



Newsletter

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CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007 A NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONFEDERATION

Editorial by **Marius Wanders**, *Secretary General of Caritas Europa*

The preparations for the 2007 Caritas Internationalis General Assembly are well underway. The Regional Coordinators and the General Secretariat Management Team have been appointed by the Caritas Internationalis Bureau to be the preparatory committee for this next CI General Assembly. The theme for the General Assembly 2007 has been chosen: *Witnesses of charity, builders of peace* (in French: *Témoins de charité, artisans de paix*)

One of the desired outcomes of the General Assembly 2007 is a **new strategic framework**, giving up-to-date strategic directions for the Confederation for the next 4-year period (2007-2011). This new strategic framework will identify the strategic priority themes for the Confederation and it will – within those strategic priority themes – develop long term strategic objectives to be achieved in a 4-year period. The new strategic framework will be firmly based on the existing strategic plan, its mission, vision and guiding values and principles. It will also be based on a contemporary analysis of the Confederation's operating environment, both externally and internally. The new strategic framework itself will form the basis of the detailed Confederation work plan, which will be elaborated shortly after the General Assembly.

The CI Bureau has mandated the formation of a special small task force which will prepare the first draft of this strategic framework in close consultation with the major stakeholders during the period leading up to the General Assembly. The members of this special task force are Duncan MacLaren (CI Secretary General), Sr. Roseanne Mallillin (Director of Caritas Philippines), Walter Blake (CRS-Peru), Samuel Mulafulafu (Director of Caritas Zambia) and Marius Wanders (Secretary General of Caritas Europa). Marius Wanders has been invited to lead the work of this task force.

Please note that in the run up to the General Assembly, members of this task force may approach your Caritas organisation for input in the elaboration of the first draft of the strategic framework.

FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

By **Annalisa Mazzella**, *Advocacy and Communication Officer at Caritas Europa*

On the 12th and 13th of July, Caritas Europa had their Follow-Up Meeting on Communications and Fundraising at the CAFOD office in London.

The event brought together representatives from selected member organisations across Europe to discuss the importance of communications as a means to facilitate and improve fundraising, and to explore new links between the communications and media sectors.

The follow-up meeting featured some items that were examined at Caritas Europa's Communications Forum in 2005, in addition to introducing topics like: legacy fundraising, data mining, different forms of fundraising and E-mar-

keting. Holly Ball, Head of Fundraising and Marketing at CAFOD and Jean Marie Destrée, Director of Development, Secours Catholique-Caritas France chaired this follow-up meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation made by legacy fundraising expert Richard Radcliffe FInst Cert (UK), who addressed participants with a talk on "Bringing Legacy Campaigns to Life". Richard gave attendees ideas and guidance on how to fashion a successful legacy campaign.

Other contributors included: Beth Brook, Legacy Marketing Executive at CAFOD; Jean Marie Destrée of Caritas France; Alexandra van Nieuwenhuyzen, Head of Fundraising and Communications at "Mensen in Nood"/CORDAID-Caritas Netherlands; Paul

Vulpiani, Online Marketing and Evaluation Officer at CAFOD; Jane Kronner, Editorial Coordinator at Caritas Internationalis, and Patrick Nicholson, Head of Media Relations at CAFOD.

Representatives were given the chance to present ideas in a couple of open debates as a follow-up to items explored in the 2005 forum. They discussed possible ways of transferring fundraising expertise to less experienced member organisations and fostering collaboration. The group also debated the likelihood of having an international conference on fundraising at the Caritas Internationalis level.

The event included updates from Caritas Europa, presented by Annalisa Mazzella, Advocacy and Communication Officer.

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KRISTINA MISINIENE (CARITAS LITHUANIA):
 “A HERO ACTING TO END MODERN-DAY SLAVERY”

By **Alain Rodríguez**, Web Editor at Caritas Europa – arodriguez@caritas-europa.org

Kristina Misiniene has been working on the issue of human trafficking for almost a decade. She is the founder and head coordinator of ***Aid to the Victims of Trafficking and Prostitution at Caritas Lithuania***, which is this country's most important service for victims of trafficking.

Her efforts and good practices have been recently awarded with the U.S. Department of State's public recognition as “A hero acting to end modern-day slavery”. The recognition stresses her tireless efforts to spread the anti-trafficking message in Lithuania and abroad, as well as highlighting her terrific devotion and personal involvement in assisting and supporting trafficking victims.



