



FUNDAMENTALS
FOR CARITAS EUROPA

A central graphic consisting of several black silhouettes of hands reaching upwards to hold a cluster of interlocking gears. Four white curved arrows are positioned around the gears, pointing in a clockwise direction to indicate motion.

ADVOCACY
HANDBOOK



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PREFACE

In Caritas we see on a daily basis how people suffer due to poverty, inequality, unjust treatment, discrimination, violence and exclusion. Caritas helps the people in need, often through innovative projects and services, demonstrating that a better world is possible. We also analyse the dimension and the structural causes of these situations of need, poverty and exclusion in order to ensure that the centrality of the person is applied in policies and societal behaviours. We want to influence the structural aspects and related causes in order to achieve positive outcomes for those affected. This is advocacy.

Advocacy, the claim for justice for the poor and excluded, is the natural consequence and an intrinsic dimension of Caritas action, which is based on the two pillars of the Christian virtues of charity and justice. During the past 15 years, the European Caritas organisations have coordinated advocacy efforts towards the national governments and the European institutions, particularly on such issues as poverty, social exclusion, inequality, migration and asylum, development, the right to food, and humanitarian principles. These efforts have resulted in important achievements.

It is time to share these achievements, to acknowledge in a simple way what we understand under advocacy, how we implement it. For this reason we present this handbook: it is an invitation to continue discussing and improving our efforts to “lend our voice to the causes of the poor”.¹

The main objective of this handbook is to provide an introduction to Caritas organisations as to why “Caritas Europa aims to improve the quality of life of people experiencing poverty or in situation(s) of vulnerability by advocating for integral human development and social justice” (Caritas Europa’s Strategic Framework 2020).

Before being able to clarify the reasons Caritas organisations should do advocacy, however, it is necessary to first describe what is meant by advocacy and how advocacy is put into practice. The most tangible way to do this is to present a few advocacy successes that Caritas Europa has achieved in the recent past. The authoritative basis of Caritas’ advocacy is its daily and direct closeness and work with people who suffer from poverty, but also its constructive approach “to bring hope also to those men and women responsible to change the unjust structures”.² This handbook will also provide some insight into the utilisation of advocacy tools and techniques.

Caritas Europa, i.e. the network of the European Caritas organisations, as part of the global Caritas Internationalis confederation, ensures the qualitative strengthening of the network by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and expertise. The expected results from this combination are that Caritas Europa achieves strong advocacy outcomes across Europe, thereby bringing about necessary structural changes towards improving the living situation of people and communities experiencing poverty.

My most heartfelt gratitude goes to the people who raise their voice with and for the poor, to all the Caritas advocates and to the politicians and stakeholders with the political will to serve those most in need.

The authorship of this handbook is broad. It brings together the collective intelligence of many people in Caritas at grassroots, national, European and global levels. A big thank you is due to the Caritas advocates who contributed to this publication.



Jorge Nuño Mayer
Secretary General Caritas Europa

A young boy with dark skin, wearing a plaid shirt, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. He has his hands raised, with fingers spread, as if participating in a lesson. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and colorful posters on the wall. A red overlay covers the left side of the image, containing the number '1' and the title text.

1

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS
OF CARITAS' ADVOCACY
IN EUROPE

» LOCAL LEVEL ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

INFLUENCING REGIONAL AUTHORITIES DURING THE PLANNING PHASE OF USING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The people of the Marche region in Italy have struggled since the local economy shrank with the recession. Unemployment rate reached 9.1% and youth unemployment became even more problematic. Economic problems were further complicated as a result of decreased local investments.

The regional Caritas was helping young people to find employment opportunities when they realised the European Social Fund was not adequately being used for this target group. Consequently, the Caritas delegation lobbied the regional authorities during the planning phase intending to identify how the European Social Fund (ESF) 2007-2013 could be used.

Caritas Marche advocated the use of a suitable tool for framing the experimental Caritas' projects of job placement in social agriculture, gastronomy and tourism, etc. as a response to the lasting economic crisis. The advocacy process set in place in this instance had many elements of innovation. One of its measurable successes consisted in Caritas setting up, in the whole region, accompaniment and financial support to create about 250 new jobs. Once the dialogue was opened, Caritas Marche was also able to take part in the negotiations for the following regional Operational Programmes (OP) on European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2014-2020, integrating its work on the ground and its presence in OP's Monitoring Committee.

