



## Editorial

Dear friends,

It is our pleasure to release the second issue of "Caritas Europa at a glance". This tool has the objective to provide a brief and concise overview of the Caritas Europa work - a necessary task considering the many activities carried out by Caritas Europa, its working structures and member organisations.

Published twice a year, "Caritas Europa at a glance" focuses on meetings and other activities carried out "internally" to animate the network and facilitate exchanges between member organisations.

Read previous [issues](#)

For the "external" work of Caritas Europa, mainly advocacy work, we refer to the Advocacy Update, which also targets readers among "external" actors such as EU Institutions, partner NGOs and the press.

Read our [Advocacy Update](#)

Last but not least, the thematic departments of Caritas Europa regularly distribute newsletters including broader and more specific information for their working areas.

If you wish to receive the Social Policy Update, contact: [nkavalkova@caritas-europa.org](mailto:nkavalkova@caritas-europa.org)

For the Migration Policy Newsletter,

contact: [mlysetich@caritas-europa.org](mailto:mlysetich@caritas-europa.org)

For more insights on development policy,

Read the [EU News](#)

Enjoy the publications of Caritas Europa!

Annalisa Mazzella,

Advocacy and Communication Officer

## Activities review

➤ The second plenary meeting of the Task Force on the European Year 2010 took place in Brussels on the 1st-2nd December 2008. Sub-group I of this task force is working on the Caritas campaign and website for the EY 2010; subgroup II is responsible for the EY 2010 Poverty Papers; subgroup III will be dealing with related advocacy aspects. A list of the EY 2010 contact persons in member organisations is now available. They will come together for a coordination meeting in April 2009.

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➤ The 4th edition of the Caritas Europa Training on Migration and Asylum was held in Brussels on 24-26 September 2008. Seventeen migration experts from the Caritas Europa network and some partner organisations met for a training aimed at strengthening the Caritas advocacy capacity at both European and national levels. Among others, the meeting gave an overview of the role of EU Institutions in shaping the European legislation on asylum and migration and encouraged participation of member organisations in the advocacy work of Europa.

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➤ During the month of October 2008, the IECs (Intra-European Coordinations) for Africa and MONA (Middle East and North Africa) held their meetings in Brussels hosted by Caritas Europa. The IEC Africa mainly discussed about the Regional Forum in Addis-Abeba, which was held over three days in the premises of the African Union. This focused on how microfinance can contribute to alleviate poverty in Africa. An important part of the IEC MONA was dedicated to country-related issues with an update on operating context and Caritas projects in each country of the MONA region. The IEC Asia met at CAFOD premises (London) in November 2008. Thanks to the participation of a distinguished guest from Caritas Pakistan, it focused on the situation of Caritas Pakistan as well as on the Tsunami response experience.

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➤ The IEC Europe gathered in the Netherlands on 7-9 October 2008. The meeting discussed various forms of Caritas partnership and provided valuable input into the Mid-Term Review of Priority V: Support to member organisations and internal network.

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## Caritas Europa event

Splendidly hosted by Caritas Hungary on 10-11 September 2008 in Budapest, the Caritas Europa 3rd Management Forum was successfully held under the theme "Caritas: Professionalism, the Formation of the Heart and our Faith".

Gathering chief executives and managers from 22 member organisations across Europe, the Forum became a unique opportunity for participants to discuss upon the place of professionalism in faith-based organisations in connection to specific aspects of leadership and governance within the Church and Caritas. This year's Management Forum also provided a space for theological reflection that allowed to establish a dialogue on different concepts of organising Caritas organisations, as well as on Minimum Management Standards.

Major inputs in the programme included the presentations "The Spirituality of Professionalism" by Fr Erny Gillen (President of Caritas Europa), "How are Caritas Organisations Managed Today?" by Hans Staubli from Caritas Switzerland and "What does "Deus Caritas Est" and Canon Law say about Caritas Governance?" by Msgr DDr Michael Landau from Caritas Austria.

The Forum was significant in that much consensus was reached about the inseparability of Caritas spirituality, the commitment to Minimum Management Standards and their implementation down to the diocesan level.

Caritas Europa and all participants were grateful to Caritas Hungary for their warm hospitality.



## Focus

### Caritas Europa Annual Work Plan 2009

In the year 2009, we will continue to face great challenges following the current global financial and economic crisis. This crisis affects all people, governments, enterprises and institutions - including charitable organisations like Caritas - in one way or the other. But our greatest concern has to be for the poorest and most marginalised people, in Europe and in the world.

In June 2009, citizens of EU Member States will be invited to elect the new members of the European Parliament. This election offers an excellent opportunity to bring Caritas concerns to the attention of the candidates and/or elected members of the new European Parliament. Another important event will be the appointment of a new European Commission.

