



Annual Report Caritas Confederation 2010

Most Powerful Philanthropist according to Forbes Magazine



Forbes România a realizat în noiembrie In November 2010, Forbes Romania released its annual List of the Most Powerful Philanthropists divided into 3 categories: foundations, large medium-sized and small businesses. According to Forbes' list, Caritas Confederation Romania is the most powerful philanthropist in Romania. In 2009, Caritas had a total budget of 12,96 million euro and 55,000 beneficiaries.

Caritas Romania in the year 2011. Facts and figures.

In 1994, Caritas organizations in Romania reunited and constituted Caritas Confederation Romania, a not-for-profit umbrella organization aiming to represent all Caritas organizations on national and international level, initiate and maintain social dialog with the national authorities, sensitize civil society to the problems that vulnerable categories have to face, promote the results and good practices of all Caritas organizations that are active in Romania.

Caritas confederation Romania maintains Caritas network communication by common actions at national level, lobby in the field of social assistance as well as capacity building programs. All activities that took place throughout 2010 aimed at achieving the European objective concerning the fight against poverty and social exclusion.



Foreword

Rev. Egidiu Condac
CCR President
2005 - 2010



The retrospective of 2010 sets forward several Caritas Romania initiatives unfolded together with and for the benefit of people in difficulty. It also sets forward an intense restructuring and reorganizing activity at Caritas National Bureau and an update of the cooperation instruments at the level of our national network. 2010 was the European Year against poverty and social exclusion.

For Caritas Romania this was an opportunity to increase its advocacy campaigns that triggered the participation of people, communities and the Romanian civil society as a whole. These actions have determined an increased awareness at local, national and European level. At the end of 2010, the mandate of the CCR President and Vice President for the period 2006-2010 came to an end.

Together with Rev. Adrian Avram and Rev. Alexandru Cobzaru who were successively Vice Presidents of CCR, we thank the Directors of the member organizations for their trust and support during my mandate. We wish the new President, Rev. Nicolae Anusca and Vice President, Mrs. Tunde Lochli a lot of strength and divine inspiration to fulfill their mission for the next five years. The challenges of the modern society have increased. People need a profound motivation to invest some of their money for the cause of the common wellbeing and that of people in difficulty. It is also the message that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI sends to all of us: "Development needs Christians moved by the knowledge that truth-filled love from which authentic development proceeds, is not produced by us, but given to us." (Caritas in veritate, 79)



Pr. Nicolae Anuşcă

CCR President

2011 - 2015



The Annual Report, besides balance, analysis and evaluation, brings about an opportunity for rebirth, challenging the organization to reflect in order to establish its plan and objectives for the future.

As the year 2010 confirmed it, Caritas Romania is the most powerful social organization in Romania. This honorable position is the result of the Caritas member organizations' common efforts and the activity of Caritas social workers at national level. 2010 was also a year of change when a new directing board was elected for the next five years. Remaining faithful to the principle of continuity, we shall try to build those institutional capacities that will become an answer to the opportunities and threats that the present and the future have in store. In other words this will be about being able to read the signs of our time.

In the name of the directing Board of Caritas Confederation Romania I wish to assure you that over the next five years the organization will go through an institutional consolidation and development process. Our main concern will be to consolidate Caritas national network by promoting our mission and implementing common management standards by all the member organizations. Another important objective is becoming an even more notable presence on national level in the field of social work and a regional leader of Caritas Europa network.

A permanent challenge always remains that of cultivating the Catholic identity and clarifying the role and the place that Caritas has in the Church. This process includes a more sustained communication with the Hierarchy at the level of the Catholic Episcopal Conference as well as each and every diocese and eparchy.

The lobby and advocacy activity will remain among our priorities for the next years. All our efforts acquire importance and value only if our actions remain focused on our beneficiaries: poor persons and families, the elderly, the sick, the disabled, disadvantaged children, other vulnerable groups. Together with them, Caritas employees and volunteers, the beneficent, the partners, we are all invited to celebrate the eighteen years of Caritas Confederation Romania activity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pr. Nicolae Anuşcă".



“Zero Poverty Campaign. Take Action Now!”

Caritas Romania has actively joined the “Zero Poverty Campaign. Take Action Now” Campaign initiated by Caritas Europa and taking place in all 46 Caritas European organizations.

2010 was declared by the European Union the Year of Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion and was marked by various actions meant to grasp the attention of the authorities as well as the civil society to the ever-growing problem of poverty among European citizens.

European Caritas organizations’ official position-taking was meant to draw general attention to responsibility and solidarity, claiming the fact that poverty is a totally unacceptable scandal for the 21st century.

