

STRATEGIC REPORT 2020-2024



emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

It's by working together that we bring to life the spirit of the Emmaus Movement. Therefore, Emmaus Europe should not be a faraway structure but instead should support the groups and their solidarity links. Emmaus Europe should be a sounding board for their shared struggles and should also enable them to develop their practices by connecting them and disseminating their experiences. This is the vision that we want to bring to life over the next four years (at the very least!).



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Exchanges of practices between European groups can provide you ideas for your own group: shelter, fight against discriminations, climate change, generations renewal...

01

COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMBAT REJECTION OF OTHERS IN ORDER TO BUILD LASTING PEACE

We must contend with a climate crisis whose first victims will be the poorest people. This crisis should lead our society to review its lifestyle and consumption patterns and bolster solidarity. Emmaus is at the forefront of this change and we need to carve out a space for ourselves in this much-needed transition.

The Emmaus groups are increasingly turning to organic farming in order to grow their own food. Here the Cambridge companions in their community garden.



A. SHOWCASE AND BOLSTER OUR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

■ POOL THE KNOW-HOW OF THE EMMAUS EUROPE MEMBER GROUPS AND GO FURTHER STILL

Our social and circular economy initiatives have a positive impact on the environment and notably in terms of limiting greenhouse gas emissions: the next four years will enable us to develop exchanges of practices between the Emmaus groups in order to further increase our impact.

We are used to living with very little and adapting to difficult circumstances, so our resilience is our strength when faced with the climate crisis. We want to share and publicize our thrifty and autonomous practices with each other but also with wider society in order to demonstrate that a different kind of society can be built. Drawing on knowledge pooling /peer learning, produce practical information sheets and develop advocacy or communication initiatives if appropriate.

■ ADAPT OUR PRACTICES TO BE EVEN MORE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE CHAMPION

The activities of the Emmaus groups in Europe mean that they have a positive impact on the environment. However, in our daily practices, in the groups and at the level of the regional authorities, progress still needs to be made to bring our deeds into line with our words..

We wish in particular:

- To reduce air travel at the European scale;
- To train our groups' drivers to drive in an eco-friendly way;
- To rationalise our use of lorry transport as much as at the local and European levels;
- To limit our use of energy;
- To limit our use of plastics (ban plastic bottled water and single-serving items);

- To work on our food practices, whether in the groups or in terms of food aid, in order to guarantee access to healthy and eco-friendly food for our companions and in order to limit food waste. We would prefer organic and local food and try to avoid industrial meat.

Training could be delivered and there could be exchanges of best practices between members in this area.

■ RISE TO THE NEW CHALLENGES OF REUSE AND RECYCLING (THROWAWAY FASHION, WASTE LEGISLATION ETC), BY PROMOTING A SOCIAL AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Our social and environmental action today is partially compromised by a manufacturing industry that increasingly fails to respect social and environmental factors. How can we adapt our income-generating activity without becoming complicit with this system?

Pooling knowledge/self-training - first three topics

- Which groups in the network have managed to limit the amount of final waste generated?
- What are the new areas of activity developed by the Emmaus groups?
- How can the Emmaus groups in different countries pool information and what local partnerships should be set up to move forward legislation in your country?

Campaigning ideas

A campaign targeting our donors and shoppers and focusing on the social and environmental impact of fast fashion and other non-reusable products (furniture etc.) and on the importance of quality products that will last and be reused, even for donations.

B. COMBAT REJECTION OF OTHERS AND DEVELOP SHELTER AND SUPPORT IN ORDER TO BUILD LASTING PEACE

■ WE MUST CONTEND WITH

- The issue of shelter and support for migrants against the backdrop of migration policy that is creating more and more despair (Dublin Regulation in particular).
- The rise of nationalism and xenophobia.
- Increasing inequality and exclusion, leading to people becoming more self-centred and afraid of any change or difference.

■ WE MUST FORESEE

We must also foresee the need to offer shelter and support to a larger number of climate refugees and displaced people from Europe and other countries of the world over the coming years.

Proposed initiatives

- Pool our support, shelter and integration practices, including endeavours to combat discrimination and tension within Emmaus groups.
- Pool our anti-discrimination tools and showcase the Emmaus groups as being examples of a society that can welcome people and thrive on differences.
- Go on with raising awareness and act against minorities discrimination
- Continue with our partnerships to raise the awareness of civil society, particularly about the links between climate and population movements, and the challenges of building peace.
- Bolster exchanges of practices designed to address social exclusion.
- Communicate positively, ensuring that we deconstruct people's fears.



We can also undertake practical initiatives in order to develop our ideas. With the support of the European Emmaus groups, Emmaus Italy contributed towards the Mediterranean association's purchase of a maritime search and rescue boat.



Emmaus champions Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for freedom of movement. Here in an initiative in San Sebastian during the 2019 Regional Assembly.

