

[Cáritas Diocesana de Coimbra](#) is a social non-profit organization that supports people and communities in five districts of the Central Region of Portugal. It aims at promoting dignity and develops its main activity in the following areas: social, health, education and pastoral care.

Cáritas Coimbra has 90 centres (with 149 different responses) in the region, supporting approximately 25000 people/year. For this purpose Caritas Coimbra has about 1000 employees and 150 volunteers.

Intervention areas: Education; Health; Social Support; Family and Community; Children and Youth at Risk; Elderly; HIV/AIDS; Addiction; Homelessness; Community Intervention; Training; Summer camps and Social Tourism.

OLDER PERSONS: Cáritas Coimbra develops work connected to support senior citizens for several decades, with 13 day care centres, 18 home care services, 5 nursing homes, 1 chronic disability / impairment home, 2 long term care units, 1 medical and rehabilitation clinic and 1 summer camp for senior citizens – overall Cáritas supports about 3500 elderly in these services.

Currently, the organisation is actively involved in many regional projects with local universities and schools, with dozens of internships every year. It is a member of [Ageing@Coimbra](#) (EIP-AHA reference site); a partner in [GrowMeUp](#), an UE funded project under H2020 that aims at providing a robot that can assist elderly people at home with their daily activities (2015/2018). It has participated in several pilots with technologies for the elderly population (TICE.HEALTHY, PrimerCog, CaMeLi, etc.). A special focus of Cáritas Coimbra relates with frail elderly suffering from cognitive deficit or at risk of social exclusion.

Cáritas Coimbra is a founding member of the [European Covenant on Demographic Change](#), an organisation that aims to gather local, regional and national authorities as well as other stakeholders in order to cooperate and implement evidence-based solutions to support active and healthy ageing - Carina Dantas is Vice-President. She is also Main Coordinator of the Collaborative Work "Connect and leverage local and regional age-friendly environments" – group D4 – of the [European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing](#).

Cáritas Coimbra is also a member of the UE [Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition](#), [ECHAlliance](#), [RIS3 Centro](#) - smart specialization strategy and of the Organising Committee of the AAL Forum 2018.

With the belief that social sector must also be actively involved in research and scaling-up, we produce documents and articles on a regular basis (e.g. [Verification Methodology of Ethical Compliance for Users, Researchers and Developers of Personal Care Robots](#)) and participate as speaker in many national and international events, e.g. [AAL Forum 2017](#) (Coimbra), [Neighbourhoods of the Future - Informing the creation of a European Reference Framework for Age-friendly Housing](#) (Brussels); [2016 European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing](#) (Brussels); [Age-Friendly Environments](#) (Dublin); [Facing the challenge of an ageing population](#) (Naples); [Building the Future of Health](#) (Groningen) as well as tv programmes e.g. [Futuris](#) – Euronews or [Refugees Crisis](#) – RTP2.



SOCIAL INCLUSION: Caritas Coimbra develops work connected to the support of disadvantaged people for several decades, with 1 social support centre, 1 social integration income program, 2 social canteens; 1 therapeutic community, 1 day care centre, 2 street teams and a social rehabilitation apartment for people with drug abuse problems, 1 support centre for people with HIV, 1 temporary accommodation centre for homeless people, 2 community centres, 1 reintegration community for women (with or without children). Overall, in this area alone, Caritas Coimbra supports about 6000 / 7000 people each year.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Caritas Coimbra promotes education and support to children and youngsters since the 1970's, with 5 day care centres, 3 kindergarten; 48 leisure activities centres; 1 youth care home, 1 children at risk care home, 1 youth summer camp; 1 team for drugs and sexuality prevention and 25 cross-curricular enrichment activities, involving overall near 11.000 people each year.