



# 2014

## Activity Report



Be rural, believe in You(th),  
create the Europe of  
tomorrow!

This publication was prepared by MIJARC Europe Secretariat



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## **MIJARC EUROPE ACTIVITY REPORT 2014**

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

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## About MIJARC Europe



### **MIJARC Europe, the International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth is:**

- a democratic movement of self-organised young people;
- an European network of national and regional movements;
- an educational movement, aware of the problems of the rural youth in Europe;
- an action movement working for and with young people to create social change (through lobbying, advocacy...);
- a movement based on Christian values;
- a movement which gathers young people who want to commit themselves to improve the life of their villages and to build a better world.

### **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 2014 the European Team was composed by: Anna Caryk (she resigned in March 2014), Lyubomir Todorov (he resigned in July 2014), Florian Aurbacher (his mandate finished in August 2014), Olivier Dugrain (his mandate finished in August 2014) and Jan Vanwijnsberghe.



During the General Assembly in July 2014 there were new members of the European Team elected for a three-years mandate: Veronika Nordhus, Jeroen Decorte and Thibault Duisit.



The MIJARC Europe European Team is composed by:



**Jan Vanwijnsberghe**  
**Belgium**



**Veronika Nordhus**  
**Germany**



**Thibault Duisit**  
**France**



**Jeroen Decorte**  
**Belgium**

## MIJARC Europe Secretariat

The Secretariat of MIJARC Europe in 2014 was composed by:

**Ana Silva**, the European Secretary working full time in the office in Brussels from January till the end of July 2014.



**Brenda Aerts**, the European Secretary working in the office in Brussels from July 2014.

**Magdalena Puć**, the secretary working part time in January, from February working full time in Poland.





**Sonia Basset**, an intern working from April till August 2014 in the office in Brussels.

**Cristina Garcia**, an intern working from end of October in our office in Brussels.





## MIJARC Europe - activities



### MIJARC Europe Seminar



### Eating, Producing and Deciding - our voice and our choice in the future agriculture in Europe

**When?** 28<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**Where?** Marconne, France

**Who?** 28 participants from MIJARC Europe member movements: MRJC France, KLJB Germany, KLJ Belgium, YMDRAB Bulgaria, EiR Poland, MJRC Spain and APSD Agenda-21 Romania



**Why?** Agriculture is historically one of the main topics within MIJARC. A few decades ago, in France's, Germany's, Belgium's, Spain's, and surely in many other countries' rural areas, some priests have put their faith into action by going to meet the farmers, and especially the young ones, to “improve” their social condition. For many of them, the situation was the same as for many centuries backwards: hard work, small wage and poorness.

Nowadays, the agricultural landscape has totally changed. Not especially in the hard work and the small wage, but in the place it takes: the number of



farmers exponentially decreased, merging lot of small farms into few big ones, and thus making it even more difficult – especially for young people - to take over a farm or settle as farmer.

Parallel to this, due to many factors, the work in itself changed: First, the use of chemicals along with the intensification and mechanisation of the cultures brought the consumers into the debate: what do I eat? Is it healthy, hazardous? Is it sustainably produced, environment-friendly speaking?

Besides this, the globalisation of the economy brought the concern to the policy-makers: how can we regulate this world-scaled marketing of food? In Europe, the choice has been done through the long process of creation of the European Union, investing public money into this vital sector (the so-called Common Agricultural Policy – CAP).

### How?

The participants spent 4 days of the seminar among a diversity-full European youth group to observe this context: namely the place of the youth in farming, training facilities, consumption behaviour and taking into account young people's mind in the process of policy making; (SEE), judge it, through field visits and expertises; (JUDGE) and propose actions and remedies to what we will find out (ACT).





## MIJARC Europe Summer Camp



**Better together – we care about rural areas**

**When?** 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August

**Where?** Passau, Germany

**Who?** 32 participants from KLJB Germany, EiR Poland, KLJ Belgium, YMDRAB Bulgaria, APSD Agenda-21, GUG Malta.



**Why?** Rural areas cover 90% of EU's territory and account for approximately 50% of its population. Today, in rural areas of the EU there are approximately 13 million young people aged between 15 and 24. Unfortunately, the life in the villages is less attractive for the youngsters due to lack of good job opportunities, careers, transport, education, health, entertainment and amusements. The lack of these necessities is forcing young people to migrate to large cities, foreign countries or continents and therefore leaving behind aging populations and depopulated areas. This in turn leads to closure of schools, hospitals and shops in the villages. Thus, rural areas become even more unattractive for young people and young people migrate to seek better employment, education and life, which weakens rural development.



