

emmaus europe
EMMAÛS EUROPE
EMAÛS EUROPA

RE

VIEW

2015

REPORT

FR ES EN

DESIGN GRAPHIQUE: CLARA, C / 2015

Contents

1. The President's report by Willi Does
 - 1.1 Advocating a socially-responsible Europe working for the most disadvantaged people
2. Never-ending migrant tragedies are not inevitable!
 - 2.1 Migration: caught between political considerations and respect for human rights
 - 2.2 For migrant reception, European Union solidarity remains too restricted
 - 2.3 The example provided by the Emmaus Movement in Europe: an unconditional welcome
3. Emmaus Europe's campaigns: lobbying the European political authorities
 - 3.1 Internal and external mobilisation: priority areas
 - 3.2 Our campaign on Peace and Living Together in Europe
 - a. Background
 - b. Our meeting with MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg
4. The vibrancy of the Emmaus member groups in Europe
 - a. Group locations
 - b. Sharing experiences brings alive the region and makes the Emmaus Movement stronger
5. Regional life: involvement and subsidiarity in our initiatives
 - 5.1 Selecting the association's strategic areas: the 2015 Manchester Regional Assembly
 - 5.2 Implementing the main strategic areas: the agenda and priorities of the Regional Councils of Emmaus Europe (RCEE)
 - 5.3 The executive management body: the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe
 - 5.4 Regional and themed working groups: the European collectives
 - 5.5 Other 10th anniversary year events
6. The different facets of solidarity
7. A web of shared tools: a showcase for our work
8. 2016 and beyond: Let's opt to fight indifference
9. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat
10. Appendices

1. The President's report by Willi Does

1.1 Advocating a sharing and supportive Europe working for the most disadvantaged people

2015 was a significant year for Emmaus in Europe. We all know about the economic crisis which is the result of the capitalist system: it is generating a greater gap between those with money and the increasing numbers who live in poverty.

We have seen that wars, dictatorships and environmental destruction in several parts of the world have resulted in more and more refugees coming to Europe.

During our last regional meeting in Manchester, the thousands of human beings making their way to Central Europe along the so-called Balkan Route and the drowned little boy on the Turkish coast showed us the inhumanity of the European institutions, which are refusing to offer a humane welcome to Europe.

But we also saw both sides of European societies. On the one hand, open arms and welcoming human beings and, on the other hand, new forms of nationalism and racism at all levels in Europe.

I am pleased that the delegates were willing and able to sign an open letter to the Heads of State and to the Presidents of the European institutions, explaining and calling once more for an open Europe with open borders, support to help newcomers integrate our countries, and the possibility to live in freedom and dignity.

2015 marked the 10th anniversary of Emmaus Europe and over the past decade the organisation has been trying to find its way and create its own identity in the governing bodies of the national Emmaus institutions and Emmaus International.

In my view, Emmaus Europe's sphere of action encompasses:

- Serving its member groups.
- Organizing and supporting the links between the groups.
- Coordinating solidarity initiatives and programmes and training sessions.
- Influencing the European institutions in Strasbourg and Brussels.
- While respecting the sheer diversity of the groups in the different countries.

Emmaus Europe is one of the four Emmaus International regions. Our region has its own identity but we also strive to understand our important role in the Emmaus Movement. The Regional Assembly was also influenced by the next World Assembly in 2016 with its own dynamics.

Let me also stress that it was satisfying to have more candidates for the Emmaus International governing bodies and that the new Executive of Emmaus Europe has five new members and is made up by three women and three men.

Let me also explain that this Executive needs to cooperate effectively with the members of the Regional Council, with the Executive and the Board of Emmaus International.

The tasks of facilitation and training should be a higher priority.

Last week we had the chance to meet the President of the European Parliament, Mr Martin SCHULZ, speaking once more with him about our values and the real-life situations in our groups, particularly regarding the migrant / refugee situation, but also about the European Commission's new Circular Economy Package, which must be directly linked to Emmaus' own solidarity economy.

Finally, I wish to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing members of the Regional Executive – Julio de la Granja, Alain Capmas and Xavier Vandromme.

We worked together for many years in an atmosphere of solidarity, friendship and openness.

Over the past few months, I have visited the Emmaus Europe Secretariat several times and have therefore gained a better understanding of the amazing work they do to support Emmaus Europe.

I wish to round off this report by stressing my willingness and commitment in the role of President of Emmaus Europe to working with everyone in our shared Movement, always taking into consideration the grassroots groups and the companions and workers.

Willi DOES

President

2 February 2016 (the day of the visit to the European Parliament)

2. Never-ending migrant tragedies are not inevitable!

2.1 Migration: caught between political considerations and respect for human rights

“Chaotic and uncontrollable” population movements are guiding the EU’s decisions. The differing approaches to the phenomenon adopted by the countries of Europe and the crisis in the European asylum system are also placing considerable pressure on the countries located along the EU’s external borders.

2015 was the year in which the States’ inability to identify the different types of migrants, their backgrounds and ages, and to guarantee protection for the most vulnerable groups, became apparent. Moreover, the debate on migration is confused. Not all migrants are asylum seekers requiring international protection and not all asylum seekers are refugees. Europe’s border agency Frontex is systematically turning back large number of migrants.

On 23 September 2015, the European home affairs ministers accepted the **resettlement proposal based on quotas under which 120,000 people who obviously need protection will be relocated.** This emergency resettlement scheme is a compulsory mechanism for sharing out people in need of international protection among EU member states and is designed to relieve member states **exposed to a crisis situation (Italy and Greece).**

State sovereignty

Countries unwilling to accept relocation/the quota system, such as Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia, have opposed the plan. Slovenia is threatening to challenge the European Union in the European Court of Justice.

For Emmaus Europe technical solutions are no longer relevant at a time when policies that increasingly fail to reflect the human element are becoming standard practice.

Reception and resettlement

It is worth raising the issue of **resettlement waiting times and the sustainability of this mechanism. Will this plan really address the issue?**

The European Commission has been tasked with informing the European Parliament about the resettlement mechanism and potentially with making recommendations for a permanent resettlement mechanism; the European Commission must start doing this in July 2016.

Other mechanisms are already enshrined in European legislation such as Directive 2001/55 **on temporary protection ratified by all the EU**

Member States. However, it is worth noting that the temporary protection measure was not activated at any time during the 2015 migration crisis and would not seem to be a mechanism to be used over the coming years.

France has pledged to take in 9,100 people from Syria and Eritrea as opposed to the 12,100 taken in by Germany.

What about the homeless migrants who are not resettled under the scheme? Their lives need to be prioritized. For instance: Calais and the French government's inability to cope with the crisis in the jungle camps (see the 26 November 2015 court ruling on living conditions in the Calais jungle camps).

However, the **migration crisis is far from being a solely European issue**. Countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt are home to roughly 22 million refugees. The European Heads of State are now focusing on this issue. **They want to further develop the dialogue with third countries and help the agencies working on the ground**. The **resettlement mechanism** involves 20,000 refugees who are currently living in reception centres in third countries being relocated to Europe. At the present time, 18 of Europe's 29 Member States voluntarily resettle refugees.

At the same time, the creation of **refugee hotspots** is progressing at a breathtaking rate so that asylum seekers can be registered and have their IDs checked in Europe's border countries, particularly Greece and Italy. Several agencies are involved in this initiative: the IOM, Europol and the European Asylum Support Office. However, the refugee hotspot initiative should definitely not be a source of pride.

