



Newsletter

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“MIGRATION, A JOURNEY INTO POVERTY?”

A CARITAS EUROPA STUDY ON POVERTY AND EXCLUSION OF MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

Editorial by *Iosefina Cristina Loghin, President of Caritas Europa*

Planned to be launched in June 2006, the Social Policy Commission and the Migration Commission have finalized the third Caritas Europa Poverty Report. Focus is given to the situation of migrants in Europe.

In this study, Caritas Europa takes a multi-dimensional approach. Five areas were analyzed: employment, housing, health, education, and participation in public life. The conclusion is significant; migrants generally find themselves much worse off than nationals and worse still, each of these five areas proved to be complex poverty traps for many migrants. Once caught in one trap, they are snared into another, carrying the effects into the next generation.

Whole generations are living shadowy, underground lives with limited opportunities, which frequently lead to exploitation and abuse. Caritas Europa believes that we need to be guided by the principles of global solidarity, which should inspire us to care for and defend the human dignity of ‘foreigners’ in search of better lives for themselves and their families.

Bringing migrants – especially those who are undocumented – out of the shadows by making sure that they have equal access to jobs, housing, health, education and participation in public life, will enhance legality, help stabilizing the labour market, improve living standards and contribute to the European social model.

It is Caritas Europa’s hope that the publication of this report will remind policy makers of Pope Benedict XVI’s words from his encyclical letter *Deus Caritas Est*: “The just ordering of society and the State is a central responsibility of politics” and will thus bring the situation of migrants in Europe to the European political agenda.

UPDATE ON CARITAS EUROPA SECRETARIAT STAFF

By *Marius Wanders, Secretary General of Caritas Europa*

Social Policy Officer **Hubert Cornudet** has been incapacitated as a result of a grave illness since the summer of 2004. Although still recovering from the illness that struck him, his return to full duty is unfortunately no longer a realistic option. Therefore, Caritas Europa has recruited **Ms. Adriana Opromolla** to replace Hubert. An Italian national, Adriana is a lawyer with a degree in European law and International Economic law, currently working for COMECE as a legal advisor. Adriana will join the Secretariat as per 1 May 2006 on a full time basis. As a member of the Social

Policy Team, Adriana will focus her activities mainly on coordinating the CONCEPT program, on following the Social Platform issues and on shaping the Caritas Europa advocacy work on social issues.

A web editor, **Alain Rodriguez**, joined the Secretariat staff on February 6. A Swedish citizen, Alain is working on a part-time basis and in close co-operation with Caritas Europa Advocacy & Communication Officer Annalisa Mazzella. Alain’s task include the maintenance and further professionalization of the Caritas

Europa website, responding to the needs in the network for extranet solutions and editing and publishing this newsletter.

Specific projects of Caritas Europa are further supported by temporary staff and interns from the American University. This is specifically the case for the work on the Poverty Report, HIV/AIDS in Europe and tasks related to Caritas Europa Advocacy & Communication. Caritas Europa is grateful to **Chui Hsia Yong, Stacy Aldinger** and **Sarah Tobianski** for their important contributions to our work in these respects.

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“THE BEST DEFENSE OF GOD AND MAN IS LOVE”
A COMMENT ON POPE BENEDICT XVI’S ENCYCLICAL LETTER “DEUS CARITAS EST”⁹

– **By Fr. Erny Gillen**, *Vice-president of Caritas Europa*

With his Encyclical “Deus Caritas est” Benedict XVI encourages all people who practice and live “Caritas”; showing them the way to love. Consciously addressing Christians and wishing to “*call forth in the world renewed energy and commitment in the human response to God’s love*” (DC 1), the Pope encourages them to receive God’s love in themselves and to spread it in the world. Bearing the privileged name “Caritas”, makes our duty even greater, though as the first named of the charitable organisations of the Church (DC 31a), we can and must read, understand and use the Encyclical as an incentive to deepen and continue our commitment.

