



**INNOVATION
FESTIVAL
2025**



CATALOGUE 2025

**CARITAS EUROPA INNOVATION FESTIVAL
LANDMARK 5TH EDITION**

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“Innovative approaches will be essential in all areas of our work to enable the Caritas Europa network to fulfil its mission in the years ahead. Innovation is about being efficient and ensuring sustainability for us as a network, but first and foremost, about finding sustainable solutions for the people we serve.”

Caritas Europa Strategic Framework 2021–2028

THE MISSION OF THE FESTIVAL

Caritas Europa’s 2021 launch of the Innovation Festival marked a strategic move towards fostering innovation across our network. From its inception, the festival radiates with a collaborative and celebratory spirit. It is the mission of the festival to demystify the perception of innovation as something unattainable, high-threshold and high-tech. This has been achieved through mapping and highlighting existing innovation within Caritas Europa – celebrating ourselves and each other as innovators.



5TH LANDMARK EDITION OF THE CARITAS EUROPA INNOVATION FESTIVAL

Since its inception in 2021, the Caritas Europa Innovation Festival has cultivated a thriving innovation ecosystem within its network, becoming an annual tradition for many Caritas organisations across Europe. This landmark **5th edition** will be celebrated with a dynamic twofold approach: in the lead-up to the festival, **pop-up events** will take place in Austria, Belgium (Caritas Europa Secretariat), Germany, Moldova, Scotland, and Ukraine, highlighting local innovation and collaboration.

The festival programme itself will spotlight not only this year's **nine laureate projects**, but also a rich tapestry of **applicant and laureate projects from previous festival generations**, tracing their unique innovation journeys and impact. This special edition underscores the enduring spirit of innovation and community at the heart of Caritas Europa, as we celebrate our collective achievements and look ahead to shaping the future.

CEIF 2025 X YOUNGCARITAS

The festival team is happy to announce that the festival is once again hosted in collaboration with YoungCaritas. Therefore, in this catalogue, you can explore the latest innovative projects of the Caritas Europa network that focus on youth engagement, youth-led initiatives and youth empowerment.

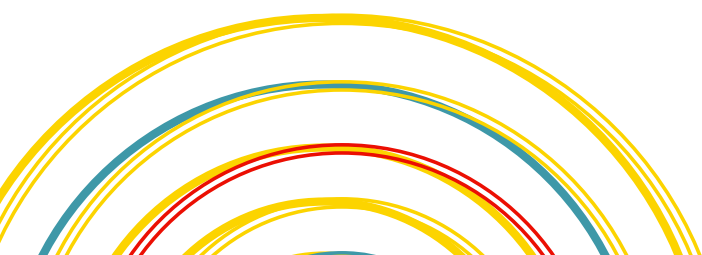
SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Each year, the festival acknowledges outstanding achievements in ecological sustainability, climate adaptation, or climate justice through the prestigious Caritas Europa Sustainability Award. Accompanied by a monetary prize, equivalent to the costs for offsetting the Caritas Europa annual carbon footprint, this award serves a dual purpose. It supports the financial longevity of the awarded initiative, while prompting Caritas Europa to adopt mindful, eco-conscious practices in its operations.

FESTIVAL TROPHY

For the past three years, the Caritas Europa Innovation Festival trophy has been a collaborative effort between Fabio Spink, a Vienna-based designer and carpenter, PreWork—a Caritas Vienna workshop supporting underprivileged youth—and Caritas Europa. This year's trophies are crafted from sustainably sourced ash wood provided by Stadtholz, an initiative repurposing trees from Vienna's public spaces, and handmade by PreWork's young carpenters, celebrating innovation and social impact.

Credit: Fabio Spink 2024



WHAT'S IN IT FOR PROJECT OWNERS?

Caritas Europa Innovation Festival presents a unique opportunity for Caritas employees across countries, roles and impact areas to showcase their innovative projects within the larger network and receive support and recognition. The CEIF timeline is filled with opportunities to connect, go deeper with your work and receive feedback and support:

Application Phase:

you submit your project and share with us what makes your project innovative, as well as details about the problem-solution fit and your impact. A jury formed by Caritas Innovation leaders from different countries evaluate all the applications and select the CEIF Laureates.

Training Phase:

the selected CEIF Laureates receive training on public speaking, presentation and pitching skills, and prepare their presentations for the CEIF event.

Caritas Europa Innovation Festival:

the larger Caritas network gathers for a half-a-day virtual event where in a festival atmosphere, we celebrate and learn from all the selected projects and distinguished guests. .

Deep Dives:

after the festival, CEIF laureates get the opportunity to develop and grow their innovative projects during an in-person Deep Dive week featuring 1:1 training and group workshops with innovation managers from within Caritas Europa and beyond.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE AUDIENCE?

Attending the Caritas Europa Innovation Festival can give you a powerful dose of inspiration, new ideas and a sense of connection. Through this half-day virtual event you get a chance to:

Connect

with incredible innovators from Caritas and beyond, and get inspired by their work and vision; Explore ideas that you can replicate or scale in your own context and bring innovation closer to home;

Exchange

with like-minded people and become a part of the larger Caritas Europa community of people looking to innovate and multiply the impact of their work at Caritas;

Expand

your Caritas network beyond local realities and rejoice in this intercultural celebration.



GREEN HORIZONS: CLIMATE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS



PROMOTION OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND HEALTH THROUGH THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN MARGINALISED HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NORTH OF ARMENIA

Contributing to the improvement of the economic, social, health and environmental situation in the Shirak region, Armenia.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS ARMENIA

COUNTRY: ARMENIA

START: JUNE 2021

THE TEAM

ARMEN MARTIROSYAN, INNA MAGHAKYAN, SOS MAKTSYAN, MERI MINASYAN, GEVORG TOVMASYAN, ARMEN NALBANDYAN

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

Armenia faces poverty, deforestation, energy dependence, and indoor pollution. Rural areas lack modern heating, leading to environmental and health challenges.

TARGET GROUP

355 households (1,900+ people), 4 buildings, 1,000 children, and 100 adults benefit via solar systems, education, and training, addressing economic, energy, and environmental issues.

SOLUTION

Solar energy systems reduce CO₂, cut energy costs, and improve health. Education empowers sustainable practices, ensuring economic and environmental resilience.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Combines solar tech with education, offering economic relief and energy independence. Integrates sustainable training modules into technical colleges for broader impact.



COMMUNITY MANAGED SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM (CMLRP) II

Climate resilient initiatives for the vulnerable indigenous and marginalised communities in Sundarban mangrove forest and Bay of Bengal of Bangladesh.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS BANGLADESH

COUNTRY: BANGLADESH

START: JULY 2023

THE TEAM

DAUD JIBON DAS, CAMILLUS KAMOL GANDHAI, SANJIB MONDAL, STIPHAN TRIPURA, SANTANU ROY, HORI DAS, SAGORICA SINGH, DEBROTA MONDAL

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses climate change and related loss & damage as well as salinity, food insecurity, and health risks for vulnerable communities in five disaster-prone districts of Bangladesh.