C. BOLSTER OUR ADVOCACY ON THESE ISSUES AT EUROPEAN UNION AND CONTINENTAL LEVEL

■ OUR STRATEGY

- Identify issues with no national solutions in the member countries but that could be solved at the European level.
- Unite the countries of Europe to be stronger together: identify expertise, communicate by demonstrating for example our shared expertise, target MPs in each country in a coordinated fashion.
- Strengthen our alliances with European networks to achieve a greater impact (RREUSE, EAPN, Migreurop, CEES).

NB: Emmaus Europe will bear in mind that not all the member groups are part of the EU and wherever possible will develop resources that these groups can use to lobby their national governments.

■ OUR MODUS OPERANDI

These issues will be followed up by working groups open to new participants from the network using the two existing themed collectives as a basis: migration and circular economy, and potentially other new groups.

02

BE A SUPPORT FOR THE GROUPS

We're working hard to try to improve the support provided to our new groups and to have more exchanges between all groups so that we can learn from one another, thus helping us to strengthen our initiatives. Emmaus Europe helps to connect the Emmaus groups in Europe and we thus need to work on our internal and external communication tools in order to better serve the groups.

A. PROMOTE EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES, PEER LEARNING, AND INCREASE SUPPORT FOR NEW GROUPS

■ AN «ERASMUS» SCHEME FOR EMMAUS: PROMOTE EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES

The Emmaus groups boast plenty of knowledge and know-how and can help each other by sharing it. This can take the form of site visits or training/sharing experience.

Identifying needs and collecting proposals

Without setting ourselves the task of setting up a big and difficult to update database, Emmaus Europe is offering to collate the information enabling people to find out which group has what «expertise» or «know-how» and is willing to convey it, and which groups are looking for training/to develop and in which areas.

This will enable groups that could help each other to be put in touch and when several groups have a shared training need, the self-training/knowledge sharing can be organised for them, either at the collectives or at a dedicated training/sharing event. Needs and offers will be collated at the assemblies, the Regional Councils and the collectives.

Encouraging people to visit other communities

Companion/volunteer/paid employee stays in other communities will also be promoted as exchanges of experience that are pivotal for everyone's development and the overall coherence of the movement.



■ DEVELOP THE COLLECTIVES TO OFFER THE GROUPS A DIFFERENT KIND OF SUPPORT?

Following the geographical collectives' review of practices a decade after they were first created and in line with the general policy areas, we are suggesting that the collectives are split into several sessions that would enable exchanges of practices/training to be stepped up and would also enable them to be opened up to other participants, while maintaining the assessment of projects, welcoming new groups, and the discussion of practical solidarity.

Each collective would be reorganised with:

- **One autumn session** devoted to solidarity and discussing each other's projects: participation in these meetings would be restricted to the groups involved in the solidarity projects in the relevant region.
- **A spring session**, meanwhile, would focus on training/exchange of practices and this could potentially take place in a region other than that of the collective if the «trainer» group hosting is located in another region of Europe. This session would be open to all the groups in Europe, subject to the number of places available, and would be part of the Emmaus «Erasmus» scheme. It would enable new groups to find out about the European dimension of our movement.

This setup would enable exchanges of practices to be developed while keeping to a stable budget and without asking the groups involved in these exchanges to devote significantly more time to meetings. It would also enable practical learning to be added to the support given to new groups. However, it needs to be trialled with the existing geographical collectives to see whether two annual collective meetings in the current format would still be necessary.

More support for new groups

Regular monitoring of trial member groups will be put in place with a team comprising a CEI, an EE employee and a member of the representative group, who will pay at least one visit a year. An additional visit paid by the representative group would be desirable. We must also work on welcoming associations that wish to join the movement and we need to consider whether we have a proactive development strategy.

The collectives are forums for sharing and finding out about what the other groups do. Here in Satu Mare in Romania.

■ DEVELOP PRACTICAL RESOURCES ABOUT SETTING UP AND DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES

Practical information sheets

Practical information sheets about the «fundamentals of Emmaus' activity» will be sent to the members and trial members. The members will firstly review existing information and a working group made up of members of the collectives and the RCEE will suggest how the information can be adapted so that it meets the needs of groups that are starting out and then the needs of our groups in general. Over time, the sharing/training sessions in the movement could lead to new practical information sheets being developed.

Stated ambition - at least one sheet a year will be developed and disseminated. The format must be very simple (maximum length of four pages).

Open source tools

In this spirit of mutualisation, we also wish to develop our use of open source tools especially for our own productions.

■ IMPROVE THE STATUS OF EUROPEAN COMPANIONS

Companions constitute the very cornerstone of our movement's history, but they have different statuses depending on the country and group in question.

In the first instance, we want to exchange practices and consider the positives and negatives of the different statuses based on existing legislation in the countries where we have groups in order to move towards improving companion rights.

We also want to give companions a greater say in decision-making on the local and European governing bodies.



The container loads share out donations, with groups that receive lots of donated goods shipping them to other groups. They also help forge ties between the groups. Here Cologne in Germany and Lublin in Poland.

