



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



**Red Cross Red Crescent  
European Youth Network**  
*Doing more, doing better, reaching further*

## **European Youth Coordination Committee 2018 - 2020 Work Plan**



# Content

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Introduction	p. 3
The RCRC European Youth Network - RCRC EYN	p. 5
a. The RCRC European Youth Network Structure	p. 5
b. The RCRC European Youth Coordination Committee - RCRC EYCC	p. 6
c. The RCRC European Youth Network in the Movement	p. 7
The Work Plan for 2018 - 2020	p. 8
a. Concept Note of the Work Plan	p. 9
b. Advocacy and Governance	p. 10
c. Strengthening the Cooperation	p. 12
d. Working Groups	p. 14
1. <i>Working Group on Migration</i>	p. 15
2. <i>Working Group on Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing</i>	p. 17
3. <i>Working Group on Humanitarian Education</i>	p. 19
4. <i>Working Group on Communication and Translation</i>	p. 21
e. Team Coordination	p. 23
Contact	p. 24
Appendix	p. 25

# Introduction



23rd RCRC EYCM Participants and IFRC President Mr. Francesco Rocca,  
IFRC Vice-President Dr. Kinik and IFRC SG Mr. As Sy

Since more than 150 years the Red Cross and Red Crescent International Movement (RCRC Movement) has been an indispensable partner for people in need. With its presence in more than 190 countries worldwide with over 17 million volunteers and members, the RCRC Movement can reach the most vulnerable people in ways and places many other organizations cannot.

*Youth* is one of the most important groups when it comes to the work of the RCRC Movement. On the one hand, young people are often among the most vulnerable themselves, being affected by conflicts and unstable environments. They are facing situations which expose them to particular vulnerabilities. On the other hand, young volunteers and leaders play a crucial role within the RCRC Movement as they are responding to local needs in a local capacity. In many Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, you members form the backbone of the volunteer base, without which the National Society would not be capable of assisting as many people as it currently does.

The IFRC Youth Policy, adopted by the 21st session of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' General Assembly, held on 06-08 November 2017 in Antalya (Turkey), states that: *"The IFRC recognises meaningful youth engagement as a strategic vehicle for transforming institutional cultures that directly and positively impacts the Red Cross Red Crescent operational capacity to deliver on our humanitarian mission. Hence, adequate investments in meaningful youth engagement are inevitable for the transfer of experiences, leadership renewal, and progress overall."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IFRC Youth Documents [fednet.ifrc.org/youthstrategicdocuments](https://fednet.ifrc.org/youthstrategicdocuments)

Therefore, youth is hereby calling for responsibility not only for service delivery within Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, but also in governance; as they bring vital commitment, insight and flexibility to the organization. One example for the substantial influence of young volunteers is the 10th RCRC European Regional Conference (Almaty, May 2018), where the "*Bishkek Declaration*" of the RCRC European Youth Network (RCRC EYN) was presented. The declaration became a part of the following "*Almaty Commitments*", approved by the leadership of National Societies in the region; RCRC EYN's representatives are also a part of the Implementation Support Group, tasked with following up on the process in the upcoming four years.

It is time to recognize that building-up and sustaining strong National Societies means attracting, retaining and supporting more young people. The *Declaration* urges that young people should be educated, enabled and empowered to be active in leading and participating in voluntary activities and in the governance, management, and services of National Societies.

To stimulate the exchange of experiences and ideas, to share a common view on vulnerabilities, and to stimulate the wider involvement of youth within the RCRC Movement, it is important that cross-national structures can operate within the international structure of the Movement.

To stimulate the exchange of experiences and ideas, to share a common view on various sorts of vulnerability, and to stimulate the wider involvement of youth within the RCRC Movement, it is important that cross-national structures can operate within the international structure of the organization.

# 1. The RCRC European Youth Network - RCRC EYN

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Operating in this context, the RCRC EYN was established in 1975 and brings together the young volunteers from the 53 National Societies within the Europe and Central Asia Region<sup>2</sup>. Throughout the period between the biannual meetings of the Network, the European Youth Coordination Committee, the RCRC EYN's steering group, facilitates the sharing of good practices and the exchange of experiences, and advocates on behalf of its members within and outside the RCRC Movement.

During the 20th RCRC European Youth Coordination Meeting in Lozen, Bulgaria (2012), the RCRC EYN has identified *Knowledge Management, Amplification & Advocacy* and *Community Building* as the main purposes of the Network.

The Network aims at leading initiatives, facilitating processes and creating strategies to empower the youth within the National Societies through sharing information, advocating for and on behalf of the young volunteers and reinforcing the cooperation within and outside the RCRC Movement.