TARGET GROUP

25,000 marginalised individuals, indigenous people, and women in climate-vulnerable areas, focusing on adaptive agriculture, health awareness, and sustainable livelihoods.

SOLUTION

The project promotes biodiversity conservation, adaptive farming, pit irrigation, homestead gardening, and youth-led awareness programs to improve resilience and sustainable resource use.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The innovative pit irrigation system conserves rainwater in salinity-prone areas, enabling multi-crop farming, reducing migration, and ensuring water availability for drinking and irrigation.



NICE – NEW WAYS TO INCLUSION THROUGH CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Making circular economy inclusive.

ORGANISATION:

LANDES-CARITASVERBAND BAYERN

COUNTRY: GERMANY, SPAIN, BULGARIA, SLOVAKIA, ITALY

START: FEBRUARY 2022



THE TEAM

ULRIKE ACHMANN, CATERINA CORRIAS, ASYA ATANASOVA RAFAELOVA, GEMMA LASITA, JANA URBANOVA, LUCIA LSKOVA, MICHAELA ALBERTER, OLGA STOYANOVA, TEODORA KALEYNSKA, ZHANA ZAGOROVA

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

Tackles climate change and social exclusion by promoting circular economy practices and inclusivity in social businesses to attract mainstream society and fight stigmatization.

TARGET GROUP

Circular economy pioneers (repair cafes, food savers, etc.), marginalised despite leading reuse and repair efforts before it gained popularity.

SOLUTION

Supports businesses through training, inclusive marketing, store design, NICE ambassador programs, creative workshops, and awareness-raising materials.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovatively combines inclusion with circular economy, modernising social businesses to attract diverse audiences and increase service-user inclusivity.



NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW GENERATIONS FOR FOREST PROTECTION AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING IN YANOMAMI LAND

Promoting the exchange of new strategies and technologies with the next generation to tackle illegal mining and deforestation in Yanomami Indigenous Territory.

ORGANISATION: CAFOD (CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT), HAY (HUTUKARA YANOMAMI ASSOCIATION), ISA (SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE)

COUNTRY: YANOMAMI INDIGENOUS TERRITORY, RORAIMA STATE, BRAZIL

START: MAY 2023

LAUREATE

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses illegal mining, environmental destruction, and its social impacts on indigenous communities, including youth co-optation, violence, and biodiversity loss.

TARGET GROUP

Direct beneficiaries include 10 young indigenous leaders in TIY, who are trained to protect their lands, with secondary benefits for 3,000+ people in Catrimani and Demini regions.

SOLUTION

The project equips young indigenous leaders with drone technology for land monitoring, enabling data collection for advocacy and reducing illegal mining impacts.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovation lies in empowering indigenous youth as land defenders using advanced technology like drones, ensuring community-led, sustainable monitoring solutions.



INNOVATION FOR PEOPLE REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT, PROTECTING FORESTS AND IMPROVING LIVES OF RURAL COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Empowering women & communities in DR Congo with eco-stoves, agroforestry, and sustainable farming to fight inequality.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS OÖ – INTERNATIONALE HILFE

COUNTRY: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO / PROVINCE KONGO-CENTRAL, LUOZI

START: JANUARY 2022

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses climate change and gender inequality in agriculture by empowering female farmers, promoting sustainable practices, and reducing deforestation, benefiting vulnerable households.

TARGET GROUP

Vulnerable households, female farmers, cooperatives, students, and local leaders in Luozi, DR Congo. They face poor living conditions, low incomes, and limited access to resources.

SOLUTION

Locally produced energy-saving stoves reduce firewood use, improve health, save time, and lower emissions. Agroforestry and eco-friendly farming boost income, reduce deforestation, and improve food security.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovative aspects include plant-based charcoal and energy-saving stoves, reusing crop waste, creating local jobs, and promoting integrated agriculture like agroforestry with beekeeping for sustainable solutions.



CARITAS LAUDATO SI

Caritas Laudato si is a network of Communities of Care – local communities with integral ecology activities that aim to counter loneliness and social exclusion by combating overconsumption.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS POLAND

COUNTRY: POLAND

START: SEPTEMBER 2023

THE TEAM

MARCIN KAWKO, IWONA ŁOBASIUK, ANDRZEJ BIDERMAN, ELŻBIETA STEFANIAK, IRENEUSZ KRAUSE, KAMIL MAĆKÓW, RAFAŁ KRENZ, MARTYNA WIGLASZ

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses loneliness, exclusion, consumerism, and ecological issues by fostering intergenerational engagement and promoting sustainable practices within the Catholic Church.

TARGET GROUP

Disadvantaged seniors, youth, homeless, disabled, and refugees. Their needs center on relationships, skill-building, and integration into society.

SOLUTION

The project creates Communities of Care for intergenerational workshops on ecology, repair, and reuse, fostering skills, relationships, and dignity while reducing waste.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

It combines ecology, dignity for the disadvantaged, and intergenerational dialogue in sustainable ways, attracting youth and changing perceptions about homelessness.



BUNDESPROJEKT STROMSPAR-CHECK

A free Germany-wide service that helped 450,000 households save €300/year and cut 900,000 t CO₂ emissions in household energy consumption.

ORGANISATION:
DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND E.V.,
BUNDESVERBAND DER
ENERGIE- UND KLIMASCHUTZAGENTUREN
DEUTSCHLANDS E.V.

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: 2008

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project tackles energy poverty, unemployment, and climate change, empowering low-income households and long-term unemployed people to participate in the energy transition.

TARGET GROUP

Low-income households benefit from reduced energy costs and education, while long-term unemployed people gain skills, jobs, and reintegration into the workforce.

SOLUTION

The project provides free energy-saving advice and devices, educating households about energy efficiency and training unemployed people as energy-saving advisors for reintegration.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

It combines climate protection, poverty reduction, and labor market integration, creating long-term behavioral and economic benefits for both households and advisors.



WEATHER-WATER-CLIMATE-SERVICES FOR TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan: Open-source low-cost weather stations boost country-wide weather forecasts and support rural livelihoods through tailored data-driven agricultural practices.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS SWITZERLAND

COUNTRY: TAJIKISTAN

START: APRIL 2021



LAUREATE

THE TEAM

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KHUDONAZAROV & NEMAT RAHMATOV**

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses lack of reliable weather forecasts in Tajikistan, limiting farmers' productivity and impacting food security in rural, disaster-prone areas.