In the first part of the Encyclical the Pope demonstrates that “*Love is a single reality*” (DC 8) that we experience in different dimensions. Whether it is about “erotic” love, friendship (Philia) or charity (Agape/Caritas), its origin is God, the source of all life. Love is the expression of the covenant between God and man as well as amongst humanity itself. It creates the basis for a covenant and unifies. The Eucharist is celebrated as a symbol of love. “*Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented*” (DC 14) warns the Pope. “*Faith, worship and ethos are interwoven as a single*

reality which takes shape in our encounter with God’s agape” (DC 14). This viewpoint has consequences.

The second part addresses the **Relation between “Justice” and the “Ministry of Charity”**. The Pope demonstrates clearly and convincingly that “*building a just social and civil order*” as “*a most important human responsibility*” is the duty of the Church itself “*to offer, through the purification of reason and through ethical formation, its own specific contribution towards understanding the requirements of justice and achieving them politically*” (DC 28a). Even in the most just society the ministry of charity, in the sense of Agape/Caritas will always remain necessary. “*Whoever wants to eliminate love is preparing to eliminate man as such*” (DC 28b).

The fight for justice and the organised charity are two sides of the same coin, which obtains its clear value through the union of both sides. We describe the other side of our Caritas-coin as advocacy – and our advocacy strategy is called: “*The other side of the coin.*” If we do not want to accept the reproach of one-sidedness and harmlessness of unjust situations, relieved and hidden through our charity work, it should be one of our urgent tasks to reinforce our commitment to a just society locally, nationally and internationally.

Addressing the **specific profile of Christian charity**, the Pope stresses the

need for professional competences together with the need to promote the “formation of the hearts” of the helpers (DC 31a); to avoid the use of charity as a way to reach other aims (DC 31b) and to clearly reject proselytism (DC 31c). “*The best defence of God and man consists precisely in love. It is the responsibility of the Church’s charitable organisations to reinforce this awareness in their members, so that by their (1) activity — as well as their (2) words, their (3) silence, their (4) example — they may be credible witnesses to Christ*” (DC 31c).

The Encyclical closes the circle of love with a pressing **Invitation to prayer**. In the dialogue of prayer the Christian acknowledges God and responds to his Creator with his life, thoughts and actions. He brings himself in front of God. He draws his power from Him, and in Him the strength of one’s commitment is measured. We realise: “*Love is possible, and we are able to practise it because we are created in the image of God*” (DC 39).

The invitation of Benedict XVI will bring us strength and courage in this Easter time, when we celebrate and live the resurrection - in our churches and our worlds. The Regional Conference in Mainz (17 - 20 May) will give us the opportunity to reflect and meditate together on our task as Caritas of the Church for the world of today.

UPDATE ON IEC MEETINGS - By Aude Révet, *International Development and Peace Officer - arevet@caritas-europa.org*

IEC MONA (Brussels, 27 and 28 March)

On 27 March, International Alert delivered a training session on conflict-sensitivity. The group found this session very useful to get a comprehensive overview of conflict sensitive approaches; to understand how to approach different conflict contexts and to get a better understanding of a conflict sensitive project cycle management. On the second day, the group reflected on items such as partnership and institutional strengthening, migration realities in the region, advocacy/peace and reconciliation issues with a focus on Holy Land and some specific country situation such as Lebanon, Iraq and the Sahrawi issue.

IEC Asia (Brussels, 3 and 4 April)

Based on the very positive feedback from the IEC Asia group about the introductory session on conflict sensitivity and the group’s interest in applying conflict sensitivity in daily work, a follow-up session on conflict sensitivity was delivered by International Alert’s Adam Barbolet on the first day. The group looked at daily work and practices in the context of the Tsunami operations, focusing on Sri Lanka on the basis of a case study presented by Secours Catholique. This concrete example, as well as the methodology for the session helped the group to understand how conflict sensitive methodology can bring concrete results if integrated in all steps of project management. The rest of the meeting was devoted to partnership perspectives with the Asia Region, looking at the new Caritas organisations in Indonesia, China and Thailand, and at the challenge of institutional strengthening for some specific Asian Caritas organisations (Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia). The group also reflected on partnership in the context of emergency responses looking at the cases of the tsunami crisis and of the earthquake in Pakistan.