## 1.a. The RCRC European Youth Network Structure

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The RCRC European Youth Network brings together Youth Leaders and youth volunteers from all National Societies within the Europe and Central Asia region. It facilitates the sharing of good practices, exchange of experience and advocates on behalf of the National Societies within the Organization and beyond. It is a platform that functions as a tool which everyone can benefit from through active participation. National Societies' Youth Representatives are encouraged to actively disseminate information and promote engagement of their peers.

The existence of the RCRC European Youth Network is backed-up by member National Societies through the adoption of various decisions, policies and strategies underlining the importance for the regional network to strengthen youth engagement and development in the region.

The RCRC EYN has an impact throughout the organization through active participation from a diverse group of staff and volunteers. First and foremost, the National Societies benefit from the knowledge exchange and inspiration from their Sister Societies to strengthen their activities on an operational level – especially in their efforts to address the needs of the most vulnerable people. Their Youth Volunteers are empowered to take an active lead in addressing these needs and to

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<sup>2</sup> Albanian RC, Andorran RC, Armenian RCS, Austrian RC, RCS of Azerbaijan, Belarus RC, Belgian RC, RCS of Bosnia and Herzegovina, British RC, Bulgarian RC, Croatian RC, Cyprus RCS, Czech RC, Danish RC, Estonian RC, Finnish RC, French RC, Georgia RCS, German RC, Hellenic RC, Hungarian RC, Icelandic RC, Irish RCS, Italian RC, Kazakh RC, RCS of Kyrgyzstan, Latvian RC, Liechtenstein RC, Lithuanian RCS, Luxembourg RC, RC of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta RCS, Magen David Adom in Israel, RCS of the Republic of Moldova, RC of Monaco, RC of Montenegro, Netherlands RC, Norwegian RC, Polish RC, Portuguese RC, RC of the Republic of San Marino, Romanian RC, Russian RCS, RC of Serbia, Slovak RC, Slovenian RC, Spanish RC, Swedish RC, Swiss RC, RCS of Tajikistan, RCS of Turkmenistan, Ukrainian RCS, RCS of Uzbekistan.

amplify youth's voice within their National Societies. The Network impacts the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through the participation from young people in decision making processes such as the development of programs, policies and strategies. This doesn't solely relate to decision making that impacts youth directly but takes a broader approach as youth's views and experience are relevant in various fields within the RCRC Movement. The Network liaises with the IFRC Youth Commission to amplify their voice within the IFRC by giving guidance to their work plan and identify priorities for the Europe and Central Asia region.

## **1.b. The European Youth Coordination Committee - EYCC**

The RCRC European Youth Network is coordinated by the European Youth Coordination Committee (EYCC) which represents the voice of European and Central Asian young volunteers during their two-year mandate.

Elected during the RCRC EYCM and composed of 7 members, the EYCC members for the period 2018-2020 are Mariya Hristova, Chair, from the Bulgarian Red Cross, Felix Willuweit, Vice-chair, from the British Red Cross, Andreea Dumitroae from the Romanian Red Cross, Francesca Ligi from the Italian Red Cross, Jasmin Nikšić, from the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Maryna Kozhedub, Ukrainian Red Cross Society and Troels Boldt Rømer from the Danish Red Cross.

The EYCC facilitates discussions, sharing of experiences and the dissemination of relevant information among member National Societies. The EYCC's work is guided by the RCRC European Youth Network's Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedures (RoP), the outcomes of the biannual RCRC European Youth Coordination Meeting (RCRC EYCM) and regular online consultations with Youth Leaders from across the Europe and Central Asia Zone.



EYCC elected members for 2018 - 2020 (from left to right):

- Andreea Dumitroae, Romanian RC
- Jasmin Nikšić, RCS of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Francesca Ligi, Italian RC
- Felix Willuweit, Vice-chair, British RC
- Mariya Hristova, Chair, Bulgarian RC
- Troels Boldt Rømer, Danish RC
- Maryna Kozhedub, Ukrainian RCS

## 1.c. The RCRC European Youth Network in the Movement

The RCRC European Youth Network, led by the democratically elected EYCC, works closely with the IFRC Youth Commission and operates as a coordinator and contact point within the Region. However, it is not part of the Constitutional Framework of the IFRC and therefore not automatically eligible for funding through the core budget. Therefore, its work relies highly on the willingness of National Societies as well as the IFRC Secretariat to support activities. Only by doing so the EYCC can ensure the delivery of qualitatively high benefits for youth on the local, national and regional level. An increased investment in the EYCC work plan is a cost-effective investment in achieving the strategic ambitions for youth and volunteering agreed on by both National Societies and the IFRC during the 10th RCRC European Regional Conference (Almaty, 2018). As outlined in the "*Bishkek Declaration*" that was put forward by the RCRC Youth Representatives of the Network, the EYCC hopes to work with all National Societies of Europe and Central Asia Region to involve even more young volunteers in activities and to pursue strategically the capacity building of youth leadership on a regional scale.