B. BOLSTER BOTH PRACTICAL AND INTANGIBLE SOLIDARITY

■ MAKE EXCHANGES AND SHARING A PRIORITY FROM EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES TO TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS

Our movement has been built on a vision of solidarity in which we undertake solidarity together rather than doing it for others. We want to perpetuate these values while ensuring that exchanges, sharing and meeting up are at the heart of what we do. We need to prioritize this form of intangible solidarity over practical solidarity; however, practical solidarity is still needed to enable some groups to emerge or get through a difficult period.

Apart from these exchanges of practices between the groups that we wish to step up, we will also look into the possibility of setting up twinning arrangements, which could help create exchanges in the long term on the basis of equality between groups from different countries.

■ PRACTICAL SOLIDARITY

In 2019, new solidarity criteria and new processes for the implementation of solidarity within Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe have been created. They will be set up and improved if needed in the next four years to enable groups in Europe to develop projects with the support of other members of Emmaus in a way consistent with the values we share: by prioritizing autonomy, collective projects, exchanges and links created between groups, rather than simple donations, and by being in keeping with Emmaus International's three struggles.

■ LORRY LOADS

A working group will develop a practical guide to container loads in Europe which will be regularly updated so that the loads meet the needs of the groups as much as possible and enable relationships to be forged between the members of the sending and receiving groups. As far as possible, no lorry loads of donated goods should be shipped without first having been a human exchange and a meeting between the two groups.

C. FURTHER RAISE THE PROFILE OF OUR WORK AND OUR IDEAS AND BOLSTER OUR INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

■ REMODEL THE WEBSITE AND WEB COMMUNICATION

This should enable the following:

- Gain a better understanding of what is aimed at the general public and what is aimed at the member groups.
- Coordinate better with the EI websites.

Within the movement try to give people a better understanding of the groups' circumstances and needs by making short videos or producing short illustrated articles/interviews to be circulated via Emmaus Europe to each country's newsletter. Create a simple document presenting the network aimed at institutional partners and elected representatives.

This four-page document showcasing our values will be illustrated with examples of the work of the European network and will enable each group to demonstrate the strength of our network when meeting with politicians.

■ DEVELOP OUR COMMUNICATION WITH FUTURE ACTIVISTS AND FOSTER YOUNG GENERATIONS COMMITMENT IN EMMAUS

Different ideas could be developed based on what the Assembly workshops will propose: Youth camps in the existing groups or in order to create new ones? Instagram account? Partnerships? Emmaus young ambassadors? Create a truly social network which would help to reduce our environmental impact and forge social ties?

■ HELP THE GROUP IN COUNTRIES WITH NO NATIONAL ORGANISATION TO RAISE THEIR PROFILES

For instance, Poland has volunteered to put on an Emmaus big sale in the country in order to raise the profile of the movement with the general public and raise the awareness of politicians. Profits generated could be allocated to European solidarity. We also want to earmark a budget for the translation of Emmaus Europe's documents into local languages if this would help the groups to gain a better understanding or would help the local community to learn more about Emmaus' message.

■ IMPROVE OUR INTERNAL COMMUNICATION BY CLARIFYING AND DESCRIBING EVERYONE'S REMITS

A guide for national delegates could be produced and the handover from former to new national delegates could be supported. Coordination between NDs and CEIs, based on their best practices, could also be facilitated.

■ DEVELOP VIRTUAL CONTACT WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

We will endeavour wherever possible to replace physical meetings (with Skype calls, teleconferences etc) in order to limit our impact on the environment. However, we must not forget that meeting face-to-face is a key component part of our movement. To avoid wasting paper, we are also proposing to no longer print out documents for the entire network. Instead, we will firstly ask who wants to disseminate the printed resource.

The pandemic has helped us to meet our virtual meeting development aims, but we hope to achieve a balance in the coming years with the resumption of face-to-face meetings. Here the first-ever online Regional Council meeting.



PROPOSALS

RESULTING FROM THE RAEE WORKSHOPS (TO SUPPLEMENT THE POLICY DIRECTIONS)



The proposals made by the Emmaus groups taking part in the regional assembly workshops are listed below. They will enable the Emmaus Europe elected representatives to add practical ideas to the policy directions and will demonstrate the special interest shown by RAEE participants in certain aspects of the agreed policy directions.

Some 30 workshops took place over the three days of the regional assembly. This was an opportunity to get to know better the other European groups and to develop shared proposals.

HOW CAN WE BUILD A WELCOMING AND PEACEFUL EUROPE IN THE FACE OF RISING NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA? HOW CAN WE FIGHT DISCRIMINATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE?

WORKSHOP 1

What needs to be done to combat discrimination and preconceived ideas? Both within the group itself and with regard to the general public (shoppers etc).

- Create free-to-use and adaptable resources to be disseminated in the groups.
- Map organisations that fight all forms of discrimination.
- Simultaneously hold a conference day on combating discrimination in each Emmaus country, working with friendly associations and showcasing our experiences and know-how.
- Communicate in order to convey a more positive image of the movement and the people who work in it.