TARGET GROUP

3,500 farmers, Tajik Hydromet, and government agencies. Farmers gain better yields; agencies improve weather forecasts for the entire population of 8 million.

SOLUTION

Low-cost, open-source weather stations improve forecasts, enabling WWCS like irrigation advice and planting schedules, increasing yields by 20-40% while conserving water.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project innovates with open-source weather stations and user-integrated value chains, empowering farmers and building economically sustainable WWCS.

CARITAS EUROPA

INNOVATION FESTIVAL

2025

POST-MIGRANT SOCIETIES: REDEFINING MULTICULTURALISM

INNOVATION CATALOGUE 2025



TRIA

TRIA is a multilingual project that combines outreach social work with professional medical advice and addresses homeless EU citizens living in the streets of Berlin.

ORGANISATION: CARITASVERBAND FÜR DAS ERZBISTUM BERLIN E.V.

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: MARCH 2024



LAUREATE

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

TRIA addresses homelessness among uninsured Eastern and Southeastern EU citizens in Berlin, providing low-threshold support to help access benefits, healthcare, and integration pathways.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries are uninsured, homeless EU citizens in Berlin, needing support with health care, bureaucracy, and integration. Some seek help to return to their home countries.

SOLUTION

TRIA bridges gaps for homeless EU citizens via outreach, multilingual counseling, health aid, and integration support, collaborating with embassies, housing services, and organizations in home countries.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

TRIA stands out with multilingual outreach, combining health and social counseling, active street engagement, and collaboration with embassies and institutions in home countries for holistic aid.



VOLUNTARY EUROPEAN YEAR

A cross border civic engagement project for youth of deprived background, co-financed by the European Union and national governments.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS GERMANY, "COLLECTIF POUR UN SERVICE CIVIQUE EUROPÉEN" (CSCE), PEWOBE GGMBH, FRANKFURT-SLUBICE COOPERATION CENTER

COUNTRY: FRANCE, POLAND, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, ITALY, MALTA, GREECE, ROMANIA, CZECHIA, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, BOSNIA, SLOVENIA, CYPRUS, ESTONIA

START: SEPTEMBER 2024

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses rising reactionary, nationalist rhetoric, aiming to empower marginalized youth to engage with a diverse, democratic Europe and counter hopelessness or disillusionment.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries are marginalized youth (18-30) facing social, economic, or geographic barriers. They lack access to programs fostering civic engagement and opportunities to build agency and inclusion.

SOLUTION

The project empowers youth via paid volunteer missions across Europe, fostering peace, respect, self-efficacy, and local action, paired with cross-border teamwork to develop reflective, engaged citizens.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Unlike other voluntary programs, it emphasizes low-barrier entry, international collaboration, and inclusivity, engaging youth without high education levels in impactful, cross-border civic missions.



UNIENDO CULTURAS

The Camino de Santiago unites cultures and breaks down prejudices, facilitating the meeting and interaction between people of diverse origins.

ORGANISATION: CÁRITAS DIOCESANA DE VALENCIA

COUNTRY: SPAIN

START: SEPTEMBER 2022

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

Migrant minors face language barriers, social isolation, emotional trauma, and culture shock. These challenges affect their well-being and integration into the host society.

TARGET GROUP

The project aids migrant minors (12–17) at a residential home in Spain, helping them adapt, integrate, and avoid homelessness. They face identity, adaptation, and social challenges.

SOLUTION

The project uses the Camino de Santiago to build social skills, self-esteem, and community bonds. It fosters cultural pride, intercultural dialogue, and empowerment for smoother adulthood transitions.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project unites diverse migrant minors on the Camino, promoting empathy, collaboration, and respect. It creates awareness by thanking communities with paintings made by participants.



WITHOUT DIFFERENCES

Facilitating equal opportunities in education and employment, through the development of personal and social skills.

ORGANISATION: CÁRITAS DIOCESANA DE COIMBRA

COUNTRY: PORTUGAL

START: JANUARY 2023

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses school dropout, migrant integration, and cultural diversity by promoting education, social inclusion, and global citizenship for vulnerable populations in Marinha das Ondas.

TARGET GROUP

Vulnerable children, youth, and families, especially those facing language barriers, legal challenges, and limited support, requiring focused interventions for integration and stability.

SOLUTION

The project improves school success, labor integration, and social inclusion via cultural, recreational, and sports activities, fostering communication, empathy, and equal opportunities.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project emphasizes co-creation with beneficiaries, uses a network approach for solutions, and integrates formal and informal partners to address vulnerabilities innovatively.



CARETERIA

With an engaging cultural program that brings different areas together, the creative talents of marginalised groups will be made visible in urban spaces.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS MÜNCHEN

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: OCTOBER 2024



THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

Careteria tackles discrimination, limited cultural spaces, lack of empowerment, and overlooked intersectionality, fostering unity and critical thinking about social justice and diversity.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries in Munich gain resilience, confidence, and skills like acting and singing. The project helps reduce social divides, promoting positive coping through cultural and creative activities.

SOLUTION

Careteria is a multicultural space that offers events, workshops, and activities, fostering empowerment, cultural participation, and new perspectives for a stronger sense of community.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Careteria's open design, pay-as-you-can model, and inclusive programming address cultural access gaps, fostering participation, visibility, and interaction through art and culture.



HAUS DER NATIONEN (HOUSE OF NATIONS)

Providing qualified and trained cultural interpreters in over 20 different languages to social institutions in Munich that work with refugees from different countries.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS MUNICH

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: JANUARY 2008

THE TEAM

ANNA HENNING, EVA RICHTER, ELLY DURA, SARAH FLEISCHMANN, ANNA LANG, CARMEN BOLUARTE-HABBen

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses integration, discrimination, loneliness, and solidarity in Germany by supporting refugees and promoting cultural understanding through volunteer interpreters.

TARGET GROUP

Refugees, social institutions, and volunteers who seek meaningful roles, belonging, and recognition while fostering quick and effective refugee support.

SOLUTION

The project trains volunteer cultural interpreters, offering free linguistic and cultural support to institutions, bridging gaps, resolving misunderstandings, and promoting solidarity.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovative aspects include long-term volunteer retention, creative team approaches, digital tools like feedback forms, and continuous service improvement through partner input.



EMPOWERING YOUTH, CONNECTING GENERATIONS



POP THE BUBBLES!

Let's break social bubbles together by creating encounters that bridge divides and foster mutual understanding!

ORGANISATION: YOUNGCARITAS WIEN

COUNTRY: AUSTRIA

START: NOVEMBER 2024

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

Tackles division and isolation by fostering dialogue, inclusion, and shared experiences around climate, disability, aging, and refugee issues to promote social cohesion.

TARGET GROUP

Benefits: youth, Caritas clients, staff, and civil society. Focuses on connecting generations, reducing prejudice, and fostering collaboration between diverse groups.