Based on that, the EYCC would like to invite all decision-makers within the RCRC Movement to get in touch with us and inform themselves further about our work and how to further empower youth.

RCRC EYN Representatives presenting the "*Bishkek Declaration*" during the 10th RCRC European Regional Conference (Almaty, May 2018)



## 2. The Work Plan for 2018-2020

Following the **23<sup>rd</sup> RCRC European Youth Cooperation Meeting** in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan, April 2018), the Youth Leaders from the Europe and Central Asia Region jointly committed on three topics and three enabling actions that frame the work plan for the EYCC's 2018-2020 mandate.

The priorities were eventually outlined and presented through the "*Bishkek Declaration*" at the 10<sup>th</sup> RCRC European Regional Conference in Almaty (Kazakhstan, May 2018) to the Leaders of the participating RCRC National Societies, who jointly committed on its objectives as part of the "*Almaty Commitments*".

### ENABLING ACTIONS:

Evolve with future challenges in a timely manner to ensure that we remain an impactful humanitarian network. This means that we commit to seek new ways of recruiting and retaining volunteers of all ages to ensure our relevance, we also commit to developing new, innovative solutions in the field of volunteering.

### INNOVATION IN VOLUNTEERING

### STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITHIN THE RCRC EYN AND THE MOVEMENT

Undertake crucial networking in order to learn from each other, to share common solution on similar issues, and to find new ways of solving the challenges that humanity faces. Having people of different ages, positions, and countries allows us to improve the impact and the relevance of Red Cross Red Crescent actions in our communities.

Further develop the Movement's common goals for the improvement of youth engagement, by raising National Societies' awareness of the added value that is brought by youth members within the network. We believe that young people make the Movement future-proof, hence it is paramount to facilitate and to develop participation of youth in decision-making.

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

### MAIN TOPICS:

### MIGRATION

Support the actions of National Societies in the field of migration, particularly by focusing on psychosocial support for migrants and volunteers. This requires us to highlight the importance of issues affecting migrants as well as the volunteers who work alongside them, in addition to investing in knowledge and experience-sharing across the Network.

Encourage and reinforce the work of National Societies in the field of mental health and emotional wellbeing, herewith recognising the increasing number of people suffering from depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges faced by volunteers and communities.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

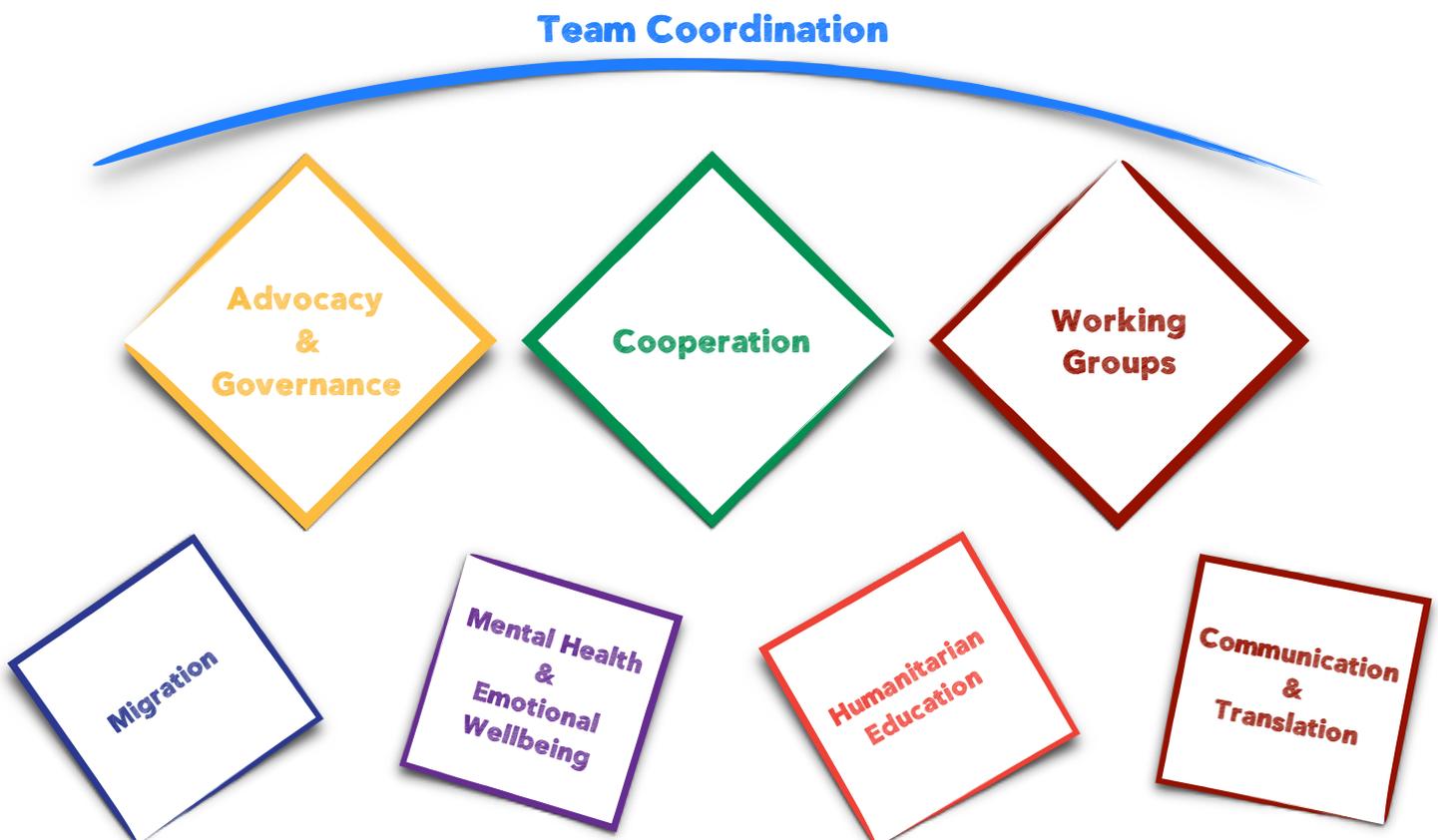
Actively promote a culture of non-violence and peace by ensuring that humanitarian education is a cross-cutting theme in everything that we do, in order to counter the rise of xenophobia and social exclusion.

### HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

## 2.a. Concept of the Work Plan

To contribute a significant benefit to the RCRC EYN, the IFRC ROE, and the Red Cross Red Crescent International Movement as a whole, the EYCC's activity will be structured according to different areas of focus that altogether are framed by the 23<sup>rd</sup> RCRC EYCM's objectives and commitments and structure the team's work. The stated areas will be "Advocacy and Governance" in line with the commitment on youth engagement, "Strengthening the Cooperation", "Working groups" as innovative way of involve young RCRC volunteers - including pre-set sub-groups in line with the 23<sup>rd</sup> RCRC EYCM's three prioritized topics -, and the organisational coordination of the team.

Every area will be coordinated by a member of the EYCC and includes specific aims and actions that will be shared among the group. Apart from the areas of focus that represent the 23<sup>rd</sup> EYCM's goals, the focus on organisational coordination of the team ensures the effectiveness of the group in keeping an overview of progress and deadlines.



## ADVOCACY AND GOVERNANCE

Living in today's rapidly changing societies, young people represent key contributors in the area of adapting to change and of carrying on the advocacy for humanitarian principles and values. As leaders, volunteers, and members of affected communities, young people bring an added value to the Organisation's leadership, if they are allowed to do so. Hence, a central aspect of the EYCC 2018 - 2020 Work Plan is to advocate for the support of youth representation, as well as to enable and prepare young volunteers for being a representative in the RCRC Movement.

**To enhance the development of youth engagement in the RCRC Movement by raising National Societies' awareness of the value of youth in governance and representation, encouraging the sharing of practices and experiences in the development of youth policies and by preparing young volunteers for being a youth delegate in the RCRC Movement.**

**Overall aim**

### Objectives

Advocating for the presence of youth at every level, emphasizing the aspect of participation rather than representation and reaching sustainable support for youth representation

Preparing young volunteers to be youth representatives in the RCRC European Youth Network and the RCRC Movement.

Supporting National Societies with the national youth development in sharing knowledge and coordinating the development of youth policy.

## Actions

Advocacy actions at the IFRC, IFRC Secretariat, IFRC Reference Centres and RCRC Thematic Networks, ensuring the presence of recognised RCRC Youth Delegates.

- ➔ Working closely together with the IFRC Youth Commission's Europe Representatives on issues such as the preparation of the RCRC Movement Statutory Meetings, and the organisation of the upcoming elections of the IFRC Youth Commission.
- ➔ Ensuring sustainable support for the RCRC European Youth Network by seeking a Memorandum of Understanding as an official document, outlining the relationships and commitments among RCRC EYN, EYCC, and IFRC Secretariat.

Preparing and informing young volunteers on being a representative in the RCRC Movement, through the creation, development and distribution of informational materials and learning resources.

- ➔ Timely preparation of Youth Delegates and National Societies for the 24<sup>th</sup> European Youth Cooperation Meeting (EYCM) and its election process in 2020.
- ➔ The preparation of Youth Delegates and National Societies for other meetings and events (both internal and external to the RCRC Movement).

