



europäische allianz katholischer frauenverbände  
european alliance of catholic women's organisations  
alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques

## Activities' report 2010-2012



Summer School of Andante 2011, Reute, Germany



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## Introduction

*'He who walks alone, will get lost; he only has two feet, two arms, two eyes. But within a community everyone has a thousand hands, a thousand feet; nobody ever walks alone'...*  
(Patrice Kayo, Camerounian poet)

A thousand hands, a thousand feet – in fact, there are many more. Women, men – not only in our own countries, but throughout Europe as well, and in the world; volunteers who get engaged in order to achieve a more just and peaceful world and society. Such an engagement gives an important meaning to the lives of both women and men.

Also the mission of Andante is essentially about contributing to 'a good life' for all. As an Alliance, Andante constitutes a network of Catholic women's organisations in Europe, and this 'internal' network is extremely important in the effort to accomplish this mission. We do so in different ways: through our electronic Newsletter and other publications where we highlight important issues. Moreover, by organising study days, summer schools and conferences, we offer to our members the possibility of sharing our knowledge, our experiences (good or bad). This is not about convincing one another but about joining forces in order to find solutions. Every mutually respectful encounter will shape us, give us something, enrich us. This is how we grow without always noticing.

As an Alliance, Andante also networks with other organisations and institutions. In this context, I will first of all point out the Council of Europe where we have participatory status. This gives us the possibility to co-operate on equal terms with other international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) represented there. We are active in and follow closely several committees and working groups but concentrate especially on themes that are particularly important for women.

Because it is clear that when it comes to equality women/men there remains a lot to be done. Consider the inequality between women and men, in pensions and in salaries for the same type of work, the great poverty that hits women in particular, the lack of respect for their human rights, the discrimination and violence against women as a consequence... In most European countries the legislation, the laws in this field, are in place; the challenge is to apply and practise them so that every woman may lead a worthy and humane life and fulfil her entire potential in liberty and according to her own wishes. Here is also a task for us – women of Andante! What can we do, what are we willing to do in this field? It is not sufficient to speak out about solidarity, we must above all act in a concrete way, each and everyone where she can and sees possibilities – even when these are very unassuming.

This report covers the activities of the Co-ordinating Committee of Andante during the 2010-2012 period and reflects the development of our Alliance as such. Here I would like to thank all those who have contributed during these three years, working for Andante in one way or the other – by sending and/or translating articles for the Newsletter, for technical assistance in regard to our homepage and the Newsletter, for implementing and developing the database... All this assistance, all this work is done on a voluntary basis.

I would also like to thank our donors – whether organisations or individual people within Andante or foundations and institutions from outside. Without their financial support it would not have been possible to organise annually a meeting of training on a relevant theme. Their support has moreover made it possible for us to invite women from countries where we do not yet have members, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe.

Above all my thanks go to my colleagues on the Co-ordinating Committee (CoCoA) for their support, their patience and their readiness to participate in different ways with tasks for Andante. I am grateful for our common work, always in a spirit of openness and friendship.

We acknowledge a growing interest for Andante and its activities – both from women within our Alliance and from people from outside. In places where I represent Andante, people ask: 'How is Andante doing?' and 'When does your next meeting take place, can we participate?'. New organisations have joined Andante, others have shown an interest. I think I can say that this is a good sign and an encouragement to continue our efforts to construct a strong Alliance of Catholic Women in Europe.

Nevertheless, much remains to be done and the CoCoA cannot do all of it alone. The CoCoA needs contributions and active help from all its member organisations and the women they represent. Let us show the world and each other the richness of our diversities, our experiences and our knowledge, our spirituality and our visions of the future.

Let us continue to walk together – bringing with us the realities of our lives, so often very different, and yet marching to the same rhythm: *andante*...