By starting with the people, listening to their needs, their hopes and their "cry", Caritas Marche successfully advocated at the local and regional levels, created more jobs, and achieved greater participation in the decision making process for those affected by the policies.

» NATIONAL LEVEL ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

INFLUENCING NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN REDEFINING THE QUALIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS

Many people with social and health problems in Ukraine were receiving unequal and often low quality treatment in the social service sector. Family and children, women, migrants and victims of trafficking or of humanitarian disasters were in particular need of specific service provision, but they were not receiving the targeted care needed.

In response, Caritas Ukraine carried out a two-year advocacy campaign with the intent to improve the quality of the social service system in the country. By the end of the lobbying process, amendments to the qualification characteristics of the workers providing social services were approved by the Ministry of Social Policy, along with amendments to several standards of social services. Moreover, a draft law on social services and on budgetary and tax code amendments were prepared and submitted to the Ukrainian Parliament.

The strength of Caritas Ukraine's advocacy action lies in the deep analysis and understanding of the problem at national level. A study was conducted in the medical, social and legal fields, giving legitimacy to the claims brought forward by Caritas Ukraine, i.e. providing the evidence needed to be convincing to policy makers. The image of Caritas Ukraine was strengthened as a result and the community was involved in improving the social services system. In the end, this resulted in improving the support offered to people and communities experiencing poverty and other vulnerable or excluded populations.

» EUROPEAN LEVEL ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

INFLUENCING THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO INVEST IN CHILDREN VIA STRENGTHENED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND FAMILY POLICIES

Children are more affected by poverty. Caritas organisations across Europe, working closely with families and children in need, are witnessing the suffering attributed to child poverty, a phenomenon closely linked to family poverty, and that is influenced by the child's home, social and school life, together with the employment situation and status of the parents, whether single or a two parent family. Households with only one adult working are at a much higher risk of poverty than average, and benefits set at too low a level fail to act as a safety net for these families. These factors together weave a web of child poverty with devastating lasting effects for the children.

With the aim of changing such cycles of poverty, Caritas Europa successfully influenced the European Commission's *Recommendation on Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage*, launched in February 2013. This document provided comprehensive policy guidance to all European Union (EU) Member States in tackling child and family poverty in the Union. Eight out of ten of Caritas Europa's recommendations were included in the Commission's official position as a result of the intensive bilateral lobbying activities and advocacy done in strategic collaboration with other European partners.

The input and evidence provided by Caritas organisations, however, was the most essential element for this advocacy success.

INFLUENCING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO INCLUDE CARITAS EUROPA'S AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOLUTION ON THE POST 2015 EU AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

More than 800 million people suffer from hunger in the world, despite the fact that enough food is being produced. There are numerous dysfunctions in the food system: food waste (nearly 100 million tons of food is being wasted daily), food loss and food poverty. Climate change, energy and land governance also have a direct impact on achieving the right to food for all in a sustainable way. In addition to working in the most affected countries and with the people in sustainable agriculture and food security programmes to address these challenges on the ground, Caritas also negotiate with EU representatives. Caritas Europa welcomed, for instance, the European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2014 on the EU and the Global Development Framework after 2015, in which food was defined as a basic Human Right. By adopting the resolution, the European Parliament called "on the need to go beyond food security and consider food as a basic Human Right in order to be able to set a clear 'Zero Hunger' goal and to end the scandal of hunger by 2025" (art. 44).

Considering food as a "basic human right" was a concrete advocacy achievement, coming after long negotiations with the *rapporteur* and with different political groups in the European Parliament. This success marked a starting point for future advocacy actions towards European institutions on Caritas' demands to end global hunger. This was possible thanks to the transfer of experiences and recommendations gathered among Caritas organisations and consolidated by Caritas Europa's Right to Food Working Group.