## How?

The facilitators from KLJB Germany and MIJARC Europe prepared different kind of activities: games, workshops, field visits. Each national team prepared an energizer or an activity. All together they also had a chance to integrate better thanks to workshop on team building leading by professional trainers. All this to give the participants a chance to analyse and exchange the realities in the communities and best practices on the topic, to discuss about realities in rural areas in Europe and rural development and to develop solidarity and tolerance.

## MIJARC Europe - statutory activities

### European Coordination Meeting



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

In 2014 the meeting took part in Dilbeek (Belgium) from 29<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> March. The agenda included:

- Follow up of the Action Plan;
- Presenting the timeline of MIJARC Europe events in 2014 and discussing the preparation of them;
- Presenting the financial situation of MIJARC Europe;
- Discussing the enlargement strategy of MIJARC Europe;
- Updating the member movements on recent issues of MIJARC World;



- Preparing the agenda of the General Assembly in July;
- Gathering the information on the situation of the member organisations;
- Task sharing among the coordinators and European Team members.

### General Assembly



The General Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of MIJARC Europe. It meets every year under the chairmanship of the European Team (Executive Board).

In 2014 it took place in Marconne, France from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The delegates approved the Moral Report 2013-2014, Financial Report 2013. They discussed and approved the Budget 2015 and Action Plan 2015. They discussed the MIJARC Europe enlargement strategy and took many important decisions on this topic.

The delegates approved the TTIP position paper which was prepared by KLJB Germany and MRJC France.

During the GA there were new 3 European Team members, 2 European Coordinators and a World Coordinator elected.

### Extraordinary General Assembly

The extraordinary General Assembly took place on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting was on-line. The delegates discussed the enlargement strategy and affiliated two new Observer Movements: Gozo University Group (GUG) from Malta and Center for Rural Development (BUJRUM) from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

### European Team meetings

The European Team (Executive Board) 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 2014, the European



Team has met 5 times physically and 14 times online. Additionally there was one European Team and European Coordinators online meeting due to the enlargement strategy.

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.

## Communication Activities

### External communication

#### Info Europe magazine



From 2014 the magazine of MIJARC Europe is published twice a year thanks to the Structural grant from the European Youth Foundation. It is available in English, Spanish and French, spread through hard copies and online (published in our website and sent by email). It is a very useful tool to reach to a large number of people – member movements, partners and donors. The first issue in 2014 focused on the European Elections. The second one on the agriculture and rural development





## Facebook page



We use this social network to share information about us, our activities and interesting news with all the people who are following the page.

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

## Website



On the website there are information about MIJARC Europe – about the organisation and our work. There is also a section with our publications.

Regularly we publish information about past and future events, articles from our member movements, information from our partners, news from Europe related to the topics concerning MIJARC Europe.

## Internal communication

### E-newsletter



We use the newsletter to contact our member movements and inform them about past and future events. In the Newsletter they can find news from MIJARC Europe, MIJARC World and from the member movements. The Newsletter is sent every two months to European Coordinators and general contacts in English.



## Members' Activities



### YMDRAB Bulgaria

#### Bridges for ideas and practices



YMDRAB in partnership with another 4 organisations from different European countries implemented a project named "Bridges for ideas and practices". This was an international training course for increasing the capacity and better quality of work of youth workers who are involved in non-formal education of youngsters with communication disorders in rural areas of Eastern Europe. The project was funded with support from the "Erasmus+" Programme of the European Commission, administered in Bulgaria by "Human Resources Development Centre".

The training course took place from 22nd to 31st of August, 2014 in St. St. Constantine and Helena Resort, Bulgaria. The event brought together 50 youth workers and experts from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania and Bulgaria, who actively support the social integration and career development of rural youngsters with speech and language disorders in their countries.