Marie-Louise van Wijk-van de Ven,  
Chair

Bussum (The Netherlands), March 2013



## Overall presentation

The 2010-2012 period has been a time of intense activity for the CoCoA with a focus on:

- The organisation of three important events: The General Assembly in 2010 in Strasbourg (France) and two Summer School sessions – one in August 2011 in Reute (Germany) on the spirituality of women, and the other in July 2012 in Leitershofen (Germany) on our responsibility towards Creation.
- Activities and initiatives in the field of communication and public relations such as the development of our web site and database; the publication of our electronic Newsletter with a wide distribution in Europe; the update of the Andante flyer; the close contact with the member organisations.
- Networking and active participation, in the name of Andante, at numerous events – both national and European. There has been a special attention on our participation at the sessions of the Conference of INGOs at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.
- The creation and the launching of the 'Common Prayer' of Andante, devised and based on the joys and hopes, the fears and sorrows, the expectations and visions of women from the member organisations of Andante.
- In addition to all this, and with the aim of preparing the various events and activities, the CoCoA has held its working meetings on a regular basis. After each meeting the member organisations have been informed about the decisions and the progress of the planning made during the meeting – either through the Newsletter, a letter or directly by the members of the CoCoA.

More detailed information is to be found at the following pages.

## Internal activities and developments

### *General Assembly, April 2010, in Strasbourg (France)*

As always, this Assembly unrolled in two sessions: a Statutory Assembly and Study Days on a specific theme. This time it was 'Europa – Women: a Force for Democracy'. The participants had been asked to prepare a short statement on their understanding of 'democracy', and to give some examples that were specific for the democratic system in their country. From the presentations it was clear that there are significant differences – not only in the understanding of what 'democracy' means, but also in the way it functions. One of the differences mentioned was a different understanding between the 'old' and 'young' democracies: in Western Europe a growing indifference vis-à-vis everything linked with politics; whereas people in Eastern Europe are disappointed in their hopes and expectations after the break-down of the Communist dictatorship.



These differences were underlined by six women politicians at a panel discussion. Some people see democracy above all as 'freedom', as a right, and less as a responsibility, a duty. There is also a difference in regard to the role of civil society in decision-making processes. In some countries a real dialogue exists; organisations and individual citizens are consulted, whereas in other countries it is 'politics' that decides what is important. Very often this even takes on an attitude of mistrust vis-à-vis civil society - in those cases dialogue deteriorates to monologue.

#### *Individualism: a negative or a positive force?*

After the statements Gret Haller, a former Swiss ambassador at the Council of Europe, moderated a vivid debate between the speakers as well as with the audience. It was pointed out that there is a difference between women and men in the way they engage in politics. Women prefer to be active at local levels because they feel that they will be able to work on more concrete issues there.

In all countries there seems to be a lack of interest for 'politics' in general, especially among young people. The reasons mentioned were: a general mistrust vis-à-vis 'politics' and the lack of credibility of politicians because of unfulfilled promises, the complexity of the issues, unclear language, the lack of transparency because of the influence of lobbying groups etc.

A growing individualism, where people only think of and try to fulfil their own interests and wishes, was mentioned as one of the most negative factors.

On the other hand Gret Haller pointed out a more positive aspect. The history of a country has always been of great influence on how democracy has developed. That is the reason for the many differences between the various countries. We should cherish these differences because 'in the Construction of Europe' this pluralism is a force for democracy.

Individualism can also be a positive force. This is because personal freedom means more than simply to accept what other people think about certain issues. In this sense individualism can bring people to form their own opinion. That is where our priorities should be in our organisations and countries: education to democracy, so that everyone can develop her/his own opinion built on personal experience, and from that own opinion be able and willing to take on responsibility.

Many speakers repeated strongly that women should engage themselves in politics – in this very masculine system – on all levels, also on the European level. Only when (also) women use the opportunities offered by the democratic system, when they occupy the posts where politically important decisions are taken, in other words: when they are in positions of power, only then they will be able to change things (for women). Power is a good thing if it is put to the service of the common good.

Exchanges in the workshops convinced many of the participants that women should take their place within the democratic system. Projects were worked out and co-operation envisaged. It was interesting to see how many participants changed their understanding. Influenced by what they had heard and learned they subsequently expressed a different view of 'For me democracy means...'

### *Statutory Assembly*

In addition to the usual items like the adoption of the financial report and the activities' report for the period 2008-2010, the delegates approved the provisional budget for the coming period, voted on a change in the statutes and on an internal regulation, ratified the membership of two new organisations, elected a new Co-ordinating Committee and ratified the election of the chair. During a 'workshop on the future' the participants were asked to give their opinion regarding how Andante had been functioning until now and to express their hopes and visions for the future. The animation method used, opened up for a dynamic exchange and had as a result that a number of ideas were collected. Specific suggestions were made both to the CoCoA and to the member organisations.