2

WHY CARITAS EUROPA
DOES ADVOCACY



» THE GOSPEL AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE CLOSE AND DAILY ENCOUNTER AND SHARING WITH THE PEOPLE IN POVERTY AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SHAPE CARITAS' UNDERSTANDING OF ADVOCACY

Advocacy, although always new in its expressions, ways and means, is an ancient dimension of faith: already in the Old Testament we read that the Lord knows the suffering, observes the misery and listens to the cry of his people (Exodus 3), especially the poor (Psalm 69), and protects them (Psalm 12); we read the witness of the prophets, who were sent (Jonah 3) to denounce the evil done by the kings and the societies (Jeremiah) and to announce a better world (Isaiah). For Christians, the “love to the neighbour” proclaimed by our Lord Jesus Christ considers the direct help to the needy (Luke 10; Matthew 25) in combination with a call for justice in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5).

Therefore, it is no surprise that within Christian charity the claim for justice has a long tradition and has found different expressions over the centuries, adapted to the times, cultures and circumstances. The first Caritas associations were founded at the end of the XIX century, at the same time as the Teaching Authority of the Popes and Bishops, or *Magisterium*, of the Catholic Church started to reflect even more deeply than in the past, and thus to develop what has become known as “Catholic Social Teaching”, a comprehensive body of in-depth observations and guidelines on responding to social issues in the modern era.

In Caritas, the daily work with the people in need³ leads us to ask about the “big picture” - the dimension of the problems, their causes and consequences - and about how we can “fight the wretched conditions”⁴ and influence the social, political and economic structures so that the integral human development⁵ is possible, especially for the poor⁶ and the most needy.⁷ Due to a lack of, or insufficient, political will⁸ to address the social challenges, this dimension, the “political path of charity”,⁹ has grown over the last years in importance in Caritas. We “cannot remain on the side-lines in the fight for justice”.¹⁰

Caritas is called to show concern for and lend its efforts to building a better world. We have to work to eliminate the structural causes of poverty¹¹ lending our voice to the people experiencing poverty.¹² Our advocacy has a twofold dimension: on one the hand, it is “critical”, denouncing injustice, putting pressure on governments to bring about decisive political action¹³ for the common good¹⁴; on the other hand, it is, and always will be, “positive”, offering proposals to work for change and to aim towards hope.¹⁵

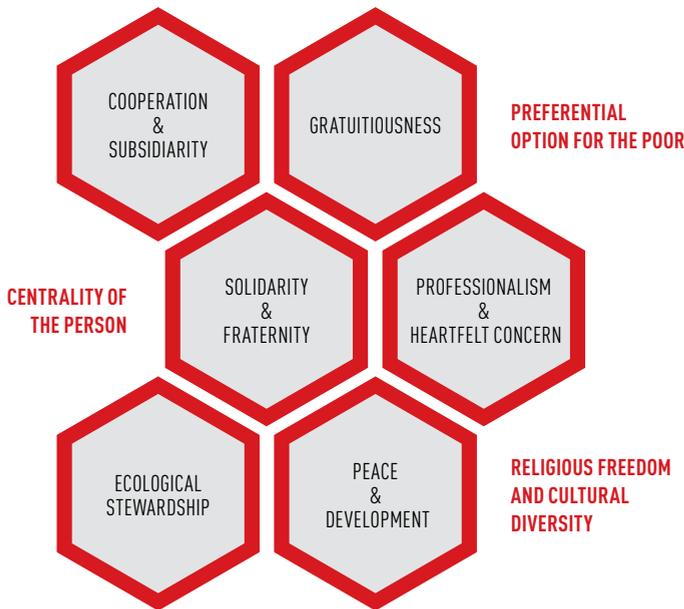
Caritas’ advocacy is complemented by raising awareness and educating all of us, citizens of this world, to change towards more humane, fraternal, gratuitous and welcoming lifestyles, towards a responsible simplicity of life.¹⁶

Finally, Caritas’ advocacy, as well as its direct help to the needy, has to be situated within the larger objective to contribute towards building society, a human community, a common home for the entire human family.¹⁷

» CARITAS VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

With a specific understanding of partnership,¹⁸ advocacy has always been an important task for Caritas Europa in its efforts to tackle the root causes of poverty. Caritas are the “heart which sees”,¹⁹ and acts and advocates both with people in poverty as well as on their behalf, building on the strength of the network to speak with policy makers at national and EU levels.

