



Outcome and Activity Report 2019

Introduction

It is with profound gratitude that I look back at the seven months of 2019, during which I had the privilege to be part of the Caritas Europa team. They were intense but very rich months, during which I had the opportunity to start building relations within the Caritas family, as well as with a number of partners and other stakeholders, such as Church actors, including the European Bishops' conferences COMECE and CCEE, European policymakers and public authorities, European FBOs and a number of other CSOs.



My experience has been that Caritas Europa is a well-respected part of European civil society, professional, genuine and trustworthy. I think that this is how external actors generally perceive us, and I hope that this is also the experience of the member organisations, and that we manage to support the network through our coordinated European action. It has been helpful for me to start my mandate by engaging in the Strategic Planning Process of Caritas Europa, which will shape our work in the years ahead. Listening to the feedback and expectations of the member organisations has been essential in understanding how Caritas Europa can remain relevant and of benefit for members.

Discovering the Caritas network has truly been a joy, and I wish to thank all the member organisations that I had the chance to visit for welcoming me so warmly and allowing me to discover the exceptional work that you are undertaking. I look forward to continuing to discover our vast and diverse network. Wherever I have been, I have always felt the same spirit – joyful, empowering, hopeful: faith in action.

In this report, you will read about some of the work that Caritas Europa has been undertaking in the fields of advocacy, humanitarian action and institutional development in the course of 2019, under the leadership of the unit Directors Shannon, Silvia and Marc and with the great support of the colleagues in the secretariat. It is a blessing to work with such a committed and good team and it has made my introduction into Caritas Europa a lot smoother. I also want to thank Msgr. Luc as President, the Executive Board members as well as the numerous members active in our working structures for their steering and friendship. The many positive achievements and events are the result of this mutual support and collective efforts.

There were, however, difficulties in 2019 as well. Most importantly, the severe safeguarding breach in Central African Republic touched the confederation at so many levels. It has been terribly hard to discover that Caritas has a long way to go yet before we are fully accountable, responsible and transparent, and before we can guarantee that everyone is safe within Caritas. This will require time and a change in culture, but also courage and confidence and reinforced commitment and authenticity towards the very beautiful - but also very fragile – mission that we have been entrusted. It is my hope that safeguarding becomes a cornerstone in our work for the future and I will be pleased to support this as far as possible through our European action.

When writing these words, we are in the midst of the Corona pandemic, which has an enormous impact on Europe and on the whole world, affecting immensely the people that Caritas serves. As for any crisis, it is the persons in the most vulnerable situations – people experiencing poverty, migrants, homeless people, people with disabilities, people facing humanitarian emergencies – who are the first victims and who have to face most severe consequences. We were entirely unaware of what 2020 would bring when carrying out the activities referred to in this report. However, whilst we are facing an unprecedented situation with numerous consequences for the months and years ahead, the experience I had during 2019 has been confirmed at an even deeper level – Caritas stands with the people in the most challenged situations, brings about change and brings hope.

My conviction after these first months is that Caritas is a wonderful and unique organisation, even if on a journey. Nothing that we went through this year has changed my views about that. It may be a very painful journey at moments, but I wish to believe that the risen Christ is walking next to us, showing us the way when at crossroads and inviting us to not be afraid to take the difficult paths in order to move forward.

Easter 2020



Maria Nyman
Secretary General
Caritas Europa

Advocacy

'The best antidotes to falsehoods are not strategies, but people: people who are not greedy but ready to listen, people who make the effort to engage in sincere dialogue so that the truth can emerge; people who are attracted by goodness and take responsibility for how they use language.'

Pope Francis from his message for the 52nd World Communications Day, 2018

Listen & understand

Thanks to our EU funded advocacy and campaigning projects, such as MIND (on migration and development), Share (on private sponsorship), and CARES (on social inclusion and poverty eradication), we enjoyed many opportunities to exchange and listen to our members to better understand the needs of the people we serve as well as the different national realities. This was also important for our Caritas organisations in fostering strategic partnerships with their national governments with respect to collectively advancing on our institutional advocacy (IA) strategy.