“I haven't met a woman in prostitution who would be happy with this “job”. The longer I work in the field of anti-trafficking, the better I see the link between trafficking and prostitution.”

Kristina has been at the forefront of largely successful lobbying efforts to convince the government to take more forceful actions to combat trafficking and to work on education and prevention. She collaborates with other

NGOs and rallies over 30 volunteers to widen the services provided to victims of trafficking. Caritas Europa contacted Kristina and asked her about this nomination and her anti-trafficking work.

CE: *You have been awarded with the U.S Department of State's public recognition as “A hero acting to end modern-day slavery”. Do you feel like a hero?*

KM: I'm a social worker, not a hero. But in this case, this title goes first of all, to all my team.

CE: *You have been working on human trafficking for almost a decade now. How would you judge Europe's response to human trafficking?*

KM: Nowadays the topic of anti-trafficking is much discussed at all levels in Europe. Though the reality is still very harsh - the number of victims are increasing - the criminals are organising themselves into international gangs and their methods are quite subtle.

CE: *You are active in COATNET, the Caritas Europa's Christian Organisation Against Trafficking in Women. How has this network affected your work?*

KM: It's very important to collaborate with colleagues and other experts who work in

the same field. For me it was a real discovery to find support in COATNET and to meet people who have similar attitudes on trafficking and prostitution.

CE: *How is your project financed?*

KM: The project I am running in Caritas Lithuania is financially supported by the Catholic organisation RENOVABIS from Germany. This help was essential in starting our activities in Lithuania.

CE: *One of your goals is to promote legislation, like the Swedish model, which focuses on convicting sex-buyers, while considering prostitutes as having no choice. What would you like to say to those arguing that most prostitutes voluntarily choose prostitution?*

KM: I haven't met a woman in prostitution who would be happy with this “job”. The longer I work in the field of anti-trafficking, the better I see the link between trafficking and prostitution.

CE: *Giving psychological assistance to human trafficking victims confronts you with terrible stories. How do you handle the emotional baggage when you get home?*

KM: To tell the truth, it is not easy. Over the years you learn how to cope with this, but certainly this kind of work demands personal sacrifices.

Seminar on Partnership and Inter-regional cooperation: *Partnership practice(s) – In line with our partnership principles?* By Hervé Gauthier, Intern, International Development and Peace, Caritas Europa - hgauthier@caritas-europa.org

Caritas Europa (CE) organised a seminar in Brussels on 20 and 21 June 2006 on partnership and inter-regional cooperation, under the title: “*Partnership practice(s) – In line with our partnership principles?*” More than 40 participants attended this two-day meeting, which included the presence of Denis Vientot, President of Caritas Internationalis. 14 European countries, including the Czech Republic and Slovenia, were present, as well as southern partners from Honduras, Ethiopia, Niger, Bangladesh and Somalia, who had an excellent occasion to express their views on partnership. This seminar was a continuation of the discussions that CE directors of international cooperation had on Caritas Partnership Principles in a dedicated workshop in October 2003.

The agenda included case studies, group work on specific questions around partnership, and plenary sessions where all reflections were brought together. The participants were very dynamic and frank when talking about mutual learning between northern and southern partners. All participants considered the event very useful and enriching, and also highlighted the importance of giving a significant space to the southern partners. Furthermore, the event was considered a good step towards eliminating the North-South polarisation.

Some key elements that were highlighted:

- The lack of an **impact-oriented** attitude in Caritas' work was reflected in the presentations of experiences. As a faith-based network, Caritas must demonstrate that **partnership ethos is the best way to deliver aid with the most positive impact**.
- **The most efficient partnership consists of a previous relationship upon which a project is built, and not the contrary.** Time has to be taken to know the partner, their history, and context before common actions are engaged. Especially when a partnership is involving a northern and a southern partner, actors of international cooperation have to go beyond a *donor-recipient* relationship. During the seminar, examples were given to show the best practices towards a fruitful collaboration. Of particular importance is having all partners associated equitably from the very beginning, each of them trying to understand the respective constraints of the partners (cultural, financial, institutional, etc.) and to **develop joint responsibility and interdependency**.
- Partnerships must lead to the strengthening of local capacities in order to achieve long-term objectives. It is important for northern partners to find a way of **spreading the partnership spirit among the field actors**. This depends also on an ability to **capitalize and strengthen our institutional memory**, to develop tools practically that would enable us to learn lessons and avoid regressing in our ability to build successful partnerships.
- As a complementary issue, the **advocacy work** is often similar both in the North and in the South. It is therefore a domain in which partnerships could, and should be developed in the future.
- More in-depth reflection on how to put a real sense of joint responsibility and collaborative work into practice during **partnerships in emergency situations** when time becomes a central constraint is needed.
- Finally, **the identity of Caritas as a faith-based structure** appears to be a key concept within the partnership process and among the organisations. However, this issue of our faith-based identity will need further discussion in the coming years.

