



## DIALOGUE SEMINAR

**Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion  
in the Framework of the EU 2020 Strategy**

# **Observatory of the poverty and resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

## **Presentation of the project**

**By: Zlatko Malić, project coordinator**

**Caritas of Bishop's conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

---

Ladies and Gentlemen!

My name is Zlatko Malić and I'm employee of the Caritas of Bishop's conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I'm working as coordinator of the project named *Observatory of the poverty and resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. It is a pleasure for me to participate on this seminar and thank you for the invitation.

Let me in the beginning give you a short description of the Caritas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Caritas is a pastoral body of the Catholic Church established for promotion and for testimony of the Christian love (charity). We are composed by three diocesan and one national office. We have a very good image in the country mostly thanks to the work we done during war period but also thanks to the post conflict and development projects. Today Caritas in Bosnia and Herzegovina supporting more than 5.000 direct beneficiaries through approximately 35 projects or institutions and through 250 employees.

Observatory of the poverty and resources started with implementation in January 2009 with aim to observe and to analyze different type of the poverty and resources that Catholic Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina faces. It is a permanent tool of the Church for understanding poverty and poor people. Local Church leaders request from Caritas to start with such project but also a needs from territory motivated us to begin working in this field. The Caritas from European Union countries (Italy, France and Belgium) supported us by offering financial and technical assistance.

Project is oriented in three basic directions. First one is a pastoral direction – based on promotion of the listening of the people in need, promotion of the charity, networking and capacity building within the parishes

and promotion of the Christian volunteerism. Second direction is statistic one - we used advance statistic software and we provide a valid statistic data about poverty. Trough scientifically, quality and quantity researches, elaboration and professional explanation of the data we guarantied also a sociological dimension of the project. Networking and collaboration with others, especially with State statistical agency, local University and Church structures was a normative for us.

Thanks to this project local Caritas and Church established methodology, instruments and process for poverty observation and for listening of the people in need. Staff of the Observatory and of some other structures acquired new knowledge and skills. Now we have possibility to evaluate actual actions and to plan new projects based on real needs from the field and we have possibility for advocacy supported with data.

Observatory also contributed to EY2010 with very First Poverty Report by Caritas BH. We organized also media and public awareness activities, Zero Poverty petition signing and for 17th October will be organized *One Million Stars* action.

Because Caritas can access the most vulnerable groups or individuals and because Caritas is present in sensitive places we had a possibility to offer more quality data about poverty and social exclusion. This quality data were direct benefits for the local Government and public institutions.

People in need had a chance to speak about own needs and we publish their voice and ideas in Poverty Report. Also we financed some small projects for community development.

Let me in the end inform you about some conclusion we published in our report.

- 71, 9 % of the poor families lives with less than 75 Euro per person per month (poverty line in country was 195 Euro).
- Elderly people are one of the most vulnerable groups (they don't have adequate support from public institutions, usually they are abandoned and don't have interaction with community, and also in most of cases there is lack of income).
- 64, 3 % of Caritas beneficiaries have maximum secondary level of education.
- Economical poverty (people with very low pensions, underpaid workers, unemployment and insufficient social assistance for dignified life) is very diffused in all territory.
- Disable persons face strong cultural, architecting and legal barriers (access to job market or education system).

Our Poverty report "We talked to the poor" is available at our web page in Croatian and English language.

Thank you for attention!