

Ana Silva has attended this 3-days seminar where it was possible to learn more about how the EYF secretariat work, the structure of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the place of EYF within the structure. Furthermore, due to the recent changes in the grants structure provided by the EYF, one of the most important parts of this seminar was the opportunity to get familiar with the new regulations, online system and the EYF website, putting hands on the new application/report forms. The priorities of the CoE and the notions EYF works with were also discussed, as well as: the working spirit of the Foundation, communication and future co-operation, accountability and role of grant recipients.



It was definitely a great exchange opportunity in the first person between the donors and the beneficiaries.

After this meeting an information e-mail was spread to MIJARC Europe member movements with the main information about how they can also benefit from the EYF.

More information can be found at: <http://www.coe.int/web/european-youth-foundation>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzk82IP609E>

Other Activities/Meetings

✚ **Statutory meeting of the Joint Council on Youth in the youth department of the Council of Europe** (Budapest, Hungary, 3rd to 5th of April 2013)

The Joint Council of Youth is the so called co-management system in the CoE, which gathers representatives of governments and youth organisations and serves as the governing body of the youth sector of the institution. Lyubomir Todorov was present in this meeting whose aim was to follow-up on the decisions taken in the previous statutory meeting. The budget for the next year was adopted. In addition to that, the process on the identification of the key events and campaigns for 2014-2015 was discussed. The management of the on-going campaigns of the youth department of the CoE was on focus as well as the cooperation between the youth department and the educational department. Last but not least, a question on the payment of interns in the CoE was supposed to be discussed. However, due to negative reaction from the governmental representatives, the issue was postponed for the next statutory meeting.



By participating in such meetings, MIJARC Europe has the opportunity to have a say in the identification of the priorities of the Council of Europe when it comes to youth, to enter into direct communication with representatives of the governments, members of the CoE, to network with other youth organisations, raising awareness about the role of MIJARC Europe in the process of rural development and, finally, through our mandate in the Advisory Council (AC), it is also possible to be involved in shaping the European Youth Foundation (EYF) as a tool for funding of youth organisations.

✚ **2013 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue “Freedom of religion in today’s world: challenges and guarantees”** (Yerevan, Armenia, 2nd and 3rd of September 2013)



Lyubomir Todorov participated in this meeting representing the Advisory Council on Youth and was requested to bring the youth perspective into the debates. The meeting gathered experts representing religious communities and representatives of non-religious convictions and media professionals. Their expertise provided an interesting perspective and a valued contribution to the debate.

Within the exchange, after all the welcoming speeches, three panels were designed for reflexion and exchange:

1. “Freedom of religion, conscience and thought as a fundamental human right in contemporary societies”;
2. “Protection of persons belonging to religious minorities, believers and non-believers and their contribution to the

fight against intolerance, discrimination and hate speech with regard to freedom of religion”;

Other Activities/Meetings

3. “Avenues for future action within and beyond Europe: youth education and awareness-raising on religion and beliefs, dialogue and co-operation among and with religious and non-religious representatives”;

The representatives of different religious, non-religious communities and experts shared their views on the topic reaching the conclusion that we need more tolerance and acceptance of different religions. The education has been stressed as a tool for that as well as the need for face-to-face meetings between people from different religions. Nevertheless, the meeting was lacking focus and commitment for effective discussion and view to the future. Being the 6th meeting with such a format it seems that it lacks coherent framework for follow up and long-term strategy for impact.

It was also a chance to raise awareness about our work in a non-formal context with fellow participants and to meet representatives of the Catholic Church in particular, building bases for future cooperation and a chance for advocacy work towards the church institutions.

More information can be found at: <http://armenpress.am/eng/news/730839/>

Conference: Youth in 2020 – the future of Youth Policies” (European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary, 1st to 4th of October 2013)



Organised by the EU-CoE Youth Partnership, this conference gathered 155 participants: members of PEYR, representatives of National Authorities in charge of youth, representatives of youth NGOs, representatives of the sectors related to youth (education, employment, social services, etc.) and representatives of international organisations and structures with a youth agenda;

Lyubomir Todorov was present representing the Advisory Council on Youth, who actively contributed with input on the topic of social inclusion and the challenges young people face and will continue to face. Marginalized groups were described as most vulnerable as well as youth living in the rural areas.

The aims of the conference were:

- to deepen the knowledge of the current and expected future situation and needs of young people in Europe;
- to discuss what role may and should youth policy, research and youth work play, on different levels, in the current context of crisis and beyond, to enhance the perspectives for young people in Europe, in particular those on the margins of societies/communities

The results of the conference are to be used as basis for assessing the possible fields of work of the EU-CoE Youth Partnership in the future.

In addition to this, the conference was a chance to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Partnership.

More information can be found at:

http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/events/Youth_in_2020_October2013

Other Activities/Meetings

Diverse

✚ **Advisory Group on International Aspects of Agriculture** (Brussels, Belgium, 28th January 2013)

This is one of many Advisory Groups settled by the European Commission to consult different civil society organisations, private businesses and experts on different topics.