IEC Africa (Brussels 25 and 26 April)

In coherence with the CI campaign on Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the interest of the European region to support this country’s efforts towards peace, the IEC will organise a dynamic session on the issue, inviting Bruno Miteyo from Caritas DRC, Nick Thijssen, Convenor of the joint CIDSE-Caritas Country Working Group on Central Africa and Arnaud Gorgemans, Director of the European Network for Central Africa. Their inputs will enrich the discussions and the information from CI and the Region on this important campaign. Other items on the agenda will be: an exchange on the situation in Northern Uganda (including a screening of the award winning film “Lost children”), a focus on the Sahel Region and a reflection on some specific country-related issues, such as Eritrea-Ethiopia, Sudan and Liberia.

IEC Latin America and the Caribbean (Brussels, 23 and 24 May)

On 23 May, the group will welcome two guests from Peru: Archbishop Barreto from the diocese of Huancayo and Mrs. Eva Boyle, Executive Secretary of Diaconía para la Justicia y la Paz in the archdiocese of Piura y Tumbes, Peru. The two guests will be in Europe in order to raise awareness on the mining issue in Peru, a topic of great importance for all Latin America. Other items on the agenda will probably be: an update on the situation in Central America after “Stan”; the participation of Latin America and Caribbean in the World Social Forum 2007 in Nairobi; emergency preparedness for Latin America and HIV/Aids in the LAC region.

Focus on Member Organisations:

INTEGRATION OF THE CARITAS ORGANISATIONS FROM THE NEW EU MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

By **Aude Révet**, *International Development and Peace Officer* - arevet@caritas-europa.org

An important objective in 2006 for the Commission for International Development and Peace (CIDP) of Caritas Europa (CE) is to promote the integration of the Caritas organisations from the new EU Member States (NMS) in the field of international cooperation.

Within this framework, CE Officer carried out initial visits to Caritas organisations in the NMS which are active in the field of international cooperation.

These visits are aiming at reaching a better understanding of the situation of the Caritas organisations in the NMS, the challenges they face, their strengths and opportunities to be a proactive actor in international cooperation, as well as at presenting and explaining what CE can offer in terms of networking and exchange possibilities to all its members working on international issues.

So far, four Caritas organisations have been visited: Czech and Slovakia in January 2006 and Poland and Slovenia in February 2006. During these visits valuable information was collected about each organisation's historical background and the start of their international work as well as their present activities in the field of international cooperation.

Each organisation described its strengths in its international cooperation work. They identified common strength factors such as their historical experience of living under an

oppressing dictatorship and going through a democratisation process. Such experiences help them to understand and to prove solidarity with other people abroad, who are experiencing similar situations.

Another strength factor is the high level of credibility and legitimacy that each organisation enjoys in its home country. This recognition strengthens their work locally and abroad.

Caritas organisations in the NMS face a common challenge for their future development as active actors in international cooperation. They all have to surmount their constant struggle against limited financial and human resources, which hampers their possibilities to improve and increase the professionalism of their work.

Another challenge they are facing is the need to find a balance in their work, which will allow them to work on international issues without neglecting domestic issues.

Caritas organisations in the NMS have been progressing well. They are full of enthusiasm to work in the international cooperation field, but still wish they were taken more in consideration by the network when it comes to international cooperation work.

CE and its member organisations are ready and willing to accompany and support them in the challenges they are facing, wishing they will reach their goals very soon.

STRENGTHENING NGOs' ROLE IN NEW MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - By **Aude Révet**, *International Development and Peace Officer*

Several initiatives have been taken at the European level to foster and strengthen the integration of NGOs from the NMS in the field of int. cooperation. Three of these initiatives have especially drawn the attention of Caritas Europa and its Member Organisations (MOs):

1) *The Presidency Fund (PF)*, which aims at promoting the engagement of civil society actors from the NMS in the EU's Development Policy Debates.

