



Caritas Germany

Caritas Germany, the Catholic Church's welfare association, was founded in 1897 by Prelate Lorenz Werthmann. It is structured in 27 independent dioceses associations which are organised as registered societies. These associations are in charge of local associations and institutions which provide a wide range of help and support for people in need.

Caritas Germany employs 482,172 staff members, from which about 250.000 are employed part-time. The caritas institutions are supported by approximately 500.000 German citizens who render unpaid charity work.

Caritas Germany runs approximately 25.000 institutions such as homes for the elderly, children and persons who are addicted, hospitals, kindergartens, advice centres for parents, or persons in difficult situations. There are debt advice centres, centres for addicts, recreation institutions for families, shelters and soup kitchens for the homeless. Furthermore Caritas has workplaces, day care institutions and schools for persons with disabilities.

Caritas also puts an effort in the promotion of qualified staff. Caritas Germany therefore runs institutions for initial and further educational training and is partner of several catholic universities.

Caritas main office Freiburg

At present the main office employs 358 Persons. This includes the employees of the representation bureaus in Berlin, Brussels and Munich.

Freiburg Office is divided into three main departments:

- Department of Social and Political matters
- Department of institutional management and development and international responsibility
- Department of finance and personnel behalves

Department of economical matters

Economical matters are worked at in an extra department which is directly subordinated to the managing director of the department of finance and personnel behalves.

This department focuses on services for Caritas-institutions. Some examples of the work of the department of economical matters:

- Provision of a benchmarking software which was exclusively programmed for Caritas
- Statistical analysis
- Research of possibilities for investments
- Annual conferences with special economical questions for secretaries
- Research of chances for welfare organisations through corporate citizenship
- Support in case of application for grants
- Lobbying
- Corporate governance
- Basic economical issues (e.g. mergers)

German Welfare System

In Germany, working citizens automatically invest parts of their income for special social insurances such as health insurance, nursery insurance, pension scheme and national insurance. Therefore the government makes sure that institutions like nursery homes, hospitals, kindergartens, etc. are provided. Most institutions are run by non-governmental welfare organisations which are re-financed through the social welfare system (e.g. hospitals) or state subsidies (e.g. advice centres). In Germany approximately 60 % of kindergarten places, 67 % of places in retirement homes and 36 % of hospital beds are recently provided by non-governmental welfare agencies.

Branches of the German Caritas Association as agreed on at the 16th Assembly of Delegates on 16th October 2003