In December 2010, European Parliament President received directly from Caritas representatives a petition signed by 177,855 European citizens demanding authorities to take solid measures to fight poverty and social exclusion.

Romania is one of the EU state members with the highest rate of poverty, therefore the campaign addressed even more target groups in Romania. With the help of our volunteers, 17,530 signatures representing approximately 10% of the total signatures gathered across Europe, came from Romania.

Our seminar “Poverty and Social Exclusion: from ideas to daily realities” organized in Bucharest and Iasi, has brought together at the same table NGO and public authority representatives, persons affected by social exclusion and journalists, all with the same purpose: to discuss the problem of poverty. The participants have analyzed the effects that poverty has upon the most vulnerable social groups and proposed creative solutions to alleviate those effects.



“One Million Stars” – a call to solidarity with the Poor

20 000 candles were lit in 21 cities of Romania on the 13th of November 2010. The purpose was to raise awareness towards the poorest and most marginalized people. 8000 citizens joined our cause and sent their message of compassion.

35 345 RON were gathered as donations from the participants. The money helped the Caritas volunteers prepare and share over 700 food packages for the elderly living in poverty and solitude.

“Romanians in Italy between rejection and acceptance” – a research report concerning the situation of Romanians living in Italy

Between August 24 and 27, Caritas Romania launched in partnership with Caritas Italiana, the research report “Romanians in Italy between rejection and acceptance”.

The report raised the interest by the state authorities, other NGOs and mass media.

At the report presentation report in Bucharest, we welcomed Mr. Mario Cospio, the Ambassador of Italy in Romania. , H. H. Cornel Damian, Roman Catholic Bishop in Bucharest, Orthodox Church representatives and External Affairs Ministry representatives.

The report presents the situation of Romanian migration in the context of an ever-expanding Europe as well as the problems of the Romanian migrating labor force in Italy before and after Romania’s adhesion to the EU. It also presents aspects of their social and professional integration, the attitude of the Romanians living in Italy and the effects of international migration in Romania over the last 20 years.

“The future of a nation starts with the respect for the Elderly” – photography exhibition on the International Day of Older Persons

On this occasion, Caritas Romania and the Deputy Chamber of the Romanian Parliament, organized a photography exhibition between 4-6 October in the hall of the Romanian Parliament Palace.

These photos emphasized the needs of the Elderly and the Caritas organizations response to those needs. By bringing images of Caritas assisted Elderly in the hall of the Parliament, we wanted to make these daily realities better known and understood by the political stakeholders. We aimed to raise their awareness and urge them to formulate the best solutions to ensure a dignified life for the Romanian older persons.

Between October 7-17, the exhibition was moved to the Roman Catholic Cathedral St. Joseph in Bucharest where it was open to the public.



Solidarity with those affected by natural disasters

Unfortunately, in 2010, people in Romania and all over the world were affected by disasters: earthquakes and floods.

Romanian Christians generously and compassionately answered to our call for donations in the three fund-raising campaigns organized in the Catholic Churches.

In order to support the victims of the Haiti earthquake that took place in January 2010, we raised 956 000 RON (22,325 euro). We used this money to reconstruct “St Vincent de Paul” Almshouse in Leogane together with Caritas Germany. We also initiated an awareness and education program in order to improve hygiene in the victims’ camps and fight cholera.

More regions in Moldavia, also in the South of Romania and in Alba County were seriously affected by the floods during the summer of 2010.

Caritas Romania, through its local member organizations, provided emergency help (food, water, cleaning products), cattle food, house dryers, special equipment for cleaning wells, construction materials. In order to prevent the risk of digestive and infectious diseases that could appear under the given circumstances, we organized a hygiene education program for children. For these projects a part of the needed funds were raised from the partner European organizations (114 714 euro) and also from the Collections organized by the Catholic Church (146 000 euro).

Other European countries were also affected by the floods in the summer of 2010. In order to support those that were seriously affected by the calamities in these countries we organized a collection and raised 511 000 RON (121 667 euro).

The funds were partly used (75 850 euro) for a reconstruction program in the Hungarian village Szendrolad and also for a rehabilitation project in Northern Albania an area badly affected by floods last winter.

Disaster Preparedness – an important component of the Disaster Risk Reduction local and regional activities

The “Disaster Risk Reduction” project represents a new component of the Emergency Intervention Program and is implemented by all ten Romanian Caritas organizations.

It is a capacity building action directed towards the local authorities and the volunteers groups from 20 Romanian communities exposed to natural hazards. The main purpose is to trigger an efficient response to natural disasters.