2) *The Regional Partnership Programme (RPP)* is an initiative of the Austrian EU-platform that can respond to some of the needs and challenges felt by the MOs in Central Europe in the field of international cooperation. It aims at strengthening the capacities and the visibility of development cooperation between the national representations of central European NGOs and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the NMS and Austria.

3) The upcoming separate *Call for Proposals from the European Commission on Development Education/Awareness Raising*, which will be allocated for activities in the NMS as well as Bulgaria and Romania.

Caritas Europa wishes to use the strength of its European network to approach these initiatives through a common strategy, which will strengthen the position of Caritas as a network towards the European Institutions.

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

CARITAS VLADIKAVKAZ (RUSSIA) RELIEVES BESLAN CHILDREN'S SUFFERING - By Fr. Alexander Pietrzyk, Director of the Federal Caritas of Russia

Committed since the first day after the terrorist attack in Beslan in September 2004, Caritas Vladikavkaz (CV) has been working fervently for the best of the children of Beslan. A Social Center has been created with the help of Caritas Germany. This center, located in Beslan, mainly focuses on the children who became orphans or invalid as a result of the terror attack. Relief is though not only given to the affected children, but also to their families and others who, in one way or another, are in need of support to overcome the traumatic experience caused by the attack.

CV has also started, in co-operation with Caritas Poland, a special program called: "Psychological rehabilitation of children – victims of acts of terrorism in Beslan in 2004". In the framework of this program, visits to cities in Poland were organised during the summer holidays (from June 23 till July 10, 2005). Two hundred children, including 60 orphans from a boarding school in Beslan participated. The children were accompanied by 10 teachers from schools of Beslan, with 9 psychologists and 1 doctor. The program was complemented by various sport activities and educational and entertaining actions as well.

Between July 6 and 16, 35 children participated in a rehabilitation program in Saint Petersburg, in co-operation with the local Caritas. 5 tutors from schools in Beslan and two psychologists stayed with the children. Different cultural and educational events were included in the program. Children from the music school of Beslan organised a concert and trips to the vicinities of St. Petersburg and to the Gulf of Finland. During the last ten days of August 2005, CV organised a free rehabilitation trip to a health resort on the Black Sea coast. The group was composed of mothers and their children from Beslan, accompanied by a psychologist.

Plans for the future are to finalise the construction of the Social-psychological Center of Youth and to organise a new rehabilitation trip to the Black Sea coast for 80 children.

Focus on Institutions and Advocacy Work

CARITAS COMMITTED TO THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA - By Alain Rodriguez, Web Editor Caritas Europa
(arodriguez@caritas-europa.org)

Caritas Germany (CG) has been addressing the Ugandan child crisis for years, financing the local Caritas Gulu reintegration project.

The Gulu reintegration project provides social workers who accompany the children to families and communities, aiding both sides through the adjustment process. A process, which is often hampered by the difficulties those children encounter in returning to their original communities, where people sometimes view them as killers. The project aims to overcome those difficulties by giving the children a chance to a new life in society.

The people of Uganda are suffering from a 19-year civil war between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Although all Ugandans are deeply affected by this conflict, children are certainly the most defenseless and exposed victims.

The abduction of boys and girls from their families and communities is a constant threat. Up to 25.000 children have been abducted since the beginning of the conflict. Abducted infants meet an uncertain future as soldiers or sex slaves.

The experience of four of these children has been depicted by filmmakers Oliver Stoltz and Ali Samadi Ahadi in their film "Lost Children".

"Lost Children" describes the fate of these children, who escaped from the LRA and seek security in a reception center in Pajule, near the Sudanese border. It documents their life in the center and the difficulties encountered when they tried to return to their home community. In relation to Election Day in Uganda, a screening of "Lost Children" at the European Parliament, was sponsored by MEP Johan van Hecke, Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, in co-operation with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and Human Rights Watch.

Caritas Europa underlined the event in the European Parliament through a publication of a press release. Representatives of Caritas Norway and Caritas International Belgium who participated in the event together with Caritas Europa expressed appreciation for the film and wish to follow up in their own countries.