### **Fairtrade**

In 2014, the working group on international development finished a position paper on Fairtrade. For two years, the members were discussing different topics within this field and came up with a 10-pages-paper that they have sent to all KLJB diocesan associations for comments. On our general assembly in 2015, this paper will be discussed with approximately 100 KLJB members. The working group also dealt with the topic of solidary economy in 2014, inviting an expert who talked about this economic concept.

### **Study session about "Europe" reveals interest for international issues within KLJB of Bavaria**



The regional Bavarian Coordination of KLJB organised a study session about "Europe" on the 15th of February, in Nuremberg. This study session aimed at giving KLJB members some insight into European politics in the year of the elections. Both, the simulation game YEPs (Young

European Professionals) on

the European Union and the workshops were well received by the participants. Tanja Köglmeier, who did an internship with MIJARC Europe in 2013, managed to portray MIJARC and EU youth policy by means of creative techniques and comprehensive information in her workshop.



### **Going to Kenya**

In August, nine delegates from KLJB went to Kenya to explore how rural development works on the spot. In Kenya, they met with eight young people from Lamu, a region at the coast close to the Somali border. Staying two weeks in Thika, they visited various projects to learn more about sustainable agriculture and how people implement it under harsh conditions. The



aim of the journey was also the intense exchange with the two Kenyan partners with whom KLJB and the International Rural Development Service (ILD) have had a project called Lamu Jamii since 2013. The focus on the trip was on the cotton value chain. As a result, the 17 young people had the chance to pick cotton, visit a ginnery and learn more about weaving, spinning and printing.

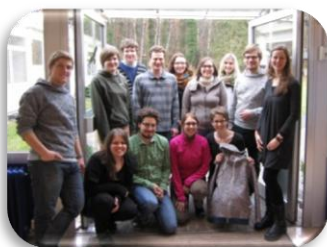
### **Partnership meeting**

In November, a KLJB partnership meeting was held. It takes place every second year and is a platform for KLJB members who have partnerships, mostly with MIJARC organizations in countries of the global south or who are interested in building up a new partnership. This year's meeting focused on the topic of substantive work within their exchange programs.

### **Refugees are welcome**

Many KLJB diocesan associations have been dealing with the topic of the policy on asylum and refugees. In this context, working groups examined current policies, talked to refugees and wrote a position paper. They sensitize people to the different and complex reasons of fleeing. With their work, they would like people to be more tolerant and show solidarity. The topic "policy on asylum and refugees" will also have our attention in 2015. Various activities have been planned already.

### **Working group on environment**



The working group on environment has been working on the topics of prevention of waste, eco-design, raw material life cycles and plastic. In this regard, the members of the working group looked at different products, which were produced from recycling materials and are reusable. They are also searching for alternatives to plastic which will be one of the topics on the nation-wide meeting next year.

### **A climate-neutral KLJB: Is that possible?**

KLJB wants to become climate-neutral. A position paper was already adopted by the assembly in June 2014, in which the KLJB delegates instruct the national level to find ways to record energy consumption, to calculate the related emissions and reduce both. Furthermore, it was stated that greenhouse gas that cannot be reduced shall be compensated.

### **Soil as a basis of life**



The unit of rural development has dealt with the topic of soil. In the context, we would like to raise awareness in society about the value of soil as a basis of life. Soil fertility is a matter for every one of us. Since 2014, a position paper was passed which serves as a basis for many activities to come, especially within the working group of rural development as well as during the International Green Week next January. In 2015, it is the International Year of Soils. The working group will also create signs which will be open for KLJB diocesan associations to order and to be used.

### **Transatlantic trade and investment partnership TTIP**

KLJB has discussed intensively about the negotiations and the known content of the Free Trade Agreement between the US and Europe. We criticize mainly the non-transparent negotiations as well as the planned agreement about investor security and the non-calculable risks for the countries of the global south. That is why we would like to see the negotiations to be stopped completely as long as there will be no concrete and noticeable improvements. We also take part in the European citizens' initiative "stop TTIP".

### **BIRD: Inter-religious dialogue**



Our three year project has been very successful in 2014. At two big conferences young people from KLJB (Catholic) and BDAJ (Alvis) came together to discuss, talk and exchange ideas about faith. The first conference was about music in



both religions; the second one in 2014 dealt with the topic of home with elements of experiential learning.