After the community risk assessment, the volunteering teams elaborated local risk maps and developed specific action plans in order to successfully prevent and effectively respond to possible future natural calamities.

The volunteers were involved in riverbank cleaning, elaborated warning systems, organized informational campaigns and started a reforestation action in order to form a naturally protected area.

Based on the positive impact of the disaster risk reduction project, Caritas Romania initiated a similar program in 2010. It will be coordinated by Caritas Romania and implemented in several European countries in 2011.

The Emergency Intervention Program team delivered several training and consulting courses for Caritas Bulgaria and Albania, as an outcome of the regional cooperation.

For a reform of the social service system – legislative lobbying

The legislation affecting the social services for the vulnerable groups represents the Caritas organizations' action frame.

A priority on our agenda was the need for a reformed social service system that could unite all the laws under a unique and homogenous social service code. This code should offer equal opportunities in accessing necessary funds for all social service providers, public or private. In 2010, at the initiative of FDSC and together with other social service providing NGOs, Caritas Romania joined the group that worked on the modification of the OG 68/2000. We sustained the organization of consultative meetings with the state authorities and local NGOs from

Caritas Romania took part in the public debate launched by the Family and Social Protection Ministry concerning the Social Assistance law project. We shall continue to bring ideas, propositions and view points during the year 2011 as well, until the law will be voted by the Parliament.

Additionally, in 2010 we consolidated the cooperation with the civil society organizations and we joined some coalitions that were created in response to different social problems.





Healthy living – Anti-Drug Abuse Educational Program

The ethnobotanicals came on the Romanian market in 2010 leading to an increase in drug consumers counseling requests compared to 2009.

15000 teens and youth benefited from informative and educational campaigns on the effects of addictive drugs, social and psychological counseling, sports and leisure activities as healthy alternative to drug consumption.

A big family – Caritas Europa Network

Caritas Romania, as a member of the European network, has the opportunity to interact with the other Caritas organizations and together with them we envisage a better and more equitable future for all Europe's citizens.

This is a permanent contact sustained by the work groups and specialized commissions where Caritas Romania is represented and also the seminars, workshops and conferences. Caritas Romania participated to all the events organized to support 2010 European Year: the Thematic Year Opening Conference, the launching of the Position Statement "Poverty stands next to us" elaborated by Caritas and inspired from the daily contact of the Caritas teams with the poor and the marginalized (January, Brussels, Belgium); The Anti-Poverty Congress (June El Escorial, Spain), Humanity Europe Forum (October, Cluny, France) with three participating delegations from Bucharest, Iasi and Blaj.

There, beneficiaries and employees from all over Europe gathered to find new means of overcoming poverty. Another important event was The Thematic Year Closure Event (December, Brussels, Belgium). Caritas Romania was present at the Regional Conference Caritas Europa

(June, Escorial, Spain), the main decision maker that establishes the strategic directions of Caritas Europa. It is an annual conference that reunites all member organizations. The Summer University in Leuven has become a traditional organizer for Caritas and always brings an opportunity for active learning. That is why Caritas Romania always takes interest in participating and sharing information, knowledge and ideas. In September, two representatives of Caritas Romania took part in the “Homecare – a means of fighting against poverty?”

According to the annual calendar of events, we took part in the work meetings of the three commissions that we are part of. The Internal Network Commission (CIN), the Intra-European Cooperation Commission (IEC), the Homecare Group, The Social Policy Commission. The themes that we approached in 2010 were poverty and social exclusion, unemployment, social service and social protection system, the social agenda of the European Union and the European Council.



Vision for the next ten years – initiation of the strategic planning process



2010 was an appraisal year but also a new beginning for Caritas Romania.

Romania’s adhesion to the EU in 2007 brought along a lot of social, economic and political changes. This situation has triggered the start of a strategic planning process to support Caritas organizations to adjust to the new context.

The global financial crisis along with the traditional financing partners’ withdrawal from Romania, brought about new challenges for the Caritas organizations. Therefore, the Directing Council members together with the management of Caritas Confederation are looking for sustainability solutions.

