

NATIONAL OFFICE : UPDATE



The National Office staff re-started their weekly face to face meetings after working remotely for a long time due the construction in the building that is now completed. Caritas Turkey's National and Istanbul Diocesan offices are located in the same construction of Consulate of Vatican. The office is completely renovated, new heating system and inspiring garden space that allows training and activities in coordination with the dioceses in order to be on duty. The municipality of Istanbul has given the permission to install again the label of 'Caritas' on the building door after long years.

As we underline in the last newsletter the important step for Caritas Turkey is to reinforce the mutual engagement with Caritas sisters, infact the online partner meeting that took a place from 30th to 31st August, was attended by numerous colleges of CI MOs (Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Europa, Caritas Italiana, Caritas Spain, CRS, Caritas Germany, and Caritas Lebanon). The survey was launched via baobab and also disseminated to the participants in the partner meeting. The questionnaire represents an attempt to collect CI MOs manifestation of interest in specific 4 sectors of Caritas Turkey wich is: Migration, Mobilization and support of local communities, Organizational Development, and Emergency.

Share the vision and mision and presenting Caritas Turkey Structural and team with CRS, through the visit of Mrs. Britton Buckner, Europe Zone Outreach Manager, we discussed the future cooperation possibilities, and find a way to support Caritas Turkey, infact CRS expressed readiness to support Caritas Turkey in training on Project Design, MEAL and Emergency also affirmed the importance of learning the mentioned topics for the organisational development and ability to provide aforementioned topics.

Caritas Turkey had a productive visit from Charel Krieps, the Humanitarian & Safeguarding Officer of Caritas Europa. During this visit, the work on an emergency preparedness plan for Caritas Turkey continued. Staff had already participated in a workshop in November 2020 organized by the ABC-EUAV project. In spring 2021, Karin Timyanos, who has a long experience in emergency relief, prepared a first basic draft of such a plan, and now Giulia Longo will finalize the plan in cooperation with the national and the diocesan offices. Giulia, who works for Caritas Anatolia, was appointed as the emergency focal point of the entire Caritas Turkey network in September 2021. During the visit, Giulia, Karin, and Charel went over the methodology and the next steps for Caritas Turkey take to finalize such a plan.



In addition, during the visit, Charel and Organisational Development Focal Point Liza Injeyan worked on several safeguarding documents, including job descriptions and terms of references, as well as on the Safeguarding Policy, the Anti-Harassment Policy, and the CIMS Self-Assessment. These last three processes should be concluded by the end of the year.

Istanbul Diocesan Office of Caritas Turkey is trying to be an open door for vulnerable people including refugees, migrants, abused women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and minorities. We give high importance to working in collaboration with churches and their bodies, but also with CSOs because we believe that we are stronger when we are together. Therefore, over the years we started cooperating with several organizations, including the Salesian community, St. Antoine and Santa Maria Churches, Ankara Parishes, Little Sisters of the Poor, Artigiana Rest House, Chaldean Community, Refugee Rights, and Şevkat Der. We organize regular meetings with our already existing partners meanwhile trying to build new synergies with other associations and communities. This month we would like to focus on our partnership with The Franciscan Missioner Sisters of Sacre Cuore's "Refugee Prisoners Project".

With COVID-19, the Turkish prisons released many refugee prisoners in the "open" prison for temporary leave. The Franciscan religious sister's community provides food and shelter for 14 migrant prisoners. They welcome refugees in 3 different houses. Caritas Istanbul supports them with their medical needs and contributes to the rental expenses of the houses and provides them with regular food coupons. We Would like to improve our support to the program by adding vocational training and language courses for the refugee prisoners



Project of the Parish of Santa Maria Draperies - Istanbul Since June 2021 Caritas Istanbul has begun to help our prison pastoral project by collaborating with the payment of two apartments in Istanbul. This contribution helps us to be able to offer these people stability and a solid insertion into the world of work, guaranteeing a place to live; at the same time, we help them to live in an orderly and responsible way, leading them towards a path of freedom. Furthermore, Caritas offers us food support through the A-101 cards, guaranteeing a monthly expenditure - both for food and for detergents; also in the health sector, Caritas helps us with those who suffer from chronic diseases and who are in constant need of medicine; being able to give these people what they need to live their disease peacefully and without having to worry or get sick. We thank the Caritas office for supporting us and collaborating with our project, for supporting us and listening to us, for offering concrete support and help to those who suffer, keeping their brother's life at heart. Eleuthere Makuta, parish priest of S. Maria Sr Miriam, collaborator