Already by the start of 2019, it was clear that the EU 2020 Strategy target to reduce the number of people in poverty or social exclusion by 20 million people by 2020 was far from achievable. Rather than decrease the numbers from 2010, the result was the opposite, with increased levels of poverty and social exclusion in Europe, despite also the ambitions of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Whilst these problems were and continue to be addressed by Caritas member organisations in diverse ways, ongoing challenges remained for the high number of people trapped in situations of poverty and marginalisation. On a positive note, positive developments emerged relative to the Work Life Balance Directive, the Child Guarantee and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The political environment on the subject of migrants and refugees remained tense in 2019, with most policy proposals and discussions focussed on security aspects, border control, externalisation of migration or on policies of deterrence and return. Nevertheless, the decrease in arrivals to Europe and the increased preoccupation in public opinion on climate change issues contributed to lessening attention in the media to be solely on migration as a 'problem or threat'. In addition, there continued to be acts of solidarity and support by citizens and NGOs throughout Europe, which provided an alternative, more positive narrative on migration and welcoming societies, which we build on via the MIND project and social media campaign. Unfortunately, this did not stop the criminalisation of acts of solidarity by certain Member States. In addition, terrible reception conditions along the Greek islands prevailed and negotiations on the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) remained blocked due to profound divergences among Member States on solidarity and responsibility sharing. Despite this tense context, Caritas Europa and its partners continued relentlessly to remind policymakers of their international human rights commitments and of the need to develop more humane policies taking into account safe and legal migration channels and fostering integration and social inclusion. On numerous occasions, we also managed to collaborate towards this end and towards other development-related topics with our Caritas partners in Africa.

In terms of events carried out with our members, we not only met to input into CE's next Strategic Framework, but we also collaborated at a meeting with CE international development directors; a training workshop on migration and development; a social economy (SE) training in Madrid on social impact measurement; a human centred economy workshop with eight members on how to learn from each other about strategic partnerships and to strengthen cooperation on social economy; we collaborated on the organisation of the fair care migration and mobility meeting in Berlin, together with Caritas Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland and

Ukraine to explore ways to bring the topic of fair care to the EU level; two IA study visits took place, one in Serbia and one in Athens with members of the Institutional Advocacy Action Group; the second MIND Network Synergy Meeting with the 12 Caritas MIND partners was in Ljubljana; together with Caritas Austria we co-led the project via the MIND Coordination Team and Steering Committee and accompanied MIND partners on a needs basis; together with Caritas France and French NGOs we participated in an observation mission on the French/Spanish border to monitor pushbacks and refoulement; we contributed to a Young Caritas Switzerland ‘migration’ workshop for young volunteers; and we collaborated closely with Caritas Germany ahead of the European Parliament (EP) elections and at the Caritas Congress in Berlin among other activities.

Accompany & act

2019 signified numerous changes in Caritas Europa’s approach to advocacy due to the European elections in May and the start of a new EP and a new European Commission (EC) in December. Even prior to the elections, we contributed to different political groups’ election manifestos and met with their different Secretaries General. We also became an official partner of the EP’s #thistimeimvoting campaign and created our own mini-website ahead of the EP elections to showcase the impact of EU legislation at the national level and on the lives of the people Caritas serves. Not only did we welcome relevant new Commissioners and EP committee chairs via targeted letters, but the flyer we produced and shared with the new MEPs was useful as an indication of our policy priorities and as introduction to our new Secretary General.

This eased the way forward in our advocacy and lobbying mandate. We carried out meetings together with colleagues from Caritas Niger and Caritas Belgium to discuss the role of migration in EU-Africa relations with particular reference to the case of Niger; we met, together with Caritas Ghana and Caritas Belgium, several institutional stakeholders to discuss migration and development, including DG DEVCO, the EEAS, and ICMPD; we met with EC Vice-President Margaritis Schinas to convey our message for more humane asylum and migration policies; we met with many different MEPs (from Renew Europe, Greens, EPP, S&D) and their Assistants; an institutional advocacy delegation met several stakeholders in Athens including the new Deputy Minister of Citizen’s Protection in charge of migration; we carried out lobbying meetings with members in Berlin in the realm of our rotating presidency activities; we organised a three-day lobbying visit for a CAFOD delegation from Bangladesh to address the exploitation of female domestic workers; among many other lobbying meetings.

We finalised and launched several publications, such as the Caritas Cares! European Poverty report on access to services and minimum income, along with 16 national reports; the European Common Home publication along with 11 national Common Home studies; the SHARE publication on community sponsorship (including translation into French and layout) in collaboration with ICMC; the Social Economy Handbook, with translations in a number of languages; the Institutional Advocacy Study with translation in Italian, German, Croatian, Russian and Romanian; and the publication “The role of migrants employed in the social care sector in European countries” with Social Services Europe.