A report will be ready for mid-September, resuming the main lessons of the seminar and preparing a basis for future reflections.

Focus on Member Organisations: “EUROPE OF TODAY NEEDS DEVELOPMENT OF EASY-TO-ACCESS HOME CARE SERVICES”

CARITAS BULGARIA HOSTS FIRST CARITAS EUROPA HOME CARE CONFERENCE IN SOFIA

Press information Caritas Europa. –

Caritas Europa's First Home Care Conference was held on May 29th and 30th, 2006 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The international conference was organised by Caritas Bulgaria in concert with a team of experts from different national organisations. The protector was Caritas Europa.

Caritas organisations work tirelessly on providing long-term care for the elderly across the European continent. Over the years, Caritas has witnessed an ever-increasing number of the elderly living with insufficient formal and informal care. This deficit of care has been particularly hard on the elderly in Central and Eastern Europe.

The percentage of people over 65 years of age in Europe is the highest in the world, with the share of people over 80 fast increasing. The elderly in Central and Eastern Europe often have to work beyond retirement age to supplement their income. Chronic disease has increased both in number and in duration due to longer life expectations.

The goal of the conference was to explore ways to advance the Home Care work of the Caritas Europa member organisations and to bolster Caritas Europa's stance as a key actor in the European debate. The aim was also to integrate Home Care in relevant policy reforms and programmes at a national and European level.

Home Care can supplement informal care with inexpensive and efficient medical care. At the same time Home Care strengthens civil society by linking private (family) and community

responsibilities with responsibilities of local and national governments.

Caritas Europa's Secretary General, Marius Wanders stated, "In our Europe of today, social protection systems are often inadequate and in some cases disintegrating. Innovative solutions are necessary to meet the demands, especially of a growing aged population for easy-to-access Home Care services."

He also added, "In many cases, Home Care is the best solution to meet specific needs in terms of affordable, accessible and professional care, especially for the elderly."

The Forum was attended by 60 participants from 20 different countries including representatives from political institutions in Bulgaria and other European countries, as well as experts from the NGO community. They discussed the future of Home Care in Bulgaria and the rest of Europe. The Home Care Conference focused on the socio-economic framework conditions that facilitate the implementation of Home Care services.

In December 2003, Caritas Europa created an ad hoc Home Care Working Group, which actively worked in 2005 and 2006 and was instrumental in exploring and shaping possibilities for fostering partnerships. It identified mid-term objectives and successfully organised a number of meetings.

Caritas Europa strongly believes that the potential of the Home Care network is enormous in terms of the powerful advocacy that could be produced representing the needs of beneficiaries of Home Care services, especially those that are most marginalised and often forgotten by institutional health care.

THE CARITAS BULGARIA HOME CARE PROGRAMME STORY

In 2000, **Caritas Bulgaria** started research on a national Home Health Care Program. This national program was provided for the establishment of 10 Centers throughout Bulgaria that offer medical and social domestic care.

In February 2002 the Home Care Programme opened in Ruse, and later, in September 2002 the second programme opened in Rakovsky. Each centre comprises of a team of three nurses who perform the following Home Care duties: monitoring the status of the diseased, administering injections, taking blood pressure and reading diabetes levels, etc.

The nurses also perform some social services as assistants in housework, checking the healthcare records of people who are incapacitated, purchasing medicines from pharmacies, and consulting with the sick and their families. Home Care Centres operate in close cooperation with the General Practitioners of the patients. All services are documented and statistics kept on file.

The patients in the Home Care Centres are single, poor and mainly elderly. The most frequent illnesses dealt with are: hypertension, strokes, oncological diseases, trauma, and diabetes.

The relationships between the patients, their General Practitioners, and the Home Care Centres are of trust and confidence. The sick also appreciate the care of the Caritas Bulgaria teams because very often these are the only people visiting the elderly, the helpless and the lonely.