The following graph indicates the essential guiding principles at the core of Caritas Europa’s policy and advocacy work and is used for choosing priority topics on which the network as a whole agrees to advocate:



“The identity and spirituality of Caritas derive from the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching and from being one of the three components of the Church’s holistic pastoral work. The ministry of Caritas is integrated in the local Church and in each of the Christian communities as a fundamental element in its life and mission, inspired by faith in Jesus Christ. We see the face of the Lord in the face of each of the beneficiaries of our charity and justice work”
 (CI Partnership Principle).

As a united network, Caritas Europa seeks opportunities to intervene²⁰ and provide solutions to the increasing “globalisation of indifference”. It is due to this, starting with those in need and embedded in the daily work of Caritas organisations that the European-level advocacy actions are coordinated and carried out. Whether Caritas organisations are cognisant of it or not, every member is doing advocacy by witnessing and working with people and communities experiencing poverty.

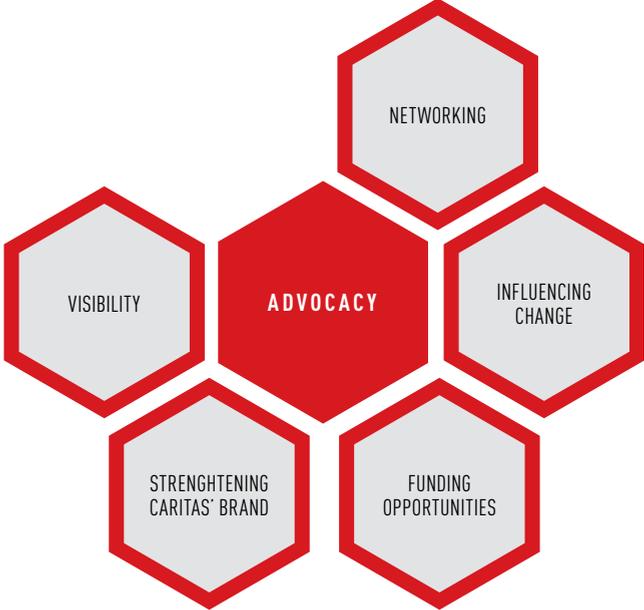
» INFLUENCING CHANGE

Advocacy is important for Caritas Europa as it works towards structural change, starting at the grassroots level and extending globally, to improve the quality of life of people and communities experiencing poverty and marginalisation. Hence, Caritas Europa advocates for and with people in need to transform society into a more just and inclusive civilisation. This commonly translates into working to change institutional policies and practices, legal and political processes and systems as well as attitudes, mentalities and the behaviours of residents and stakeholders throughout Europe.

The inviolable dignity of the human person is the essential guiding principle of Caritas Europa. Caritas acts as the voice of the voiceless when they are unable to speak for themselves²¹ and does so by “observing, analysing and acting” to contribute to more just and cohesive societies. With a heartfelt commitment to analyse and fight poverty and social exclusion, and to promote true integral human development, social justice and sustainable social systems, people in need are the starting point of all of Caritas Europa’s actions. This means that we listen to those in need as a way of systematically mainstreaming their needs and interests, especially of women, children and families.

Because Caritas organisations work directly with the poor and marginalised, they are well placed to observe the realities of people and communities experiencing poverty and marginalisation on a daily basis. We “listen” to better understand the reality of unjust structures. Through listening and relationship-building, in solidarity and on equal footing with those in need, Caritas Europa is emboldened to advocate, together with those in need, towards achieving structural changes. This, in turn, results in the development and implementation of promising practices beneficial for the common good, which show that Caritas policy recommendations are both feasible and effective.

What Caritas Europa learns from the beneficiaries of its services and from the communities in which it is engaged is essential for promoting effective programmes and building greater resilience. It is important that the poor and marginalised are involved in Caritas’ advocacy processes - influencing the advocacy initiatives pursued by Caritas Europa - and are empowered in the process to be involved in influencing the political decisions affecting them.