In terms of advocacy events, we finalised and published a position paper (in FR and EN), outlining our vision and recommendations on the future EU-ACP partnership and disseminated it during an European Parliament event, entitled: ‘Towards a new EU-ACP partnership: an opportunity to deliver on Agenda 2030’; together with Caritas Belgium we hosted a lab debate during the European Development Days; together with Caritas Finland we attended the Beyond Growth

Conference in Helsinki and disseminated a blog; we organised a human-centred economy event in collaboration with the European Venture Philanthropy Association on “Strategic partnership towards job creation”; we launched our Common Home publication in the EP and supported our partners to also carry out 11 national Common Home study launches; we supported two of our members in their national Poverty report launches, among other events.

Our second year #whatishome social media MIND campaign on ‘language’ was successfully launched on World Refugee Day, along with a public light projection against the European Parliament building to support volunteers facing trial for helping migrants. We also published topical interviews by a researcher at the Migration Policy Institute and the founder of the African Diaspora Network Europe and gained support from the Commissioner for Employment & Social Affairs, DG Employment and EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

In collaboration with our members, we participated in numerous European consultations. Building on this, we also participated in numerous European Commission (EC) strategic dialogues, for instance, on the EC Winter Package (EU semester) to prepare the 2019 Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth; the ESF Transnational Platform Conference to contribute to FEAD network on reducing child poverty; European Migration Forum; and the first Global Refugee Forum.

We issued numerous CE statements/positions, such as on the importance of development cooperation (ODA) and the Pillar of Social Rights to help the EPP group find compromise and to be included in their EP election manifesto; on the criminalisation of solidarity; a press release and statement on fair care migration and mobility; [an article on world trafficking day](#); on Human Rights Day; on Post-Cotonou; and we sent advocacy letters to different policymakers, such as on ODA and the NDICI and on the Multiannual Financial Framework. In addition, we issued many joint statements, such as on disembarkation; reform of the return directive; ongoing negotiation of the Asylum and Migration Fund; the Africa-Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation; the Work-Life Balance Directive; recommendations to strengthen social economy and social innovation in Europe; on AMIF (with UNHCR and IOM among others); on criminalisation of solidarity; on resettlement and complementary pathways ahead of the Global Forum on Refugees in Geneva; and on social economy ahead of the EP elections, among others.

We continued our advocacy towards the Council of Europe (CoE): participating in the concluding meeting of CDDH-SOC (CoE) on behalf of the Holy See; in the spring session of the Conference of INGOs of the CoE and led the work of the Conference on the European Social Charter; in the conference on social rights, organised by the French presidency of the CoE; in the Conference on INGOs of the CoE event on the occasion of World Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which drew the attention of the need to fight child and family poverty; contributing to the seventh CoE Dialogue meeting with Roma and Travellers CSO; at the Conference of INGOs at the Governmental Committee for the ESC of the CoE; and providing input to the CoE Expert Council on NGO Law created by the Conference of INGOs on the criminalisation of solidarity towards migrants.

We were recognised for our expertise and regularly gave speeches. We also drafted dozens of press statements/releases and were picked up regularly in both mainstream and specialised media.

Lastly, we remained active in our numerous strategic partnerships, such as on the Management Committee of the Social Platform, the Board of VOICE and Social Services Europa, as members

of CONCORD, ECRE, ERSO, the Christian group on migration, the Child Alliance, Social Services Europe, SDG Watch Europe, in different commissions of COMECE, as well as in informal partnerships with the faith-based organisations working on development, in the Resoma and Crossmigration projects, with UNHCR and other key players.

Humanitarian Action

Peace to this our Earth! Made the risen Jesus bring comfort to the victims of natural disasters and make us responsible guardians of creation.

May the risen Lord, the conqueror of sin and death, be a support to you all, especially to the weakest and neediest. May the risen Christ guide all of you and the whole of humanity on the paths of justice, love and peace.'

From the Urbi et Orbi message of Pope Francis, Easter 2013

Listen & understand

Humanitarian needs kept steadily rising during 2019. The annual UN report on humanitarian needs confirmed that in 2019 nearly 135 million people were globally in need of humanitarian assistance¹, mainly because of conflicts, but more and more also due to natural disasters. The war in Syria has now entered its ninth year of fighting and its dire consequences on the vulnerable civil population are clearly visible even to those who do not want to see. Similarly, the conflict in [the eastern part of Ukraine](#) has silently entered its sixth year, leaving in need of assistance more than 3 million people in the Donbass area and having generated many more IDPs who have now moved to the western part of the country. The average duration of conflict is increasing worldwide with long lasting effects for the vulnerable populations in the affected areas.