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

CARITAS LUXEMBOURG INTRODUCES CARITAS EUROPA'S POVERTY REPORT

"Migration, A Journey Into Poverty?" the 3rd Report on Poverty in Europe, officially launched on 19 June 2006 in Brussels (see page 4), was also introduced by Caritas Luxembourg at a press conference on International Refugee Day, on the 20th of June 2006 in Luxembourg. In attendance were Mr. Andrij Wasowycz, President of Caritas Europa's Commission on Social Policy; Erny Gillen, President of Caritas Luxembourg; Martina Liebsch, President of Caritas Europa's Commission on Migration; Christiane Welter, Representative of the Luxembourg Ministry of Family and Integration, and Mr. Robert Urbé, Caritas Luxembourg's Confederation Coordinator.

In the report, Caritas Europa put forth 9 recommendations in order to fight the plague of poverty affecting migrants in Europe. These recommendations are: Ensure ratification and application of international and national laws and legal instruments that strengthen the rights of immigrants; Open channels for legal labour immigration; Implement policies for social inclusion of immigrants, including targeted measures where necessary; Strengthen education policies as a powerful tool for poverty reduction; Remove barriers to the full development of the potential of immigrants; Increase the share of EU Structural Funds to improve the situation of immigrants in the financial period 2007-2013; Encourage and support the participation of immigrants in public life; Counter the demonisation of immigration by promoting the advantages of an open immigration policy; Promote Europe-wide research on discrimination against immigrants in employment, housing, healthcare, education and participation in public life.

These recommendations provide a general framework for national Caritas organisations' advocacy work on combating poverty. Each national Caritas organisation is invited to follow up with advocacy work tailored to the specific conditions in their own country.

Focus on Institutions and Advocacy Work

CARITAS EUROPA LAUNCHES 3RD POVERTY REPORT- By Kimberly Bennett, *Intern, Communication/Advocacy Caritas Europa* kbennett@caritas-europa.org

June 19th, 2006 marked the launch of "Migration, a Journey Into Poverty?", *Caritas Europa's 3rd Report on Poverty in Europe* following the successful 2 previous reports released in 2001 and 2004 respectively. This new report focuses on the socio-economic condition of the 56.1 million immigrants living in Europe, including an estimated 5 million who have irregular status.

The publication highlighted five "poverty traps" directly linked to the situation of immigrants in Europe. These traps are within the sectors of employment, housing, health, education and participation in public life.

Representatives of European Institutions, NGOs, diplomatic missions and the international press attended the launch event in Brussels. Marius Wanders, Secretary General of Caritas Europa (CE) and Cristina Loghin, President of CE welcomed the distinguished guests to the event. Officially presenting the report were Martina Liebsch, President of CE's Commission on Migration and Director of Caritas Germany's Liaison Office with the EU, and Mr. Andrij Waskowycz, President of CE's Commission on Social Policy and President of Caritas Ukraine.

The guest speakers were: Jérôme Vignon, Director of Social Protection and Integration of the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities at the European Commission; Sandra Pratt, Deputy Head Immigration and Asylum Unit of the DG Justice, Freedom and Security at the European Commission; Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament, and Verena Taylor, Director of the Council of Europe's Liaison Office with the EU.

The report's findings tell of major differences between the quality of life of immigrants and of non-immigrants, for example on the job market. The OECD states that in 2003, the unemployment rate for immigrants in Belgium, Finland and France was over 18% with immigrants being more likely to be in low-skilled jobs.

Unfortunately the housing market doesn't hold much hope for immigrants either. Along with making up a large number of the homeless population, many immigrants have been relegated to poor, "immigrant areas". Spain's substandard housing sector accounts for 10% of the housing for Portuguese, Algerian and Moroccan immigrants; 12% for the Turks, and 16% for the Sub-Saharan African immigrants.

Compounded with the deplorable employment and living conditions, immigrants, especially women, children and the elderly, are at a higher risk of acquiring certain illnesses. Furthermore, they often lack the required information on where and how to seek certain health care.

The education available to immigrants also happens to be of great concern to CE. In many cases, immigrant and minority students are over-represented in the special education stream. Data demonstrates that there is a clear connection between social origin, migration, and educational success.

CE believes that one of the major keys in curbing poverty amongst immigrants is making sure that they participate in public life. Third-country nationals might be living in a European country for many years, but nevertheless the barriers to get the right to vote at local, regional or national level are very high. Having no say in the running of their government aggravates the impoverishment.