Mapping of youth engagement data throughout the Network to gather an overview of National Societies' experiences and needs in youth engagement and youth policies development.

- ➔ Support of National Societies' youth development, using the mapped youth engagement data in cooperation with the IFRC Secretariat.

**Focal Point: Troels Boldt-Romer**



## STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION

As one of the three pillars of the RCRC European Youth Network, effective cooperation among its members forms the foundation for the pursuit of the RCRC Movement's humanitarian mission. With the purpose to foster the exchange of support and expertise, cooperation is the centerpiece of strengthening the Network as a whole by enhancing the sense of ownership among its members. Consisting of the youth volunteers from 53 National Societies with common and shared values, the RCRC EYN can contribute to, and learn from, the work of other bodies of the RCRC Movement, if allowed to do so. Furthermore, the Network offers the prospect of external cooperation as a unique platform to make the Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth's voice heard outside of the RCRC Movement's organisational frontiers.

### Overall aim

**To foster the effective exchange of support and expertise within the RCRC EYN, among the Network and the RCRC Movement, as well as to explore opportunities to develop cooperation with external stakeholders.**

### Objectives

Strengthening internal cooperation within the RCRC European Youth Network, focusing on sub-regional cooperation.

Strengthening the internal cooperation among the different bodies of the RCRC Movement, such as the IFRC Youth Commission, IFRC Reference Centres and RCRC Thematic Networks, the IFRC Regional Office, the IFRC EU Office and further.

Strengthening cooperation with external stakeholders, such as the United Nations' Agency, the European Youth Forum and other relevant NGOs.

## Actions

Reaching out to National Societies' Youth Focal Points to agree on potential ways of continuous cooperation and support.

- ➔ Gathering information and experiences of RCRC European Sub-Regional Networks to create a concept paper as a guiding support for sub-regional cooperation.
- ➔ Facilitating cooperation between National Societies on relevant topics of interest in offering a platform for sharing ideas and objectives that can be accomplished jointly.
- ➔ Update regularly on the National Societies' international activities in order to facilitate the exchange within the Network.

Updating and circulating information on the Movement's stakeholders as outlined in the terms of reference of the RCRC EYN, leading to an updated list on centres and networks within the RCRC Movement.

- ➔ Reaching out and collaborating with other RCRC Youth Networks on key priorities and events, such as the celebrations in Solferino 2019 and the Statutory Meetings of our Movement.
- ➔ Reaching out to different IFRC Reference Centres and RCRC Thematic Networks and National Societies, spreading the youth's voice throughout the Network and seeking possible topics of collaboration.
- ➔ Maintaining regular communication and close cooperation with the IFRC Youth Commission and Secretariat.

Exploring the potential to take part in central Youth events, meeting and conferences such as the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and other relevant NGOs.

- ➔ Reaching out to IFRC's official partner youth and non-youth organisations that share common interests with the RCRC EYN.



**Focal Point: Francesca Ligi**

## WORKING GROUPS

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With the purpose to actively involve the RCRC EYN's members, the work and responsibilities on the 23<sup>rd</sup> RCRC EYCM's targets will be directed and distributed by the EYCC through the use of working groups.

The concept shall be described as follows:

### WHAT

The RCRC EYCC proposes the establishment of 4 Working Groups on the 3 topics of Migration, Humanitarian Education and Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing, as well as a 4th one on Communication and Translation.

Working Groups will be used as an effective tool for bringing people from different National Societies together, offering a space where they can develop new ideas and projects on one of the themes of the working groups. Like this, the sense of shared purpose and cooperation will strengthen the Network, realising the *Bishkek Declaration's* goals.

### WHY

Everyone can participate who thinks that they have something to contribute or to share. We encourage volunteers, staff members from National Societies, IFRC Secretariat or ICRC delegates to join this initiative. Having people of different ages, positions, and countries will allow us to improve the impact and the relevance of Red Cross Red Crescent actions in our communities by working all together.

### WHO

Every working group will be hosted by a member of the EYCC and they will be the ones who will take coordinate the activity of the group and to assure a creative atmosphere for the group members.

### HOW

## 1. Working Group on Migration

In the field of migration, the RCRC Movement has a longstanding commitment to work with governments, host populations and migrant communities to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people. This commitment is rooted in the Fundamental Principles and was formally elaborated in the IFRC's Policy on Migration in 2009<sup>3</sup> and recalled by States in "*Resolution 3 on Migration: ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion*", adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2011<sup>4</sup>.

The role of the RCRC Movement on migration is strictly humanitarian, and focuses on the needs, vulnerabilities and potential of migrant people, regardless of their legal status. The RCRC Movement does not encourage or discourage migration, but instead seeks to ensure that vulnerable migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, receive the protection to which they are entitled under international and domestic law.