Also, natural disasters hit European regions more and more regularly: in 2019, earthquakes happened in Turkey, Greece and, in a stronger and repeated way, different areas of Albania. After a long, too hot and dry summer, small floods occurred in Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina. Maybe too small to be even considered emergencies, yet, leaving families and communities without the food they were patiently growing.

The situation of migrants and refugees on the Greek islands (and mainland) and along the Balkan route, not to mention in the Mediterranean Sea and Libya, is, once again, appalling. Caritas is steadily supporting, merging efforts at different levels and trying to give back some dignity and hope, also when the political and legal environments are discouraging.

In such a framework, Caritas Europa and its member organisations invested in several key areas of humanitarian action. Disaster preparedness is key. When responding, accurate monitoring, evaluation and accountability plans must be developed and implemented; safeguarding and protection must be prioritised to support the weakest in each supported community and to 'do no harm'. Communication has a special role in giving voice to those who are otherwise not visible nor heard, either because living in refugee camps, in temporary shelters next to their destroyed houses, in hard-to-reach conflict areas or, simply, because fleeing and hiding from prosecution or hunger.

In 2019, Caritas Europa made several efforts to cover all of the above. We strived to be in constant dialogue with the concerned member organisations, to build alliances with other organisations sharing the same purpose and values and to act in communion with the global Caritas Internationalis confederation and its operating structures.

¹ UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview, 2019

Accompany & act

In support to the framework described above, Caritas Europa Humanitarian Unit completed the implementation of its first Humanitarian Action Learning Path. Thirteen participants from national European Caritas successfully completed the whole training. In 2019, the two three-day modules focused on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) as well as safeguarding and protection mainstreaming.

As part of the EU-funded project on Aid Volunteering, CE co-organised or took part in trainings about disaster preparedness, volunteer management and ethics in communication, among others. Moreover, the TEACH² project allowed to organise peer exchange visits among partners, precious tools to learn from each other and share best practices on policies and practices. The positive evaluation of the TEACH project led to the successful submission of its spin-off project, focusing on capacity building and capacity strengthening actions with Caritas partners from south-eastern and eastern Europe.

When it comes to response, Caritas Europa accompanied Caritas Albania and Caritas Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH) during the emergencies they experienced throughout the year. Caritas BiH upscaled its efforts to improve the living conditions of thousands of migrants and refugees stuck in camps at the border with Croatia, as well as in different structures around the country. Similarly, Caritas Albania experienced a stable flow of migrants crossing the country and, on top of that, the country was severely hit by the disastrous earthquake of November 2019. Three projects were submitted through the CE Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM).

In 2019, Caritas Europa has continued its coordination of Caritas project proposals to ECHO. This was crucial to avoid overlapping or competing submissions and to truly act as a Caritas 'family'. In alignment to this, Caritas is now represented in the board of VOICE, the European network of humanitarian CSOs. The fruitful dialogue built with the European agency was hampered by the serious case of the safeguarding breach in the Central African Republic. Its follow up imposed a serious and important work to restore the broken trust between ECHO and Caritas.

On humanitarian advocacy, Caritas strengthened its dialogue with other faith-based organisations. Two meetings were organised during the year, aiming at sharing practices and challenges, in particular about the crucial role of local actors in humanitarian response and how to best promote it. The increased average duration of humanitarian crises as well as the interlink between poverty and emergencies require a deeper attention on the humanitarian-development nexus, to be further explored in 2020 in coordination with the CI humanitarian policy task force.

Caritas participated in two important international conferences hosted in Brussels: in spring 2019 a joint statement with Caritas MONA was published ahead of the international pledging conference for Syria, while in autumn 2019 an important Caritas delegation was invited to the international conference for Venezuela. The latter was co-hosted by the European External Action Service (EEAS), IOM and UNHCR. In both cases, the participatory approach involving different Caritas regions was key for a meaningful participation. Other side actions on advocacy about specific crises were implemented upon request of member organisations.

² TEACH (Technical Assistance for European Caritas organizations in Humanitarian Aid) project is funded under EU Aid Volunteer initiative. Caritas Austria is the lead applicant of the project, Caritas Europa is a partner organization together with Trócaire, CAFOD, Caritas Czech Republic and Caritas Romania. The project last 24 months, until 31/01/2020.

Strengthening the Network

"If everything is related, then the health of the society's institutions has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life... In this sense, social ecology is necessarily institutional, and gradually extends to the whole of society, from the primary social group, the family, to the wider local, national and international communities."