Caritas Europa cooperates with political decision-makers in Europe to spread the best practices of its members and to highlight discrepancies in policy development and implementation on the ground. Caritas Europa targets representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and rotating EU Presidencies (Permanent Representations), the Council of Europe as well as local authorities and private stakeholders (employers/businesses) to achieve specific advocacy objectives in line with the Strategic Framework and the Advocacy Strategy. Bringing forwards the needs and voices of the people experiencing poverty, Caritas Europa coordinates efforts across Europe to conduct joint advocacy and communication actions (incl. campaigns) to influence policies at both national and European levels.

» VISIBILITY

It is important that Caritas Europa is well known, recognised and valued among European political stakeholders and donors as a legitimate voice for the poor and vulnerable in Europe and in developing countries.

» NETWORKING

Caritas Europa builds coalitions with organisations and networks, as this tends to increase the likelihood of Caritas' messages being taken on board by policy makers. Strategic partnerships tend to increase the visibility and legitimacy of an organisation's messages as there is broader support for the issue. Networking in the spirit of building strong partnerships within Europe would complement this. But while it is important to pool efforts with organisations that are complementary or like-minded to exert greater political pressure and achieve stronger policy impacts, in some cases this may result in downplaying our own core messages and visibility as an effective advocacy organisation. Or worse, it slows the process, overcomplicates it and, in the end, does not result in achieving the intended policy impact. Consequently, our membership in networks or partnership with organisations needs to be strategic and closely monitored, especially depending on possible shifts in policy objectives. Critical thought is needed when building coalitions: with whom, when, for how long, what role Caritas Europa wants to play and what resources are available.

» SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

Funders often give priority to direct services. However, well planned advocacy efforts typically require a certain level of resources. When we can demonstrate that our advocacy for and with poor and marginalised people results in a better quality of life for them, then we may be able to gain access to additional resources for our advocacy activities.

3

WHAT IS MEANT WITH
ADVOCACY FROM CARITAS
EUROPA'S PERSPECTIVE



“Advocacy is an organised attempt to change policy, practice and/or attitudes by presenting evidence and arguments for how and why change should happen. At the heart of advocacy is the assumption that change can happen through building awareness, presenting evidence and arguments for why change should happen, and engaging people who have the power to make those changes”.²²

Advocacy is a process that aims at influencing a change in policies by pushing political actors to take certain actions. The main purposes of advocacy are to achieve:

- Change in mentalities, perspectives, attitudes and behaviours;
- Change in institutional policy and practice;
- Change in the political process or system;
- Increased power and influence for the poor and marginalised.

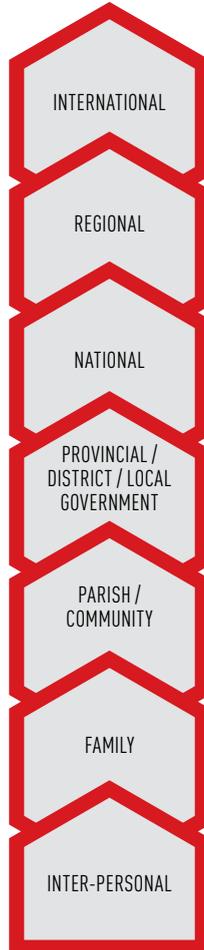
Commonly, advocacy seeks to enforce change as a result of making policy demands.

Most of the time, the method primarily used is to send out information to get a specific message across, to mobilise people in order to weaken the position of a particular decision-maker, or to educate such decision-makers about the negative impact of the policies existing.

Lobbying is a specialised form of advocacy. It is a strategic, planned and informal way of influencing decision-makers. Characteristics are: open (two-way) communication, influencing by linking the interests of different stakeholders, creating win-win situations and investing in long-term relationships with decision-makers. Examples of lobbying include:

- Coordinating visits by poor and marginalised people to elected officials and other policy makers in order to describe their life situations and to directly propose needed changes in law and in social policies;
- Personal letters (e.g. to European Commission’s President);
- Face-to-face meetings with decision-makers (e.g. Members of the European Parliament);
- Meeting delegations (e.g. Caritas delegation meeting with EU Rotating Presidencies);
- Informal contacts at receptions (e.g. at a Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- Working visits with decision-makers (e.g. technical stakeholder meetings with European Commission representatives);
- Personal exchanges over the telephone (e.g. with political leaders);
- Drafting of common positions (e.g. The Investing in Children Alliance Recommendations).