### ***Summer School on the spirituality of women, August 2011 in Reute, Germany***



Approximately 75 women from 13 European countries – age between 29 and 76 – had gathered in Reute, Germany to participate at the Andante Summer School on the theme: '*Recognise the signs of the times: Spirituality put into practice by European women – yesterday, today, tomorrow*'.

Listening to some renowned speakers made them discover and become familiar with various forms of spirituality, not only in theory but also in the practice of everyday life.

During the last plenary session several organisations already presented their ideas and projects for follow-up work on the theme of

spirituality in their own organisations and countries. Such as: publish a booklet on remarkable women in Poland, create a 'Mary Ward Society' in Albania, encourage women to become more active in politics in order to fight against discrimination of all sorts, to commit themselves to work for Ecumenism and for a rightful place in our churches, and for an 'authentic lifestyle' which respects the environment and Creation. Statements and several texts from this summer school can be found on the Andante home-page: [www.andante-europa.net](http://www.andante-europa.net)



### **Summer School on care for Creation, July 2012 in Leitershofen, Germany**

As a follow-up to wishes from member organisations, a summer school was organised on the theme 'We are the inheritors of the earth – what can we do to live responsibly?'

A difficult and demanding theme. The problems raised are not new, they have been debated at length both by politicians and by people on the grass-root level. Everybody agrees that what has been done



up to the present times has not been sufficient in order to put an end to a negative development. However, it does seem difficult to make decisions that could have financial consequences or require personal sacrifices from individuals or from nations as such.

Working out the programme we had as a point of departure the four elements: Earth - Air- Water – Fire. Each element was associated with a problem area and a study of possible solutions. As an Alliance of Catholic Women we have wanted to focus in particular on personal and Christian dimensions and work ethics in relation to the environment and to see how we – as citizens, at home or at work – can improve our daily

practices in favour of a sustainable development and thereby contribute to a protection of the Creation.

At the end of the summer school there was a call from the participants to create an annual 'Andante Day for the Environment' when the wonders of creation would be celebrated as a reminder of the threat to the earth from climate change. This day could be marked by environmental initiatives, such as tree planting; or by individuals and families deciding to reduce energy consumptions, and thereby carbon emissions to a bare minimum for one day.



After its last session in 2012, the CoCoA encouraged the member organisations to organise such an event in their countries, the last week-end of September. To this purpose they could contact national branches of 'Plant-for-the-Planet' or other organisations working in the field of environment protection to see how they could co-operate and take action together.

Since then, the Schweizerischer Katholischer Frauenbund (SKF- Switzerland) has taken the initiative to organise a Day for the Creation in the 'Triangle of three countries' in Basle. On the theme 'The Planet – where does it go?', several organisations within Andante will organise a Day of Creation beyond borders on 28 September, 2013. Involved in this are l'Action catholique des femmes (Acf, France), Katholischer Deutscher Frauenbund, Germany (KDFB), Katholische Frauengemeinschaft Deutschlands (kfd), Vie et Foi /Action catholique générale de la Suisse romande et the SKF. Other (women's) organisations, families and individuals are also invited – any person who cherish solidarity and a just future. For further information: [www.andante-europa.net](http://www.andante-europa.net) and [www.frauenbund.ch](http://www.frauenbund.ch)

### **Member organisations**

Currently Andante has 22 member organisations, representing approximately 1,2 million Catholic women in Europe. Several other organisations have shown an interest. We are hoping to get additional new members, especially from Southern Europe.

### **Communication**

#### *Newsletter*

Since it was launched in 2008, the number of subscribers to our electronic Newsletter has continuously increased. We are trying to publish it three times a year, but the fact that all the articles have to be translated into three languages, makes this task very demanding for us. In addition to information on Andante activities and about its member organisations, one can find a section 'Spotlight on...' where a specific organisation is highlighted, whereas the Editorial often has the characteristic of a 'column'. Another objective of the Newsletter is to inform the readers about European initiatives to stimulate personal involvement and to make aware of meetings, sessions and events where representatives of Andante have participated. Besides, contributions from member organisations are indispensable in order to feed the Newsletter...