Markus Hechenberger/Austrian Red Cross  
Austrian RC volunteer assisting children in a migrants camp in Greece

Last example of this strong engagement

is the advocacy work did for the *UN Global Compact for Migration's* adoption<sup>5</sup>.

Our activities are adapted to migrants' needs and vulnerabilities, which vary from one place to another and can be exacerbated by limited access to rights and services, arbitrary arrest and detention, violence and human trafficking, family separation and the loss of family links, or death during the journey. With the commitment to address the needs and vulnerabilities of migrant people comes the obligation to tailor our responses accordingly. Age, gender and other factors – such as disability, health status, including HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses, social status, and origin - all shape the extent to which people are vulnerable to, affected by, respond to and recover from crises.

In the context of the migration situation from 2015 onwards the issue has also increased in importance from the perspective of youth. The previous EYCC had already identified a high importance of the need to discuss this issue further and offer support to the members of the RCRC EYN in the field of *youth and migration*, re-confirmed during the 23rd RCRC EYCM.

<sup>3</sup> IFRC Migration resources: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/what-we-do/migration/>

<sup>4</sup> International Conference, Resolution n°3, 2011: <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/resolution/31-international-conference-resolution-3-2011.htm>

<sup>5</sup> UN Global Compact for Migration: <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

For all the three different groups of young people mentioned in the *Youth Engagement Strategy of the IFRC*<sup>6</sup> - *Youth as Leaders, Youth as Volunteers and Youth as Members of affected Communities* - the situation is highly challenging when it comes to migration related issues. Young volunteers are facing extraordinary challenges when trying to meet the needs of transiting or arriving migrants. Young leaders have to deal with insecurities and tasks they are unfamiliar with. And most importantly around 50% of the beneficiaries are young migrant people, requiring specific assistance.

### Overall aim

Ensuring the preparedness of, support for and empowerment of young volunteers and leaders in the area of migration, especially regarding the psycho-social support both for beneficiaries and volunteers, public health activities - self-protection, hygiene, basic first aid skills... - and the promotion of the humanitarian Principles and Values.

Youth from all National Societies are empowered to voice their needs when it comes to trainings, support mechanisms or ideas within their home countries and at international level regarding the Migration response activities.

### Objective

### Actions

- ☑ To cooperate closely with IFRC Secretariat, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM), the IFRC Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) and the Action for Trafficked Persons Network (ATN);
- ☑ To support and organize trainings for young volunteers and leaders on prioritized topics related to migration;
- ☑ To support, work and advocate for prevention of trafficking in human beings;
- ☑ To promote initiatives as the role-play "*Youth on the run*" in the region;
- ☑ To work strictly with the other working groups on crossover topics such as humanitarian education and psychological support for and with migrants;
- ☑ To support and advocate for public health activities in migrant people camps and centers.

### Focal Point: Jasmin Niksic



<sup>6</sup> IFRC Youth resources: [fednet.ifrc.org/youthstrategicdocuments](https://fednet.ifrc.org/youthstrategicdocuments)

## 2. Working Group on Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

The vision of the International Federation, in line with the Strategy 2020<sup>7</sup>, is *“To inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the promotion and maintenance of human dignity and peace in the world.”*

RCS of Kyrgyzstan young volunteer play with a homeless child



The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Federation, as the most significant humanitarian actors in the health<sup>8</sup> and social welfare sector, contribute throughout the world to alleviate suffering of the most vulnerable people, both during crisis and peace times. Activities that support health have always been central to carry out the humanitarian mandate of National Societies and the IFRC.

Health is also a key concern in major demographic shifts (especially population ageing), in large populations movements and in the increase of non-communicable diseases and mental health problems. Health is now a critical component of social development and social welfare programs in most countries and the health activities of National Societies and the IFRC reflect the diversity of these challenges worldwide<sup>9</sup>. They have responded to these new challenges with a number of specific existing policies and innovative approaches all of which put people and volunteer action in the center.

According to the *“Bishkek Declaration”* of the 23rd RCRC EYN, the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing topic is defined as a priority to develop. The main goal is to promote the importance of a good mental health status. When we say mental health, we think of our volunteers’ mental health after hundreds of hours spent in the disasters’ centers or next to the people who are really in need and, at the same time, of the importance of self-acceptance and how a mental and emotional wellbeing contributes to a proper physical health. We believe that Youth can raise their voice and speak louder about the importance of encouraging a good mental health and emotional wellbeing.

<sup>7</sup> IFRC Strategy 2020 resources: <https://www.ifrc.org/who-we-are/vision-and-mission/strategy-2020/>

<sup>8</sup> According to the World Health Organization: *“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”* <https://www.who.int/about/mission/en/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/health/psychosocial-support/>

## Overall aim

The working groups ought to promote the importance of Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing through social media platforms, Sub-regional and thematic Networks, volunteers groups and National Societies, to provide access to information, to encourage cooperation and active leadership within the RCRC EYN.