Caritas Internationalis (CI) joined several international networks in a call to urge the Ugandan government to protect and guarantee its own people's safety. On March 13, CI together with other international or-

ganisations presented a joint statement to the 62nd Session of the Commission on Human Rights about the situation in Uganda. The group urged the government of Uganda to address continuing human right violations in the country and called on the United Nations to formally recognise this conflict as a humanitarian crisis.

The Ugandan government's policy restraining the movement of civilians from the conflictive areas by confining them into very ill prepared camps is a human rights violation in itself. Up to 1.7 million people live in those camps, where up to 1000 die each week due to poor health conditions.

Furthermore, the camps are badly protected and don't hamper the LRA from making regular raids. Some 30,000 children trek each night from the camps to town settings, seeking refuge from these raids. Unfortunately, the presence of the government army is not a guarantee for the civilians' security; on the contrary those forces have also committed violence and abuses, with reports of killings of the civilians they are supposed to protect. The joint statement also stresses the importance of bringing people to justice and of protecting witnesses involved in the judicial process, in order to ensure a sound return to peace.

CARITAS EUROPA ADVOCACY WORK

Seven recommendations on the precarious situation of 3rd country nationals residing irregularly in Europe
From Caritas Europa Position Paper on Undocumented Migrants, February 2006 – See *Migration-Positions*: www.caritas-europa.org

Migratory movements have always taken place, with undeniable positive benefits for societies. However, as long as inequalities between countries in economic, social and political rights continue to exist and grow, human suffering in the form of forced migration will exist.

Caritas Europa and its member organisations want to denounce the situation of undocumented migrants, to promote their basic rights and to contribute to solutions which could provide for a decent living in one's own country, and therefore prevent forced migration.

In light of their experience with third country nationals in irregular situations in Europe, Caritas Europa and its member organisations put forward the following seven recommendations:

- Respect the dignity and integrity of every human being in all circumstances.
- Fight the root causes of forced migration, allowing people to see prospects for a decent future in their own country.
- Develop a fair and efficient legislation in order to guarantee the respect and fulfilment of undocumented migrants' rights.
- Develop a legislation with a humane face, which doesn't keep persons having applied for a permit to stay in a "limbo administrative situation". For these persons, permits to stay should be issued, at least temporarily. This would open for them access to the labor market and to health care.
- Make sure that that each application for international protection is dealt with through a fair and efficient procedure, respecting the socio-cultural and psychological situation of each applicant.
- Implement regularisation measures for undocumented migrants under certain conditions, in order to avoid exploitation and degradation of human beings.
- Promote humane and dignified return policies. Voluntary return, including reintegration programmes, should be the favored option in a return policy.

Focus on events and projects

CONCEPT PROJECT: SECOND SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & PARTICIPATION AT HIGH LEVEL EU-CONFERENCE - By Jacqueline Tordoïr,

Social Policy Coordinator - jtordoïr@caritas-europa.org

Caritas Europa organised its *Second Seminar on Sustainable Development in the field of Social Cohesion and Social Inclusion* on 20-21 March in Brussels.

The main objective of this seminar was to focus together as a Caritas network on future programming for social projects and services and on how social policy should be shaped.

During this seminar the document entitled: *Issues for a Coherent Caritas Europa Position on Social Cohesion and Inclusion ('List of Principles')* was presented by Caritas Europa's Social Policy Commission and discussed in the workshops. With the input from the workshops this document will be updated and soon will be ready for the use by the whole network.

Also, thanks to CONCEPT, Caritas Europa received an invitation to play an active role in a high level EU Conference in Brussels on 29 and 30 March on the theme of *"Learning Together: Lessons drawn from the Community Action Programme to combat social exclusion"*.

Migration and development: a major issue for the global Caritas network - By Marius Wanders, Secretary General of Caritas Europa (mwanders@caritas-europa.org)

The "nexus" or "interaction" between, on the one hand, the phenomenon of migration and, on the other hand, the phenomenon of international development cooperation is developing into a priority area and advocacy topic, not only for Caritas Europa but for the entire CI confederation.