SOLUTION

Pop-the-Bubble events unite diverse groups through shared activities, promoting dialogue and new networks. Examples include mapping wheelchair accessibility in Vienna.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Unique in fostering collaboration across diverse groups using creative outreach like street campaigns, social media, and events focused on pressing social issues.



CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Integral project to strengthen fraternity among young volunteers from different Diocesan Caritas while exchanging knowledge about their projects and deepening the integral ecology campaign of Caritas.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS SPAIN AND 14 DIOCESAN CARITAS

COUNTRY: SPAIN

START: AUGUST 2022



LAUREATE

THE TEAM

SILVIA GÁLVEZ JIMÉNEZ, MARINA ÁLVAREZ DÍAZ, ERIC FERNÁNDEZ MORANT, RAQUEL AVILÉS GARCÍA, BÁRBARA FERNÁNDEZ BANGO, JORGE PIÑEIRO GRANDAL, PATRICIA ORTEGA, FRANCESCA PETRILIGGIERI, CLARA SÁNCHEZ CANAS

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

Youth volunteering programmes often offer limited growth potential to the youth, demonstrating weak social justice focus, and lack of care for nature. The Camino pilgrimage addresses these gaps with transformative experiences.

TARGET GROUP

Young volunteers, Diocesan Caritas, and rural communities. It broadens perspectives and empowers volunteers to promote youth engagement.

SOLUTION

The Camino provides young volunteers with spiritual, ecological, and community-building experiences, encouraging active involvement in Caritas' mission.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovative by being youth-led, integrating ecological themes, and connecting urban youth to rural Caritas challenges, fostering deeper engagement.



CARITAS CUP

A series of youth-led sports tournament for boys and girls connecting faith, charity and friendly competition at High School level.

ORGANISATION: SCIAF CARITAS SCOTLAND

COUNTRY: SCOTLAND

START: MARCH 2022

LAUREATE

THE TEAM

SCIAF SUPPORTERS & MICHAEL HAMILTON, SCIAF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

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www.sciaf.org.uk

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The Caritas Cup addresses youth mental health and post-COVID anxiety, fostering community, purpose, and well-being through faith-based sports tournaments across Scottish Catholic schools.

TARGET GROUP

1,500 students, their families, and communities, fostering inclusion through sports participation, fundraising, and connecting students across dioceses.

SOLUTION

The project combines sports, faith, and charity, expanding from one diocese to three, raising funds for SCIAF and local charities while uniting students through community-driven tournaments.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The youth-led initiative uniquely connects Catholic schools via sports while supporting charities, with SCIAF empowering founders to expand its reach and impact annually.



YOUNG CARITAS ADVOCATES

Bringing positive change into the community.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS CZECH REPUBLIC

COUNTRY: CZECH REPUBLIC

START: OCTOBER 2022



LAUREATE

THE TEAM

KRISTÝNA ŠTECOVÁ, DAVID ZÍTEK, LUCIE KOCÍKOVÁ, VÁCLAV ŠNEBERGER

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<https://www.youngcaritas.cz/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses youth passivity caused by crises, lack of advocacy platforms, and tokenism in civic engagement, promoting meaningful youth participation for societal development.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries are youth (16–20), municipalities, and the public. Youth need engagement in active citizenship, while municipalities seek better communication with young generations.

SOLUTION

The project offers advocacy training, mentoring, and youth-led campaigns on issues like food waste, mental health, and migrant integration, empowering youth and fostering community change.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Project combines advocacy skill-building, youth-led campaigns, and collaboration with Caritas and municipalities, inspiring innovative, locally-driven solutions to social issues.



YOUTH 4 CHANGE

Strengthening local youth communities & encouraging cooperation for long-lasting connections.

ORGANISATION: ASOCIATIA CARITAS ALBA-IULIA, FILIALA ASISTENTA SOCIALA

COUNTRY: ROMANIA

START: APRIL 2023

THE TEAM

BORBÉLY ANDRÁS, BEKŐ-FÓRI ZENKŐ, BOJOIEVSCHI ÉVA, SZÉKELY ÁRON

imola.fuzi@caritas-ab.ro | <https://caritas-ab.ro/ro/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses discrimination, racism, and social issues faced by vulnerable Roma and non-Roma youth through creative arts, fostering cooperation and promoting inclusive development.

TARGET GROUP

Roma and non-Roma youth (14–20 years old), facing segregation, discrimination, and early school dropout. The project empowers them to combat intolerance through inclusive collaboration.

SOLUTION

Arts-based education fosters personal growth and dialogue, tackling intolerance and racism. Activities include creating experiences, human rights education, and addressing discrimination through non-formal methods.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovative aspects include mentoring to prevent dropouts, artistic empowerment, influencer involvement to boost visibility, peer-to-peer sessions, and anti-racism mini-projects in schools and communities.



PROJECT ON SOCIALISATION OF CHILDREN INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY "SMALL STEPS TO BIG CHANGES"

Involving youth from internally displaced persons in the life of the local community through the improvement of a location chosen by them.

ORGANISATION: CO CF CARITAS POLTAVA,
CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: JANUARY 2024

THE TEAM

**TATYANA PRYADKO, VICTORIA ZHILENKO, INNA SEN, ELMIRA HASANOVA,
ANASTASIA BRESLAVETS, IHOR DASHEVSKYI, NATALIA VASYURA**

caritas.poltava@gmail.com | <https://caritas-ab.ro/ro/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project helps integrate youth from occupied Ukrainian territories into the Poltava community by improving a popular teenage location and fostering socialization through collective activities.

TARGET GROUP

Displaced children (13–18) from Kharkiv, Luhansk, Kherson, and Donetsk, and local volunteers. They need socialization, peer connections, and a sense of purpose in their new city.

SOLUTION

Renovating Poltava's historic stairs united displaced and local youth, volunteers, and families. The youth repainted stairs, cleaned the area, and gained a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project's innovation lies in youth-led city improvement and creating art spaces. It empowered displaced youth to shape their environment and adapt to new realities while engaging with local services.



EXCHANGES: EXPERIENCE AND YOUTH IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Meeting of two generations - young people helping elders to enhance IT skills.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS LITHUANIA,
CARITAS OF KAUNAS ARCHDIOCESE,
CARITAS OF VILKAVIŠKIS DIOCESE

COUNTRY: LITHUANIA

START: MAY 2022



LAUREATE

THE TEAM

**ERIKA PANOVA-POLIKEVIČIENĖ, INGA
PASTORASTĖ, GIEDRĖ VOLFF, EGLĖ
VENČKAUSKAITĖ**

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<https://www.caritas.lt/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project improves seniors' IT skills through intergenerational exchanges with youth, bridging generations, reducing loneliness, and fostering mutual learning in 10 small towns in Lithuania.