## Objectives

To create a stronger RCRC EYN

To facilitate the cooperation between volunteers and staff from different National Societies

To promote the idea of sharing good practices between the member National Societies

To engage young volunteers to cooperate and take initiatives

**All from above by working on advocating and promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing**

## Actions

- ✓ Setting up and re-establishing the Network's Facebook page, Instagram account, and Slack channel with the purposes of increasing visibility, enhancing cooperation, and sharing experiences;
- ✓ Collecting information and expertise about the mental health, emotional wellbeing and Psychological support area;
- ✓ Collaborating and promoting active exchange of good mental health practices;
- ✓ Making online campaigns on mental health prevention and mental illnesses;
- ✓ Finding new ways to reach our beneficiaries and talk with them about mental health and emotional wellbeing
- ✓ Promoting activities on and offline.



**Focal Point: Andreea Dumitroae**

### 3. Working Group on Humanitarian Education

In a world where we encounter discrimination and inequality every day, where we experience the acute issue of acceptance of diversity (e.g., origin, religion, sex and sexual orientation, political opinion, appearance...), where humankind and humanity itself are constantly plagued by wars and resulting suffering, the humanitarian education<sup>10</sup> should play a key role in prevention of these unfortunate processes.

According to the "*Bishkek Declaration*", humanitarian education was identified as a priority for development, in particular for the active promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace. Humanitarian education is indeed instrumental to foster and nurture humanitarian principles and values in the face of rising discrimination, exclusion and violence.



Ahmed Makhlof/Libyan Red Crescent  
Principles and Values activity during the Mediterranean Youth Camp "Atlantis XIV" organised by the CCM and the Spanish Red Cross

We firmly believe that providing an education that is rooted in humanitarian values and enables individuals to develop mutual understanding, respect for diversity and interpersonal skills to interact constructively and live peacefully together (e.g., empathy, active listening, non-judgement, non-violent communication, mediation...) is key. At the core of all our work, humanitarian education is a very large and cross-cutting area, which is why the EYCC working group will need to prioritize carefully. As per the above stated context and vision, this working group will mainly focus on supporting the integration or combination of humanitarian education initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of non-violence and peace into humanitarian education programs or activities in other areas of work (e.g., disaster risk reduction, health, migration...). The main purpose is to address the rising prevalence of discrimination, violence, hate and exclusion in societies, especially through youth engagement around common activities and innovative researches.

For the sake of avoiding any potential duplication with ongoing efforts, the working group decided to rally the *RCRC Global Humanitarian Education Network* to ensure its work would be aligned with and contribute to the implementation of the three-year action plan (see plan overview in annex). By doing so, the working group will also ensure representation and active engagement of the Youth from Europe and Central Asia in this field (including in the development of a global IFRC Strategy on education), as well as be in a position to benefit from the vast expertise present within that Network and ask for technical support if/when such need arises.

<sup>10</sup> IFRC Humanitarian Education resources: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/get-involved/learning-education-training/humanitarian-education/what-is-humanitarian-education/>

Mitigation of xenophobia and social exclusion through making high-quality humanitarian education accessible to everyone available and accessible

## Overall aim

## Objective

Support and cooperate with the RCRC Humanitarian Education Network in their continuous efforts to promote and advance humanitarian education through mobilizing European young volunteers

## Actions

- ✓ Support the Network in following-up on the review and completion of the personalized mapping findings' tables shared with each National Society in Europe and Central Asia;
- ✓ Support the Network in collecting monitoring and evaluation tools as well as reports on existing education-related activities and programmes of National Societies in Europe and Central Asia;
- ✓ Support the Network in developing strong case studies on the impact of humanitarian education initiatives (e.g., YABC) on addressing issues of discrimination, violence and exclusion in Europe and Central Asia, as well as on attracting and retaining volunteers;
- ✓ Support the Network in developing a global curriculum scheme to facilitate the development of comprehensive educational offer (e.g., integrating/combining humanitarian education initiatives for the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace into/with humanitarian education initiatives in other areas);
- ✓ Strengthen the regional YABC network in Europe and Central Asia (communication, cooperation, knowledge and experience sharing, opportunities for scaled-up/joint implementation and growth);
- ✓ Contribute to the development of an IFRC Strategy on education (youth consultation process);
- ✓ Conduct activities on and offline (flash mob, exchange meeting, training, workshop etc);
- ✓ Support the Network in developing an upgraded version of the Humanitarian Education Learning Portal, as well as online courses on humanitarian education for the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace;
- ✓ Support the Network in advocating for the integration of humanitarian education (e.g. International Humanitarian Law) into the formal curricula of RCRC EYN countries.