### **Catholic Day**

In 2014, the Catholic Day took place in Regensburg, a small town in Bavaria. Around 53.000 visitors came to be part of this event with many lectures, stands, music and workshops. KLJB was also present with an own stand that offered a platform for discussions concerning the topic of women in the Catholic Church. Another focus was on sustainability and agriculture.



**KLJ Belgium**

### **KLJ meeting TRIAS and MIJARC**

During a national meeting for staff members of KLJ of different regions in Belgium, KLJ wanted to give the opportunity to the participants to learn more about the two international platforms that KLJ works with: TRIAS and MIJARC.

The European Coordinator of KLJ, Karel Biliet, has prepared a Quiz about TRIAS and MIJARC Europe, including questions about the countries the organisations work with, their objectives and missions. The participants tried to answer and they were getting our badges when they were giving correct answers. At the end of this game, the participants had a chance to ask some questions to the representatives of MIJARC and TRIAS.

### **MIJARC meets again**



MIJARC working group

In KLJ Belgium there is a group constituted by several participants in previous MIJARC Europe activities who volunteered to spread the word about MIJARC.

This group has decided to organise a meeting "MIJARC meets Again", with the objective to gather the





participants from KLJ in the last years' MIJARC Europe activities and invite new people interested to know more about MIJARC Europe and potentially participate in next activities.

**Listen to your ears!  
avoid hearing damage**

More and more young people have hearing damage. That's not so odd if you think about it, noise and music is everywhere (at a party, festivals, in the car, headsets, ...).

Because of that it's very important to inform young people about the dangers and to give them solutions. That's why KLJ Belgium organized two evenings about this topic.

At those evenings there were professionals earplug makers that measured the ears of the participants so they got the possibility to have their own personal earplugs to be better protected. At those evenings the participants received lots of information about the topic and they could do a hearing test.

**Other activities/meetings**

**Training session Advisory Council on Youth of the CoE**

**When?** 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January

**Where?** Strasbourg, France

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov (President).

Organised by Council of Europe.



The meeting aimed at providing information on the structure of the Youth Department of the CoE and the working methods that are in place. It was to serve as training for the new members of the AC so as to ensure their effective work throughout the whole mandate.

Series of presentations were made by members of the Secretariat of the Youth Department of the CoE. In addition to this, representatives of the previous AC mandate gave inside information and advice to the new members. Following that, simulation of the usual AC meetings was made with a debriefing allowing the representatives to get a first experience about the upcoming work that is to be done.

### **Infoday on Erasmus+ Programme**

**When?** 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Where?** Brussels, Belgium

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Ana Silva.

Organised by EYJ



The morning session was dedicated to the YFJ presentation of the new Programme (Erasmus+) in comparison with the previous one (Youth in Action). Then a World Café took place where the participants could put forward their questions on each Key Action. Those questions were not answered at that point but rather identified to whom they should be addressed to in the afternoon.

### **Infoday on Erasmus+ Programme**

**When?** 17<sup>th</sup> February

**Where?** Brussels, Belgium

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Ana Silva

Organised by the Executive National Agency in Brussels.



There was a very complete presentation about the new Programme Erasmus+ for all its strands: education, youth and sports.

### **Consultative meeting on transition to autonomy and work life**

- When?** 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Where?** Strasbourg, France
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov (President).



Organised by the Council of Europe.

The meeting gathered representatives of the various structures of the CoE, namely representatives of the AC, of the CDEJ (governmental representatives in the Youth Department), experts, researchers, members of the secretariat of the CoE. The main objective was discussing the objectives of the work that should be done on the topic and a road map toward the fulfilment of these objectives. Additionally, the main actors that should be involved in the different activities were identified, based on the current strategy of the Youth Department, which involves experts, practitioners and researchers. As a result of the meeting a plan for activities was presented and will be further discussed with the respective actors involved in the decision-making processes in the CoE.

### **Informal meeting with the board of EYCE**

- When?** 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- Where?** Brussels, Belgium
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov (President) and Jan Vanwijnsberghe.



Informal exchange between the representatives of the boards of EYCE and MIJARC Europe.

Both organisations were presented, providing clear overview on the profile, priorities and ongoing activities. Beside this, discussions on the possibilities for common projects and initiatives were held. Both organisations expressed interest in stronger cooperation both in the framework of YFJ and outside it. Value-based approach on youth policies and youth work appears to be a priority for both, which could serve as strong basis for further cooperation.