Analysis of flows of migrants and how to manage them is leading European political leaders to rethink borders. Europe's borders delimit the European political area, as enshrined in legislation - "the community acquis" - or body of law. The area is a flexible concept. The Schengen Area, which has lifted border controls between 27 European states, allows the free movement of European citizens, but also makes it difficult for third country nationals to enter Europe.

The concept of a physical border around national territory seems to be re-establishing itself in some European countries. This is reflected in Serbia and Hungary building border fences, with Austria following suit more recently.

“European solidarity and cooperation both need to be stepped up in response to the migration crisis”

Fortress Europe is opting for security to the detriment of fundamental rights

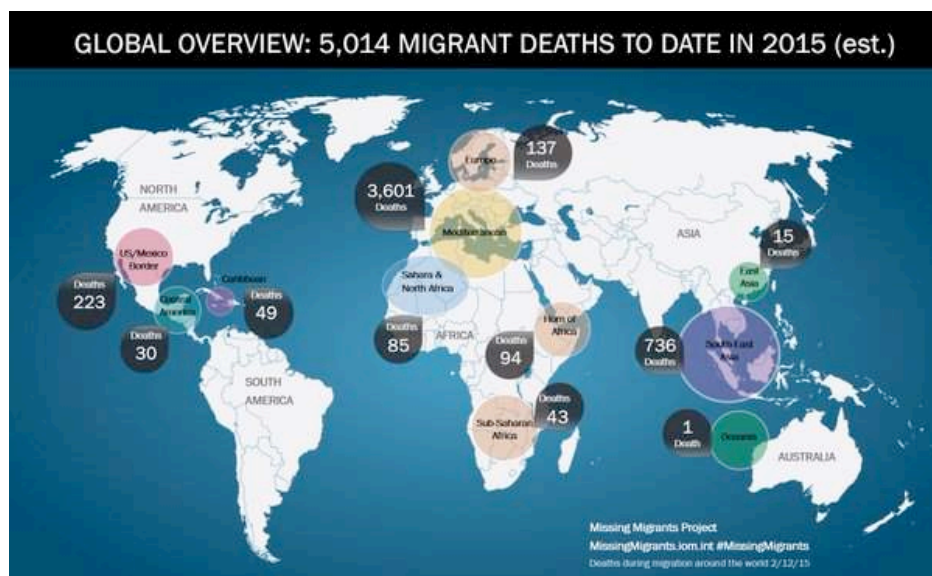
Although the European Union is based on the values of respecting human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and respect for human rights, while its main aims and objectives are to promote peace, its values and its citizens' wellbeing, a war is being waged against those who are fleeing conflict by a paramilitary organisation – Frontex.

Migration hotspots and *resettlement* are two measures which epitomize the solidarity-responsibility ethos at European level: however, until they are fully implemented, **the EU's response to the crisis will remain flimsy from a policy-making and operational standpoint.** These EU decisions have not yet taken full effect and time will tell whether they yield results, which in itself involves constant monitoring by the European Council.

Indeed, above and beyond **simply managing migration crises**, the European Union and its Member States need to undertake a wholesale review of their **entire migration strategy.**

2.2 For migrant reception, European solidarity remains too restricted

According to OECD figures, in 2013 the number of international migrants was relatively low, comprising about 3.2% of the world population. However, political Europe is being destabilised by “chaotic and uncontrollable” population movements.

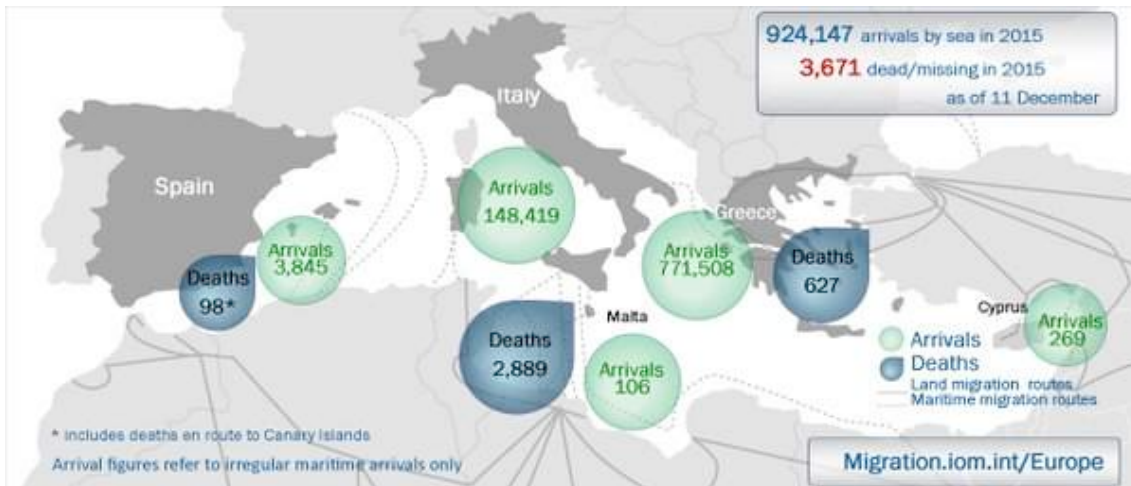


2015 was marked by a never-ending succession of migrant tragedies in the Mediterranean. The tragic deaths of hundreds of migrants galvanized people across Europe in an unprecedented manner, with ⁷

this being symbolized by the 23 April special meeting of the European Council. Special short-term measures were adopted and the focus on the issue restarted the **debate about how Europe should respond to migration crises**.

Indeed, **22,000 migrants have perished** in the Mediterranean since 2000 (IOM – International Organisation for Migration figures).

There were over **100,000 illegal crossings** of the Mediterranean in 2015: 54,000 to Italy and 48,000 to Greece, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).



On 13 May 2015, the European Commission presented the European agenda on migration in response to the political and economic instability in the Mediterranean region countries and the growing pressure on Europe’s borders from migration. The agenda is a priority for both President Juncker and the Member States.

This reform **of European migration policy, based on the Member States being superficially supportive of each other, actually contains a large number of shortcomings and offers repressive rather than humane solutions.**

Indeed, in a declaration on 22 April 2015, Emmaus Europe states that technical solutions are no longer relevant at a time when policies that increasingly fail to reflect the human element are becoming standard practice. Here below is the whole Emmaus Europe declaration.

“The Juncker Commission’s work programme must go beyond the Member States’ political considerations. MEPs need to take responsibility and focus on solutions that take into account the human dignity of the people rejected by our society.



The lack of support for migrants in Europe reinforces the stigma, material deprivation and despair they experience. The reception given to migrants by Europe violates fundamental human rights. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom promote the principles of human dignity, physical and moral integrity, freedom, privacy, and respect for family life, equality and non-discrimination, while prohibiting inhumane and degrading treatment.

These provisions make each State responsible for coping with the consequences of the “mass influx of people.” There is an obligation to safeguard the dignity of victims of tragedies. **Punishing them by turning them back at the borders of Europe is an aberration that only conceals latent social problems and goes completely against the letter and spirit of human rights laws.”**

Emmaus’ aims and objectives encourage us to protect the rights of those who suffer most. We denounce the technical solutions that are unsuited to the displaced people who are roaming Europe. We should prioritize saving lives rather than border controls.