The year 2010 has been formally designated as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Many of our actions in 2009 will take place in the framework of preparing for this year.

Throughout 2009, Caritas Europa will continue fostering the activities related to the INCLUSION (Integrating and Nourishing Caritas Learning and Understanding of Social Inclusion through Optimal Networking) programme under the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity.

In the context of these developments, the following (selected) activities/areas will be implemented according to the Caritas Europa Annual Work Plan 2009.

Priority I - Social Policy: Social Policy Forum, 2nd edition of the Summer University, Transnational conference on Social Inclusion at the level of neighbouring regions.

Priority II - Migration, asylum, anti-trafficking and integration: Migration Forum, Migration Study Visit, reflection paper on Migration and Development (jointly with Priority IV), Annual COATNET conference.

Priority III - Humanitarian Aid: Strategic relations with the EU (in particular with ECHO), humanitarian advocacy through engagement in the structures provided by VOICE and other groups, small scale emergency responses in Europe.

Priority IV - International Development and Peace: Enhancing the engagement in this field of member organisations in new and future EU Member States, 1st International Cooperation Forum, reflection paper on Migration and Development (jointly with Priority II).

Priority V - Support to member organisations and internal network: Minimum Management Standards (MMS) for Caritas organisations in Europe, tools for further organisational development of member organisations, 4th Management Forum.

Priority VI - Advocacy and Communications: Dissemination of outcomes from the Caritas Europa work through (online) publications, press and media activities, cross-cutting advocacy initiatives (jointly with the thematic priorities); Annual Meeting on Communications and Fundraising.

Marius Wanders,  
Secretary General

Read the integral version of the Caritas Europa Annual Work Plan 2009: [EN](#) [FR](#) [DE](#)



## News from the Network

➤ **July 2008: Helping out of prostitution** - Caritas Lithuania succeeded in convincing national decision makers to allow Caritas social workers to accompany the police when dealing with prostitutes in order to give the latter psychological support and help them abandon prostitution.  
[Caritas Lithuania \(16 July 2008\)](#)

➤ **August 2008: Conflict in Georgia** - A short but intensive war between Russia and Georgia broke out on 8 August over the control of the breakaway region of South Ossetia. Thousands of people were killed and more than 150,000 uprooted. European Caritas organisations were quick in reacting. They provided the local Caritas in North Ossetia and Caritas Georgia with relief material and financial support to cope with the needs of the victims.  
[Caritas Europa's compilation on the conflict \(19 August 2008\)](#)

➤ **September 2008: Praise and blame for the French EU Presidency** - Secours Catholique-Caritas France, as a member of the SSIG coalition, praised the French government for the initiative to support elaboration of a European roadmap on social services of general interest.  
[Secours Catholique \(11 September 2008\)](#)

However, the French EU Presidency was also insisting on the adoption of a European Migration Pact, which civil society organisations have denounced as being more focused on border-security than ensuring a human treatment for migrants.  
[Caritas Luxembourg \(19 September 2008\)](#)

➤ **October 2008: Economic crisis and rise of poverty in Europe** - With the global economic crisis worsening from day to day, Caritas Spain warned that its amount of beneficiaries had increased by 40% in the first six months of 2008 with higher figures expected by the end of 2008.  
[Caritas Internationalis \(23 October 2008\)](#)

Jointly with the Zancan Foundation, Caritas Italy presented their 2008 Report on poverty and social exclusion in Italy. The report suggests a strategy in response to the question raised by the previous edition: "Resignation towards poverty?".  
[Caritas Italy \(15 October 2008\)](#)

➤ **November 2008: Monitoring reception centers in the EU** - In a move to disseminate best practices on the reception of asylum seekers, Caritas Poland and the Jesuit Refugee Service agreed to join forces in order to assess the conditions prevailing in several reception centers in 19 EU Member States.  
[Caritas Poland \(20 November 2008\)](#)

➤ **December 2008: Impact of HIV/AIDS** - Identified as "a major obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals" by Cardinal Rodríguez (President of Caritas Internationalis), HIV/AIDS is a priority for many member organisations across Europe. Their efforts to break the social exclusion in which the affected and their relatives often fall in were especially highlighted on the occasion of the World AIDS Day.  
[Caritas Europa's compilation on World AIDS Day](#)



## Calendar

➤ **18/02** - Meeting of the Task Force on the European Year 2010, Brussels

➤ **09-10/03** - ESF workshop on building sustainable financial strategies in national Caritas organisations, Berlin

➤ **02-03/04** - Annual Meeting on Communications and Fundraising, Brussels

➤ **27-30/04** - Social Policy Forum, Prague

➤ **15/05** - Caritas Europa Regional Conference, Brussels

➤ **13-17/07** - Summer University (Social Policy), Leuven (Belgium)