### **FCC (Financial Control Commission) of European Youth Forum**

- When?** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- Where?** Brussels, Belgium
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov (President).



Organised by the European Youth Forum.

The meeting aimed at reviewing the execution of the budget of the European Youth Forum for 2013. In addition to that, the partnership strategy for cooperation with private companies was assessed as well as various financial questions related to the remuneration of the board and the president of YFJ. As a result a report related to the findings has been drafted and presented at the Extraordinary General Assembly of the organisation. The execution of the budget seemed to be satisfactory. However, cases of overspending in certain budget lines have been identified creating a wedge between the priorities and work plan of the organisation and the practical implementation of the decisions of the GA. A vast amount of money goes into Global Cooperation and more particular UN advocacy which appears to create limited results irrespective of the numerous people present at meetings.

### **General Assembly of ECVF**

- When?** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March
- Where?** Evenstad, Norway
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Olivier Dugrain (Vice-President) and Marina Grigorova (European Coordinator from YMDRAB Bulgaria)



Organised by the European Coordination Via Campesina.

The assembly, prepared by NBS (Farmers and Smallholders Union), addressed the issues of family farming and agro-ecology and it was attended by a large number of people. With the occasion of the International Year of Family and Peasant Farming, the ECVF assembly wanted to remind International Organizations, States and any other interested entity that Europe needs all

the women and men peasants and small-scale farmers, favoring a caring society, a cared environment and quality food. To this end, the Assembly drafted the "**Evenstad Declaration**" with seven concrete and essential measures to strengthen family and peasant farming.

### EYF (R)Evolution

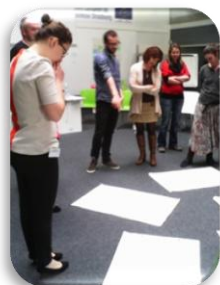
**When?** 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Where?** Strasbourg, France

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Magdalena Puć.



Organised by European Youth Foundation.



Training for representatives of international organisations cooperating with European Youth Foundation to share information on the work with the new operational regulations (new online system and website) and to create a common understanding concerning the new grants available (work plans and structural grants).

### Statutory meeting of the Joint Council on Youth in the youth department of the Council of Europe,

**When?** 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Where?** Budapest, Hungary

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov



Organised by Council of Europe.



This was the first meeting of the new mandate of the Advisory Council on Youth. In the beginning of the meeting elections were held for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau. In addition to this, the Programming Committee (PC) was selected, which is responsible

for the management of the European Youth Foundation. Lyubomir Todorov was successfully elected member of the PC. Besides that, responsibilities were shared among AC members regarding the different working areas. Eventually, Lyubomir Todorov took responsibility for the topic of inter-religious dialogue. Beside that he will be following the topic of recognition of NFE, the Enter project as well as all the work done by the Partnership between the EC and CoE in the field of youth, where a main priority for the upcoming year is social inclusion. Beside the distribution of the tasks, a new action plan for the upcoming 2 years was drafted and is expected to be adopted by the Bureau of the AC. The other points on the agenda were related to all the ongoing processes in the youth department of the CoE. Information on these points could be provided on request and is available in the restricted page of the youth department of the CoE.

### CSO/NGO consultation for the FAO regional conference for Europe and Central Asia

**When?** 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**Where?** Bucharest, Romania

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Julia Olszewska

Organised by Food And Agriculture Organization



During these two days representatives of various NGOs and Civil Society movements prepared a declaration of crucial issues that should be addressed during the Regional Conference that followed the consultation.

The declaration included subjects such as: Right to Food, Agenda post 2015, International Year of Peasant Family Farming, Food Lost and Waste. The declaration summarized the priorities that should be addressed during FAO activities in the region.



### **Presentation of the RULAR/ITER project CEJA**

**When?** 11<sup>th</sup> April

**Where?** Brussels, Belgium

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Jan Vanwijnsberghe.

Organised by CEJA (European Council of Young Farmers).



This event was the official presentation of the RULAR/ITER project. During the meeting the project coordinator explained that this project is in continuation of the previous Naturaliter project. There were 3 more speakers to present the new project and explain how it will work.