Through Caritas' extensive research and experience with immigrants it is evident that a disproportionate number of immigrants live in poverty with little to no chance of altering their circumstances. It is the goal of CE to influence this state of affairs by shedding light on a truly grave situation in Europe.

CARITAS EUROPA ADVOCACY WORK

Caritas Europa participates in the Consultation of the UN Secretary General Report on International Migration and Development

This UN Consultation is part of the upcoming UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that will take place on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York. The purpose of the event is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration, identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The dialogue will also have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the agreed development pursuits such as the Millennium Development Goals. Caritas hopes that with the High-Level Dialogue a new era of enduring cooperation on migration and development will be launched, in which migration will be approached as a Human Rights issue rather than a Security issue.

Caritas Europa's participation consists mostly of comments and recommendations drawn up by Migration Officer Peter Verhaeghe in collaboration with Caritas Europa's Migration Commission. These were compiled into the Caritas Internationalis official document: "Contribution to the Consultation of the UN Secretary General Report on International Migration and Development".

Caritas' fundamental comments:

- The aim of connecting development and migration should be to reinforce the fight against the root causes of poverty.
- Refugees, people seeking asylum and/or migrating for economic purposes reflect patterns of insecurity and injustice that must be addressed in context of sustaining the improvement of the lives of local people.
- A UN migration framework should be based on human rights and include the support of the international legal framework for migration.

Caritas recommends:

- Improving protection of fundamental human rights for all by fostering good governance.
- Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Official Development Aid, focusing on the basic needs of the most vulnerable by ensuring coherence of other policy fields such as international trade with the Millennium Development Goals.
- Ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families.
- More research on the effectiveness of development, migration, integration and return policies.
- Developing labour migration policies and legislation that assure safe migration, and combating trafficking and exploitation of human beings.
- Considering regularisation of undocumented migrants as an essential element in a comprehensive migration policy.
- Making more efforts in developing integration policies for migrants in the receiving societies in order to turn them into welcoming societies.
- Considering equal rights as a powerful tool in this process, together with the promotion of equal opportunities, (e.g. on the labour market).

Focus on events and projects

“SUCCESS IS THE PROGRESSIVE REALISATION OF A WORTHWHILE DREAM” (DEXTER YAGER) - By Iosefina-Cristina Loghin, President of Caritas Europa - cloghin@caritas-europa.org

The Caritas Europa Regional Conference was a wonderful occasion for our members to deal with the relevance of Catholic Social Teaching for our Caritas network. The Conference took place in Mainz, 17 to 20 May 2006.

The debates focused on questions related to the European social model, humanitarian aid in case of major human catastrophes, and ways to combat trafficking in human beings, from the angle of Caritas and the Catholic Social Teaching.

During the statutory session, Erny Gillen, President of Caritas Luxemburg, was elected as President of Caritas Europa, for the next mandate 2007-2011. Kari-Mette Eidem, Secretary General of Caritas Norway, will be the new Vice-President. Marius Wanders was confirmed as Secretary General of Caritas Europa for a further mandate.

The next Executive Board will be made up of representatives from the following Caritas organisations: Spain, Ukraine, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Norway, France and Bulgaria.

Delegates to the Regional Conference also elected Caritas organisations from Italy, Spain,

Germany and Slovenia to be part of the Caritas Internationalis Executive Committee for the term 2007-2011.

Slovenia (Ljubljana) will be the host country for the Regional Conference 2008.

In his talk, Denis Viénot, President of Caritas Internationalis, compared the Catholic Social Teaching to a “compass” for both our charity and advocacy work. He also referred to the Catholic Social Teaching as a vehicle to enhance our sense for HUMAN DIGNITY.

The first keynote speaker, Robert Colbert, Director of Mission Integration, Catholic Charities USA, addressed delegates with a speech entitled: “*What are the Links Between the Principles in Catholic Social Teaching and the Four Main Thematic Areas of Caritas Europa’s Strategic Plan?*” Mr. Colbert stressed the importance of Caritas’ work, through which HELP is provided and HOPE is created for those lacking confidence in their future.

The second keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kruij of the Forschungsinstitut für Philosophie, (Hannover, Germany) presented the topic: “*Catholic Social Teaching in the Mirror of History and Present*”. According to Prof. Dr. Kruij, Social Ethics, Social Teaching, Social Doctrine, are the bases of the Christian Social Teaching which is lived by Christians and mirrored in the tradition of the Catholic Church.