TARGET GROUP

Seniors (60+) learning basic IT and e-services, and youth (16-35) gaining teaching and communication skills. It reduces senior isolation and builds youth confidence.

SOLUTION

The project creates Senior Citizens' Clubs where youth lead diverse activities beyond IT training, promoting social interaction, lifelong learning, and community building.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project uniquely links generations, addressing senior isolation and youth leadership gaps. Communication bridges knowledge, loneliness, and intergenerational barriers.



A LETTER FOR A BETTER DAY

Rooted in solidarity, warmth, and a sense of community, as we come together to perform a simple yet meaningful act that brings joy to someone's holiday season.

ORGANISATION: YOUNGCARITAS SLOVENIA

COUNTRY: SLOVENIA

START: MAY 2020

THE TEAM

NIKA KRŽIŠNIK, EVA KRŽIŠNIK JANŠA, DAŠA ŠTALC

pismo@karitas.si | <https://youngcaritas.si/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project combats loneliness among the elderly by connecting them with younger generations through personalised, heartfelt letters, fostering intergenerational understanding and support.

TARGET GROUP

Elderly individuals in nursing homes or living alone, who face isolation, and young people, who learn empathy and gain awareness of aging-related challenges.

SOLUTION

Handwritten letters offer elderly recipients recognition and connection, while young participants learn the value of thoughtful communication, bridging generations and reducing social isolation.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Unlike typical gift or card drives, this project focuses on personalized letters, teaching youth letter-writing skills and empathy, with a low-resource, highly impactful approach for easy replication.

ECO-LITERACY AND SUSTAINABLE SKILLS

INNOVATION CATALOGUE 2025



TACKLING CLIMATE ANXIETY IN THE CATHOLIC CLASSROOM

A digital resource for teachers, using Catholic Social Teaching and a “Head, Heart, Hands & Spirit” model to holistically tackle the growing social issue of climate anxiety in the classroom.

ORGANISATION: SCIAF

COUNTRY: SCOTLAND

START: SEPTEMBER 2024

THE TEAM

ELAINE MCGINLAY, MARK BOOKER, JAMES CAVE, VICTORIA IANNOTTI

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses youth climate anxiety, promoting resilience and active hope through a faith-based framework rooted in Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

TARGET GROUP

8,800 Catholic school teachers, 120,000 pupils, and their families, addressing teachers’ lack of preparation to support students facing climate anxiety.

SOLUTION

The resource uses the “Head, Heart, Hands & Spirit” model, integrating faith and action to empower teachers and build youth resilience, mental health, and spiritual development.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project uniquely combines CST, Ignatian pedagogy, and integral ecology, offering holistic learning with multimedia tools for emotional resilience and climate action in Catholic schools.



MAKING ECO-PAPER IS FUN!

The aim of the project is to familiarise children with the concept of “ecosustainability” by organising masterclasses on making eco-paper, to consolidate knowledge about natural resources.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: JUNE 2023

THE TEAM

ZORIANA LUKAVETSKA, NATALIA BAKAI, FR. MYKHAILO BAKAI, ANNA KILAS, GALYNA YADZHAK

akilas@caritas.ua | www.caritas.ua

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses wasteful attitudes toward natural resources by promoting paper recycling to reduce landfill waste, conserve trees, and teach ecological behavior.

TARGET GROUP

Children from marginalised families and displaced communities in rural areas with limited educational opportunities, fostering awareness and skills through masterclasses.

SOLUTION

The project teaches children to recycle paper into useful items, encouraging resource conservation, reducing pollution, and instilling the value of natural resources through hands-on activities.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovative aspects include bringing environmental education to isolated rural areas, fostering sustainability from a young age, and building a network of eco-conscious youth in remote communities.



CAMP FOR CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND YOUTH “ECO SPACE”

The global goal of the project is to form a holistic awareness of the ecology of the environment, soul, psyche, and body in children, adolescents, and young people through camp activities.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE, CARITAS TERNOPIL

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: JANUARY 2022

THE TEAM

MARINA MARTYNENKO, GURSKAYA ANASTASIA, KOZAK OKSANA, ANNA KILAS-KROPYVNYTSKA, HALYNA YADZHAK, ZORYANA LUKAVETSKA

mmartynenko@caritas.ua | <https://caritas.ua/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The Eco Space project addresses climate change, low environmental literacy, climate injustice, youth participation, and psychological stress caused by war, focusing on eco-awareness and emotional support.

TARGET GROUP

520 children and youth, mainly from vulnerable backgrounds. They seek socialization, psychological recovery, and eco-responsibility in a supportive, engaging environment.

SOLUTION

The project builds environmental awareness, social skills, and emotional resilience, teaching participants to conserve resources, interact respectfully, and adapt to challenges while fostering cooperation.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Eco Space innovatively combines environmental education with psychological rehabilitation, teaching eco-communication and habits while addressing emotional well-being amid the stress of war.



SUST-AID – ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FOOD AID PROGRAMS IN EUROPE

SUST-AID addresses gaps in knowledge, training, and skills for sustainable food aid programmes empowering organizations to deliver optimal, sustainable aid food programmes to vulnerable populations.

ORGANISATION: CÁRITAS DIOCESANA DE COIMBRA

COUNTRY: PORTUGAL

START: MARCH 2022

THE TEAM

ANDREA CAMPOS, ANA OLIVEIRA, ÂNGELA RODRIGUES, MARIA SANTOS E CÁTIA ASCENSÃO

anagoliveira@caritascoimbra.pt | <https://sustaid-project.eu/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

SUST-AID tackles chronic hunger, food insecurity, and sustainability in food aid programs by improving nutrition, reducing waste, and empowering staff with green skills and training.

TARGET GROUP

Food aid professionals, volunteers, recipients, and policymakers, focusing on sustainability, nutrition, and employability through innovative vocational education methods.

SOLUTION

SUST-AID provides co-created guides, training, e-learning, and tools for sustainable food aid, improving program quality, reducing waste, and enhancing skills for professionals and organizations.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

SUST-AID stands out by combining co-creation, digital tools, and targeted training for food aid workers, ensuring sustainability and practical relevance in aid delivery.



ECO-PROGRAM FOR TEENAGERS

Formation of eco-conscious citizens by providing useful and interesting leisure activities for teenagers.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: JANUARY 2024

THE TEAM

ANNA KILAS, ZORIANA LUKAVETSKA, GALYNA YADZHAK, OKSANA OLIINYK, FR. ROMAN PUSHKA, ANASTASIIA KIKNADZE

akilas@caritas.ua | www.caritas.ua

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses environmental illiteracy, passive citizenship, and social isolation by engaging teens in eco-programs, promoting teamwork, leadership, and environmental responsibility.