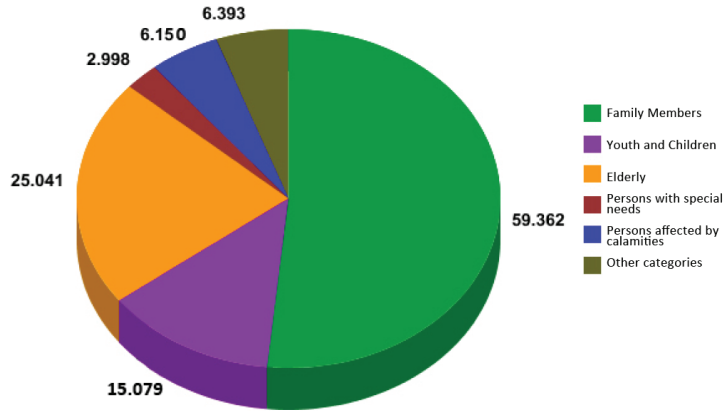
Common Management Standards

Although very diverse, Caritas organizations members of the Caritas Europa network ratified a minimum set of common standard measures. In 2010, Caritas Romania started an organizational restructuring process using the methodology proposed by Caritas Europa. In this respect, Caritas Romania has benefited from an experience exchange program in partnership with Caritas Luxemburg that includes visits, work-shops, data analysis.

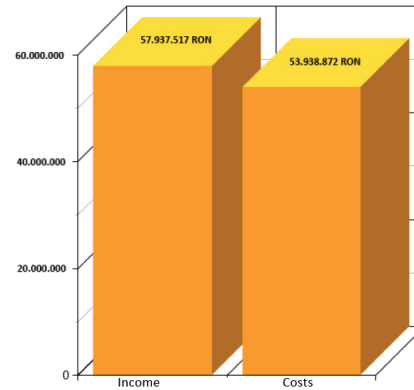
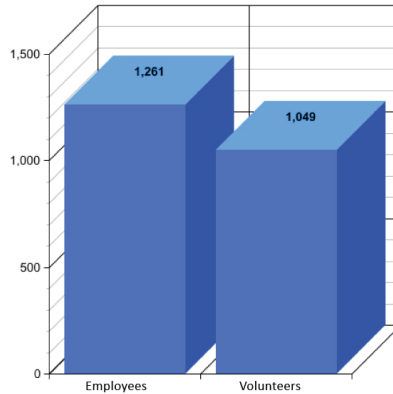


Caritas in Romania Statistics

Beneficiaries



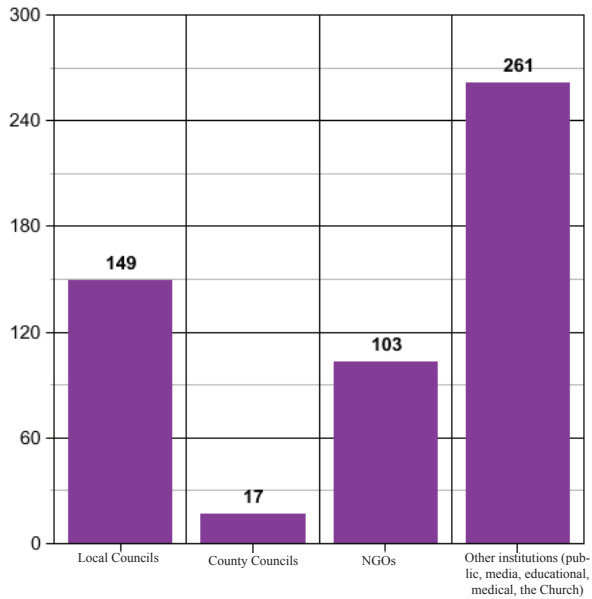
Human resource



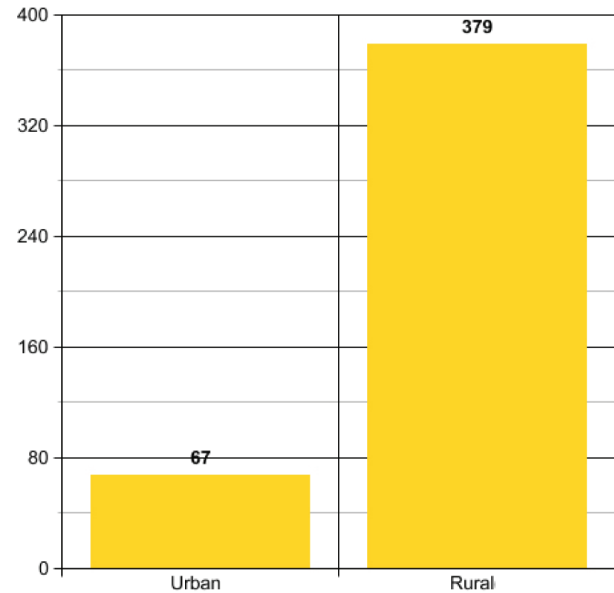
Caritas in Romania Statistics



Number of partnerships



Number of localities covered by Caritas projects and activities





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