How are Europe’s decision-making bodies responding to the migrant tragedies?

The European Commission responded in two ways in 2015: devising immediate and medium-term strategic solutions. The Commission responded **immediately** by tripling Frontex’s budget, releasing emergency funding for states, introducing migrant resettlement and relocation and finally by stepping up efforts to destroy networks of people smugglers.

More **strategic** measures include: the creation of centres in countries of origin, reviewing Frontex’s legal basis in 2016, with the agency’s budget increasing by €45 million in 2016, the rollout of a single decision-making procedure, aiming to guarantee equal treatment for asylum seekers in the Member States, and a new policy on legal migration and improvements to integration policies.

In April 2015, Emmaus Europe began raising the awareness of political decision-makers about its demands and recommendations:

- **The above-mentioned provisions to be applied and to work for temporary protection in the event of a massive influx of people.**
- **An appropriate response to migration to be devised as soon as possible.**
- **Inappropriate application of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).**
- **The fact that the work of the European Union’s border agency – Frontex – is not transparent.**

2.3 The Emmaus Movement provides shelter and support across Europe

Emmaus' aims and objectives encourage us to protect the rights of those who suffer most.

It has to be said that the harmonization processes are currently being hampered. The fact that certain Member States are blocking some directives with high social added value is having an impact on fundamental rights.

In our 300 groups across Europe, we live side-by-side with the most forgotten members of society and we demonstrate that we can all live happily together. Emmaus provides housing for migrants and tries to find administrative solutions for them. At Emmaus, we support people through the process of becoming integrated into society. The European groups can be sure of one thing: initiatives are being run on migration policy and human trafficking in Europe and are worthy of being shared. **This demonstrates our capacity to sustainably rise to the challenge of giving them shelter and support and helping them to integrate society.**



Our groups' daily lives demonstrate that our work to relieve extreme poverty and address its root causes continues to be vital.

Social peace is threatened in the EU: the discriminatory and nationalist policy of the public authorities, an increasingly individualistic and selfish view based on rejecting others, etc.

Faced with the combined pressure of the Eurosceptics and Europhobes, groups can demonstrate to the European institutions that they must swiftly give fresh impetus to European construction and the European ideal of peace and solidarity.

Emmaus, a movement for peace, has chosen to take this path for almost 70 years by taking in migrants and fighting to ensure that their rights are protected and respected and via the social and solidarity economy, environmentally friendly practices and consumption, and sustainable development. Lets brig up this choice!

3. Emmaus Europe's campaigns: lobbying the European political authorities

3.1 Internal and external mobilisation: priority areas

If “the voice of the voiceless must prevent the powerful from sleeping at night”,
Emmaus is duty bound to amplify their voice.

A more social and humane Europe is needed. Emmaus has been implementing this ethos for close to 70 years by:

- Offering shelter and support for migrants and campaigning to ensure that their rights are protected and respected.
- The social and solidarity economy.
- Environmentally-friendly and sustainable consumption practices and methods.
- An austere and frugal lifestyle.

Two **concerns** persisted for Emmaus Europe in 2015 and beyond:

- True upwards harmonisation of European standards.
- True solidarity between States.

The Emmaus groups are confronted by the impact of human rights violations on a daily basis: many people knock at their doors to ask for help.

The sheer abundance of initiatives in each country where Emmaus works is immeasurable but is most definitely palpable and concrete. It is put to the test on a daily basis in order to defend those who suffer most.

Emmaus Europe promotes this practical experience via testimonies and meetings over the course of the year.

In 2015, Emmaus Europe focused on the following **action areas**:

- a) **Promoting peace**
- b) **Human rights and migrants' rights**

In keeping with the work done in previous years, the following is worth highlighting:

- A letter was sent to the **MEPs, Heads of State and the European authorities calling on them to activate the** European Union's 'temporary protection' directive (22 April 2015, please see page 3 of this report).

- Emmaus Europe signed and circulated the following declarations:

Migrants in the Mediterranean, 32 organisations from across the EU appeal to the European Council (22 April 2015). An excerpt from the declaration:

“...Our organisations consider that in doing so, the European Union would explicitly assume responsibility for the deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. For this reason, we are appealing to the European Council as it meets on 23 April.

We ask the European Council to re-establish the commitment that, a little over fifteen years ago, paved the way for “an open and secure European Union, fully committed to the obligations of the Geneva Refugee Convention and other relevant human rights instruments, and able to respond to humanitarian needs on the basis of solidarity.”

Deaths in the Mediterranean: the European Council’s dishonour (24 April 2015). An excerpt:

“23 April 2015 was a terrible day: the European Council, that was at last to “take action” as regards a “tragic” situation in the Mediterranean, merely attempted to shelter the European Union and its Member States from migrants by toughening border protection.

Combating emigration with the support of third countries, deportation, refoulement and detention in specialised centres and criminalization of entry are just part of what survivors experience when they have finished counting their dead. In taking these shameful measures, the European Council turns its back on its responsibility, adding its own dishonour to the ranks of the dead.”

Joint appeal by a number of European organisations, including Emmaus Europe. Bridges, not weapons! (26 June 2015) - an appeal for a migrant, asylum seeker and refugee reception policy. The Member States of the European Union (EU) will address the issue of these repeated tragedies at the 25-6 June European Council meeting.

“Our organisations are calling for the European Union and its member states to implement the following measures as a matter of urgency: Organize a properly resourced maritime search and rescue operation supported by all the Member States to prevent boats from sinking and rescue anyone in distress. Frontex, even if its resources are increased three-fold and its area of intervention is widened, remains a security agency; open up legal and safe immigration channels for migrants and asylum seekers and immediately abolish the transit visas required by many people fleeing war-torn countries, such as Syria; refuse and / or suspend migration related cooperation with countries of origin and transit countries that fail to respect freedoms and fundamental rights.” Excerpts are published on www.emmaus-europe.org

Crossing the Straits of Gibraltar in support of Article 13

Supporting the journey made by Maria and Alain, two Emmaus community leaders (August 2015)

Maria and Alain travelled from Tarifa in Spain to the Moroccan coast to highlight the absurdity of a system which encourages the movement of goods and capital but hampers that of men, women and children who are fleeing extreme poverty, conflict and other scourges. This 20km crossing is considered to be one of the deadliest routes for migrants trying to travel to Europe. Our founder, Abbé Pierre, would have undoubtedly been particularly proud of this initiative. The initiative's communications and promotional resources are still available on www.emmaus-europe.org. The initiative fostered an ethos of hope.

A lack of solidarity, unilateralism and abrogation of responsibility: what future for the EU's founding values? (August 2015)

The asylum crisis in Europe means that the European Union's founding values are in crisis and the Schengen area and agreements are being called into question. Once again, the countries of Europe are remaining wedded to their desire to defend their sovereignty, without managing to work together. They are shifting the issue of migration outside Europe's borders to the migrants' countries of origin and transit countries. It seems that Europe will be adopting this stance at the Valetta Summit on 11-12 November 2015.