### **Faith-based meeting**

**When?** 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April

**Where?** Brussels, Belgium

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov, Ana Silva and Sonia Basset.



It was a meeting of faith-based organizations active in YFJ (MIJARC Europe, WOSM, YMCA, JECI-MIEC, EUJS, FIMCA, EYCE, DBYN, WAGGGS)

The main aim of this meeting was to create an official document on future cooperation: Faith Based Organisations Cooperation Framework 2014-2016.

### **Participation of young citizens in the new era conference**

- When?** 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May
- Where?** Istanbul, Turkey
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Rupert Heindl (CER member).
- Organised by Sebeke, Network – Youth and Participation Project



Presentation of results of the « network » program by the participants and discussion about divergent ways of youth participation. In different presentation the youth policies of different countries, the activities related to participation from different NGO's and the possible ways of participation offered by the European legislative structures were shown to the participants and discussed. The where all so many statistics about the participation of young people in Turkey(mainly from the research made for the « network » program).

### **EYE (European Youth Event)**

- When?** 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May
- Where?** Strasbourg, France
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov, Magdalena Puć and Sonia Basset.
- Organised by European Youth Forum and European Parliament.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg was open to thousands of young people from all over the Europe from 9th to 11th May during the European Youth Event. A group from MIJARC Europe and MRJC France went there to share "Ideas for a better Europe". On



the first day our group had a chance to get to know each other and to participate in many various activities prepared inside the European Parliament and in YO! Village – debates, games, artistic performances, theatre plays, exhibitions, graffiti workshops, living library and many more. All focused on five main themes: youth unemployment, digital revolution, future of the European Union, sustainability and European Values. It was also an opportunity for all of us to learn more about different European organisations and actions (e.g. European Youth Forum, League of Young Voters, No

Hate Speech Movement) which had their stands in front of the European Parliament. In the evening – a spectacular open-air concert featuring Asian Dub Foundation and La Fanfare en Petard.

### YFJ Academy

**When?** 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June

**Where?** Vilnius, Lithuania

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Ana Silva

Organised by European Youth Forum.



#### Info & Networking Day on Funding

Prerequisites for starting a Fundraising Strategy with private foundations:

- Creation of basic documents (build suit of presentation docs; ensure web materials are up to date and easy to access);



- Develop arguments based on empirical Data (numbers) to demonstrate the need for your organisation and the effectiveness of the organisation;
- Develop any other Independent evaluations (external assessments of your organisation's work; any significant media coverage confirming perceived excellence of your organisation).

### Training on Rights Based Approach (RBA)

The RBA is an approach used by the YFJ in all its work, most especially in the development of advocacy strategies and policy papers.

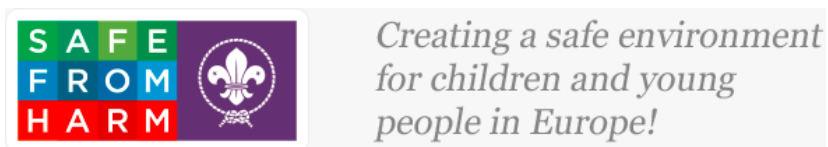
### PoT meeting (Pool of Trainers)

This was the second and last meeting of the current PoT mandate. During this meeting Ana exchanged with the other PoT members the experience as facilitator of the Youth Work WG and learned about self-directed learning as specific workshop. The PoT revised the activities during the previous year and worked on the Modules that have been developed as a service to provide to the MOs of the YFJ.

### **“How to ensure safe environments in non-formal education? The case of scouting”**

- When?** 1st July
- Where?** Brussels, Belgium
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Sonia Basset.

Organised by WOSM



A project has been launched by WOSM to all their members about this topic of child protection. According to the countries different tools are been created and actions launched. Several ideas have been presented. International events have also taken place to present this initiative.

### **"Enjoy the Ländle!" in Germany and behind the horizon**

- When?** 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Where?** Heiligkreuztal, Germany
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Jürgen Westermann and Ana Silva.





Around 450 KLJB members, aged between 16 and 30 years old, gathered in Heiligkreuztal (Germany), from the 29th to the 31st of August 2014. During the weekend, these young people had the chance to participate in several different workshops such as building a bridge, knitting, photographing, cooking, use plants to make skin creams and tea, experience the situation of refugees, etc. Despite the sun didn't show its face really often and was mostly replaced by some heavy rain clouds, the atmosphere was pretty positive, also because the evenings were animated by live concerts and just before thanks and goodbyes there was a very dynamic mass celebration.