TARGET GROUP

Vulnerable teens aged 13–17 from diverse backgrounds. They gain offline educational opportunities, build friendships, boost self-esteem, and develop leadership and eco-awareness.

SOLUTION

Free eco-classes combine theory and hands-on tasks like growing microgreens, testing water quality, and learning sustainability, culminating in a youth camp promoting environmental and personal growth.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project adapts lessons to children's interests and local landscapes, partners with experts for workshops, and empowers teens to lead community eco-actions as agents of change.

CARITAS EUROPA

INNOVATION FESTIVAL

2025

FROM MARGINS TO CENTER: UPLIFTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN

INNOVATION CATALOGUE 2025



KIDDOS WASH IN WAR (WAR AFFECTED REGIONS)

Kiddos WASH in WAR provides children essential hygiene education and emotional support through an interactive storybook and youth-led sessions, fostering environmental awareness and social connection.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE, CARITAS NORWAY

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: MAY 2024

THE TEAM

TETIANA YATSIUK, IVANNA ULEY, ALEXANDER ROSKESTAD, LESYA BASARAB, OLHA SYDII

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses hygiene education gaps, emotional trauma, and isolation among children aged 4–7 in war-affected regions of Ukraine, promoting resilience and ecological awareness.

TARGET GROUP

600+ children directly impacted, with 5,000 reached via youth volunteers, addressing hygiene education, emotional support, and leadership development in war zones.

SOLUTION

The project uses storytelling and peer-to-peer learning with “Does Water Have a Heart?”, fostering hygiene awareness, emotional support, and leadership skills among children and youth volunteers.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovations include narrative-based hygiene education, youth-led delivery, and integration of environmental awareness, combining immediate health needs with long-term ecological consciousness.



INTERACTIVE THERAPEUTICAL BACKPACK FOR THE PLAYFUL ENGAGEMENT OF WAR-TRAUMATISED CHILDREN

The project “Interactive therapeutic backpack for playful engagement of war-traumatized children by psychologists during the war in Ukraine” includes innovative developments and allows for both first.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: JANUARY 2024

THE TEAM

MARINA MARTYNENKO, ZORYANA LUKAVETSKA

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses psychological trauma in children affected by war in Ukraine, providing psychosocial support to help them adapt to new environments and manage stress and emotional challenges.

TARGET GROUP

50 war-affected children and 10 psychologists. Children need emotional recovery and socialization; psychologists require effective tools for trauma rehabilitation.

SOLUTION

The interactive therapeutic backpack offers sensory-based tools for emotional recovery, enabling therapy in shelters or fields. It creates trust through engaging, multi-sensory therapeutic play.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The backpack integrates multi-sensory perception to adapt to children's needs, combining traditional therapy with innovative methods. Its portability allows psychological aid even in emergency conditions.



REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (RCHDP)

Cultivating positive social behavior and reproductive knowledge among targeted adolescents and young adults.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS BANGLADESH

COUNTRY: BANGLADESH

START: APRIL 2023

THE TEAM

SEBASTIAN ROZARIO, DAUD JIBON DAS, REMI SUBASH DAS, DR EDWARD PALLAB ROZARIO, MAGRET JOUSTHNA GOMES

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses a number of social challenges – including climate change, child marriage and addiction, through peer education, micro-planning, and community action in remote villages.

TARGET GROUP

Adolescents (aged 10–19) in remote villages

SOLUTION

Peer educators address issues like climate change and early marriage through micro-plans. Actions include tree planting, behavior change, and promoting sustainable practices in their communities.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project uses peer education, micro-planning, and community engagement to empower dropouts, promote nature conservation, and address social issues like child marriage innovatively.



SOLE IZMAIL (SELF-ORGANIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT)

Free Educational Center for the Most Needy, Which Has Flexibly Responded to the Challenges of the War in Ukraine.

**ORGANISATION: CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
"CARITAS ODESA UGCC"**

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: FEBRUARY 2024

THE TEAM

VALENTYNA STOYKOVA, ALYONA TSVILYK, ANASTASIA IVAN

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses education gaps, unsocialized children, and safety awareness in war-affected Ukrainian regions, transforming SOLE Izmail into a humanitarian hub for vulnerable families.

TARGET GROUP

250–300 children annually, parents, teachers, and institutions like police and emergency services, focusing on education, safety training, and family support.

SOLUTION

The project offers courses, safety days, events, and case management, promoting education, resilience, and safety while empowering children, parents, and teachers.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Unique features include child safety training with specialists, a focus on practical life-saving skills, and a self-sustaining model supported by private funding, ready for broader replication.



CLIMATE RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD AND ECO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Women Business Information and Dissemination Centers (WBIDC): A new way of empowering women through knowledge and resources.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS BANGLADESH

COUNTRY: BANGLADESH

START: APRIL 2019

THE TEAM

AROOK TOPPO, FRANCIS BEPARI, BIKASH BISWAS, JAMAL HOSEN, GEORGE BOIRAGI

dp@caritasbd.org | www.caritasbd.org

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses women's economic insecurity, limited resources, lack of decision-making power, and poor access to information in marginalised Barishal communities.

TARGET GROUP

Marginalised women needing economic empowerment, social inclusion, agroecological training, and fair market access to overcome challenges like early marriage and societal stigma.

SOLUTION

The project established 17 WBIDCs, enabling women to sell products, access resources, gain market knowledge, and improve financial independence, benefiting local producers and consumers.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

WBIDCs combine economic empowerment, knowledge-sharing, and sustainable practices, creating hubs where women access resources, share skills, and address social inequality innovatively.

THREADS OF HOPE: STORIES OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

Photo credit: Mazur/CBCEW.org.uk

INNOVATION CATALOGUE 2025



here to **help**
Suicide Prevention - Autism

Do you need Emergency Help?



No

Take me
to the
website



HERE TO HELP

Increasing awareness of suicidality amongst autistic people by providing accessible resources and workshops for autistic people and their supporters.

ORGANISATION: SJOG HOSPITALLER SERVICES (CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK)

COUNTRY: ENGLAND, UK

START: MARCH 2024



LAUREATE

THE TEAM

RACHAEL SMITH, LYNN DIGGINS, ASHLEY WILSON, JAMIE MACKRILL

cristinamogollon@sjog.org.uk

<https://here2help.uk/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses suicide prevention among autistic individuals, who face significantly higher suicide risks, lack tailored mental health support, and are often excluded from standard services.

TARGET GROUP

100 autistic individuals, 44 family members, and professionals trained to support them. Autistic individuals gain tailored guidance and families gain tools for better support.

SOLUTION

"Here to Help" provides tailored workshops, drop-ins, and toolkits, amplifying autistic voices, raising awareness, and equipping families and professionals to address autism-related mental health challenges.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The project integrates lived experiences, co-designs resources, partners with researchers, and uses innovative outreach like mobile sensory units to address suicide risks for autistic individuals inclusively.