Motion on migration approved in a vote by the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (6 September 2015)

The motion was sent to the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission and the Heads of State of the EU member countries. An excerpt from the motion: *"Emmaus Europe calls upon you to immediately:*

- *Open up secure access routes to European territory for migrants and refugees in compliance with international and European law.*
- *Set up a migrant and refugee reception system*

based on solidarity between Member States, in particular activating the system provided for by the European Directive of 20 July 2001 relating to temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced people. The reception system must be appropriate throughout Europe and all the Member



States should take their fair share of migrants and refugees.- Reform the right of asylum, with the abolishment of Dublin III being the basis for this overhaul.”

c) Protecting victims of human trafficking

Even though human trafficking may appear to be an impossibly complex international issue, this is not the time to give up. The groups in Europe continue to develop broad-based initiatives in this area.

- Bolstered by the experience acquired since it was founded in 2014, the European Resource Centre for Preventing Human Trafficking and All Forms of Exploitation in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) is continuing to demonstrate the importance of pooling experience and know-how.
- In Lithuania, the MPFSC (Missing Persons' Families Support Centre) ran a summer camp in 2015. The camp is aiming to create appropriate working conditions on their site in order to offer activities to victims in the long term.

Emmaus Europe has once again supported the leveraging of human and economic resources in this area.

d) Rights of the homeless

There is still a need to find an appropriate response to homelessness in Europe.

One of Emmaus' fundamental principles is to reiterate the provisions of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which promote the principles of human **dignity**, physical and moral integrity, freedom, privacy, equality and non-discrimination, while prohibiting inhumane and degrading treatment. Emmaus Europe continues to speak out against the practice of criminalising the homeless and the danger of the practice becoming commonplace in Europe.

Also on-topic: the Fondation Abbé Pierre (FAP) and the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) published the first Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe in November 2015. Willi Does, the Emmaus Europe president elected in September, and Julio de la Granja, the outgoing president, attended the launch of the report, attaching the necessary importance to the issue.

The report uses available statistics to explore housing problems across Europe and places a special focus on the issue of homelessness and evictions. It also presents EU housing legislation, including monitoring new developments to case law, and key facts and figures about substandard housing in Europe.

It is worthwhile raising the awareness of European decision-makers even though this is an issue on which the EU does not have the power to act.

3.2 Our campaign on Peace and Living Together in Europe

“At European level, Emmaus Europe **lobbies the European authorities and the authorities of the countries** in which the Movement is established...”

a) Background

Almost 70 years ago, on 1 February 1954, our founder **awakened the conscience of the general public and politicians** by launching an appeal to help the most deprived and forgotten members of society. We are keeping this appeal alive as the situation remains as critical as ever today.

Our stated mission is to **ensure that people stay aware, focus our action on human beings** and to see in them an infinite wealth and the promise of people thriving in a fraternally supportive environment.

Emmaus Europe’s work with the institutions, including the European Parliament, the democratic heart of the European Union, involves:

- Publicizing all the activities and success stories generated by the Emmaus groups in Europe.
- Monitoring legislation and negotiations about draft directives and regulations on the topics of migration, the social and solidarity economy/employment, and the environment.
- Mobilizing the Emmaus groups and alerting European and national political representatives about any legislation that could potentially jeopardize human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Indeed, over 70% of national legislation now results from decisions taken in Brussels, as public policies are taking on an increasingly European flavour. Emmaus Europe wants to highlight its presence on the European stage in response to this phenomenon.

In 2015, contact was also maintained with:

- MEPs (particularly those from countries in which there is an Emmaus Europe member group).
- The European Parliament information offices in the European countries where Emmaus has a presence.
- The offices of the European and national political parties.
- The office of the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz (Germany, S&D).

b) Our meeting with MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg – 15 December 2015

For the second consecutive year, Emmaus Europe, one of the Emmaus International regions, invited MEPs to **dialogue with Emmaus activists**. The aim was to present our Movement's initiatives and champion migrants' rights using our own real-life examples: work-based inclusion, financial independence and knowing how to live together.

The discussion with the MEPs focused on:

- The circular economy: incorporate our work and model in order to protect and promote them in Europe.
- Migration: the aim is to introduce amendments which would provide for a European type status.

Participants travelled to Strasbourg from five countries – Germany, France, Italy, UK and Romania – to make Emmaus Europe's voice heard in the European Parliament. The activists drew on their own experiences to tell the meeting about the achievements and difficulties encountered on a daily basis by the Emmaus groups.



The meeting observed that at the global level our societies have been torn apart and wounded mainly by war and conflict. Environmental pollution and social and political injustice have become commonplace. The economic system no longer benefits citizens, particularly the most deprived members of society, and this has been the case for 30 years. Consequently, the experience of the Emmaus Movement built up over time compels us to be the **voice of the voiceless**.

Emmaus took the opportunity to criticize a dangerous development in Europe: a decline in solidarity, justice and freedom in Europe, coupled with the rise of selfishness of certain countries, racism and xenophobia in our society. The rules of a neoliberal economy also hold sway in this context, excluding the weakest members of society and destroying the environment for future generations. This destructive policy which excludes people has a terrible impact: people flee their home countries.

“This desire for peace and to live together in harmony is the very essence of our Movement and is the driving force behind our work.”

Whereas the European Parliament and Commission believe that the EU should be based on solidarity and cooperation, the Member States use their national interests to justify border closures. They are calling into question the founding philosophy of the European Union by doing this.

This generates a **social divide and works against social cohesion.**

On the other hand, the Emmaus model demonstrates that offering shelter and support to the most excluded people, while also enabling them to regain their dignity via the economic, social and environmental alternative espoused by Emmaus, is possible.

Emmaus’ own experience shows that the social and solidarity economy concept can be used to help create jobs, foster social inclusion and have a positive impact on habits and behaviour. This observation is noteworthy in the current crisis context.

In response to the realistic alternative espoused by Emmaus, the MEPs who attended the meeting praised the remarkable work done by the Emmaus Movement to integrate people into the world of work and to bring about sustainable development. This meeting was a new phase in the continuing dialogue with MEPs.

Emmaus Europe plans to carefully monitor decisions taken in the European Parliament, notably with regard to the Circular Economy Package. The organisation will call for the concept of the social and solidarity economy to be introduced and will voice its recommendations and proposed solutions.

In conclusion, Willi Does (President of Emmaus Europe) encouraged the MEPs to develop legislation which does not imperil human rights and fundamental freedoms. Throughout the European parliamentary term, a tailored annual event could maintain the link between the representatives of civil society that we embody and MEPs.



4. The vibrancy of the Emmaus member groups in Europe

a. Group locations

In 2015, Emmaus Europe had **291 member organisations** in 17 countries.

The following map shows the locations of the Emmaus groups in Europe.

Emmaus is present in the countries marked in dark orange on the map: Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, UK, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belgium, Denmark and Albania.



Emmaus Europe is now the Emmaus region with the

largest number of Emmaus groups. New groups are preparing to join the Movement, both in Eastern Europe (Romania, Bosnia and Albania - three in total) and Western Europe (Germany, UK, Finland and France - 14 in total).

b. Sharing experiences brings alive the region and makes the Emmaus Movement stronger

The sheer number of groups in Europe inevitably means that there are major cultural, social and even economic differences between the groups. **This is Emmaus Europe's strength.**

The daily lives of the groups in Europe are filled by solidarity economy activities: recycling, and offering shelter and support, training and reinclusion to the most disadvantaged people. **Social initiatives in the following areas:** housing and social support, campaigning for the rights of the weakest members of society, environmental protection and developing Fair Trade. **Initiatives to safeguard human rights:** campaign to ensure that the right of asylum is respected and campaign against human trafficking (grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities). **International solidarity initiatives:** sending containers of goods and other forms of support for the activities of groups in a variety of countries.

