

II *Youth Act!* International Forum

***'Mediterranean youth
building up global justice'***

Infosheet

13th -17th
June 2022
Barcelona-Spain

What is Youth Act!?

Youth Act! is a wide project led by [SCI Catalonia](#) and [CJB](#) that started in 2021 with the aim of fostering debates, discussions and action(s) among young people throughout the world. We see '**Youth Act!**' as a big umbrella under which we organize different kinds of activities, both local and international, in order to promote youth active participation and organization in different fronts or fields. By doing so, we aim to **contribute to global struggles** by reinforcing and connecting the role and actions led by **young activists** in different places around the world.

Last November we held the [first Youth Act! International Forum](#) (more info below and in the link), which was conceived as an open space to promote dialogue between activists and their organizations of different parts of the world around a series of given topics. This second forum, however, is meant to go one step further. It will consist not only of a space for debate but also one of **intense strategic work between activists and organizations**, in this case of different parts of the **Mediterranean region**: we will have participants from Palestine, Lebanon, Sahara, Tunisie, Catalonia, Belgium, Italy, France, etc.

This second forum will take place during a week (from the 13th until the 17th of June) in Barcelona and the main focus will be around peace and youth: how youth understands peace, how it relates with different struggles in which youth is involved (feminisms, housing, climate justice, human rights, people's rights, etc), how we can work together and build-up shared strategies and tools, etc. During this week, as you shall see below (see schedule at the end of the document), we will have time for several trainings, visits to local organizations, public acts, strategic work with specialized facilitation, communication activities, etc.

Who organizes this?

CJB: The Barcelona Youth Council (CJB for its Catalan acronym) is a platform that brings together more than **80 youth associations** that represents the organized youth of the city, defends their interests and **promotes grassroots activism and participation**. The Council is organized around a series of work areas, those that challenge and affect young people in a more direct way, among which: **Education, Feminisms, Climate Emergency, Emancipation, Global Justice and others**. Regarding the last one, CJB contributes to spread awareness about the interdependencies between the local and global arenas, and seeks to strengthen the networks of youth activists around the world to achieve common goals. One of our main objectives is to make the **contributions and demands of youth visible**.

SCI Cat: the International Civil Service Catalonia (SCI Cat, for its catalan acronym) is a catalan organization created in 1982. Since then we have been working to promote **international volunteering and peace education** as means of social transformation in

Catalonia, Valencia, the Balearic Islands and Andorra. We are doing so with a vision of an associative base and in a network with local and international organizations (more info [here](#)). On a local level, **we work together with organizations of the youth movement and of global justice**, and with communities and social movements of the territory. From SCI Catalunya we put a lot of emphasis on the network with partner entities of the Mediterranean. The objective of this task is to **strengthen the ties of collaboration and solidarity with organizations in the southern shore of the Mediterranean**: Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Kurdistan. We do this from a perspective of collaboration and exchange between peers and with a perspective of international solidarity and an horizon for social transformation.

Youth Act! past activities:

The project started with a series of debates we organized between local youth in Barcelona, an activity called **'Àgora de 100'**. These debates took place first among a small group of activists (20) and around a set of topics (climate justice, feminisms and LGBTIQ+ rights, human rights for migrants/refugees and other hot topics) and after, these debates were opened to a broader **group of 100 youngsters, who were able to reach consensus around the given topics**, thus paving the way for future work around shared demands for youth in the city.



In november, as mentioned above, we also held in Barcelona the first international forum, called **'Global Struggles, Youth Struggles'**. This forum took place in a hybrid format, both online and offline, and it consisted mainly of a **series of debates with international activists around the different struggles** in which they participate, and their **global dimension**, allowing for a common diagnosis as a basis for future collaborations/actions. In this forum we had over 15 different activities (talks, trainings, cultural events...) and more than 400 participants, some of which attended via online platforms. Besides, we had 47 speakers, 22 of them were international speakers from 15 different countries.

In parallel to all this we created an **international group of activists and organizations** that have been **working on a map** of NGOs, entities, research groups and public institutions who participate and play a role in the struggles taking place in the mediterranean area. This tool, called **'Midi Mapping'**, constitutes an active database that helps to make visible and connect diverse actors working on the mediterranean region and contributes to connect, amplify and strengthen their work, opening the door for potential collaborations. This mapping will be officially presented to all activists and their organizations during the forum

Explanation of this Forum:

This International Forum will consist of a week of intense work in which around **20 activists from different mediterranean countries and 20 more local activists** will participate in a program of activities that includes trainings, facilitated strategy sessions, visits to local organizations, participation in public acts and leisure activities, among others. For more specific details, see our provisional program below.

This forum is thought as an opportunity in which activists from different territories of the mediterranean region, committed to different struggles related to global justice, will have the chance to connect with each other, exchange experiences, work and share good practices, and discuss and build up shared strategies to foster social transformation from a youth mediterranean perspective. All sessions will be facilitated by experts in different fields and from several organizations, both with local and international scope.

The international activists will have accomodation in two different places in the city and they will always be accompanied by local group coordinators who will also participate in all the activities. Local activists will also participate in all the activities. Thus, this forum will be a perfect space for activists who already participate in different struggles in their respective countries and in a range of topics to meet and get to work together, to exchange ideas, proposals and tools, and to reach consensus and commit to further action with a mediterranean strategic perspective. The objectives of this forum are described in the next section.