### *WEB-site*

Today, no organisation with respect for itself can do without a web-site. It serves as a means of communication between members of an organisation and also as a visitor's card. Still, having a web-site is one thing, running it on a daily basis is something else – even more so when the ambition is to publish everything in three languages. Despite the competent and untiring help from a devoted volunteer on the technical side, the CoCoA cannot guarantee all of this in the future. We are looking – among our own members and/or elsewhere – for a person who would like and would be capable of helping us. What has been said about the Newsletter – that contributions from member organisations are indispensable in order to feed it – is equally true for the web-site...

### *Database*

To construct a database is similar to building a house, with storeys, rooms, sections connected to one another by passages and corridors. It is only little by little and with a lot of patience that it is constructed. Today, thanks to the volunteer mentioned above, the building stands but several storeys must still be furnished whereas others are equipped. The inhabitants are divided in categories: member organisations and those in charge, participants and speakers at our conferences, the organisations with which Andante networks, etc. Another category is the 'specialists', people to whom the Co-ordinating Committee can appeal if there is a need for advice concerning difficult and important issues – for instance ethical questions.

### *Andante's Common Prayer*



At the General Assembly in Sion in April, 2008, the delegates expressed the wish to have a common prayer for Andante. In order to make sure that this prayer really reflected the feelings of Andante's members, the Co-ordinating Committee asked for help from a Swiss theologian, Jacqueline Keune. She suggested sending a questionnaire to all the member organisations, asking them to respond to specific questions. In this way they would be in a position to express their joys and fears, their successes and disappointments, their ideas and visions concerning the work in and for their organisations and for

Andante. It is on the background of their answers that Jacqueline Keune composed a prayer in German. French and English translations were ready in time to be read during the celebration of the Eucharist at the end of the General Assembly in Strasbourg. Since then the prayer also exists in several other languages. For the prayer text:

[http://www.andante-europa.net/fr/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=31&Itemid=59](http://www.andante-europa.net/fr/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=31&Itemid=59)

### ***The Co-ordinating Committee and the Secretariat***

#### *CoCoA*

At the 2010 Assembly, the delegates elected nine women for the Co-ordinating Committee:  
Inese Auskalne (LKSA, Latvia), Mette Bruusgaard (NKKF, Norway), Maria Demeterova (KzhS, Slovakia), Zsuzsa Lackóné-Huszka (KNFE, Hungary), Agnès Manesse (Acf, France), Mary McHugh (NBCW, United Kingdom), Maria Theresia Opladen (kfd, Germany), Claire Renggli-Enderle (SKF, Switzerland), Marie-Louise van Wijk-van de Ven (Unie NKV, The Netherlands).  
The latter was re-elected president for a period of three years, and the election was ratified by the delegates at the Assembly.

Owing to a change within her organisation, Agnès Manesse could not continue as member of the CoCoA. The member organisations accepted CoCoA's proposal to organise an election and to nominate candidates. In this way Sophie Pujalte, also from Acf France, was elected to the CoCoA in October 2011.







Between 2010 and 2012 there have been 9 regular board meetings, and in addition we have also taken the opportunity at the Summer School or at the General Assembly, to have a mini-session the day before or after the event. We always meet during the week-end, and one of the CoCoA members takes on the responsibility of organising the meeting in or near the town where she lives. These meetings have made it possible for us to get to know each other better – which in turn has facilitated the work. Most often we have also been able to meet the people in charge of the member organisation in that country, and this has strengthened the ties between the CoCoA and the organisations. In order to reduce costs the working groups in charge of preparing an Assembly or a

Summer School have at times 'met' on Skype. This is certainly useful but can never replace the 'physical' meetings with the possibility of really discussing and developing tasks as a team.

### *Secretariat*

As a consequence of postnatal complications, the secretary who was employed in January 2010 had to resign the very same year. As no qualified person could be found, the CoCoA members had to cope as best they could for more than a year. Fortunately, the kfd (Katholische Frauengemeinschaft Deutschlands / Association of Catholic German Women) 'lent' us a secretary for the preparation of the 2011 Summer School in Reute without charging us for the hours. Once again we would like to take the opportunity to thank the women in charge of kfd. After her retirement at the beginning of 2012, this person, Karin Boden, accepted to work part time as secretary for Andante.

