

Addressing hate by creating spaces of encounter and fostering communities

Promoting smart and humane
migration across the
Mediterranean

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Caritas sees a need and responds

- ✦ humanitarian aid interventions
- ✦ development aid and projects
- ✦ legal channels for migration:
humanitarian visas, community sponsorship, family reunification, etc.
- ✦ creating welcoming spaces of encounter fostering integration



From the lens of Pope Francis - a loving role model

- ✦ 4 verbs: welcome, protect, promote, integrate
- ✦ “all people of goodwill... to commit to building a more and more welcoming and inclusive society”






Caritas vision of an inclusive Europe

- ✿ A welcoming environment with equality, human dignity and respect
- ✿ All are enabled and encouraged to participate in their community and their contributions to social and cultural life are acknowledged and valued.
- ✿ It takes a community to welcome a newcomer.





“Welcome. Migrants make Europe stronger” publication

-  presents 3 categories of integration barriers: cultural, structural and socio-economic
-  presents Caritas Europa’s vision of Europe
-  presents promising practices for overcoming the 3 types of barriers



“Share the Journey”

Caritas’ global campaign

- ✦ advocate for rights of migrants and refugees and for right to a diverse and peaceful society
- ✦ rights concretised in 2 UN Global Compacts (on migration and on refugees)
- ✦ Pope Francis launched campaign in Rome in September, actions ongoing



“Welcoming Societies” online toolkit

- ✦ focuses on addressing cultural barriers via spaces of “encounter”
- ✦ encounter evokes dialogue, bridges, solidarity, fraternity and charity
- ✦ “culture of encounter” used in sphere of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue



Spaces of encounter

- ✦ diplomacy of encounter toward deeper mutual knowledge and mutual respect, of dialogue to resolve conflicts, of dialogue to promote unity and fight exclusion
- ✦ key for promoting peaceful, inclusive societies for integral human development



MIGRAMED meeting

- ✦ Caritas colleagues throughout Europe and the MONA region
- ✦ in Jordan sharing experiences about migration from different perspectives, strategizing solutions and potential projects
- ✦ takes place annually, organised by Caritas Italiana



MIND project

- ✦ DG Devco-funded project on migration and development (M&D)
- ✦ 3 year advocacy and campaigning actions
- ✦ to raise awareness in Europe of the M&D interlink and change the negative rhetoric and lack of true understanding about M&D



Caritas' recommendations to policy makers

- ✿ Work with communities to change thinking and contribute to a positive, constructive narrative about migrants. Recognize their many contributions and publish statistics and facts about these.
- ✿ Create spaces of encounter, fostering dialogue and exchanges between migrants and European communities.
- ✿ Support festivals, classes, etc. that educate the majority about migrants, their cultures, language, histories, etc. Remove the fear factor of the unknown by getting to know migrants on a personal basis.



Caritas' recommendations to policy makers

- ✿ Recognize Europe's cultural and historical past and explore how "native" cultures are already hybrid. Migrants do not make culture "impure," because culture is never "pure" or "static".
- ✿ Accept that migration is a natural part of our history. It is not something that can realistically be stopped or rolled back. Instead of fearing it, let's manage it as a natural phenomenon and treat migrants as human beings!
- ✿ Find innovative ways to empower migrants and foster their participation in society.



Caritas' recommendations to policy makers

- ✿ Increase human rights oversight for external dimensions of asylum and migration policies. Ensure external surveillance/immigration staff have human rights training.
- ✿ Apply a more harmonized asylum policy, responsibility sharing, solidarity between countries.
- ✿ Curb the strict security approach taken at borders. Preventing migrants' entry to Europe and isolating them as a border/security/justice issue guarantees a narrow approach – the opposite of welcoming - that discourages real integration.



Caritas' recommendations to policy makers

- ✿ Implement national integration strategies aimed at creating welcoming attitudes in receiving societies, in cooperation with key stakeholders, including migrants and CSOs.
- ✿ Find solutions that avoid competition over economic resources and don't restricting budget lines for one population group over another (migrants versus poor residents).
- ✿ Guarantee access to basic services for everyone, including migrants.



Caritas' recommendations to policy makers

- ✿ Review coherence of migration/integration policies: ex. allowing children to stay, but expelling the parents or not allowing the parents to work, of course reconciling policies in favor of migrant rights.
- ✿ Work with journalists about bias/stereotypes and clear up misconceptions and inaccurate practices, such as the use of blanket terms (i.e. calling all migrants asylum seekers, criminals, etc.).
- ✿ Mainstream migrants and their needs into different policy areas and foster their participation in political processes.