The representatives of MIJARC Europe have organised a workshop entitled “Behind the Horizon...”, where the participants could get to know more about Europe and MIJARC and break some common stereotypes.

### **MIJARC World Seminar**

**When?** 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October

**Where?** Lusaka, Zambia

**Who?** MIJARC Europe represented by the World Coordinators: Ana Silva and Klaus Settle.

Organised by MIJARC World



MIJARC World seminar titled “Training Rural Youth Leaders in International Working Situation” took place in Lusaka, Zambia from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October. The representatives of movements from four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America) gathered together to get a better understanding of all the cultures within MIJARC World, learn how to find common goals within the different cultures and create the attitude to respect various cultures.

### **MIJARC World General Assembly**

**When?** 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October

**Where?** Lusaka, Zambia

**Who?** MIJARC Europe represented by the World Coordinators: Ana Silva and Klaus Settle.

Organised by MIJARC World



About fifteen movements from 4 continents were represented in this important moment of evaluation, exchange and decision-making within MIJARC.

In the menu were several important points such as the presentation of the activity and financial reports of each continent as well as MIJARC World's, the evaluation of the volunteering status of the World Team and the evaluation of the commissions, the renewal of the statutes of MIJARC, the election of a new Chaplain for MIJARC World and the implementation of a Volunteers Exchange Program within MIJARC.

### **Meeting of the Via Campesina Youth Group**

**When?** 25<sup>th</sup> October

**Where?** Rome, Italy

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Sarah Holmes (MRJC France).

Organized by the European Coordination Via Campesina.



During the meeting of the Youth Group there was a brief presentation of the issue(s) each member organization is focusing on at the moment, then a point of context of what happened in the youth group for the last two years.

The main objectives which came out from the meeting:

- Structure the Youth Group,



- Increase youth visibility and voice (for example by Integrating EVC's main commissions (seed, land grabbing, food sovereignty...) and perhaps lobby with VC in Brussels, FAO and other places)
- Give space for learning and sharing experiences + action planning (for example by Organizing events)
- Support, encourage and/or demand youth groups to emerge from national organizations.

### International dialogue on family farming

**When?** 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Where?** Rome, Italy

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Sarah Holmes (MRJC France).



**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

The main objective of the meeting was to present the lessons learned from the international year of family farming and the results of the regional dialogues. Government representatives, family farmers and their organizations, civil society, private sector, academia and development agencies gathered together to take stock of the momentum created and set the tone for a pro-family farming agenda for action post-2014.

### European Youth Forum General Assembly

**When?** 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Where?** Cluj Napoca, Romania

**Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Lyubomir Todorov.



The General Assembly, which brings together all of the Youth Forum's members, every two years, is the highest decision making body of the platform and it is during this meeting that the members elect the board members for the next two years, as well as decide upon the work of the Youth Forum.

During the General Assembly the European Youth Forum

elected its board for 2015-16, including its new President and Vice Presidents. It also elected its new Financial Control Commission (Lyubomir Todorov became one of the members) and ratified the Consultative Body on Membership Applications.

### Infoday on Funding

- When?** 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November
- Where?** Brussels, Belgium
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Brenda Aerts.



Organised by European Youth Forum

The main aim of the meeting was to present to MOs the new call for Operating Grant 2015 that was launched late October by EACEA, as well as the new EU 2014-2020 Programmes available for youth organisations.

Antonios Kosmopoulos, the head of Sport, Youth and EU Aid Volunteers Unit for EACEA, was attending the first day.

### Youth in action infosession

#### and workshop: involve participants from the start

- When?** 26th November
- Where?** Brussels, Belgium
- Who?** MIJARC Europe was represented by Brenda Aerts.



Organised by JINT.

This info-moment and training lasted one afternoon. First the representative of JINT gave the participants a general explanation about the three Key Actions of the Erasmus

The second part a workshop about how to involve participants from the start of your project was given. The main aim of this workshop was to reflect and exchange experiences how to involve volunteers to start, create, facilitate and evaluate a project.