In 2015, everyday life in Europe was primarily marked by a **decline in respect for migrants' rights, the social balance being upset by the economic crisis, and austerity policies causing poverty and unemployment to rise. In other words, a larger swathe of society is being marginalised.**

5. Regional life - involvement and subsidiarity in our initiatives

5.1. The Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe held in Manchester in September 2015: Emmaus Europe's highest authority

A major gathering bringing together all the Emmaus Europe member organisations, as a rule the assembly is held every four years or more often in a city in Europe, with the decision being taken by the Regional Council. The previous RAEE was held in May 2011 in Paris (France).

The 5th Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe was held on **3-6 September 2015 in Manchester (UK)**. **169** member organisations and six trial member groups from 16 countries in Europe gathered together at the assembly arranged with the support of the Emmaus groups in North West England and Emmaus UK.

The assembly was the chance for the members of Emmaus Europe to select their representatives:

- **Willi Does** is the new president of Emmaus Europe. A member of Emmaus Cologne in Germany, **Willi has been chairing Emmaus Europe since 7 September 2015.**
- The Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI or the European members of Emmaus International's Board).
- And put forward a candidate for the Emmaus International Wise Persons' Committee.



The elected representatives will take up their posts in April 2016 at the next World Assembly (Jesolo, Italy). Please refer to the RAEE meeting minutes available on www.emmaus-europe.org if you wish to find out more about the 2016-2020 term of office elected representatives.

Outcomes of the 2015 Regional Assembly

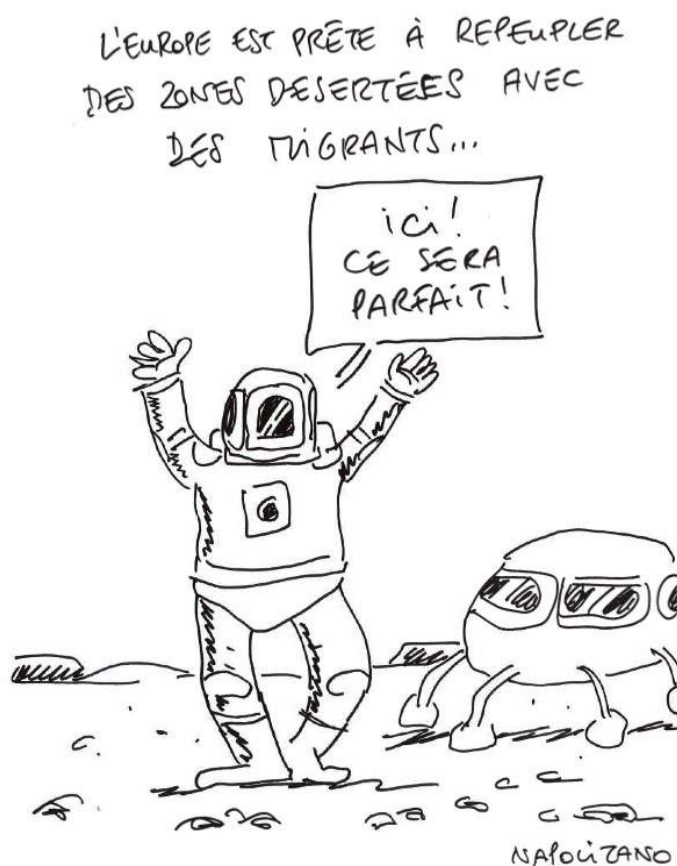
The Regional Assembly set the **work areas and priorities enabling it to achieve its objectives** for the period until the next assembly.

All the participants helped to set Emmaus Europe's work areas for the next four years. The recommendations made by the 17 workshops will be taken on board with real conviction and there is a real will to organize meetings for all the Emmaus Movement's activists.

Terry Waite, the Honorary President of Emmaus UK, and Arvinda Gohil, the Chief Executive of Emmaus UK, spoke about the two major topics for the discussion days: relations with the world outside Emmaus, and ensuring sustainability and developing our activities, based on the concept of happy degrowth. They shared their ideas and experience while discussing their areas of expertise with everyone.

The news was particularly appalling at the time of the assembly (migrant tragedies) and led to the meeting drafting and approving a motion on migration. The motion was sent to the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission and the Heads of State of the EU countries, and each and every Emmaus activist is invited to make use of it!

There was also the chance to unwind at the assembly. The cartoonist Pascal Napolitano had already attended Emmaus Europe's meeting in Verona in 2013 and once again amused people with his cartoons.



Europe is ready to repopulate deserted areas with migrants.

It looks perfect here !

The assembly also provided the opportunity to visit UK groups in the Manchester area. **Participants were given the chance to visit Emmaus Bolton, Emmaus Merseyside, Emmaus Mossley, Emmaus Preston and Emmaus Salford.** Photographs and videos of this major event in the region's lifecycle can be found on www.emmaus-europe.org.

The **action plan** is printed below. The Emmaus Europe Board will transform the plan into initiatives between now and February 2016, with these initiatives being a common basis for all, which we must continue to implement.

The European Emmaus groups meeting at their regional assembly have reaffirmed their commitment to step up their initiatives and campaigns to address the root causes of exclusion. They are working to combat predatory international finance, the economic and social policies that cause extreme poverty, security-based migration policies, and a failure to care for the environment, all this in cooperation with civil society.

The groups have devised the following action plan so that their objectives can be achieved.

- 1. Step up our European Union lobbying work on the issues that affect us by drawing on the groups' day-to-day initiatives.**
- 2. Promote training so that we can analyze and understand the challenges of today's society.**
- 3. Campaign against current European migration policy in order to champion freedom of movement in conjunction with Emmaus International and the Emmaus Movement's national organisations (referring to article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention).**
- 4. Defend and protect commonly-held resources in order to guarantee access for all.**
- 5. Bolster solidarity in the Emmaus Movement.**

We wish to take the chance to warmly thank the European groups for taking part in this statutory meeting.

We are asking you to convey Emmaus' recommendations and make them sustainable, as we know you have a European vocation and are working with the interests of future generations in mind. Let's continue to ensure that people remain truly aware.

5.2 Implementing the main strategic areas: the agenda and priorities of the Regional Councils of Emmaus Europe - RCEE – the organisation's Board

20-22 February 2015 in Montreuil, France

Emmaus Europe celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2015. The anniversary year revolved around preparations for the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe. The February 2015 RCEE therefore focused on making the arrangements for this statutory meeting, which also included visits to UK groups and the election of new representatives.

The national delegates shared news about the latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to **EI and EE. The work process on the values for the 2016 World Assembly and the development of the European solidarity programme were also items on the agenda.**

6 September 2015 in Manchester, UK

As Emmaus Europe's policy-making body, the RCEE met following the 5th Regional Assembly. This meeting brought together the existing elected representatives and the new representatives who would be taking up their posts in April 2016.

This was the first RCEE chaired by Willi Does and the purpose of the meeting was to elect Emmaus Europe's Regional Executive. Its makeup is as follows:

- Silvana Nogarole, Secretary
- Michael Heap, Treasurer
- Birgitta Goranson Iliste, member
- Hans Van Beek, member
- Julia Finer, member

New representatives were also chosen for the European working groups (the Collectives).