WORKSHOP 2

Welcoming and supporting people of many different nationalities who have survived traumatic events: overcome the difficulties

- Work to get companion status recognized at the European level (OACAS type - residential and activity centre).
- Take advantage of the European network and get professionals to volunteer in our groups.
- Lobby governments.
- Raise funds in order to cover any funding shortfalls.

WORKSHOP 3

People in «transit»: how to offer them shelter and support, and what challenges for Emmaus?

- Develop media and visual resources about Emmaus Europe to help the groups to bear witness.

WORKSHOP 4

Human trafficking and missing people: what are the challenges in Europe?

- Arrange meetings of Emmaus groups (potentially remotely) to discuss our experiences, knowledge and expertise in this area.
- Lobby political authorities (governments, European Parliament etc) about the issue.

WORKSHOP 5

Emmaus is a model for shelter and support and multicultural peaceful coexistence: which examples should we showcase to show our charity shop customers that this alternative society is possible?

- Facilitate exchanges between groups and training.
- Develop solidarity by means of international work camps and local solidarity.
- Lobby political decision-makers.
- Raise people's awareness by means of meetings, forums, coffee meet and mingles, concerts etc.

WORKSHOP 6

What initiatives can be taken to alter policy on migration and discrimination based on examples that have worked in practice?

- Demand that the UDHR is enforced with a sustainable reception policy.

WORKSHOP 7

Are our groups and practices open and welcoming to people of all genders (men, women, LGBT+)?

- Work in networks with women's groups and organisations that campaign on gender issues.
- Change our external image so that it is more contemporary and progressive.
- Make this one of our core values, use inclusive language, and pay attention to our language in key documents etc.
- Develop assessment tools to evaluate the impact of our behaviour, develop training for all of our members.

WORKSHOP 8

What partnerships with towns, regions and other local government so that an alternative method of governance for foreign national reception can be put in place?

At the Forum of Alternatives we made proposals to work together to promote freedom of movement in conjunction with the OUC (Organisation for Universal Citizenship).

- Create a website showcasing successful initiatives run by different groups / joint non-profit and local government initiatives.
- Support the local groups involved in struggles with politicians on this matter (e.g. Emmaus Palermo).
- Encourage each group to denounce the Dublin agreements and undertake advocacy work.

SHARED PROPOSALS FROM ALL THE WORKSHOPS

- Develop training in Europe.
- Improve external communication about our initiatives, messages and values, and bolster internal communication and awareness-raising tools.
- Develop advocacy initiatives.
- Develop exchanges between groups and organise meetings.

BOLSTERING A SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY THAT IS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

WORKSHOP 1

What place for farming in the Emmaus groups in Europe? Many Emmaus groups farm to supplement their diets, as a «leisure» activity, as a vehicle for getting people back to work, or as a source of income.

- Create a handbook with practical information sheets for the groups (the benefits of a farming initiative / how to get started / key component parts and pitfalls to be avoided / practical examples/partnerships).
- Set up a European collective/working group on farming.
- Set up a network for exchanging best practice and skills.
- Organize gatherings and work camps (local/national/European).

WORKSHOP 2

What can we do to lessen our groups' impact on the climate/environment? (Plastics/energy/water etc.)

- Devise an action plan with a specific schedule and goals. Coordinating what can be done with regard to and with the EU, general public, partners, media, groups and individuals, and with measurable results in terms of our carbon footprint.
- Disseminate groups' best practice to other groups and organize visits/exchanges on these issues (see the list put forward at the workshop).
- Examine the possibility of a partnership with businesses researching cleaner vehicles and offer to trial them in the Emmaus groups.
- Prepare and create an educational campaign on our environmental impact - forge relationships with universities, draw on examples of best practice.
- Forge partnerships with environmental bloggers/network to raise our profile with them and show what we do, i.e. team up with popular bloggers who recycle and sell clothes on online platforms, in this way showing the damage caused by throwaway fashion and mass consumerism.

WORKSHOP 3

What to do with clothing that we cannot reuse?

- Lobbying/monitoring initiatives: working with other associations, to develop the role of reuse in the social economy and to put in place a «polluter pays» mechanism for textiles in Europe.
- R&D initiatives: political pressure to achieve objectives and resources for R&D + partnership with research, universities and graduate schools (the grandes écoles) in France in order to take part in textile reuse or recycling initiatives with a significant social and environmental impact.
- Pool best practice on ethical shopping and on what makes Emmaus special.
- Raise the general public's awareness about ethical shopping.
- Use insulation materials made from reused textiles when insulating our communities.

OTHERS PROPOSALS FROM THE DISCUSSION WITH THE FLOOR

- Collectively ask ourselves about new products donated by companies demanding tax exemptions and further encouraging excessive consumption and overproduction.
- Should we also consider refusing certain donations? Such as all the single-use plastic products which no longer sell...
- Measuring the impact of our activities: the transport programme in Europe and containers, wouldn't it be better if we sent money instead?

WORKSHOP 4

How to combat food waste and how to improve food aid practices in our groups?