Laudato Si, 142

Listen & understand

74 participants from 26 member organisations (MOs) of the CE network met in Ghent, Belgium, in March 2019 for the Consultative Forum.

The Consultative Forum offered the opportunity to the members of the seven Action Groups of Caritas Europa to meet, to evaluate their work of the past four years and to have strategic discussions with other working structures. In addition, the newly established Young Caritas Task Force participated in the Forum.

The Forum began with an overview of the three strategic functions presented by representatives from the MOs, followed by separate meetings of the Action Groups. During the meetings, each Action Group conducted an exercise to establish two main achievements so far and four remaining challenges. Each Action Group made a presentation on this reflection to the plenary.

Inspired by the challenges established, a space was created for the Action Groups to interact, cooperate and find synergies in their respective activities.

The Consultative Forum ended with the presentation of collaborative inter-Action Group proposals to improve synergetic strategic work. The Consultative Forum contributed to evaluating the goals of the Strategic Framework 2016-2020 and to a first reflection on ideas for 2021-2028.

The Grassroots Participation handbook 'Small Steps, Big Differences' developed in 2018 was launched during the Consultative Forum.

Accompany & act

The Communion and Participation Action Group and the Caritas secretariat developed together a curriculum for the Grassroots Participation Learning Path. The curriculum was based on the Grassroots Participation handbook and took into account the lessons learned from other learning paths.

Two new elements were introduced in the Grassroots Participation Learning Path:

- a tandem participation from each member organisation, to bridge the gap between the national office and the local/grassroots actors, as well with the objective to improve the transmission of the acquired knowledge and skills in the participating member organisation;
- the participants propose concrete grassroots projects, which they will be implementing during the two-year term of the Grassroots Participation Learning Path.

16 people from 8 MOs participated in Module 1 of the Grassroots Participation Learning Path during the Autumn Academy in Milan.

The participants learned how to:

- conceptualise an idea and how to transform it into a realistic plan;
- identify the stages of the implementation of the plan;
- involve people at the local level and allow full participation;
- identify and use various participation methods during different stages of the project;
- assess concrete needs, capacities and challenges during each stage;
- evaluate and reassess the progress of project implementation.

The participants, after the workshop in Milan, apply the participation methodology in their concrete projects within their organisations and local context.

The learning path is facilitated by an external and internal (from the CE secretariat) facilitator. All materials, tools, presentations and progress in projects are collected on Baobab throughout the implementation of the Learning Path.

The Young Caritas Task Force (YC TF), created in December 2018, met for the first time in Ghent (Belgium) in March and had a second physical meeting in Zagreb in November 2019. The YC TF developed a work plan for 2019-2020 in line with the Youth Engagement Strategy and with the objective to increase youth engagement and visibility in the CE network. A questionnaire collected good practices on young volunteerism from MO's and asked how CE could support them in increasing youth engagement.

A Youth Reference Network was created and includes the contacts of staff from every MOs who work with youth and on projects concerning youth. CE sends out a newsletter every month to keep youth coordinators in the network informed about opportunities for young people to engage.

CE also participated in the Youth Forum of Caritas Internationalis, back to back with the CE Regional Conference and CI General Assembly in May 2019 in Rome and had a booth in which youth projects and actions from all over Europe were presented.

A Youth Engagement Officer, Agnieszka Zarzynska, started to work in the CE secretariat in September 2019. She has already supported the strengthening of the work on youth engagement within Caritas Europa and is building alliances and relations with external stakeholders.

Youth engagement is recognised now as an important topic in almost all MOs in the CE network. Youth visibility is increased, and new MOs are expressing the need to engage young people more in their everyday work and decision-making.

The CE Theological Advisory group met in February and contributes to the CST competence in various learning paths, relevant statements and publications, activities and processes that took place in 2019. Theologians contributed to the design and development of the 'Faith and Action' platform, which promotes and encourages exchange between praxis and theological discourse on Catholic Social Thought.

In October, a CST session took place in the CE secretariat with Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Agius (University of Malta/ EGE) on Artificial intelligence, robotics, learning machines and the future of work.

The CST officer of Caritas Europa participated in the Training of Trainers Training organised by Caritas Internationalis in Bangkok on Caritas Identity and Serving out of Love.

Caritas Europa's Spring Academy took place in Lisbon in April. Three learning paths were implemented with 47 people from 21 MOs participating. Prof Johan Verstraeten (Theologian) gave a keynote presentation in the opening session on 'Catholic Social Thought and Transformative Action: An Inspiring Framework for Caritas'. The Organisational Development Learning Path had its final workshop. The Advocacy Learning Path had the second module and the Humanitarian Learning Path the third module in Lisbon.