To be effective, advocacy should be carried out in a multilevel approach, crossing different policy levels:



For example, the main target institutions for Caritas' advocacy work at the European level include: the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and rotating EU Presidencies (Permanent Representations), the Fundamental Rights Agency and Frontex (the European border agency) as well as the Council of Europe.

The main target institutions for advocacy work at the national levels include: national ministries, namely interior, social affairs, and foreign affairs, along with national parliaments, just to name a few stakeholders. At the sub-national level, the target institutions are local and regional authorities, as well as parish churches and neighbourhood communities.

In cooperation with Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Europa also occasionally works at the international level, mainly targeting the United Nations (UN). The Universal Periodic Review of the human rights records of UN Member States is an excellent vehicle to raise questions about particular national policies or laws and their impact on people in need.

HOW CARITAS EUROPA
DOES ADVOCACY

- Interpellation
faire

1 - Projet Financier
participatif personnel
→ types, éducation

2 - simplification de ma
(+ Jeune)

3 - Régularisation + Ass

» TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Caritas Europa cooperates with political decision-makers in Europe to disseminate the best practices of Caritas organisations and to highlight discrepancies between policy development and implementation on the ground.

Caritas Europa's advocacy starts at the grassroots level, at the local dioceses and in parish churches, and moves to the EU level. It reverses this direction from the EU level back to the grassroots level as well. Relying on this interconnection enables Caritas Europa to gain the needed insight into practical problems, discrepancies in policy implementation on the ground, and to transfer promising practices across all levels.

Advocacy encompasses all that Caritas Europa does to influence policies, practices and mentalities of decision-makers, governments and institutions. It typically includes: research, policy analyses and formation, lobbying, conference events, public campaigning and media work. The way this process works within Caritas is as follows:

1. Through its grassroots experience and services to people experiencing poverty, **Caritas Europa observes poverty, exclusion, and injustice on the ground, and monitor changes over time.**
2. Caritas Europa highlights the injustices affecting the beneficiaries, **providing facts, figures and testimonies – i.e. research.** They may collect the data via poverty observatories, mapping, best practice exchanges and meetings, or as policy papers, policy briefs, publications or reports. This contributes to the **policy analyses and formation of Caritas messages.**
3. Caritas Europa agrees that structural changes are needed and **strategises which issues to tackle at EU level vs. which issues to address at national level.** They involve the people experiencing poverty in this process to be informed by the lived experience of the poor and marginalised as they strive to influence policies directly affecting them.
4. **Caritas Europa identifies the relevant decision-makers (audiences)** and targets to influence depending on the **timing of the legislative framework and potential political or media opportunities.** They may draft letters to the Council, meet with MEPs, or influence the European Commission before legislation is drafted, etc.
5. Together, **Caritas Europa identifies and coordinates the action steps,** sharing common messages and press releases, i.e. integrating advocacy into communication strategy.
6. Caritas Europa organises **conferences, workshops, events and working group and steering group meetings** to make available a platform for members and the people experiencing poverty to speak and be heard and to inform decision-makers directly about Caritas' positions.
7. Caritas Europa uses **policy briefs and papers** to clarify, articulate and communicate its position on specific issues. These are often distributed at conferences and during lobbying meetings. They are also used by members for **public campaigns and media work,** possibly as background information **when conducting media interviews.** Translating policy briefs into national languages can be helpful for Caritas Europa to spread the same advocacy messages at national level as well.
8. Caritas Europa carries out **one-on-one lobbying meetings** with European Commission representatives and/or with MEPs, as well as with Ministries at the national level, just to name a few key stakeholders. Sending a delegation of Caritas members to meet with Brussels-based policy makers or with the rotating EU presidency is also useful for presenting Caritas' positions and negotiating on policy proposals.



9. Caritas Europa **builds coalitions and strategic partnerships** with local, national and European organisations and networks. This sometimes increases the likelihood of Caritas’ messages being taken on board by policy makers, since strategic partnerships tend to increase the visibility and legitimacy of an organisation’s messages.
10. Caritas Europa also **cooperates and partners with national Episcopal Conferences, bishops, diocesan structures, clergy, religious Sisters and Brothers, parish communities, groups of parish lay leaders, volunteers, young Caritas** and other actors to mobilise wide support and campaign towards achieving structural changes.
11. Afterwards, Caritas Europa **shares** with Church leaders, policy maker, donors and supporters **the network’s advocacy successes to raise visibility and to show the impact of our work** on the lives of the poor and marginalised. . This is to celebrate the structural changes we contributed to achieve and to learn from each other by using and building on achieved results as an argument for further advocacy actions.