"Migration and development" is rapidly becoming a major theme of debate in many circles and (political) institutions. It seems like many actors are talking about this topic, but the basis for the discussion and the approaches taken can be quite different.

The issue is also high on the EU agenda, in its dialogue with the African Union, and has to do with a number of priority issues that are currently being discussed.

Caritas Europa has already devoted a 4-day Migration Forum (June/July 2005, Bad Honnef, Germany) on a first joint exploration of this theme.

The participation in this conference had been discussed in working groups during the seminar on Sustainable Development. The inputs from the working groups were used in the preparation of a presentation that Caritas Europa held at the EU Conference and which was entitled: *"The Open Method of Coordination and the National Action Plan Inclusion"*.

The EU-Conference *"Learning Together"* brought together 250 key actors in the social inclusion agenda from across the EU, accession countries and EEA countries. The Conference provided a basis for a useful review of the contribution of the Action Programme to the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and of lessons drawn for the new programme PROGRESS.

Participating in the Conference section dedicated to *"The role of civil society organisations, social partners and networks"*, Caritas Europa shared its experience as a stake-holder in the Action Programme for Social Inclusion. Caritas Europa's "toolbox" proved to be of high interest to other participants. Moreover, Caritas Europa asked for a clearer communication on the content rather than the process of the OMC.

Caritas Europa's participation to this high level conference is a clear sign of the increasing public recognition and profile of Caritas Europa, when it comes to the social inclusion process.

In the meantime, specific interest in the subject has also been confirmed by other Regions of the CI Confederation.

Therefore, in close consultation with the regional organisations of Africa and MONA, a plan is being developed to organise, in the second half of 2006 in Africa, a *tri-regional workshop on Migration & Development* that will bring together advocacy experts from the Africa Region, MONA Region and Europe Region.

The logic behind this idea is that these three CI regions are already 'linked' by existing cooperation and partnerships in the field of development. At the same time, the three regions face 'linked' migration realities: what happens with regard to migration in Africa invariably has an impact on societies and people in Europe and vice versa. But also what happens (or does not happen) with regard to development in Africa, impacts on migration within the region and to other regions, often Europe.

The MONA region is 'wedged in' between whatever dynamics are taking place in the context of migration or development in either Africa or in Europe.

HUBERT CORNUDET VISITS CARITAS EUROPA SECRETARIAT – by Annalisa Mazzella, Advocacy & Communication Officer - amazzella@caritas-europa.org

Hubert Cornudet, Caritas Europa's former Social Policy Officer came to the secretariat last Friday (March 17), after an almost 2 year absence as a result of a grave illness which began in the summer of 2004.

For this occasion, some representatives of the Social Platform (SP) visited, including Anne Sophie Parent (President of SP) and Simon Wilson (Director of the SP). This was a very good occasion for Caritas Europa to consolidate Caritas Europa's friendship with Hubert and the Social Platform.

During the gathering, Hubert had the opportunity to meet his successor, Adriana Opromolla. The other members of the Social Policy team, Jacqueline Tordoïr and Natallya Kaval Kova were also there to say hello to Hubert, and to welcome Adriana to the team.

Hubert's visit was very much appreciated. The secretariat wishes him all the best for further recovery and hopes to see him again soon.

But often in the MONA, the more ugly dimensions of the issues manifest themselves, such as the recent events in Ceuta and Melilla. Therefore, the MONA region is, by default, an important stakeholder in this inter-regional initiative.

There will be a need to explore jointly all types of migration that take place, not focusing exclusively on South-North migration, but also taking account of the sometimes severe realities of South-South migration, and what impact such migration patterns have on the situation of development in the countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination, and vice versa.

The main objective of the proposed tri-regional workshop will be to jointly explore the potential, opportunities and challenges of developing joint advocacy strategies with regard to the 'nexus' Migration & Development.

A second objective will be to jointly assess capacities and methodologies needed to bring these advocacy positions efficiently and effectively to the attention of the relevant political decision makers in our regions and in our countries.