



THE WORK OF CARITAS EUROPA

DURING THE REPORTING
PERIOD OF MAY 2005 TO
MAY 2006 WAS MARKED BY
HIGH INTENSITY
ACTIVITIES.

THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGH-
LIGHTS OF THOSE THAT ARE
ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY



SOCIAL POLICY AND COHESION

Caritas Europa encourages a spirit of partnership with people experiencing poverty or exclusion.

✓ CONCEPT, (Caritas Organisations Network to Challenge the Exclusion and Poverty Trap) the one year-project co-financed by the European Commission, started on 1 December 2005. The project aimed to build an international network of experts and contribute to the National Action Plans (NAPs) on social inclusion through the Caritas organisations in 12 EU Member States, plus Bulgaria. Also, 13 other national Caritas organisations joined as 'twin partners' working together with the main partners in order to acquire knowledge and experience with regard to social inclusion and political dialogue.

✓ The first Home Care Conference was held on 29-30 May 2005 in Sofia, Bulgaria, with the intent to explore ways to promote the home care work of the Caritas Europa Member Organisations and to strengthen Caritas' position as a key actor in this debate, integrating home care in relevant policy reforms and programmes at a national and European level.

✓ Caritas Europa took steps to address the issue of the HIV & AIDS epidemic in Central and Eastern European countries throughout the year. A HIV & AIDS Task Force was established, which designed and implemented a specific work plan. The next step will be the organisation of a Caritas Europa Conference on HIV & AIDS in the first half of 2007.

✓ The third Caritas Europa Poverty Report entitled, "Migration, A Journey Into Poverty?" was compiled over the course of 2005/2006 and focused on the risks of poverty and social exclusion in the areas of employment, housing, health, education, and participation in public life for migrants living in Europe.



MIGRATION, ASYLUM, ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND INTEGRATION

Caritas Europa promotes a welcoming and inclusive environment for migrants and works towards the fair, dignified and humane treatment of all seeking a better life in Europe.

✓ In 2005 two Migration "Caritas Troika" Meetings took place. The first meeting was in London on 9-10 June 2005 with Home Office Minister Tony McNulty where the Asylum Procedures Directive, integration and actions against trafficking in human beings were discussed. The second meeting took place in Vienna on 25-28 November with Liese Prokop, Austrian Home Affairs Minister. On this occasion Caritas Europa discussed their concerns with EU migration policy development, the EU action plan on trafficking in human beings and the Return Directive.

✓ Caritas Europa held the Bi-annual Migration Forum, in Bad Honnef, Germany on 30 June- 2 July 2005. The forum fostered debate on the links between migration and development through central theme: "Migrants and Refugees as Active Citizens and Agents of Change- Linking the Internal and External Dimensions of Migration and Development."

✓ The COATNET (Christian Organisations Against Trafficking Network) project- under the legal authority of Caritas Europa- aims at emphasising the trans-national dimension of human trafficking. COATNET contributed to seminars on "Victim's Protection" at the 2005 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brasil and "Improvement of Local Capacities for Anti-Trafficking Project" in Bosnia-Herzegovina in June 2005.



RESPONDING TO MAJOR EMERGENCIES

Although response to major emergencies is coordinated by Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Europa recognises Humanitarian Aid as key priority under the new Strategy 2005-2010.

✓ Under its Humanitarian Aid Commission, Caritas Europa made important contributions to Confederation led responses in such emergencies as the Tsunami, the Pakistan Earthquake, the floods in Eastern Europe and the events in Chechnya.

✓ Caritas Europa held its third Emergency Forum in Paris on 3-4 November 2005 with 16 Member Organisations present. The Forum focused on the approach to organisational learning within the Darfur Response, the tsunami program in India and Disaster Risk and Drought Cycle management.

✓ In this particular priority, Caritas Europa serves its members as the liaison to EU institutions like, The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). It promotes, among Member Organisations, the exchange of best practices of program implementation, offering a platform to engage in strategic planning and direction setting towards ECHO. In light of this, Caritas Europa organised an FPA Holder meeting in December 2005 in Brussels (coinciding with the ECHO Annual Conference).



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Caritas Europa contributes to the eradication of poverty by promoting sustainable development, peace building and respect for human rights.

✓ As an active member of a European NGO for Relief and Development (CONCORD), Caritas Europa promotes instruments that can deliver on the eradication of poverty. To assist further in this area, Caritas Europa provided input on the links between migration and development for the CONCORD Policy Working Group on 31 May 2006 in Brussels.

✓ Caritas Europa's four Intra-European Coordination platforms- IEC Africa, IEC MONA (Middle East and North Africa), IEC Latin America/Caribbean and IEC Asia aim at sharing experiences and coordinating activities with regard to their work in development aid. Activities included the conflict sensitivity training sessions delivered by International Alert to members of IEC MONA and IEC Asia in March and April 2006.

✓ Caritas Europa has been actively involved in fostering and strengthening the role of its Member Organisations in the 10 New Member States of the European Union in the field of International Cooperation. The organisation put together a funding opportunities workshop for New Member States entitled, "Opportunities at European level for the collaboration of Caritas in the New and Old Member States of the European Union Regarding International Cooperation", this took place on 6 April 2006 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



SUPPORT TO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS & INTERNAL NETWORK

Caritas Europa is dedicated to the strengthening of its internal network of 48 Member Organisations in Europe.

✓ Caritas Europa held its first Management Forum in Brussels on 2 December 2005. The event aimed to offer Member Organisations the opportunity to present and discuss case studies on Human Resources Management, Management Standards and Ethical Fundraising.

✓ The Strategic Organisational Development Approach (SODA), provides tools and expertise to Member Organisations to help shape their structures and systems to most effectively achieve their aspirations and goals. With the help of a highly qualified consulting team, 5 Member Organisations were consulted on the basis of the "Excellence Model" created by the European Foundation of Quality Management.

✓ The European Solidarity Fund (ESF), a multilateral solidarity based mechanism supporting structural activities and costs of Member Organisations, held 2 meetings in November 2005 and March 2006. The meetings were devoted to current and future ESF strategies and objectives.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Caritas Europa facilitates effective advocacy and communications.

This includes striving to shape public policies in the area of its competence and improving the exchange of information with Member Organisations and other stakeholders.

✓ During the reporting year Caritas Europa fulfilled its goal of creating and implementing a new advocacy strategy, entitled "Advocacy... the Other Side of the Coin". The strategy aims at achieving optimal consultation and consensus building internally, and to build a reputation for Caritas Europa as an advocacy player who focuses on key topics and alliances, externally.

✓ Caritas Europa held its 2nd Communications Forum in Paris on 27-28 October 2005. The Forum allowed for the study of methods and the role of communications in fundraising processes.

✓ During the reporting period more than a dozen press releases were issued and posted on the Caritas Europa website. Some dealt with Caritas Europa's participation at the Informal Council Meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers in Villach, Austria in January 2006, and the screening of the film "Lost Children" at the European Parliament in February 2006.

✓ In spring 2006, Caritas Europa formally launched its third Poverty Report ("Migration, A Journey Into Poverty?") in the presence of Members of the European Parliament, representatives of European NGOs and the international press.

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