



Diözesan-  
Caritasverband für das  
Erzbistum Köln e. V.

### **Diocesan Caritas Association for the Archdiocese of Cologne (DiCV)**

The Diocesan Caritas Association for the Archdiocese of Cologne (DiCV) was founded on 27th February 1916 as a regional umbrella association. Today, the DiCV Cologne has about 300 member associations in cities and communities of the Rhineland and adjacent districts, amongst them 43 local Caritas committees and Catholic associations. The Caritas for the Archdiocese of Cologne supports about 1,800 institutions and services including hospitals, nursing services, social institutions and information centres with approximately 55,000 employees.

In particular, the DiCV Cologne is responsible for the political representation of its members and for further professional training of Caritas staff. It employs about 140 specialists and trainers. Every year, about 7,500 specialists participate in the different further and additional training offers of DiCV Cologne. The further training offers are audited and certified to the quality system of the Deutscher Caritasverband and are continually reviewed.

The Caritas for the Archdiocese of Cologne supports people in need of help and socially disadvantaged individuals by providing services in the area of child and youth promotion, family support, care of senior citizens, health and care, help for homeless and offenders, social hotspots, social counselling and poverty issues, migration and assistance for non-Germans. The association is also active in the field of labour market policy. In the entire archdiocese, Caritas maintains 1,360 institutions in the field of child and youth welfare as well as educational counselling of parents in the archdiocese.

As a head organisation, the DiCV, on the one hand, wants to draw attention to the situation of socially excluded people in politics, administration and church by organising advocacy and lobbying activities. On the other hand, it encourages and empowers persons affected to actively take part in changing their difficult situation.

Due to its long-term experience, the Diocesan Caritas Association Cologne has the necessary professional and administrative competence to realise European funded projects. The DiCVs assumes the coordination and project management of the Strategic Partnership in Erasmus+.

DiCV Cologne has been actively contributing to the European discussion process for more than 10 years. It closely cooperates with the Deutscher Caritasverband with the aim to highlight socially relevant subjects, positioning itself regarding European policy and profiling itself as an actor in European civil society. This are, among others, about the following subjects, which are particularly important for fighting poverty in families:

- European education, employment and social policy;
- European policy for children, teens and family;
- European migration and asylum politics;
- Public health care;
- Democratic participation and active citizenship.

At European level, DiCV maintains close relationships to Caritas Europa (CE), representing 49 Caritas organisations from 46 European countries. The association wants to make a contribution to the European unification process and to the harmonisation of social, political-educational and economic conditions by its participation in EU programmes and projects.

Since 2002, DiCV Cologne has conducted several pilot projects with national and European partners within the EQUAL initiative, the EU programme for action against social exclusion, the Europe for Citizens programme and in LLP Grundtvig programme. Project participants have been further trained in topics concerning political participation, education opportunities for citizens, intercultural competence or health promotion.

Regarding technical alignment of our project application, DiCV Cologne has comprehensive competences in the subject areas of "social participation of disadvantaged persons and groups", "political education" and "educational work with poor families". Mr Andreas Sellner and Ms Michaela Hofmann will manage the strategic partnership regarding content and overall organisation as responsible persons. Ms Hofmann is the responsible expert for the subject area of "poverty and socially disadvantaged families" in the department for fighting poverty. She acts as member of the national poverty conference on the national level and of the European Anti-Poverty network. Mr Sellner manages the department "Help for endangered persons" in the DiCV Cologne and has been active on a European level in the scope of projects for fighting poverty for years. He has comprehensive competences in the management of European cooperation projects and partnerships.

[www.caritasnet.de](http://www.caritasnet.de)