CARITAS VOUCHERS AND ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Everyone should have the right to choose and buy whatever they need when they go through a crisis moment in life, or experience poverty, rather than have someone else choose for them.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS WESTMINSTER

COUNTRY: ENGLAND, UK

START: APRIL 2020

Photo credit: Mazur/CBCEW.org.uk

THE TEAM

CARITAS FOOD PROGRAMME

nikipsarias@rcdow.org.uk | www.caritaswestminster.org.uk

SOCIAL PROBLEM

Rising costs and food insecurity leave many without essentials. The scheme provides rapid, dignified, temporary relief via vouchers tailored to individual needs.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries include diverse individuals and families facing poverty, crises, or exclusion. It addresses urgent needs like food, essentials, or energy costs while restoring dignity.

SOLUTION

Vouchers empower recipients to choose necessities. Parishes and schools use the scheme during critical times like winter and holidays, offering quick, flexible, and respectful support.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The voucher and assistance approach emphasises dignity, choice, and fresh options. It challenges norms of in-kind and surplus aid, and adapts insights from international aid and development.



“KORZHYK” THE BISCUIT WORKSHOP ROOM

Caritas fulfilled the dream of a young man with a disability and opened a cafe together with a biscuit workshop room where he works as the head cook and helps those in need.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: APRIL 2023

THE TEAM

ZORIANA LUKAVETSKA, ANNA KILAS, GALYNA YADZHAK, MYKYTA DUNAIEV, SVITLANA VOROBIOVA, YULIA KURIVSKA

akilas@caritas.ua | www.caritas.ua

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses unemployment for people with disabilities and displaced persons, promoting equal opportunities, integration, and dignity under martial law.

TARGET GROUP

Direct beneficiaries include Mykyta, a pastry chef with Down syndrome, Svitlana, an IDP cook, and young café visitors learning respect, tolerance, and empathy through workshops.

SOLUTION

The café provides employment for vulnerable groups, fosters community tolerance and kindness, and motivates others to overcome life challenges and build independence.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Korzhyk stands out as Fastiv's first inclusive social business, employing people with disabilities, fostering IDP integration, and hosting community-inclusive events.



KINDHEARTED DUMPLING

A social initiative that provides opportunities and resources to serve those in need through the production and sale of homemade semi-finished products.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: JANUARY 2019

THE TEAM

ANNA KILAS, ZORIANA LUKAVETSKA, FR. IVAN RYBKO, MARIA RYBKO, GALYNA YADZHAK

akilas@caritas.ua | www.caritas.ua; <https://caritas-sumy.org.ua/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses unmet needs for spiritual, psychological, and humanitarian support for vulnerable groups in Novyi Rozdil due to limited state resources.

TARGET GROUP

Seniors aged 65+, low-income families, orphans, IDPs, disabled individuals, homeless, addicted persons, palliative patients, and war veterans needing basic support and care.

SOLUTION

The initiative provides essential aid, like food and hygiene kits, offering relief for those spending limited income on utilities and medicine, while fostering community partnerships.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovation lies in combining social entrepreneurship, charity, and volunteerism to address social issues, emphasizing quality, care, and individual approaches to beneficiaries.



JUNA-B

Open project offer for young people in nature conservation, career guidance and counselling.

ORGANISATION: CARITASVERBAND DER
DIÖZESE ROTTENBURG-STUTTGART E.V.,
CARITAS

LUDWIGSBURG-WAIBLINGEN-ENZ

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: JANUARY 2023

THE TEAM

CHARLY HAYTA, MARTIN SCHULZ

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project engages NEET youth in nature conservation, combining environmental care, vocational training, and socio-educational support to address disengagement and build sustainable skills.

TARGET GROUP

Youth struggling with perseverance and self-confidence, offering them practical work, career guidance, and socio-educational support to improve life skills and employability.

SOLUTION

Participants manage two plots of land, learning landscaping, horticulture, teamwork, and vocational skills, fostering independence and soft skills for better integration into work and society.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

JuNa-B offers a low-threshold approach where nature provides feedback, not grades. It builds youth self-worth while enhancing biodiversity and raising environmental awareness for future generations.



WG MELANGE

A WG Melange combines communal and individual living for people aged 55 and older with small apartments and shared spaces.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS VIENNA

COUNTRY: AUSTRIA

START: JANUARY 2022

THE TEAM

ANNA WINKLEHNER-KREUTZER, SILKE SCHARF

anna.winklehner@caritas-wien.at | www.caritas-wien.at/wg-melange

SOCIAL PROBLEM

Addresses social isolation among people aged 55+, offering communal living as an alternative to prevent loneliness and promote well-being through shared resources and support.

TARGET GROUP

People 55+ seeking affordable, supportive living. Many face life changes and need a mix of privacy, social interaction, and community support.

SOLUTION

WG Melange combines private apartments and shared spaces, fostering community through meetings moderated by Caritas staff, ensuring social and emotional support.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovative for targeting independent 55+ individuals, promoting self-help, conflict resolution, and independence while filling a gap in communal housing options.



AGAPE – ACTIVE AGEING AND PERSONALISED SERVICE'S ECOSYSTEM

AGAPE aims to adopt innovative services to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for older adults, improve the quality of life of formal and informal carers and the care organisation's services.

ORGANISATION: CÁRITAS DIOCESANA DE COIMBRA

COUNTRY: PORTUGAL

START: JANUARY 2022

THE TEAM

ANDREA CAMPOS, ANA OLIVEIRA, MARIA SANTOS, BRUNA FRANCESCHINI AND ELISABETE PITARMA

anagoliveira@caritascoimbra.pt | <https://caritascoimbra.pt/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The AGAPE project addresses active ageing, reducing caregiver workloads, and improving digital health literacy through advanced technologies for older adults and care organisations.

TARGET GROUP

Older adults (65+), carers, and care organisations. Their needs are assessed through living labs, pre-pilots, and pilot phases to refine AGAPE's solutions for active ageing.

SOLUTION

AGAPE uses wearable devices, an app, and a platform for monitoring physical activity, coaching, and communication, promoting healthy lifestyles and digital engagement for older adults.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

AGAPE's impact-by-design approach ensures co-creation, structured assessments, and innovations that improve life quality, healthcare sustainability, and market readiness for active ageing solutions.

CODE FOR CHANGE: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD



HELP-DESK

A system for Caritas Ukraine that efficiently processes over 1,000 daily beneficiary requests.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: OCTOBER 2024

THE TEAM

ROSTYSLAV PYLYPIV

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The Help-Desk system replaces inefficient spreadsheets, managing over 1,000 daily requests at Caritas Ukraine, enabling faster responses, better tracking, and tailored support for beneficiaries.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries facing crises rely on Caritas Ukraine's Help-Desk for timely aid. It simplifies processes, tracks past requests, and ensures quick, personalized support, fostering trust and empowerment.