For the preparation of the 2012 Summer School in Leitershofen, it was KDFB (Katholischer Deutscher Frauenbund/ German Catholic Women's League) which helped us by lending us Jutta Wojahn, from their secretariat and responsible for 'portfolios' such as Ecumenism and International Relations. A warm thank to her and to KDFB.

The address of the secretariat remains the same: office@andante-europa.net . The office of kfd functions as Andantes postal address and is also the legal seat of Andante.

## **External activities and developments**

### ***Networks and public relations***

As in the previous period, the promotion of Andante and networking have occupied an important place in the activities of the CoCoA. This is done through spreading the electronic Newsletter and our flyer that was updated in 2012, through press releases and statements, through participation and representation at events that are organised by other (women's/Catholic) organisations or by social, political or ecclesiastical institutions on the European level. At the end of events organised by Andante, such as the General Assembly in 2010 and the Summer Schools in 2011 and 2012, press releases have been issued and interviews published.

### ***Representation***

Andante receives many invitations to participate at conferences, seminars etc. Owing to limitations in terms of finances, capacity and time, it is impossible to accept all. Here is a selection.

On the *level of the European Union* there have been contacts with members of the European Parliament (EP), notably during seminars organised by the Committees of the EP, such as the ones on the occasion of the World Day of Women. Or else conferences and symposiums organised jointly by the Hans Seidel Foundation and the permanent representation of one of the German 'Länder' (states within the German Federation).

Andante was also present at meetings organised by the *Comece* (Commission of Bishops' Conferences in EU states), for instance at an evening debate on '*Constructing the European Union of tomorrow*' as well as at a reception on the occasion of celebrating 30 years of Comece. In addition, at the conference on '*The central place of Man's work in the market economy of Europe*' organised jointly by the EPP-group (European Popular Party), the S&D Group (Social Democrat Alliance) and the Comece on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the social encyclica *Laborem Exercens*; and a round-table conference on '*The Nobel Peace Prize: an awareness for all citizens? Present challenges for the EU and the contribution of Christians*'. (cf. www.comece.eu).

In 2012 Andante joined 'The European Sunday Alliance', an initiative from about 60 organisations from Civil Society, Trade Unions and Churches (among these the Comece). In their founding manifesto 'Together for decent working hours' the signatories promised to safeguard and promote free Sundays and decent working hours at European level. We encourage all of Andante's organisations as well as their individual members to join this alliance. Cf. <http://www.europeansundayalliance.eu/>

Likewise, on the EU-level, there is a group called IXE/Christian Initiative for Europe where Andante has participated. This group meets twice a year and organises from time to time a meeting on a relevant theme, for instance a colloquium on 'Immigration, a challenge for the European Union and for the Christians in Europe' in June 2010 in Brussels, a conference on 'Conflicting memories' in March 2012 in Warsaw. The Secretary General of Comece and/or his deputy participate as observers. (cf. <http://www.initiative-ixe.eu/> ).

Among other events where Andante has been represented, one can mention: The conference of Social Forum about 'Care', conferences of the COFACE – among these 'Including the families – where is the dimension of the family in the politics of the EU?'; the launching in Paris of the 'Parvis des Gentils/Court of the Gentiles', an initiative by 'Pope emeritus' Benedict XVI to encourage a dialogue between believers and non-believers; the General Assemblies of the Ecumenical Forum of Christian Women in Europe, Pax Romana, and the European Laity Forum; the yearly 'Katholikentage' in Germany and the yearly congresses of Semaines Sociales de France. For their 2012 congress on 'Men and Women – the new situation' the SSF had asked the French member organisation Acf to organise several workshops.

### **The Council of Europe**

Some months after the General Assembly in Strasbourg in April 2010, Andante received a negative response to the request for 'participatory status'. Imagine our astonishment and our deception... At a meeting with the people at the head of the department in question, we learned that there was only one way to change this situation. There is not room here to go into details about the campaign that we conducted towards certain delegates at the Parliamentary Assembly and several ambassadors at the Council of Europe. It is sufficient to say that it was with relief and joy that we received, at the end of 2012, the news that the Secretary General had changed his mind and had granted participatory status to Andante. We would like to thank, once again, all those who helped us – whether through advice or concrete actions.