Objectives of this Forum:

Here you can find a summary of the objectives pursued with this forum and the reasons why someone should take part in it:

- Connect activists and organizations of different countries in the Mediterranean area.
- Get to know and be updated about the fight for social justice in the region
- Work on how to create, develop and apply common/shared tools and strategies
- Make visible the goals, the challenges and the threats that face young activist for human rights in the region
- Design and launch common communication campaigns to raise awareness
- Participate in communication and political incidence actions

Profile of the participants

Anyone who is interested in global justice and/or involved in social movements like feminisms, climate justice, human rights for migrants and refugees, people's rights, social justice, etc., is welcomed. We specially value -and will give priority to- participants that are already actively involved in organizations or social movements in their local territories. This is because we hope/expect that the work done in the forum will be useful and have continuity through their future work in their respective territories. SCI youth activists of other branches (especially related to struggles like Feminisms, Climate Justice and MIDI) are encouraged to participate.

The number of participants from each organization varies. We expect to have at least 10 participants from countries in the southern-east shore of the Mediterranean (Palestine, Sahara, Tunise, Lebanon, Jordan, etc) and 10 participants from other countries of Europe (including eastern of Europe). Depending on the number of registrations we will allow for more than one participant per organization or just one.

One last consideration: yes, it is in Barcelona, but please don't apply if it only makes you think about sangría and disco-balls! This training is a serious commitment and it needs to be taken as such.

Some more practical information:

Travel | Participants are expected to arrive on the 12th and leave on the 18th of June. We recommend traveling over land for those coming from other European countries in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. SCI Catalunya and CJB will refund the payment of the tickets according to the following criteria:

- Maximum 175€ for participants coming from European Union countries
- Maximum 300€ for participants coming from south-east mediterranean countries*

**In case these 300€ are not enough, contact us as soon as possible and we will try to find a solution for you.*

Visa | If you need a visa to come to Spain, please write us an email as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. Please send us your full name, your sending organization, birth date, passport number and until when it is valid. We will provide you with an invitation letter, but you will have to organize and get the visa yourself. Ask your sending organization if you need some help with that. Ask us if you cannot afford the visa payment and we might reimburse it to you. Please, inform us about your visa status, so that we know if you can come to the seminar.

Accommodation and other expenses | SCI Catalunya and CJB cover the accommodation, and lunch and dinner for international activists (and only lunch for local ones). There will be no obligatory additional costs during the week. Please bring some pocket money if you want to buy something. All extra expenditures will be yours. Also you will need to buy a metro or

bus ticket to get to the venue from the train station or airport (possible with cash or card, approximately 10€). The currency in Spain is Euro (€). Do not buy the tickets until you are accepted to the Forum. Once this happens, buy the ticket as soon as possible and we will send you the information on how to get the reimbursement.

Language | The main language of the forum will be english. All participants should have at least an intermediate level of english. Exceptionally, catalan and spanish will also be used in some occasions (for example, public acts) but there will be simultaneous translation when possible.

Schedule | Each day's activity will start at 10:00h and finish at around 20:00h, with time to launch. There will also be enough breaks to chat and relax a bit, no worries! We will send you a detailed program before the start of the training.

It is mandatory that all participants read the materials provided by SCI and CJB before the meeting and answer the questionnaires and other documents they ask for. Besides, it is also recommended to read the 'recommended materials' that we will send you.

Locations | Most of the activities will take place in Barcelona, in several buildings and places around the city that are perfectly connected by public transport and/or accessible within a small walking distance. More information will be provided in the next communications. However, be sure that all facilities we are going to use are perfectly suited for the activities we are going to do, with proper beds and conditioning for the accommodation, good wifi connectivity everywhere, etc.

We will contact the participants with more instructions once they are selected.

Program and activities

Here you find the different kinds of activities that we will have in our Forum. In the end of the infosheet you will have a provisional **schedule/program of activities** where you will be able to see how these activities are distributed throughout the week. These activities and schedules are still provisional and subject to changes.

PUBLIC ACT	Open acts that take place in several places of the city and include open debates, report presentations or even live music.
TRAINING	Trainings for the activists with experts in fields like peace culture, digital security or climate justice. These trainings will respond to activists' necessities and program strategic issues.
YOUTH & PEACE	An itinerary of 3 sessions facilitated by the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) to work on peace and youth and how it unfolds in the different struggles.
VISIT TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS	Visit to local organizations that are key actors in social struggles in the city, such as the ODESC , which work from Barcelona but with a global perspective.

STRATEGIC WORK

Central work of the Forum will consist of a series of 6 facilitated sessions in which we will work to discuss common strategies and build up consensus around priority goals, common work, etc. These sessions will be facilitated -most likely- by [NOVACT](#).

How to apply?

You have to fill the following form and introduce yourselves to start the selection process before the **5th of May 2022**. The sooner you contact the more chances you will have to have one of the 20 available positions.

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

Covid measures

The situation is quite good at this moment in Spain. For instance, masks will not be -probably- mandatory starting from 19th of April. However, due to our past experience in the face of uncertainty and constantly changing situations, we will need the best **attitude, responsibility and understanding** from all participants in case this good situation changes at some point. We will inform you about any updates, when you are here.

Please check the travel restrictions for your country to Spain and back! In [this link](#) you can find all the **travel information at the moment depending on the country you come from**. It is strongly recommended that you have the **EU digital covid certificate**, when coming from European countries. If you are not coming from areas of risk in the EU/EEA, you might have to present a negative covid **antigen test or PCR** before departure. In any case, **this is your responsibility and you will have to comply with the current restrictions at the time of travel**. If you cannot travel because of you failing to comply with these restrictions the flight tickets will not be reimbursed.

For any question or doubt contact:

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