» EXAMPLES OF COMMON ADVOCACY

AND COMMUNICATIONS METHODS





5

CONDITIONS
FOR SUCCESS

Advocating as a network poses peculiar challenges, but also awards specific benefits, as described below.

» BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ADVOCATING AS A UNITED NETWORK



- + HAVING A COMMON VOICE IS MORE POWERFUL
- + POSITIVE FOR LINKING WORK ON DIFFERENT LEVELS
- + HAVING A WIDER BASE REACHES A WIDER AUDIENCE
- + IMPLIES HAVING MORE RESOURCES, SKILLS AND EXPERTISE
- + CONTRIBUTES TO BUILDING CAPACITY OF WEAKER MEMBERS
- + FOSTERS CARITAS UNITY, SOLIDARITY



- COOPERATION CAN BE TIME-CONSUMING
- IT CAN SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT TO AGREE ON COMMON OBJECTIVES
- THERE'S A RISK THAT SOME MEMBER ORGANISATIONS MAY DOMINATE
- COMPROMISE MAY BE NEEDED
- IF WE DON'T SHARE A COMMON VOICE OR OBJECTIVE, OPPONENTS MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT OUR DIFFERENCES

A positive, outcome-oriented approach that brings hope to society can steer solution-oriented changes, especially because policy makers are not always certain of the best path forward. For this reason, it is important for Caritas Europa to develop concrete policy proposals or solutions for change that foster a participatory approach and that set the political agenda. Spreading promising practices from within Caritas Europa is encouraged.



CONDITIONS
FOR SUCCESS
SO CARITAS MEMBERS
CAN DO ADVOCACY

QUOTES FROM CARITAS ADVOCACY FORUM, MAY 2015

- We should focus on fewer issues but with in-depth work on them.
 - We should use Caritas' identity as an added value in our advocacy work/ actions, setting us apart from other pan-European networks.
 - We should strengthen our messaging through coordinated actions and communication, i.e. ensuring that every member knows of Caritas campaigns.
 - We need to consider that advocacy actions will help us in defending the poor, securing resources for our services, and coming out as a strong Network.
-

» END NOTES

1. *Evangelii Gaudium* 198.
 2. Speech of Cardinal Jorge María Bergoglio – later Pope Francis - to Caritas Argentina in 2009.
 3. *Deus Caritas Est* 31 a.
 4. *Populorum Progressio* 47.
 5. *Populorum Progressio* 14.
 6. *Evangelii Gaudium* 188.
 7. *Sollicitudo in Rei Socialis* 42.
 8. *Sollicitudo in Rei Socialis* 35.
 9. *Caritas in Veritate* 6-7.
 10. *Deus Caritas Est* 28 a.
 11. *Evangelii Gaudium* 188.
 12. *Evangelii Gaudium* 198.
 13. *Laudato Si* 179.
 14. *Gaudium et Spes* 26, *Laudato Si* 156-158.
 15. *Evangelii Gaudium* 183; *Sollicitudo in Rei Socialis* 41.
 16. *Laudato Si* 206, 214, 228.
 17. *Populorum Progressio* 47, *Evangelii Gaudium* 188, *Laudato Si*.
 18. “Partnership within the Caritas Confederation is an alliance that expresses solidarity among members of local Churches, recognises all women and men as part of one interdependent global community, and demonstrates a commitment to social justice and an overriding preferential option for the poor” (CI Partnership Principle).
 19. Cf. DCE 31b.
 20. Cf. *Evangelii Gaudium* 188: In this context we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: “You yourselves give them something to eat!” (Mk 6:37): This means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and promoting the integral development of the poor, as well as performing small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs we encounter.
 21. Cf. Caritas Partnership principles.
 22. The Open Society Institute, ‘An introductory Guide to successful advocacy’ (2010).
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For further information please consult <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>