The panel discussion “*How can Caritas transform Catholic Social Teaching? How can Caritas be transformed by Catholic Social Teaching?*” emphasised the courage that is permanently needed by Caritas and other charitable organisations in order to carry on with their mission. On one hand, Caritas contributes to the further development of the Catholic Social Teaching through providing elements for the future social-ethic framework. On the other hand, the political engagement of Caritas must be grounded on the Catholic Social Teaching.

Mgr. Segundo Tejado, “Cor Unum” representative, made a presentation regarding the new Encyclical “Deus Caritas est”. In reference to paragraph 31.a, where Pope Benedict XVI talks about Caritas, Mgr. Tejado encouraged us to be witnesses of Christ’s love in our daily lives, and in our daily work. His presentation, the prayer sessions and the liturgy celebration were enriched by attendees’ participation in Holy Mass at the Cathedral of Mainz, where they also had the pleasure of celebrating the 70th Anniversary of His Eminence, Cardinal Lehmann.

As President of Caritas Europa, my gratitude for this Regional Conference goes out to the delegates and organisers, staff present and absent in Mainz, as well as in general, to those who pray that we continue our Caritas mission inspired by the Holy Spirit.

SECOND SOCIAL POLICY FORUM OF CARITAS EUROPA - By Adriana

Opromolla, Social Policy Officer - apromolla@caritas-europa.org

Caritas Europa held its **Second Social Policy Forum** from June 26th to 29th in Lourdes (France). The event was hosted on the premises of the **Cité Saint-Pierre**, a pilgrims’ centre established by Secours Catholique-Caritas France on the beautiful slopes of the Pyrenees above the city of Lourdes. All participants felt very grateful for the generous welcoming offered by the volunteers of Cité Saint-Pierre.

The bi-annual Forum was conceived as an important opportunity for meeting and exchange between all persons in charge of social issues in Caritas Europa member organisations. The first Social Policy Forum was held in 2004 in Sarajevo and focused on psychological suffering and social exclusion.

The aim of this year’s Forum was to present the achievements made with regard to political dialogue on the **Mid-Term Conference of CONCEPT Project**, to further elaborate on the **Basic Principles for a Sustainable Social System**, to present the conclusions and recommendations of the 2006 **Poverty Report** and to launch a new **Advocacy Strategy** at the Social Policy network level. New Caritas Europa action on **Home Care** and **HIV/AIDS** also received official momentum.

The CONCEPT Mid-Term Conference began with a speech by the European Commission’s representative, Walter Zampieri, who explained how the Community programme against Poverty and Social Exclusion was implemented in the last five years and how it will leave room for the new PROGRESS programme in the future. Subsequently, all Caritas partners in the CONCEPT project and their “twin” organisations illustrated their engagement in political dialogue with State authorities on social inclusion. This allowed a first assessment of the achievements made by CONCEPT and possible improvements.

Participants contributed significantly to developing the Basic Principles for a Sustainable Social System (so-called “List of Principles”), addressed to all Caritas organisations and intended to be the basis for a comprehensive and consistent social policy framework. Five groups were created to work on the document.

The contents of the Poverty Report were shared among the participants, who will use the report as a tool for advocacy towards their governments on poverty and migration. This is in fact a very sensitive issue that all European countries are experiencing, be they countries of origin, of transit or of destination. Incisive measures are needed in order to promote the empowerment of migrants, and several objectives should be attained for their integration in receiving countries with special emphasis on 5 main

areas which are presented in the report: employment, housing, health, education, and participation in public life. In all these areas, Caritas could act as a mediator towards the State and raise awareness on migrants’ rights. Based upon the new Caritas Europa Advocacy Strategy, participants explored ways for advocacy on the recommendations of the Poverty Report.

Taking into account the current needs of the ageing European population and considering the constant engagement of Caritas in providing Home Care, the creation of a Caritas Europa-wide network on this topic is very opportune. The Home Care Conference in Sofia in late May adopted a “Proclamation on Caritas Home Care and Home Care networking in Europe”, laying down the basic principles for future action. The Social Policy Forum was a good occasion to start discussing the matter.

In an era where Europe is experiencing the widest HIV/AIDS pandemic growth ever, the Forum reflected on the difference Caritas can make from an ethical point of view. Stressing the universal value of human dignity, combating stigmatisation, and raising awareness are indispensable actions to be undertaken, in addition to the medical and psychological assistance that Caritas has already been providing for a longtime at a local level.