- Offer training/exchanges of practices on good food practices (good food management) for leaders, companions (and neighbours when training is delivered locally): regarding environmental and social choices to be made when shopping, cooking healthy food, and managing leftovers and waste.

WORKSHOP 5

How to organise our solidarity container loads to limit our impact on climate change and optimise this energy consumption?

- Take part in a European discussion about limiting the environmental impact of container loads: rail convoys? Renewable energy?
- Change «solidarity container loads» to «donation-sharing container loads» in order to emphasize that donations received by Emmaus are being shared.
- Bolster internal and external communication about these solidarity initiatives.
- Develop a feedback form for receiving groups: quality, how full the container was, whether needs were met.

WORKSHOP 6

Emmaus International session: At the Forum of Alternatives, we made proposals to combat the multinationals which are monopolizing and privatising shared assets (right to water, healthcare, land etc.): how can we implement this in Europe?

- Draw up a European list of multinationals whose practices are incompatible with Emmaus' values and then send out the list to the groups and national organisations so that they can tailor their policies (local initiatives or partnerships).
- Convey to the groups the initiatives, tools and campaigns available on these issues so that they pass on the petitions and initiatives in which the movement is involved..

"L'Atelier Emmaüs" unites several French groups to create designer furniture from re-used wood and train people who are far from employment in cabinetmaking.



WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER IN EMMAUS EUROPE TO IMPROVE OUR COLLECTIVE WORK, DISSEMINATE OUR VALUES AND, AND FORGE LINKS WITH THE NEW GENERATIONS?

WORKSHOP 1

Advocacy work in the groups: should it be discontinued? Advocacy to address the root causes of extreme poverty is the foundation stone of our international movement but is not always easy on a day-to-day basis. Exchange of experiences between European groups to encourage people to keep going!

- Arrange an annual global meeting, potentially 22/01.
- Work on the status of companions at the European level and help them to get involved in the movement's meetings.

WORKSHOP 2

Companion ability to speak out and take action. How can we encourage companions to air their opinions more, take more decisions and develop participatory initiatives?

- Create dissemination tools, such as the companion colleges in France.

WORKSHOP 3

Companion legislative and economic status: how can companion status be enhanced based on experiences in different countries?

- Create a European companion college.
- Set up a working group on companion status at the European level (launched at the RAEE).

WORKSHOP 4

How can we attract new activists and develop new ways of getting involved? (Youth camps, civic service, new tools...)

- Have a famous male or female patron in each country who raises Emmaus' profile.
- Develop exchange tools for the groups, so that they can get to know each other and interact.
- Develop an Emmaus European voluntary service scheme.
- Organize an annual youth day in the movement.

WORKSHOP 5

How to prepare for the generational shift and handing over? How to give new activists their place in the movement?

Sharing of experiences and suggestion of tools/methods to be disseminated in the network.

- Set up initiatives with universities across Europe, in a coordinated fashion between groups and countries, producing appropriate resources and tools, potentially offering funding and enabling students to conduct research projects or undertake internships in our groups.

WORKSHOP 6

How can we get involved in the struggles faced by today's young people, and how can we increase youth involvement in our initiatives? The workshop will make suggestions about new areas in which to get involved and partnerships and strategies so that we can move forward.

- Identify young European ambassadors to talk about Emmaus.

WORKSHOP 7

What internal/external communications tools do we need to add at group and EE level?

- Create a post to coordinate communication initiatives between the groups, disseminate ideas, and support the development and rollout of communication strategies (in the groups and at European level).
- Make better use of our existing platforms and seek out new ones for our internal and external communication, working on the content, communication mediums, and recipients.

WORKSHOP 8

Values, self-sufficiency, welcoming etc - how can we offer new groups improved support in these areas?

- Work together to identify support needs (training, economic development, value, financial support etc.) specific to each group in order to be able to address them by adapting.
- Do not hamper new groups joining the movement, be welcoming and willing to welcome groups that operate differently.
- Encourage new groups to take part in collective gatherings to foster their understanding of the movement, while taking into consideration local circumstances.

WORKSHOP 9

What training and exchanges of practices in order to develop the «Emmaus method» in our daily practices and to improve ourselves through interaction with the other Emmaus groups?

- Work on inter-community training, develop resources and tools, and potentially online training.
- Set up a database of skills offered and needed by each group.

WORKSHOP 10

Emmaus International session: At the Forum of Alternatives, we chose art and culture as a means of emancipation and a vehicle for social change. How can we encourage artistic expression in Emmaus in Europe in order to convey our values, denounce injustice, and attract young people?