The meeting voted on the RAEE action plan and elected the new members of the Regional Executive, as well as debating the need for Emmaus Europe to have internal regulations. As a reminder, a basic outline was submitted by the working group in 2015. The document was firstly discussed in the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe in order to create a consolidated version. Finally, it would be advisable to consult an expert on non-profit law and get the expert to read through the content of the document and obtain their opinion. Emmaus International has suggested using their legal expert.

2012-2015 period of office

***The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe is comprised of Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI):** Simon Grainge, Javier Pradini, Jean Karekezi, Gérard Racinne, Hans Van Beek, Margarita Zilliacus, Silvana Nogarole, Tobias Petersson, and Gianni Belletti.

And 14 national delegates:

Willi Does representing Germany, Gérard Corpataux representing Switzerland, Gregorz Hajduk representing Poland, Gélu Nichitel representing Romania, Jose Maria Garcia Bresó representing Spain, Robert Jansson representing Finland, Jos Van der Meer representing the Netherlands, Delia Ressende Clément representing Portugal, Neil Lee Radford and then Paul Matthews representing the UK, Julia Finer representing Sweden, Maria Luisa Testori representing Italy, Annie Blanc representing France, Lejla Mešić representing Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Julio de la Granja representing Belgium.

Jean Rousseau is a member by right as the chair of Emmaus International.

Thank-you to everyone for their commitment to their role

5.3 Day-to-day implementation of the work areas: The Regional Executive – Emmaus Europe’s executive body

There were three face-to-face meetings of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe in 2015: 8 February, 10 June and 16-17 November. All the meetings were held in the shared Emmaus building in Montreuil in the Paris Region (it should be noted that the Executive is consulted by email on a daily basis by the secretariat, elected representatives and group members).

The Regional Executive members until the Manchester RAEE were: Julio de la Granja, president, Willi Does, secretary, Alain Capmas, treasurer, Xavier Vandromme, Silvana Nogarole and Birgita Goranson-Iliste, members.

There was a transition period between mid-September and December 2015 when the elected representatives from the previous period of office handed over to the incoming elected representatives. The transition period proved a success and remits and responsibilities were transferred without any hitches.

Thank-you to everyone for their commitment to their role!

5.4 Regional and themed working groups: the European collectives

The European Collectives are working groups which aim to support the work of Emmaus Europe. The European Collectives raise the profile both locally and across Europe of the solidarity initiatives. Emmaus Europe has two types of collective: the geographical collectives (Romania, Poland and Ukraine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina) and the themed collectives.

a) European geographical collectives: mobilizing the Europe region and bringing alive solidarity between countries

For more information, please refer to the 2015 solidarity review and the meeting minutes.

The collective meetings are the chance to gain a better understanding of the situation of the groups and to discuss:

- Each member’s situation (premises, activities, shelter and support offered).
- Progress made on the initiatives supported by Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.
- Applications for support (practical and financial support).
- The regional transport programme (loads sent and needs for the next programme period).

b) **The European migration / human trafficking collective: focusing on the most sensitive European issues**

Emmaus Europe lobbies MEPs in order to ensure that the issues that we hold dear are part of the European decision-making authorities' debates. In line with this approach, the June 2015 meeting was held in Northern France in Calais.

The Migration and Human Trafficking Collective, Dunkirk and Calais, 24-5 June 2015



On 24 June 2015, Emmaus groups from Europe (from France, Belgium, UK, Italy and Germany) met at **Emmaus Dunkirk** in order to share and pool their experiences of supporting migrants.

They also had the opportunity to see first-hand the living conditions of over **3,000 migrants** in the state

shantytowns, the so-called jungle camps, located in the forests bordering the region's main motorways. Since October **2014, several trucks containing goods sent by different Emmaus communities have travelled to Calais.** The trucks contained **60% of the materials collected by companions,** particularly pallets used to build huts such as the White House, vine covers, used to build tents, tables and chairs.

The state-run **Jules Ferry day centre** is unable to meet the need for accommodation, despite delivering services and distributing roughly 2,300 meals a day. In response to this situation, the **associations are calling for:** 1) The camps to be made secure 2) The camps to be supplied with electricity 3) Inflammable tents to be provided 4) Heating to be provided 5) Accommodation capacity to be increased and a second meal to be provided every day.

Emmaus Dunkirk and Emmaus Saint-Omer are campaigning for a Migrants' Centre to be set up at which migrants would be offered basic services and provided with the information they need about asylum.

The Collective meeting programme included:

- **Film and discussion evening arranged by Emmaus Dunkirk with local associations (SALAM and Amnesty International) and migrants' personal accounts. Screening of Emmaus Europe's film: Migration, are there any solutions?***

The Nord-Pas-de-Calais region is a **hotspot for migration routes** as it is located on the border with the UK. The number of migrants crossing the English Channel has increased significantly over the past six years and the cost of illegally travelling to the UK has risen **from €300 to over €1,000 per person / journey**. However, the UK does not seem to be the migrants' preferred destination when they leave their home countries; instead it offers them their last chance of obtaining asylum in Europe, once they have been deported from countries of entry, such as Italy and Greece. **Circular migration** (from country to country) is therefore occurring, often instigated by people smugglers who threaten the migrants' families with reprisals. The associations are therefore calling for: a) The application of EU directive 2001/55/EC on **temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons**, b) **Abolishment of the detention of migrants** solely on the grounds of them not having ID documents (violation of the Geneva Convention), c) Abolishment of the **Dublin III system** forcing migrants to make their application for asylum in the first European country they reach.

*Film available on <http://www.emmaus-europe.org/rencontre-au-parlement-europeen-26-novembre-2014-strasbourg-17428.html>

- **The collective meeting itself was held on 25 June at Emmaus Saint-Omer**



- **Roundtable: Different perspectives on the new faces of European/global society - facilitated by outside speakers**
- **Emmaus Europe's assertions:**

Respect for migrants' human rights (1948

Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and access to the same rights as European citizens.

Abolish detention and enable migrants to move around freely while waiting for their asylum application to be processed.

Reception conditions that respect the migrant's physical and psychological wellbeing.

Spend differently, fostering the integration of migrants into our society (Regional Council of Emmaus Europe declaration, Lampedusa 2014).

Abolish the Dublin system (Appendix 1: Call to abolish Dublin III).

5.5 Other key events in 2015

Training in Europe

The *Emmaus in all of its facets* training course was held for the second successive year at Emmaus Cologne in Germany. The course took place on 12-14 October 2015 and was attended by 12 participants from six countries (Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands and UK).



The course is open to companions, leaders, volunteers, friends and employees keen to strengthen their commitment to the Emmaus Movement and to help those who suffer most. Aims and objectives of the course:

- Understand the founder's story.
- Understand how Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe were created.
- Identify the founding values.
- Enable people to understand Emmaus' history and its originality.
- Grasp the European dimension of the Movement.
- Bring alive and implement the Movement's values in the participating groups.



This training course is all about taking on board the fundamental values and passing on the story of how Emmaus developed in Europe and across the world. Willi Does, the President of Emmaus Europe, and Brigitte Mary, the Emmaus International Secretariat Heritage and Membership Manager, delivered presentations this year so as to share their knowledge with the participants.

The training course is also a fantastic opportunity to take time out from everyday life and to meet others. It encourages interaction and exchanges of practices. Apart from the interaction between the course participants, the ties forged at the



course may also be extended to include the participants' home groups. These shared moments rekindle the feeling of belonging to a movement, particularly for groups from countries in which there are few Emmaus groups.