SOLUTION

The Help-Desk system centralizes request tracking, improving response speed, personalization, and collaboration between teams, enhancing support for Caritas Ukraine's vulnerable populations.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovations include centralized data, user-friendly design, and collaboration tools for better support. It tracks trends, aids resource allocation, and transforms service delivery for vulnerable groups.



KOBOTOOLBOX ON OWN SERVER

Enhancing data security, reducing cloud facility costs, and ensuring full access to beneficiary information at all times.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: FEBRUARY 2024

THE TEAM

ROSTYSLAV PYLYPIV

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses data accessibility, cost management, data security, and efficient data management for Caritas Ukraine, improving operations and service delivery for beneficiaries.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries are individuals and families in need, registered with Caritas Ukraine. They face poverty, social isolation, and require secure, efficient access to essential support services.

SOLUTION

Deploying KoboToolbox on our cloud ensures data security, reduces costs, and streamlines data management with Google Sheets integration, improving support services for beneficiaries.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Innovations include tailored KoboToolbox deployment, cost-saving cloud hosting, real-time data integration, and robust data security, enhancing trust and service delivery for vulnerable communities.



FACILITY. COMMUNITIES

Facilitation.Communities: CRM/ERP system for recording the activities of facilitators with reference information and integration with AI.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS UKRAINE

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

START: FEBRUARY 2024

THE TEAM

ROSTYSLAV PYLYPIV

rpylypiv@caritas.ua | <https://facility.caritas.ua/>

SOCIAL PROBLEM

Facilitation.Communities solves issues in event registration, participant data accuracy, info sharing, and reporting. It enhances efficiency, data security, and collaboration for facilitators.

TARGET GROUP

Beneficiaries include facilitators, participants, and partners of community-focused events. The platform simplifies registration, reduces duplication, and improves communication and data sharing.

SOLUTION

The platform streamlines event organization, validates participant data, automates reporting, and integrates AI for insights. It reduces administrative tasks, boosting focus on community-building.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Its innovations include AI-assisted accuracy checks, seamless mobile access, real-time validation, and efficient cross-organization collaboration, creating a tech-driven solution for facilitators.



I-HILFE DIGITAL

I-Help Digital: Empowering children with disabilities in education and social inclusion—made easy with our app: process-oriented, click-optimized, efficient, and semi-automated!

ORGANISATION: CARITASVERBAND FÜR DAS ERZBISTUM HAMBURG E.V

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: SEPTEMBER 2024

THE TEAM

JOCHEN STÖCKMANN, ANDREAS MEINDL, MUHAMED ALAHMED, BJÖRN KÖSTER, MARC FRENCH

jochen.stoeckmann@caritas-im-norden.de | www.ihilfe.caritas-im-norden.de

SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project ensures educational and social participation rights for children with disabilities, supporting self-determined living through inclusive school, daycare, and after-school care services.

TARGET GROUP

Children (enhanced privacy and less bureaucracy), parents (transparency), staff (reduced workload), authorities (compliance), and society (sustained inclusive services).

SOLUTION

I-Hilfe Digital integrates approval, documentation, billing, and compliance into a simple, paperless, GDPR-compliant platform, accessible to all inclusive support workers anytime, anywhere.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

Its innovative, fully process-oriented integration ensures seamless workflows, from service approval to completion, in an easy-to-use system with tutorials and support at every step.



DAS STEHT DIR ZU

“Das steht Dir zu” (“Claim what’s yours”) is an AI-powered social benefits consultation tool being developed for nationwide rollout across German Caritas organizations, with support from caritas.next.

ORGANISATION: CARITAS NRW & DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND

COUNTRY: GERMANY

START: JANUARY 2024

THE TEAM

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SOCIAL PROBLEM

The project addresses difficulties in understanding and claiming social benefits in Germany, focusing on Bürgergeld, simplifying access, and reducing barriers for vulnerable populations.

TARGET GROUP

Unemployed individuals, low-income earners, and those facing financial hardship, offering clear information, eligibility guidance, and anonymous, accessible support.

SOLUTION

The project provides 24/7 AI-powered assistance, personalised calculations, eligibility guidance, and reduces workload on Caritas facilities, empowering users to access their rights.

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The AI system stands out with natural language processing, multilingual support, tailored responses, and bridging online tools with in-person consultations, reaching underserved populations.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Innovation doesn't have to be about high tech solutions, huge budgets and large implementing teams. Nor is it something available only to the elites. We hope this Festival Catalogue inspires you to pursue an innovative approach in your local context. Here are a few best practices you can consider in order bring innovation closer to home:

SEARCH FOR THE LOW HANGING FRUITS

Most of the time we don't have to start something new in order to innovate. What are the existing structures, projects or synergies that you have? What is one incremental change you can make that would drive a significant increase in the degree of innovation?

EMBRACE PARTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP

Gather your community members and invite them to drive the innovation agenda: what are the solutions they need or want to see happening the most? How can you start energising these ideas together?

EXPERIMENT WITH THE PROTOTYPING MINDSET

Don't wait until your ideas become perfect on paper. Instead, test your assumptions early, make small iterations and build progressively on the learnings and feedback you receive.

ALLOCATE A MINIMUM BUDGET FOR LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

What are the events, courses, mentoring opportunities or learning journeys you can take in order to expand your capacity as innovators? Allocating a budget for it can be a strategic choice driving results in the long term.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CEIF 2026

Consider applying for next year's festival, and bring your own innovative projects in the spotlight. We will gather again as a larger network on February 13, 2026, and celebrate with you the sixth edition of the Caritas Europa Innovation Festival!

13/02/26

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Caritas Europa Innovation Festival 2025 has brought together various contributors committed to drive the innovation agenda within Caritas. We are grateful for the timely support offered with so much generosity by our jury members, local pop-up gathering hosts, organising roles and the unwavering support of the Caritas Europa Innovation Task Force, as well as the Caritas Europa YoungCaritas team.

THE CEIF 2025 JURY

A heartfelt thank-you to our jury members for their dedication to curating a diverse, unconventional and inspiring selection of innovative projects as the CEIF 2025 Laureates, as well as for the selection of the Caritas Europa Sustainability Award winner for 2025.



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THE CEIF 2025 STEERING GROUP

Thanks to the longstanding collaboration between Caritas Europa and Caritas Vienna, it was made possible to co-create and organise the 5th landmark edition of the Caritas Europa Innovation Festival. We hope this will inspire more cross-countries synergies, promoting innovation and collaboration across our Caritas network.



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**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR:
FEBRUARY 13 2026!**

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