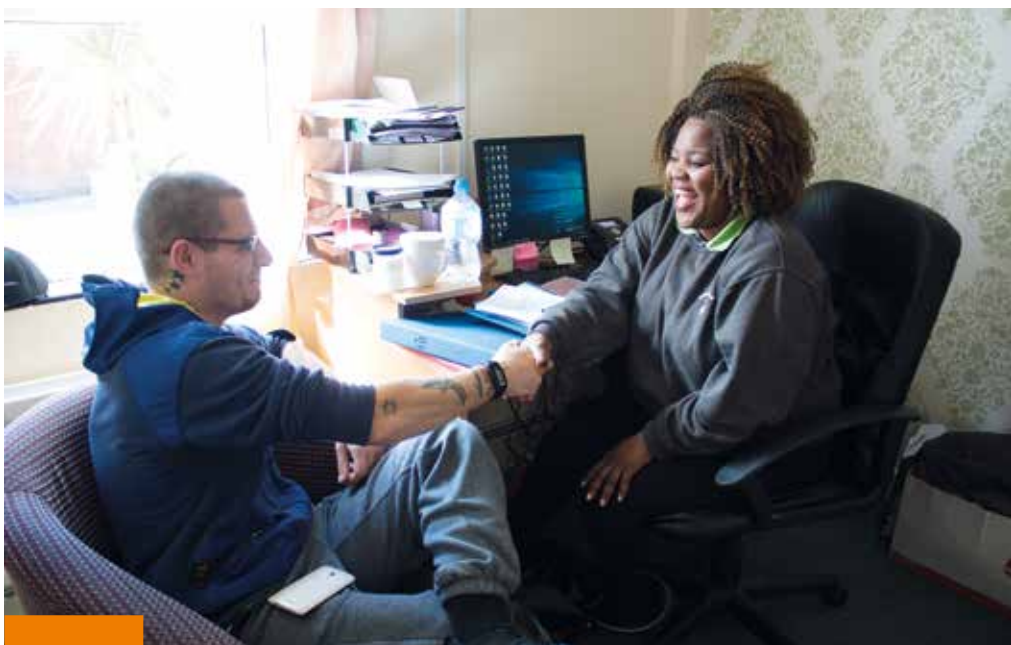
- Include artworks in publications and on EE's website.
- Arrange a European event to showcase the groups' forms of artistic expression (drama groups, fashion shows etc).
- Encourage the groups to create artistic events, bring them together and move towards the international festival which could take place from early 2021 onwards.

SHARED PROPOSALS FROM ALL THE WORKSHOPS

- The role of companions: work on the status and role of companions.
- Representation: identify young ambassadors, a male or female patron.
- Life of the movement: annual meeting on advocacy, art or youth.
- Communication: overhaul our communication resources.

Action by the young volunteers of Emmaus Palermo.





AND HOW ABOUT MY GROUP?

The proposals made by the Emmaus Europe groups at the workshops included ideas aimed at other European groups wanting to implement the European policy directions at group level, as well as commitments made by participating groups. They are listed below; in case you want to draw inspiration from your European counterparts and develop practices in your group.

"HOW CAN WE BUILD A WELCOMING AND PEACEFUL EUROPE IN THE FACE OF RISING NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA? HOW CAN WE FIGHT DISCRIMINATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE?"

What needs to be done in your group to combat discrimination and preconceived ideas? Both within the group itself and with regard to the general public (shoppers etc).

- Cultivate respect, dialogue and human kindness. Remain vigilant about excesses and slurs, and identify strategies to deal with individual and institutional attacks.
- Shed light on individual life stories to prevent discrimination against groups of people and generalisations.
- Bolster the Emmaus ethos based on unconditional shelter and support.
- Continue to run local awareness-raising initiatives based on our example of living together in diversity.
- Arrange literacy classes and intercultural classes in the groups during working hours to encourage participation.
- Encourage meetings between the Emmaus groups and foster exchanges between the groups and the outside world (schools, open days, invite the media etc)..

Welcoming and supporting people of many different nationalities who have survived traumatic events: how to overcome the difficulties?

- Know how to offer initial help: a roof over their heads, food and professional support (counselling, social etc).
- Enable long-term support in a safe setting.

People in «transit»: how to offer them shelter and support, and what challenges for Emmaus? Share experience of welcoming and supporting people in transit (groups located near national borders, in transit countries, and other circumstances).

- Raise awareness, inform and educate the young activists of the future.
- Further open up the groups to raise the profile of our work.

Human trafficking and missing people: what are the challenges in Europe?

- Train the Emmaus groups about preventing trafficking (how to recognize victims and how to report it?)
- Arrange training for young people who are the main potential victims so that they are equipped to defend themselves.

Emmaus is a model for shelter and support and multicultural peaceful coexistence: which examples should we showcase to show our charity shop customers that this alternative society is possible?

- Get men and women back on their feet by means of education, training and communication between different group stakeholders.

What initiatives can be taken to alter policy on migration and discrimination based on examples that have worked in practice?

- Reaffirm our values, champion, disseminate and bring them alive (manifesto, Article 13 etc).
- Open up the groups to the outside world, have porous groups, increase our links with the outside world, using culture, sport, open days, coffee meet and mingles etc.

SHARED PROPOSALS FROM ALL THE WORKSHOPS

- Develop local-level advocacy.
- Further open up groups so that people get to know about Emmaus, inform and raise awareness about our initiatives.
- Champion unconditional, welcoming and quality shelter and support.
- Encourage Emmaus groups to get together.

