

## **EU-Wide Youth Guarantee Schemes prevent from falling into poverty and social exclusion**

**Caritas Europa welcomes the European Parliament's adoption of a resolution calling for introducing youth guarantee schemes in all Members States.**

“This is a very important decision of the Members of the Parliament (MEP) since youth poverty is one of the main challenges of the EU. The wide application of [youth guarantee schemes](#) will greatly **contribute to increasing young people's employability**, which can **prevent them from falling into poverty** and social exclusion,” says Jorge Nuño Mayer, Secretary General of Caritas Europa

Yesterday's vote of the European Parliament urges Employment Ministers to agree in February 2013 to a Council recommendation **that all Member States introduce youth guarantee schemes** and underlines that these schemes will aim at ensuring that all young EU citizens, legal residents up to 25 years old and recent graduates under 30 receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education or apprenticeship within four months of becoming unemployed.

“It is a good thing that MEPs have adopted this resolution. Thanks to the daily work of the national Caritas organisation, we know that **youth poverty is worsening**. Austerity measures are really not helping, on the contrary in some countries they are contributing to the collapse of both institutional and “informal” safety nets, such as family support, **condemning young people into chronic poverty**,” says Artur Benedyktowicz, Caritas Europa Policy and Advocacy Officer, referring to Caritas Europa's [Shadow Report on the Europe 2020 Strategy](#), and the forthcoming [Crisis Monitoring Report](#) with a special focus on Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain that Caritas Europa will release in early February.

In the light of the grave social state of the European Union, Caritas Europa calls on the Council to show strong leadership and commitment in protecting vulnerable groups and **support the introduction of youth guarantee schemes in all Member States.**

**For more information, contact**

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Caritas Europa is the umbrella organisation of the European network of 49 Caritas member organisations, working in 46 European countries. Guided by a deep belief in the inviolable dignity of the human person, Caritas Europa has a heartfelt commitment to analyse and fight poverty and social exclusion.

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