**Focal Point: Maryna Kozhedub**



## 4. Working Group on Communication and Translation



RCRC Youth Leader making a speech during the 21st session of the IFRC General Assembly (Antalya, 2017)

In line with the “*Terms of Reference*” of the RCRC EYN, the EYCC plans to establish active communication platforms to support the Network’s three pillars of knowledge management, advocacy and cooperation. Following the 23<sup>rd</sup> RCRC European Youth Cooperation Meeting in Bishkek, the EYCC aims to increase communication and collaboration in the 6 priority topics of Innovation in Volunteering, Strengthening the European Youth Network, Youth Engagement, Migration, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing, Humanitarian Education and Advocacy. The Communication and Translation Working Group aims to address specifically the need to enhance active communication among the Network’s members and to communicate the achievements and activities of the EYN externally. Using a structured approach, the EYCC has worked closely with the IFRC Europe Communication Team in writing the Network’s Communication Strategy (see the document in annex) which will serve as a guiding document for the working group’s activity. Since official documents of the network, such as the “*Bishkek Declaration*” and the Network’s “*Terms of Reference*”, have been newly established and updated, there is also an increasing need of sufficient translation to remain relevant for all Members of the RCRC EYN.

### Overall aim

To establish active youth-led communication channels, managed by the working group, that enable and facilitate the sharing of good practice, ideas and activities throughout the Network, enhance the exchange of experience and communicate the EYCC’s advocacy on youth-related issues efforts internally and externally.

## Objectives

Creating active, youth-led communication platforms that promote the sharing of ideas and activities related to the RCRC EYCM's priorities and goals throughout the RCRC EYN via different communication channels

Advocating for youth-related issues and emphasizing the importance of Youth in the RCRC Movement

Increasing the internal and external awareness of the EYN by honoring the work of youth in the Movement and inspiring young volunteers around the world to be part of the organisation

## Actions

- ✓ Setting up and re-establishing the Network's Facebook page, Instagram account, and Slack channel with the purposes of increasing visibility, enhancing cooperation, and sharing experiences;
- ✓ Maintaining regular contact on formal communication through the EYCC's **Email** account as the main contact of inquiry for the network's members;
- ✓ Using the RCRC EYN's **Facebook Page** as a platform for spreading messages throughout the Network and beyond, starting discussions with broader segments of society, and for encouraging informal engagement of volunteers in the RCRC EYN's community;
- ✓ Re-inventing the RCRC EYN's **Instagram** account to share formal and informal youth-related content as well as the EYCC's activities through stories and images.;
- ✓ Establishing the RCRC EYN's **Slack** channel as the platform for the coordination of internal cooperation on youth activities, the sharing of ideas, internal documents and events, sub-regional cooperation and the internal sharing of the EYCC's updates to the members of the Network;
- ✓ Establishing a "youth" section in the "Europe" section of the IFRC Website with the purpose of sharing professional updates on the Network's and the EYCC's activity;
- ✓ Translating content and documents to be shared with a higher number of volunteers in the Network.



**Focal Point: Felix Willuweit**

## 2.e. Team Coordination

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Given the variety of topics and tasks, outlined by the EYN priorities and the EYCC's two-year work plan, the Chair of the Committee will have the overall task of coordinating and supporting the team's activities. The aim of the team is to work sufficiently, in order to both provide the best support to the Network, as well as to be responsible and transparent in their actions. This also includes the obligation, coordinated by the chair, to report regularly, both formally and informally, to the Network, on its ongoing and future activities.

Every National Society that is interested in the work of the European Youth Coordination Committee is invited to be the host of the team's meetings which will be held in a 6-months interval starting from February/ March 2019. In line with the Network's Terms of Reference, the information for these opportunities will be provided to the National Societies in a timely manner.

**Focal Point: Mariya Hristova**



## Contact

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The EYCC's official email is [youth.europe@ifrc.org](mailto:youth.europe@ifrc.org), which can be contacted in any of the Network's official languages (ENG, SPA, FR, RU) and others (Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Dutch, German, Italian, Montenegrin, Romanian, Serbian and Ukrainian).



[facebook.com/RCRCEYN](https://facebook.com/RCRCEYN)



[instagram.com/rcrceyn](https://instagram.com/rcrceyn)



[ifrc/europe.org](https://ifrc/europe.org) → A "Youth" section will be set up



## Annex

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1. The RCRC European Youth Network ToR
2. The RCRC European Youth Network RoP
3. The "Bishkek Declaration"
4. The "Almaty Outcomes"
5. The RCRC EYN Communication Strategy
6. The RCRC Global Humanitarian Education Network plan overview

**All the mentioned documents can be find at: [errcyv.slack.com/documents](https://errcyv.slack.com/documents)**