Caritas Europa's Autumn Academy was in Milan in November, with the participation of 49 people from 26 MOs. Andrew Azzopardi (CI Safeguarding Officer) gave a keynote presentation in the opening session on 'Safeguarding and Integrity at Caritas Internationalis'. The Advocacy Learning Path had its third module. The Humanitarian Learning Path had the fourth and final module and the Grassroots Participation Learning Path started in the Autumn Academy in Milan.

Both Caritas Portugal in Lisbon as Caritas Ambrosiana in Milan were very supportive in organising the two Caritas Academies in their towns, with the participation of the leadership and church representatives in the opening sessions, offering cases and speakers to the learning paths, organising visits to institutions and projects, and organising joint dinners for all.

The Caritas Academy concept is well received by the network. Participants get the opportunity to, twice a year, learn with and from each other at the European level about important areas of work, whereby developing networking, peer-to-peer and inter-MO relations that remain solid sources for cooperation also after the learning paths.

The Organisational Development Solidarity System (ODSS) workshop took place in June in Vienna with the participation of 29 people from 25 MOs. The ODSS Task Force met after the workshop to agree on the next steps in the application/evaluation and allocation process.

The ODSS Task Force met a second time in Madrid in October in order to discuss the evaluations, and to allocate € 313.500 to the OD plans of applicants for the 2020 budget. In total 17 MO are supported with the Solidarity System of Caritas Europa.

The Organisational Development Action Group developed a matrix with all capacity-building tools used in Caritas Europa with a definition and short description. The matrix has learning paths, workshops, fora, study visits, e-learning and webinars as tools used in Caritas Europa for capacity building purposes.

The Executive Leadership Task Force met in Frankfurt in May and handed over the Executive Leadership Programme (ELP) concept to a new group mandated by the Executive Board of CE. The ExBo discussed the ELP concept in its June meeting.

A meeting of new Directors/Presidents took place in December in Brussels. The participants became familiar with the work of the Caritas network, with the diversity in the network, the CE Strategic Framework 2020 and the policy and advocacy work towards the European Institutions. Eight new directors/presidents of CE MOs participated in the induction meeting.

CE secretariat staff accompanied its member organisations by carrying out 12 MO visits in nine countries in order to better understand the challenges they face and discuss solutions together. The following accompaniment visits were carried out in 2019: Finland, France, Norway, Albania, Greece, Turkey, North Macedonia, Austria and the Netherlands.

EU funding alerts were sent monthly to around 200 staff of member organisations. CE also serves as contact point for members in their research for network partners to write joint applications.

CE organised a Fundraising Workshop for the MOs in October 2019. 29 participants from all over the network participated, sharing their expertise. Through the monthly EU funding alerts, the daily support, the calls for partners and workshops, MOs have enhanced their knowledge on EU funding calls, strengthened their partnerships, received support by CE in writing quality project proposals, and applied to EU funding and diversified their funding sources to ensure economic sustainability.

The Knowledge Management Task Force (KM TF) met twice in 2019 and monthly via Skype meetings. The KM TF developed a KM assessment tool, prepared the 2019 KM workshop, and agreed on the next steps and roles for the development of the online KM handbook.

The Knowledge Management (KM) workshop took place in September in Vienna with the participation of 24 people from 18 member organisations. This workshop focussed on people centred areas of KM: turn-over, efficient meetings, learning from experience and working as communities of practice. Participants had the opportunity to start planning for the KM Steps they want to take in their organisations.

In 2019, the Caritas Europa mapping platform kept growing. The mapping now holds information on 411 activities. A dialogue with Caritas Internationalis was set-up in order to expand the mapping tool to the global network. Caritas Internationalis has started to develop the mapping platform based on the CE mapping tool. Once it is ready, we will transfer the contents of the CE mapping to the CI mapping platform, which will be embedded in Baobab. CE will keep promoting the tool in the European region as an important element of its knowledge management approach and to underpin the policy work.

Does the social apostolate exist to solve problems? Yes, but above all to promote processes and to encourage hope. Processes that help people and communities to grow, that lead to awareness of their rights, to deploy their skills and to create their own future.

Open the future, inspire possibilities, generate alternatives, help to think and act differently. Take care of your daily relationship with the risen and glorious Christ, and be workers of charity and sowers of hope.'

Address of Pope Francis 7th of November 2019