MIJARC Europe was present in this meeting, represented by **Klaus Settele**, from our member movement KLJB Germany. This meeting focused on finding out different point of views concerning International protection of Geographical indications, Bilateral Negotiations (e.g. with Mercur Sur) and Standards and trade of agricultural products. The benefits of taking part in such meetings were identified as: bringing in a NGO opinion, especially MIJARC's; to contribute for a more balanced group of representatives between NGOs and Lobby organizations; bringin in a social, rural and youth point of view; and to be recognized by EU as an active political player.



More information can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/advisory-groups/international/index_en.htm

✚ **KLJB General Assembly** (Fulda, Germany, 1st to 3rd March 2013)

MIJARC Europe was invited to participate in KLJB's Annual GA and therefore Anna Caryk and Florian Aurbacher, our Treasurer attended this meeting. During this event were discussed several key issues about the structure, current functioning and the future of the movement. One of the most important issues was the financial strategy, membership fees, elections of the new board and the future cooperation with the international partners. The presence of MIJARC Europe at this General Assembly of KLJB allowed to meet the new people responsible for keeping in touch with the MIJARC Europe. This meeting also allowed discussing the future of our cooperation with clearly stated demands and benefits that can be received from the mutual work.



More info at KLJB website: <http://kljb.org/fotos/bundesversammlung-2013/#>

Other Activities/Meetings

✚ **SEE Balkan for Diversity - Partnership Building Activity** (Istanbul, Turkey, 1st – 5th April 2013)

This event was organized by National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme from Turkey. Anna Caryk participated in this activity which main objective was to increase opportunities for quality partnerships among youth workers from Programme Countries and South East Europe. During the event were discussed and presented topics connected with building and developing partnerships with the South East European Countries. Firstly the information which action to consider in terms of these activities was revised and then there was the possibility to look through the objectives, possibilities and profits from this kind of exchanges. Furthermore, there was the chance to see who we want to work with in the future and what kind of the partnerships are possible. Thanks to the participation in this meeting MIJARC Europe has got a chance, for the first time, to draw an event with the SEE and to meet potential partners for the future activities.

More info at: <http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/see-balkan-for-diversity-partnership-building-activity-pba.3268/>

✚ **“Project Europe”- Growing Together of European Family of Nation’s** (KLVH Wies, Germany, 7th April 2013)

The meeting was organized by KLB Bavaria (Catholic Rural People’s Movement) in order to get to know projects in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Slovenia and Croatia, Denmark and Sweden, Bulgaria, France and Belgium and build relationships, platform of exchange, of training and of joint actions. MIJARC Europe was represented by Florian Aurbacher. During the meeting there was a discussion about different realities in diverse countries with respect to the perspectives of young people in rural areas. The main idea was to get to know youth movements in the participating countries and whether contacts with them could be fruitful.

✚ **9th Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations** (Mindelo, Cape Verde, 3rd to 11th May 2013)



The event was organized by the North-South Centre and attended by Lyubomir Todorov. The organisers provided a comprehensive training on advocacy work, increasing the capacity of youth workers in that regard. In addition to that, the history of the Africa-Europe cooperation was presented in the context of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, where the North-South Centre has a major role. Furthermore, possibilities for global cooperation were discussed, and the Post 2015 Agenda. In the end of the event space has been provided for identification of

common steps to be taken jointly by African and European organisations aiming at developing the cooperation between the continents and also addressing global challenges faced by young people.

Other Activities/Meetings

The participation in this meeting was beneficial for MIJARC Europe in the sense that it built advocacy capacity of our representative, the input on the history of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe has been extremely beneficial for our representation in the Advisory Council on Youth, and cooperation with other organisations from the European Youth Forum has been also strengthened as well as the one with the board members of the organisation. Last but not least, communications on various topics interesting for MIJARC have been established.

- ✚ **“Certification of the competences of youth workers in a European context – Road to greater recognition of youth work”** (European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 4th June 2013)

The event was organized by AEGEE Europe and YEU (Youth for Exchange and Understanding). Lyubomir Todorov took part in this conference which aimed at sharing the work done within the framework of a project implemented by the organizers as well as creating a space for discussion on the possible ways of recognizing youth work. The conference allowed the representatives to bring input on various ways of recognizing youth work. It also allowed a dialogue with MEPs and presenting the topic and its importance. MIJARC Europe gained information on the topic and brought input on the importance of youth work recognition. The meeting allowed to build stronger links with fellow youth organizations, which could be the basis for a cooperation in future.

More information at:

http://www.yeu-international.org/734_news_Press_Release_YEU_International_AEGEE_Europe.html

- ✚ **"Co-Management System for Youth inside the EU"** (Brussels, Belgium, 5th – 6th June 2013)

This 2-days event, organized by AEGEE Europe with the support of the European Youth Forum and the Council of Europe allowed to discuss the possible format of a co-management system for youth in the EU and more specifically in the European Commission. The participants had the chance to share their visions and in the end a common declaration was drafted which will be the basis for further discussions and advocacy work towards the potential implementation of such a co-management structure. MIJARC Europe had the chance to share its vision and experience through its participation in the co-management system of the CoE. Our representative, Lyubomir Todorov supported the discussions as a resource person and gave input on the opportunities and potential challenges that the process might face. It was an opportunity to advocate for more youth participation and create stronger links with like-minded organizations.

