

European Youth Coordination Committee

Work-plan 2012-14

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1. Background

Over its 150 years of history, the Red Cross Red Crescent has established itself as an indispensable partner for people in need. Whether the situations that expose people to vulnerability originate from natural disasters, conflicts or limited access to social services, people look to the Red Cross Red Crescent to alleviate their suffering. With a local presence in almost every country, over 100 million volunteers and members, a widely respected and valued set of Principles which enable it to reach across political and social borders, and with recognizable and protected emblems, the Red Cross Red Crescent can work in ways and in places many other organizations cannot.

However, this unique position demands that the Red Cross Red Crescent guards, maintains and even further widens its achievements; requiring it to constantly prove the worth of the tasks with which it is entrusted. With increasing co-operation between states, and the shift of power to both super- and supranational levels, the Red Cross Red Crescent needs to adapt to the changing environment. This adaptation must include closer international cooperation, a focus on changing vulnerabilities and resulting needs, and a recognition and understanding of regional differences in its work.

Youth play a crucial role within the Red Cross. In many National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, youth members form the backbone of the volunteer base, without which the Society would not be capable of assisting as many people as it currently does. On the other hand, youth in many countries are also a group facing situations which expose them to particular vulnerabilities. In terms of responding to local needs, but also working within local capacities, youth are a key group both within and for the Red Cross Red Crescent in any country. Therefore, youth should be able to take responsibility not only for service delivery within National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, but also for governance; as they bring vital commitment, insight and flexibility to the organization.

The successful implementation of Strategy 2020, the common strategy for all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and IFRC Secretariat, depends largely on the involvement of youth at different levels and in various positions. It recognises that building-up and sustaining strong National Societies requires that they attract and retain more young people. It urges that young people 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 various sorts of vulnerability, and to stimulate the wider involvement of youth within the Red Cross, it is important that cross-national structures can operate within the international structure of the organization. The IFRC Youth Policy, *adopted by the 18th session of the General Assembly held on 23-25 November 2011 in Geneva states that* “national, regional, and international networks established by young people themselves, are strongly promoted as an invaluable contribution to sharing knowledge and innovation across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. National Societies actively encourage and support youth representatives to participate in these networks aimed at promoting youth leadership and exchange of concrete ideas, innovations and activities”.

Based on the various differences between regions, the European Red Cross Red Crescent youth have established a Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network which shall be managed by a Steering Group between European Youth Cooperation Meetings of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (EYCM). This group shall be known as the European Youth Coordination Committee (EYCC). In adherence with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, of which the Red Cross Red Crescent youth in its various organizational structures is an integral component, the European Youth Coordination Committee seeks:

To facilitate the sharing of good practices and advocate on behalf of the member National Societies in order to strengthen their youth activities and do more, do better and reach further for people living in situations of vulnerability within the European Zone.

2. EYCC Priorities for 2012-14

Following the revision of the Terms of Reference for the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network to incorporate Strategy 2020 and the Youth Policy¹ three key functions of the Network were recognised at European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (EYCM) 2012 in Lozen, Bulgaria. Within these functions, the EYCC will focus on specific activities which will contribute towards the implementation of

¹ To be reviewed by the 21st session of the General Assembly in 2017.

Strategy 2020 and the Youth Policy and build sustainable partnerships between Europe Zone National Societies:

i. Knowledge Management: To set up a Community of Practice on fedNet in order to share good practice between National Societies and stimulate discussion about youth issues. To complete pilot phase by September 2012 and Beta phase by the Global Youth Conference in December 2012.

MEASURES: # of documents uploaded
 # of members
 # of members uploading documents
 % EYCM participants/ Youth focal points signed up to CoP
 Record of feedback/comments from members (kept by HF)

ii. Community Building: To plan and facilitate the EYCM 2014, completing all evaluations and EYCC report in advance of meeting to be sent out to EYCM 2014 participants. To strengthen partnerships with sub-regional networks and member National Societies through regular email contact, EYCC presence at meetings, sharing work-plans and meeting outcomes.

MEASURES: % increase in # EZ NS participating at the EYCM
 EYCC presence @ sub-regional network meetings
 # sub-regional networks documents/meeting outcomes shared (i.e on CoP)
 # follow-up EZO emails from EYCC to members NSs (send and responses)

iii. Amplification and Advocacy: To advocate on behalf of member National Societies and youth exposed to vulnerabilities in the European Region and investigate opinions of NSs, summarise and present to the Youth Commission/IFRC. Increase the participation of EZO NSs youth representatives at the ISMs in 2013, strong EYCC presence at the Global Youth Conference and feedback outcomes of these meetings with all member NSs (not just those present).