Are our groups and practices open and welcoming to people of all genders (men, women, LGBT+)? This workshop could provide suggestions for educational resources, sharing methods and common initiatives.

- Work in networks with women's groups and organisations that campaign on gender issues.
- Change our external image so that it is more contemporary and progressive.
- Make this one of our core values, use inclusive language, and pay attention to our language in key documents etc.

What partnerships with towns, regions and other local government so that an alternative method of governance for foreign national reception can be put in place? At the Forum of Alternatives we made proposals to work together to promote freedom of movement in conjunction with the OUC (Organisation for Universal Citizenship).

- Organize a local network able to set up meetings (schools, cafes, concerts) with the general public on the topic of migration and also broadening the issue, in order to raise awareness and educate people about the limitations of current migration policy.
- Invite elected representatives and state representatives to come to the groups/ meet local government to show them the reality of our members' lives.



Emmaus welcoming migrants in Bosnia.

"BOLSTERING A SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY THAT IS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE"

What place for farming in the Emmaus groups in Europe? Many Emmaus groups farm to supplement their diets, as a «leisure» activity, as a vehicle for getting people back to work (this really restores people's self-confidence), or as a means of diversifying their source of income.

- Exchanges of practice: the workshop discussions showed the benefits of farming in terms of diversifying Emmaus groups' sources of income. Farming is viewed as a social and economic tool and also a means of eating more healthily in our communities, while keeping our costs in check. Pooling practices at the European level in order to draw on the example of others is therefore worthwhile.
- Launch «farming and food co-op» projects. At local group level, one of the ideas that emerged was to create «farming and food co-ops» which could take the form of a network of Emmaus groups over a small area (even a larger non-profit or small farmer network) for healthy local food, and sell produce in the network (producer groups, purchaser groups). There would also be training to be delivered (between the groups or professionals delivering training to the groups) to become skilled in this area and create shared work tools, which could also potentially be pur-

chased and shared by several groups.

What can we do to lessen our groups' impact on the climate/environment? (Plastics/energy/water etc.)

Each group could adopt a simple but unambiguous sustainability strategy, for example, by drawing on the ideas put forward at the workshop and listed below:

Food

- Reduce the amount of meat eaten or become vegetarian.
- Cut food waste by working with food banks and offering food aid, developing relationships with big local supermarkets and by considering the idea of setting up social supermarkets (like Emmaus North East in the UK).
- Use sustainable local sources of food instead of large supermarkets.
- Compost fruit and vegetable peel.

Energy

- Buy energy-saving appliances.
- Reduce the temperature of central heating, hot water and washing machines.
- Use eco-shower heads to reduce flow.
- Stop using tumble dryers.
- Fit smart thermostats.
- Switch off lights.
- Switch off instead of using the «standby» function.
- Do not leave mobiles and tablets charging overnight.
- Make homes and groups energy efficient by solely using renewable sources of energy.
- Delete read emails and stop sending attachments.

Travel

- Reduce air, car, van and truck travel as much as possible - take the train instead, as much as possible.
- Coordinate transport logistics.
- Use teleconferences rather than face-to-face meetings.
- Learn about eco-driving.
- Consider converting diesel and petrol vehicles to electricity or consider a more sustainable mode of transport.
- Walk and cycle more.

Waste

- Ban single-use plastics - water bottles, straws, disposable plates, coffee cups, lids, stirrers, cotton buds, wet wipes, sachets, utensils, bags etc.
- Avoid packaging - take steps to buy loose products - switch to bars of soap, wooden toothbrushes, boycott mixed packaging and disposable black plastic trays.
- Maximize our recyclable waste.
- Eco-friendly cleaning products

Green cleaning products

- Switch to green cleaning products and equipment.

Shops and premises

- Use our shops as meeting places, use the premises to create a space where customers can relax and learn about what we do and our approach to social and environmental questions. Publicize the impact of our reuse work on the environment, say what we do, promote our green credentials, demonstrate the impact of throwaway fashion, the exploitation and energy needed to produce an item of clothing, for instance: number of litres of water used to make a t-shirt, pair of jeans, trees felled etc. Use visual aids to do this.

What to do with clothing that we cannot reuse?

- Improve core practices in order to sort more effectively: collect/sort/sell
- Develop customisation and upcycling initiatives which enable the income-generating activity to be developed and equip companions with additional skills and greater self-confidence. These initiatives also offer a different image of Emmaus. (Fashion show, for instance).
- Raise the general public's awareness about ethical shopping.
- When textiles can no longer be used, draw inspiration from the sorting platforms who send textiles to textile upcycling/recycling platforms and use them to make new eco-friendly materials (e.g. métais used textile insulation made with Trio and Le Relais in France)..

How to combat food waste and how to improve food aid practices in our groups?

- In the groups offer training/exchanges of practices on good food practices for leaders, companions (and neighbours when training is delivered locally): regarding environmental and social choices to be made when shopping, cooking healthy food, and managing leftovers and waste.
- Move from charitable food bank-type work to food-sharing initiatives.
- Take part in campaigns to raise the profile of small farms and independent agriculture as part of a global sustainability approach.

