

MIJARC EUROPE

*Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique
International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth
Movimiento Internacional de la Juventud Agraria y Rural Catolica
Internationale Katholische Land- und Bauernjugendbewegung*



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008

EDITORIAL

Do not forget to visit our website: it is now updated!

Since last summer, all information about MIJARC Europe's activities has been putted on our website. The majority of the news presented in this newsletter is also available on the website as well as all our publications.

www.mijarc.info

NEWS FROM MIJARC EUROPE

❖ **Working group meeting: 14-16 February 2009 in Picardie (France)**

What are the working groups of MIJARC Europe?

The working groups are thematic groups of work which meet at least once a year to exchange their analysis and their practices on a specific topic. MIJARC Europe has 3 working groups: 1/Agriculture and Food sovereignty, 2/Youth Participation, 3/Glocal development and Social economy. **We are expecting 3 participants from each movement (one person for each working group).**

What are we going to do during this meeting?

Working group on "Agriculture/Food Sovereignty": We will get onto the issue of food sovereignty: with an extern input to define the concept of food sovereignty, and with exchanges between the participants on local best practices (the development of local markets, on initiatives to favour access to land and agriculture for youngsters).

Working group on "Youth Participation": We will work on the importance of expanding MIJARC Europe's network towards Eastern and South-Eastern European countries. MIJARC Europe will study what the Eastern European situation for rural youth is, in order to be able to judge it and plan its actions. The participants will work together on the current situation of the Bulgarian and Eastern European rural youth in order to develop a multi-year plan for MIJARC Europe's enlargement.

Working group on "Glocal Development: Think Global, Act Local!" Because many of our member movements are working on issues such as food sovereignty and solidarity economy, we will share the different topics the national movements deal with to have an exchange and to create a common picture and a joint understanding of "GLOCAL". General guidelines for MIJARC Europe and its members shall be declared and adopted.

❖ **European commission meeting – 17-18 February 2009**

Our annual "European commission meeting" will take place in France (Paris or Picardie) from the 17th to the 18th of February 2009.

What is the "European commission" of MIJARC Europe?" According to our statutes, the advisory board of MIJARC Europe is called "European Commission" and it is composed by all the member organisations of MIJARC on an equal footing: 1 representative/movement and must take place once a year. The aim of this commission is to work on the content of MIJARC Europe.

This year the main goal of the European Commission will be to prepare the content of our next Orientation General Assembly planned in July 2009 in Pravetz (Bulgaria).

We invite all the movements to nominate as soon as possible their "European commissioner"!

❖ **Campaign on the European elections: Vote for the best slogan!**

As you know, MIJARC Europe is planning to launch a campaign for the European elections of June 2009. The double objective of this campaign is to make rural youngsters aware about the European elections, invite them to go to vote but also to express ourselves about the future of European rural communities and youth policies in Europe. The European team has already prepared a draft of Flyer for local groups and we are now working on the slogan for the campaign.



VOTE FOR

**THE BEST SLOGAN
OF CAMPAIGN**

**for the campaign of
MIJARC on the European
elections 2009**

Slogan N°1: "You (r/th) voice today is the future of European rural regions tomorrow: be actor of your vote!"

Slogan N°2: "Europe of tomorrow is you(r/th) responsibility!"

Slogan N°3: "YOU(th) can make the Europe of tomorrow!"

Slogan N°4: "Building Europe: You(th) can make a difference!"

Slogan N°5: "Europe: There is nothing about you(th) without you(th)!"

(Please vote by writing an email to Emilie at: e.durochat@mijarc.net)

❖ **INVITATION OF KLJB to participate to "Vision, Values and Action - International Youth Future Forum" on 23 - 25 January in Bad Honnef/Germany.**

160 young people from all over the world.....an interesting programme one weekend long...theatre and art workshop....actions and closing appeal to the World Conference

All members of MIJARC Europe are invited to join this meeting!

This international forum host by KLJB is organised in the lead-up to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. By discussions with experts, high-ranking politicians and personalities of civil society, 160 young people from all over the world develop proposals, visions and ideas. The results of these discussions will be introduced during the World Conference on Education for

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Sustainable Development taking place from 31st March to 2nd April 2009 in Bonn, Germany.

The three-days conference includes theme forums on topics like future justice, sustainability, ecology vs. economy, but also peace and democracy. The young people will demonstrate and pronounce that they cannot and do not want to wait for the necessary shift towards sustainability any longer. They appeal to the participants of the World Conference to push concrete and binding decisions for a continuous ESD. The International Youth Future Forum wants to intensify the discussion about the concept of sustainability from a young perspective, create positive visions and contribute to the success of the UN-Decade. Furthermore, the forum aims to enable networking and exchange of ideas among young committed people from all over the world.

-For more information and registration, please contact the secretariat of MIJARC Europe-

NEWS FROM EUROPE

433 MEPs ask for more youthful EU policies



On the initiative of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), five Members of the European Parliament launched in April a written declaration calling on the European Union to devote more attention to youth empowerment in EU policies. In order for a written declaration to be adopted by the European Parliament, over half all the 785 MEPs have to sign it over a period of three months. Two weeks ahead of schedule, 433 MEPs have already signed it!

"Young people from across Europe expect policy-makers to come up with more specific actions that truly reflect our needs in different areas such as employment, education, non-discrimination or health; this can only be achieved through a genuine dialogue with young people and their organisations and a coherent set of measures and programmes," explains Bettina Schwarzmayr, President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ). "The adoption of this declaration is an important but initial stride in promoting youth policy, and underlining its transversal nature, within the European Parliament. We trust that the EP will also reflect this position in the forthcoming policy processes and take it into account while setting up the structure of the next legislative period," she adds.

On the initiative of the European Youth Forum, 433 Members of the European Parliament signed the declaration calling on the European Commission and the EU Member States to take into account the needs of young people when developing policies that affect them. The declaration also calls on the European Commission to commit to developing a more horizontal youth policy; something endorsed by the Council of Ministers but that has not yet been translated into tangible action. Furthermore, the declaration reminds EU Member States to focus on youth when implementing the Lisbon National Reform Programmes.

The MEPs supporting the declaration include Graham Watson, Chair of the ALDE Group, Joseph Daul, Chair of the EPP-ED Group, Francis Wurtz, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Daniel Cohn-Benit and Monica Frassoni, co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA Group, and Poul-Nyrup Rasmussen, President of the Party of European Socialists.

(Extracts from the article published on the 3rd of September in EurActiv)