

Volunteer and Companion Summer Camp Report

Krakow, 24 June - 3 July 2013



Participants.

The camp was attended by 10 companions and volunteers. Four of them came from Emmaus Solidarite, Paris; two from Emmaus Gloucester; one person from Emmaus Haarzuilens and Emmaus Koeln each as well as two companions from Emaus Rzeszów. Four participants from the Emaus communities in Krakow and Nowy Sącz also took active part in camp activities. Companions and volunteers hailed from various countries, cultures, and religious backgrounds. /Afghanistan, Algeria, the Czech Republic, Chechnya, Romania, Holland, Germany, France, Poland/

Work.

Works in the following areas were planned to be performed during the camp:

Tidying of the areas adjacent to the building, covering the foundations, area development, sowing grass, painting rooms, building a chicken coop and a goat pen.

Performed Tasks

1. The drainage system for the square located between the residential building and the outbuildings was made. This square is intended to be the heart of the new community and, by nature of things, the central point of the community's activities. The fact that rainwater shall be collected and stored in a tank, to be later used to irrigate the garden, water plants, etc., comes as yet another ecological advantage.

2. Trees were planted along the entire length of the fence to provide shade for the Community's future residents.
3. The residential building foundations were covered. It is the first step to introduce and maintain order and cleanliness around the building.
4. Two outbuildings were constructed - a chicken coop and a goat pen. Following the advice of local farmers, the purchase of animals has been postponed until autumn.
5. A part of the camp participants also helped in the finishing works inside the building. They made provisional flooring in the hall, parquet panels in the rooms, assisted at finishing and painting of room walls.

Other events

The participants also took part in excursions - a guided tour of Krakow, a visit to the Auschwitz - Birkenau German Nazi Concentration Camp, they also paid a study visit at the Emaus Community in Nowy Sącz which was combined with a trip to local health resorts.

Camp budget

Due to the lower than planned number of participants, the camp budget has been decreased. The total cost of the camp amounts to EUR 6,679.00, excluding the expenses for animals to be purchased in autumn. The detailed expenses balance sheet with their division by expense types is to be found in the financial report.

Feedback and Conclusions for the Future.

Next to the performed works, the camp also provided a perfect opportunity to learn. It is worth reminding that it was our debut in organising such an event and for our small community it posed a substantial logistical and organisational challenge. The camp was not intended to be a huge scale event neither was the scope of works particularly complex. Upon the end of the camp and having conducted interviews with its participants, certain conclusions may be drawn in terms of future improvements.

1. Better info on accommodation, location, available conveniences and shopping facilities, as well as the distance from the city centre.
2. Earlier commencement of the camp recruitment process, especially in partner Communities.
3. Finding a coordinator, equipped in appropriate knowledge to provide support when necessary and to be with camp participants at all times.
4. Stronger emphasis on the requirement to refrain from the use of intoxicants in force during the duration of the camp will help to avoid unnecessary problems in future.