Other Activities/Meetings

🚩 **Southern European Summer University** (Alghero, Italy, 29th June to 3rd August 2013)

Organized by the Italian National Youth Council, this meeting gathered representatives of National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, active in the European Youth Forum (YFJ) aimed at providing the space for discussion on the future of the platform and its strategy for reaching effective results for the structure as well as for its members individually. Three working groups were established, namely 1. Advisory Council (AC) – future priorities and challenges; 2. YFJ future statutory changes; 3. EU youth programs.

Each working group focused concretely on its specific topic. MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov, in the AC working group, considering its second mandate starting in the beginning of next year. The working group (WG) provided space to get to know the new members of the AC and to get a better understanding of the comprehensive working structure of the CoE. Together with the rest of the group potential priority fields have been identified, which gives a basis for better results in the end of the mandate of the structure. The other Working Groups were also used as a space where these active YFJ member organizations could have open discussions with the aim of finding a consensus in the long term for improving the efficiency of YFJ and overcoming the challenges that are in place now. Furthermore, in the EU youth programs suggestions for the frame of the new Youth in Action program have been collected. The results of the meeting would be used as bases for advocacy work within YFJ and also beyond it so as to reach visible results and clear benefit for each member organisation that took part. MIJARC Europe had the chance to share its visions with fellow organisations and actors in the youth sector. It provided space to bring its vision into the work of YFJ and its active organizations. The participation of our organisation gave the opportunity to build strong basis for the future work of MIJARC in the AC and a chance to better advocate for our priorities in the future.



🚩 **Renovabis congress** (Freising, Germany, 28th – 30th August 2013)

The congress was organized by Renovabis in order to create a platform to discuss the political and social development in Eastern Europe from a Christian perspective. The main topic of the congress was “Christians in responsibility for Eastern Europe”. MIJARC Europe was represented by Florian Aurbacher. The participants discussed the dialectic between solidarity and freedom that societies in Eastern Europe are exposed to since the fall of the Eastern bloc. MIJARC could bring in its experience and its point of view into discussion and get information about youth structures in Eastern Europe. There were opportunities to gather contacts on groups there and ideas on best practices of youth NGOs work.

More information at:

<http://www.renovabis.de/pressemeldung/5948/christen-in-verantwortung-fuer-europa>

Other Activities/Meetings

- ✚ **COMECE Conference: “Creating New Opportunities for Young People – what is needed now?”** (European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 4th September 2013)



COMECE (the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community) organized a conference calling for concrete political and practical responses to tackle the main obstacles today for youth's personal development: unemployment and lack of participation and inclusion of young people. MIJARC Europe was present, represented by Ana Silva.

A first panel focused mainly on the employment crisis and discussed the

causes and the different factors influencing this situation. The speeches turned around the figures of unemployment in Europe and specific countries (north/south differences), the inadequate standardized educational models for the job market real needs, the advantages and pitfalls of mobility programmes (opportunity for development versus brain drain) and the need of solidarity and personalized assistance to young people looking to enter the labour market (which is done already by many successful projects).

The second panel was focusing more in the solutions on how to empower young people and emphasized the work that catholic youth organizations are doing in empowering young people and the power and importance of Non-formal education provided by those organizations, allowing young people the space to volunteer and feel self-confident at the same time they can acquired the so called soft-skills, not learned in the formal educational system. This panel discussion gave a lot of food for thought, touching the themes of the “Youth Strategy” foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty, the Structured Dialogue, the new Erasmus+ Programme, the social business concept and the role the church is already playing in empowering youth.

More info at: <http://www.comece.org/site/en/activities/events/youthconference>

Work Plan 2014



In 2014, MIJARC Europe aims at developing even more its representation towards the European structures, with an active participation of the European Team in representation meetings. Additionally, in order to accomplish with the newly established Specific Objectives of MIJARC Europe, the following Activities are already foreseen for 2014:

Statutory Meetings

- Six physical European Team meetings
- European Coordination Meeting (28th-30th March 2014)
- General Assembly (26th-27th July 2014)

MIJARC Activities

- Seminar on the topic of Agriculture (28th July-1st August 2014)
- Summer Camp (24th- 31st August 2014)
- European Elections “Campaign” (from January to May 2014)

Other activities

- European Youth Event (9th-11th May 2014)
- MIJARC World Coordination
- Networking meeting with Faith-Based organizations
- (...)

We are also hosting a new intern in 2014 that will support us in the implementation of activities and communication tasks.

If you want to stay up-to-date with the ongoing work of our platform, feel free to follow us on our website and Facebook Page.

*This publication was prepared by
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dimension"*



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