MEASURES: # EYCC members present @ GYC
 EYCC opportunity to collect views of participants @ GYC i.e stand/side meeting (Y/N)
 EYCC submitted workshop @ GYC
 EYCC member(s) present @ ISM 2013 (Y/N)
 # EZO NSs sending youth delegate to ISMs in Sydney 2013

Enabling Action 1: Building Strong National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies	
Strengthen National Society Youth structures through empowering Youth and increasing their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the exchange of information, practices and news on youth leadership training on a local, national and international level and give inputs, from member National Societies, to the Youth Commission to support their commitment to create youth leadership

<p>involvement in decision making processes</p>	<p>training and guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards the implementation of the Youth Policy, planning for the Global Youth Conference in December 2012 (tbc) and development of the Global Youth Strategy. • Organise and follow up the biennial EYCM and follow up the decisions made at EYCM 2012 • Evaluate the Network purpose and activities to demonstrate impact and ensure that it remains relevant. • Express the importance of retaining the Youth Action and Volunteering Department within the basic structures of the Federation Secretariat and YouthDelegate Europe Zone Office.
<p>Enabling Action 2: Pursue Humanitarian Diplomacy to prevent and reduce vulnerability in a globalized world</p>	
<p>Advocate on behalf of youth in the Europe Zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the impact of youth-led advocacy efforts and advocate to NS and IFRC the importance, value and role of youth in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inclusion and Empowerment of Beneficiaries ○ Evaluation, Follow-up and Reporting to inform planning and delivery and improve outcomes for beneficiaries ○ Resource Mobilisation ○ Leadership and Strategic Innovation • Cooperate with other regional Networks to advocate for the official recognition of Youth Networks and participation in the planning and execution of Statutory Meetings • Represent the voice of youth from member National Societies within the Movement • Ensure a sense of ownership within the Network for member National Societies, based on common and shared values by stimulating open dialogue
<p>Enabling Action 3: Function Effectively as the International Federation</p>	
<p>Increase cooperation, networking and information sharing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a Community of Practice to ensure good practices/experiences and areas of improvement are shared among National Societies and further strengthen cooperation among National Societies in relation to the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inclusion and Empowerment of Beneficiaries ○ Evaluation, Follow-up and Reporting ○ Youth in Strategic Innovation ○ Youth in Decision Making Processes ○ Communication and Social Media • Ensure open channels of communication between stakeholders by assigning responsibilities to named

	<p>EYCC members. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member National Societies ○ Sub-regional Networks ○ Other Youth Networks ○ Red Cross/EU Office ○ Youth in Action programme ○ European Youth Forum ○ European Youth Exchange ○ ERNA ○ ENDOV ○ Youth Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure two-way flows of information from the IFRC and Youth Commission and produce a clear EYCC Communication Strategy to enable timely and systematic dissemination of information throughout the Network. ● Promote and facilitate wider participation and bottom up processes (such as the Communities of Practice, use of social media and leadership training) which are able to respond to local needs and empower youth by allowing them to bring their priorities and necessities to the highest levels of National Societies, IFRC and Youth Commission. ● Use social media to engage with a wider audience and increase understanding of the Network purpose and activities ● Attend and write reports from key meetings in which EZ youth have an interest ● Support member NSs to prepare delegates of the EYCM 2014 and ensure proper handover to the next EYCC
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3. Organisation of the EYCC

The revision of the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network Terms of Reference includes two specific assigned roles within the EYCC: one chairperson and one vice-chairperson. This EYCC decided that the chair should have a functional (as opposed to figurehead) role. The primary purpose is to ensure that meetings run efficiently and to coordinate the committee. Each EYCC member is ultimately responsible for their own specific tasks and the chair has no overall responsibility. Decisions will be made democratically via a vote.

With support from the vice-chair, the chairperson will:

- Coordinate EYCC members (Chair & Vice-chair)
- Organise meetings (date/time, agenda) (Chair & Vice-chair)

- Lead the actual meeting ensuring all agenda points are covered in the allocated time (Chair)
- Motivate and follow up EYCC members to make sure each knows what is expected from them (Chair & Vice-chair)
- Be primary contact for EZO (Chair)
- Be primary contact for Youth Commission (Chair)
- Summarize opinions and speak on behalf of the EYCC to reduce outgoing emails and utilise the EYCC.RC@gmail.com address to ensure continuity (Chair & Vice-chair)
- Maintain contact / responsibilities list and administrate the EYCC email address (Vice-chair)
- Opens the EYCM (Chair)
- Sign official documents in name of the EYCC. In most cases, communications will be signed “The European Youth Coordination Committee” and the appropriate contact point will be identified depending on the subject (Chair)

4. Advocacy and Partnership leads

In order to maintain transparency and accountability, EYCC members have taken responsibility for specific advocacy themes and partnerships. This individual(s) will act as a focal point and repository of knowledge to maximise the unique skills and interests of each member on behalf of the Network. See European Youth Coordination Committee responsibilities 2012-14 for assigned advocacy and partnership responsibilities.