Championing the Emmaus values in Europe involves:

Being receptive to the Emmaus ethos as it is lived out elsewhere.

Joining together to discuss alternatives to make for a fairer and more socially responsible Europe.

A look back at the Civil Passion Event

Emmaus Cuneo and the Italian anti-mafia organisation **Libera** were the driving forces behind the Civil Passion event held in **Palermo from 5 July to 30 August 2015**. The two associations have different origins but share common values such as the rule of law, caring for the environment and more generally commonly-held resources, advocating solidarity, defending the rights of the weak, and combating all causes of social injustice. The idea of pooling experiences and creating a shared **environmental** project therefore took shape.

The aim of the 2015 Palermo summer camp was to awaken social consciences about the environment and about **protecting/redeveloping commonly-held resources** in conjunction with the Emmaus Movement's own values and reuse work. Palermo is unfortunately notorious for its environmental problems, namely several dilapidated and disused public places, and for its malfunctioning waste collection service.



The project was relatively well received in the different neighbourhoods, despite there being some misgivings.

Plans to create an **Emmaus community in Palermo have been considered**.

The partnership between Emmaus Cuneo and Caritas, **working with migrants and in the Port of Palermo**, is taking shape, in order to provide them with an initial reception service. Special training has been planned for the volunteers delivering the reception service. The initiatives in the neighbourhoods listed above continued throughout the month of August 2015 and beyond.

6. The different facets of solidarity

Activities supported by the European groups in 2015

- Solidarity initiatives developed by the groups. A solidarity programme brought together the initiatives in 2015. The programme enables groups to become involved in funding one or more solidarity initiatives run by the European member organisations that have applied for support.
- The summer camps: working for the good of others. It should be noted that the Emmaus groups host volunteers throughout the year and not just in summertime.
- 2015 Paris Salon: 2015 proved to be a record year in terms of takings and visitor numbers. The profit from the salon will be used to support international solidarity in 2016.
- Regional salons: our friends in the Nord Pas de Calais-Picardy Region held their sale on 28 March and our friends in the Champagne Ardennes-Alsace-Lorraine region joined forces to hold their biennial sale on 20 September 2015.

Monitoring of the initiatives carried out by Emmaus Europe

Monitoring and supporting the groups is made possible by the links forged with them but would prove impossible if they failed to take part in work meetings, and without the friendly and responsible welcome they all offer. *Thank-you to everyone for your cooperation!*

Please refer to the 2015 solidarity review for more information about the solidarity initiatives.

European summer camps: 2015

The aim of the summer volunteer programme is to enable the general public to discover the values of the Emmaus Movement and the people involved in it. In addition, it is also the chance for men and women from different backgrounds to get to know one another. In 2015, work camps were run in the following European countries: Italy, Finland, Romania, Belgium, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Spain, Lithuania and Ukraine.

2015 – the 10th anniversary year of the youth camp, Srebrenica, 16 – 26 July 2015

The International Solidarity Forum, Emmaus ISF invited its partners to join with the young people in celebrating the event and open the 10th youth camp. Over 200 people made their way to the Franco Bettoli Centre for the opening ceremony held on 20 July 2015. **Silvana Nogarole spoke on behalf of Emmaus Europe and encouraged the young people to continue the work started by Abbé Pierre and Franco Bettoli, to work to create a better world and to publicize Emmaus' ideals, making human beings the focus of all initiatives.**

7. A web of shared tools: a showcase for the group's work

The Emmaus Europe website

The Emmaus Europe website conveys information about the activities and news from the region and the European Emmaus groups.

The **Main Events of the Year** and **Upcoming Events** sections are regularly updated. Groups wishing to share information about events can submit the information so that it can be published online.



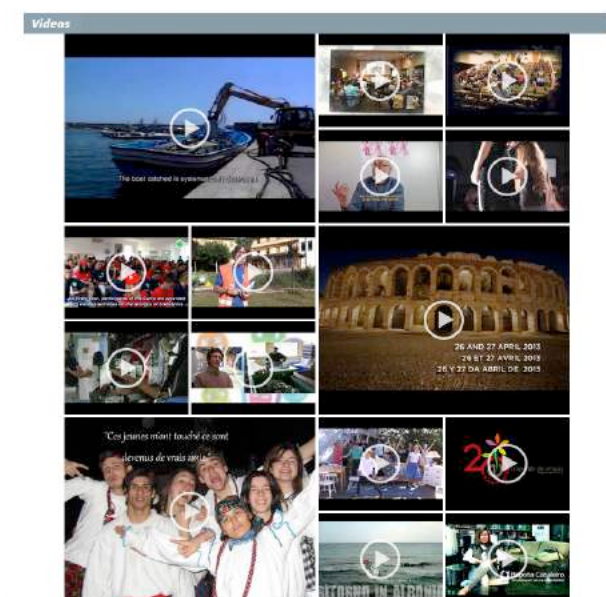
The website publishes the organisation's news, member group contributions and news about Emmaus Europe's work areas.

Changes were made to the website in 2015.

The Help us to Help section was changed to enable several items of solidarity news to be displayed on our home page. At the outset, this section could not be modified in any way. The news now scrolls past and the section provides a direct link to the news pages highlighted by this section.



Another new feature: **a video gallery has been created. The gallery is accessed via the Regional life menu** and brings together all of our videos in a single place, making them easier to find. The aim of this section is to share groups' and Emmaus Europe's own videos. Groups which post videos on video-sharing websites such as YouTube, Dailymotion and Vimeo can send their links to Emmaus Europe so that we can publicize them. Video are available in their original language versions, as published by the groups on video-sharing websites.



As 2015 was a regional assembly year, the website was an additional source of assembly information, as it was used to publish all the information and documents relating to this major event in the association's lifecycle.

A special page was created to enable groups to prepare for the assembly and another page was created for follow-up work. Both can be **accessed directly from the members' area**. Open-access articles also previewed, explained and then reported back on the event.

Documents préparatoires aux Assemblées Régionales

- Préparation de l'Assemblée Régionale 2015 - 3-6 septembre 2015, Manchester, Royaume-Uni.

Documents préparatoires :

- Documents de travail (.zip)
- Répertoire d'Emmaüs Europe
- Plan de Manchester

Candidatures soumises au vote :

- Présidence d'Emmaüs Europe
- Conseiller d'Emmaüs International (CEI)
- Conseil Mondial Action Politique et Solidarité Internationale (CMAPSI)
- Conseil Mondial Formation et Nouvelles Générations (CMFNG)
- Comité des sages

Télécharger tous les documents nécessaires :

- Convocation/Mandat
- Agenda de la réunion
- Appel à candidatures
- Bulletin d'inscription
- Informations financières
- Consultation sur les ateliers
- Foire aux questions
- Récapitulatif mandats
- Guide du conseiller d'Emmaüs International
- Guide du conseiller mondial
- Les élus du comité des sages d'Emmaüs International
- Comment entrer au Royaume-Uni ?
- Quiz (.zip)

Les suites des Assemblées Régionales

- Les suites de l'Assemblée Régionale 2015

La 5^{ème} Assemblée Régionale d'Emmaüs Europe s'est déroulée du 3 au 6 septembre 2015 à Manchester (Royaume-Uni). 189 organisations membres et 8 groupes en provenance de 16 pays du continent européen étaient réunis pour cette assemblée organisée avec le soutien des groupes de la région nord-ouest du pays et d'Emmaüs Royaume-Uni.

