

Press release: European legislators interested by Caritas successful projects on integration from across Europe “empowering people” approach to integration

## Empowering migrants and people in the communities are key to positive integration

Empowering migrants and receiving communities is the best way to achieve sustainable and successful integration. It is also the best way to reverse the current negative attitude towards migrants and to prevent xenophobia. European institutions acknowledged yesterday the “Caritas’ approach” on integration at an event held by the European Parliament’s intergroup on extreme poverty.

*“I appreciate the work of Caritas on integration because they do not deny that migration and integration is a difficult topic to work on, they do not propose illusions but solutions based on the reality of the people on the ground. They listen to those working with migrants and with the migrants themselves and devise innovative and successful integration projects that are fully based on the empowerment of people,”* said **MEP Sylvie Goulard** (ALDE), Chair of the European Parliament’s intergroup on extreme poverty.

*“The work of Caritas and publications like the ‘Welcome’ report helps us to look critically at the actions we are taking on integration. In particular now that the Commission is issuing the Action Plan on Integration,”* said **Agnese Papadia**, integration expert at DG HOME.

*“At a time when migration is tainted by a very negative discourse and approach, it’s a confirmation by European institutions acknowledging the rightness of our approach. Working with the people in the communities who are welcoming the newcomers, together with the migrants, empowering them, and finding ways to make their encounters success stories is the way Caritas works and is the direction Europe should follow,”* said **Jorge Nuño Mayer**, Secretary General of Caritas Europa

Caritas Europa welcomes the recent initiative of the European Commission of taking into account the work of civil society with migrants when drafting European joint answers to migration. Caritas agrees completely with the view explained by Ms. Papadia that “*successful integration brings benefits both for the migrants and the community, beyond the economic benefits*”.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Notes to editor:**

- **European Parliament's Intergroup on extreme poverty** is one of the Parliament's official intergroups, a cross-party grouping of MEPs working together to contribute to the fight against poverty, inequalities and social exclusion. Intergroups are not official Parliament bodies.
- The Caritas Europa publication “Welcome – Migrants make Europe stronger” is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#).
- All information regarding the panel discussion on integration organised by the Intergroup on extreme poverty is available here: <https://goo.gl/OeyoKA>

**Caritas Europa** is a network of 49 member organisations in 46 European countries and one of the 7 regions of Caritas Internationalis. Our members assist and provide services to millions of people in need. Caritas Europa aims at lifting people out of poverty by empowering them and by influencing unjust structures and unfair policies that keep people trapped in positions of disempowerment.