During the three years without the participatory status, Andante has nevertheless participated in all the sessions and at many other events organised by the Conference of INGOs (International non governmental organisations represented at the Council of Europe). Reports from the meetings where we have participated can be read in each edition of our Newsletter as well as on the Andante website.

What should be pointed out here is that, as a consequence of a great reform at the Council of Europe, the budget for the Conference of INGOs has been considerably reduced. Accordingly, the INGOs can only meet twice a year compared to four times earlier. The number of committees has been reduced from six to three – and one of these is responsible for such a range of subjects that it has become almost impossible to manage. On the other hand, transversal groups – such as the one on equality between women and men – have all disappeared. In order to make sure that this aspect is taken into consideration by all the new committees, the Conference of INGOs has adopted the proposal from a number of women's organisations to elect a person to an expert post for equality women/men. This person is a member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs.

With only two sessions a year, the programme is always very full, with meetings in several groups taking place at the same time. It is therefore very difficult to 'cover' all the themes and activities that may be desirable. That is why it would be important to have representatives who can supplement each other at the Council of Europe. Among the groups that we have signed up for are 'Religions and Human Rights', 'Learn History in order to become a European citizen', 'Access to digital media for everyone', 'The religious dimension of intercultural dialogue', 'True democracy', 'Great Poverty', the 'MENA Taskforce' which in particular focuses on women in the 'Arab spring countries'.



Choosing themes we let ourselves be guided by questions such as:

- Do the interests of the Council of Europe correspond to those of our organisations?
- How can we benefit from our participation?
- How can we as Catholic women contribute to the Council of Europe?

An important task for the representatives of the INGOs at the Council of Europe, as well as for the Andante member organisations, is to underline for their governments and for their national assemblies the necessity of ratifying the Conventions of the Council of Europe. Without this being done, these conventions remain so to speak 'dead letter'. As an example we can mention the 'Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence'. On the website of the Council of Europe, it is possible to see which states have ratified this (and other) conventions. Cf. [www.coe.int/en/](http://www.coe.int/en/) .

### **CINGO**

Andante is part of a group of Christian INGOs whose representatives meet on the fringe of the official sessions of the Conference of INGOs. It is an opportunity for sharing, networking, learning new things and working together. Cf. [www.cingo-strasbourg.eu](http://www.cingo-strasbourg.eu)

### **Conclusion**

In a month the next General Assembly of Andante will take place, this time in Bratislava in Slovakia. As always, the Assembly will consist of two parts: Study Days and the Statutory Assembly. The theme chosen is 'Andante, weaving together a Europe of Hope'. This will be an occasion to focus on important issues concerning the future of Europe and a way of living together. Through reflections and discussions the ambition is for the participants to develop a vision of a Europe where everyone can lead 'the good life'.

During the Statutory Assembly following the Study Days, the delegates of the member organisations, will – based on the results of the Study Days – decide the priorities of Andante for the coming three years.

They will once again elect a Co-ordinating Committee. Some members of the current committee will continue, others will leave. For me personally, it will be my last Assembly as president. These seven years have been a source of joy, of discoveries, of friendship and learning. Our Alliance is still young, dating back from 2006. Looking back and seeing where we are today, I dare say that we have already covered quite a good distance together.

I urge all Andante women to continue walking together, to join forces, to help one another. We are all Catholic women living in Europe; at the same time we often come from completely different backgrounds. But despite these differences, let us proceed together, with determination and to the same rhythm – *andante*...

Marie-Louise van Wijk-van de Ven  
Outgoing president



We are very grateful to the organisations and foundations which have supported Andante from 2010 to 2012 with their generous donations, a. o.:



**Catholic Fund for Overseas Development GB**



**kfd Foundation Saint Hedwig, Cologne**



**Solidarity Action of the German Catholics  
with the people  
in Central and Eastern Europe**



**Foundation Communicantes Netherlands  
KOINΩNOYNTES  
since 1974**



**Ancillae Sisters Germany**



**World Day of Prayer  
Germany and Switzerland**



**Catholic Fund Germany**



**Foundation KDFB Germany**

We also thank the Andante member organisations as well as the individual women and the dioceses who donated money for the activities of Andante, its summer schools and the General Assembly.