How to organise our solidarity container loads to limit our impact on climate change and optimise this energy consumption?

- Incorporate our action into a joint European initiative to ensure that solidarity is more fairly distributed (refer to the container load schedule etc).
- Talk to the receiving group to find out about their needs.
- Get to know the other group better and potentially develop long-term/twinning relationships.
- Take part in a European discussion about limiting the environmental impact of container loads: rail convoys? Renewable energy?

Emmaus International session: At the Forum of Alternatives, we made proposals to combat the multinationals which are monopolizing and privatising shared assets (right to water, healthcare, land etc.): how can we implement this in Europe?

- Discuss in the group the impact of our shopping choices and usage with regard to multinationals whose values are not shared by Emmaus, and find alternatives.
- Take part in local awareness-raising initiatives relaying international campaigns with local partners.

OTHER PROPOSALS

- Collectively ask ourselves about new products donated by companies demanding tax exemptions and further encouraging excessive consumption and overproduction.
- Should we also consider refusing certain donations? Such as all the single-use plastic products which no longer sell.



Many groups developed containers to collect clothes. Here Emmaus Oselya in Ukraine.

"WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER IN EMMAUS EUROPE TO IMPROVE OUR COLLECTIVE WORK, DISSEMINATE OUR VALUES, AND FORGE, LINKS WITH THE NEW GENERATIONS?"

Advocacy work in the groups: should it be discontinued? Advocacy to address the root causes of extreme poverty is the foundation stone of our international movement but is not always easy on a day-to-day basis. How should European groups exchange experiences so as to not give up on this?

- Build a local network in order to inform each other, advocate and act.
- Take the time, internally, to refocus on the meaning behind our work, particularly when events, anniversaries etc take place.
- Make use of our duty to speak out when other continents may enjoy less freedom of expression.

Companion ability to speak out and act. How can we encourage companions to air their opinions more, take more decisions and develop participatory initiatives?

- Utilize the induction period as a key opportunity for companions to air their views and take part.
- Include companions when devising artistic, cultural, sports and advocacy events in order to help companions to become actively involved in the movement and be local citizens.

Companion legislative and economic status: how can companion status be enhanced based on experiences in different countries?

- Join forces with other organisations to undertake lobbying, particularly in countries where Emmaus is less well-known.
- Dare to help companions even when it is illegal.

How can we attract new activists and develop new ways of getting involved? (Youth camps, civic service, new tools...)

- Visit schools and open up the groups to school visits, host interns and civic service volunteers, work with the scouts.
- Use social media to reach out to young people.
- Explain what Emmaus is to our customers.
- Tailor our opening hours and operations to enable more people to get involved, depending on their availability (one-off projects, evenings etc).
- Organize themed summer camps on issues that affect young people (migration, the environment etc).

How to prepare for the generational shift and handing over? How to give new activists their place in the movement?

- Prepare for the departure of members in positions of responsibility, ensure that a balance is struck between people with experience of the movement and the new generations, maybe by means of mentoring.
- Find more effective ways to communicate with young people, with a clearer message and image, notably by presenting ourselves as real environmental activists, showcasing our initiatives and presenting ourselves in a less formal and bureaucratic manner.
- Make spaces in our charity shops where we can chat to customers, present the movement and its values etc.

How can we get involved in the struggles faced by today's young people, and how can we increase youth involvement in our initiatives?

- Free up time to welcome young people, visit sixth form colleges and universities, host interns etc.
- Really stress our message and be more radical, stop being too reserved.

What internal/external communications tools do we need to add at group and EE level?

- Inspire, share our experiences, our stories, initiatives, communication practices between the groups, so that we know what others are doing and potentially publicize it.

Values, self-sufficiency, welcoming etc - how can we offer new groups improved support in these areas?

- For mentor groups, mentor in a way that fits with the movement's decisions.
- Respect the independence of each group, do not force groups to join the movement, take the time to explain our values and how we operate, via frank dialogue.

What training and exchanges of practices in order to develop the «Emmaus method» in our daily practices and to improve ourselves through interaction with the other Emmaus groups?

- Organize work camps, new member induction programmes, training courses that are worthwhile both in terms of personal development and how the groups are run.
- Capitalize on and use all the skills of the group's members.

Emmaus International session: At the Forum of Alternatives, we chose art and culture as a means of emancipation and a vehicle for social change. How can we encourage artistic expression in Emmaus in Europe in order to convey our values, denounce injustice, and attract young people?

- Use art to more effectively showcase the items that we sell and to share our messages, potentially with the help of art school students.
- Provide forums for expression in the groups (not-for-profit cafes, workshops for children) and put on artistic and cultural gatherings (ephemeral creations etc).

SHARED PROPOSALS FROM ALL THE WORKSHOPS

- **Young people:** visit schools, host school visits and interns.
- **Advocacy:** make space and have the time to explain the movement to customers.
- **Recruitment:** arrange work camps to attract and recruit new members.
- **Communication:** use social media to reach out to young people.



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