La participation de chacun a permis de fixer ensemble les orientations d'Emmaüs Europe pour les quatre prochaines années. C'est avec force de conviction que les préconisations issues des 17 ateliers seront prises en compte tout comme la volonté d'organiser des rencontres entre tous les acteurs du Mouvement.

Terry Waite, fondateur d'Emmaüs Cambridge et Président d'honneur d'Emmaüs Royaume-Uni ainsi qu'Arvinda Gohil, Directrice Générale d'Emmaüs Royaume-Uni, sont intervenus sur les deux thèmes majeurs guidant les journées de réflexion : les relations avec le monde extérieur d'une part, la pérennité et le développement des activités dans une logique de décroissance heureuse, d'autre part. Ils ont partagé leurs idées et leur expérience tout en échangeant avec tous sur leurs domaines de compétence.

L'actualité particulièrement révoltante, marquée par les drames migratoires, a également servi à l'élaboration et au vote d'une motion sur les migrations. Envoyée au Président du Parlement européen, au Président de la Commission européenne et aux chefs d'Etats des pays de l'Union européenne, chaque acteur d'Emmaüs est invité à s'en saisir à son tour !

Des moments de détente étaient aussi au programme ! Déjà présent lors de la rencontre de Vézère en 2013, Pascal Napolitano a su, une fois de plus, nous amuser avec ses caricatures.

De plus, notre présence au Royaume-Uni était l'occasion de visiter des groupes anglais de la région de Manchester. Plusieurs visites étaient ainsi proposées dans les groupes Emmaüs de Bolton, Merseyside, Mossley, Preston et Salford.

Retrouvez ce moment fort de la vie de la région en images et en vidéos :



Merci de votre participation !

Finally, the website contains a complete archive of Emmaus Europe's documents. Minutes from statutory meetings, reports from the Collective meetings, annual reviews and the annual accounts, as well as many other documents, can be downloaded from the website, either as open-access or members only documents in the members' area (password: eemmaus).

Accueil | Nouveaux membres | Français | English | Español

EMMAÜS EUROPE

Emmaüs Europe | Vie de la Région | Actions de solidarité | Actions citoyennes | Rencontres générationnelles | Programmes d'activités | Recrutement

Espace membre » Les réunions statutaires d'Emmaüs Europe » Les procès-verbaux des réunions statutaires

Les procès-verbaux des réunions statutaires

Un procès-verbal, communément appelé « PV », est un acte juridique écrit qui retranscrit les déclarations, les constatations, les situations et notamment les décisions évoquées lors d'une réunion.

C'est donc le nom que l'on donne, dans le cadre d'Emmaüs Europe, au compte-rendu d'une réunion de l'une des trois instances statutaires : l'Assemblée Régionale, le Conseil Régional et le Bureau d'Emmaüs Europe.

- Procès-Verbaux des Assemblées Régionales
- Procès-Verbaux des Conseils Régionaux
- Procès-Verbaux des Réunions du Bureau

In addition to the traditional Emmaus Europe website, groups can still create their own leaflet using their favourite article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by going to <http://droitshumains.emmaus-europe.org> The website can also be accessed by the general public.

Each group now has the chance to take ownership of the campaign event, adapt it, keep it alive and ensure its sustainability!

8. 2016 and beyond: Let's opt to fight indifference

“Advocating a Europe of human rights and reconciliation”

Emmaus Europe is counting on the involvement of all the European groups in order to have a real influence on the European policies that are shaping our future but forget the weakest members of society. Emmaus Europe will also develop **the action plan approved in a vote by the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (3-6 September 2015 in Manchester, UK).**

Emmaus Europe was created to encourage an ethos of hope, solidarity and sharing in Europe; this ethos is the very basis of the Emmaus Movement.

In 2016 and in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris, the social situation in Europe has hardly changed: people are retrenching behind national and regional borders, social exclusion is worsening, society is rejecting migrants, sometimes violently, and human rights are being violated. We are all duty bound to feel disturbed and challenged about these issues and to continue our campaign for a humane society in which each and every individual will regain their dignity.

Faced with a complete misconception about an invasion of migrants spreading further and further across Europe, the ongoing human rights violations, the socio-economic isolation experienced by migrants and mass return policies, Emmaus has a radically different stance, offering shelter and support throughout Europe.

The European plan to share out 160,000 refugees by 2017 is making little headway with 200 migrants having been shared out among the countries of Europe **between September and December 2015.**

MEPs: Emmaus Europe will more closely monitor the impact of the measures taken in 2015 and is calling on your sense of justice to harmonize refugee status throughout Europe. Emmaus Europe will call upon each of the Member States in which it has a presence to mobilize human and financial resources commensurate with the current emergency situation.

We need to support **legislative proposals that could facilitate the Emmaus Movement's work in Europe, notably support for the most deprived people as they seek to reintegrate society.**

We are far from having a **united, humane and supportive Europe, bolstered by its culture of peace.**

We have the opportunity to influence international policy. The Emmaus World Assembly will invite the groups to think about the Emmaus Movement's values via the common values and future action topic.

Make sure you take part in the Emmaus International General Assembly (18-23 April 2016 in Jesolo, Italy)!

9. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat

- **Véronica Acevedo Caro:** Admin-finance assistant
- **Camille Decaens:** Solidarity responsible
- **Marie Tixier:** Events assistant
- **Gabriela Martin:** Coordinator

- **By email:**

contact@emmaus-europe.org

www.emmaus-europe.org

For information about the fundamental rights championed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, please visit <http://droitshumains.emmaus-europe.org/>

- **By telephone:**

0033 1 41 58 25 70 / 71 /73 or 60

- **By post:**

47, avenue de la Résistance 93104 – Montreuil, France

10. Appendices

Motion on migration approved in a vote at the Manchester RAEE, 6 – 12 September 2015

Message from the Emmaus groups in Europe

For the attention of the Presidents of the European Council and Parliament
For the attention of the European Union Heads of State

Presidents,
Heads of State,

In a context of extreme violence in which men, women and children are forced to leave their home countries and risk their lives in an attempt to travel to Europe, we, the members of Emmaus in Europe, meeting in Manchester on 3-6 September 2015 and representing 20,000 activists in 17 countries, solemnly declare our indignation about the way that Europe treats migrants. This treatment is not just unacceptable; it also contravenes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, specifically Article 13, and the Geneva Convention. We wish to remind you that your countries were among the first signatories of these two international conventions.

In response to this situation, we are calling upon you to immediately:

- Open up secure access routes to European territory for migrants and refugees in compliance with international and European law.
- Set up a migrant and refugee reception system based on solidarity between Member States, in particular activating the system provided for by the European *Directive* of 20 July 2001 relating to temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced people. The reception system must be appropriate throughout Europe and all the Member States should take their fair share of migrants and refugees.
- Reform the right of asylum, with the abolishment of Dublin III being the basis for this overhaul.

We undertake to contact local councillors in our respective countries so as to help them organize an appropriate reception service for these migrants and refugees, based on our long-standing experience in this area.

“My friends, come and help, a child has just died at the gates of Europe.”

***Willi Does
President of Emmaus Europe***