

# SO LI DA RI TY

# e u r o p e

 **EMMAUS EUROPE**  
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## 2014 REVIEW

DESIGN: GRAPHIQUE OLIVIERO TOSCANI

**"We need reasons to live just as much as we need something to live on." Abbé Pierre.**

## CONTENTS

<b>A collective process.</b>	<b>P3</b>
<b>Facts and figures.</b>	<b>P4</b>
<b>Twelve initiatives supported by solidarity.</b>	<b>P5</b>
<b>The European collectives.</b>	<b>P18</b>
<b>Solidarity events.</b>	<b>P19</b>
<b>The regional transport programme.</b>	<b>P21</b>
<b>The solidarity work camps.</b>	<b>P22</b>
<b>Discussions on solidarity.</b>	<b>P23</b>
<b>2015 prospects.</b>	<b>P24</b>

Groups were able to consolidate, develop and set up new initiatives thanks to everyone's efforts and European solidarity.

This review of 2014 solidarity reflects the daily struggle of each of our members against all forms of exclusion. The primary beneficiaries of solidarity are obviously still those who suffer most in each country and town where Emmaus is present.

The review firstly goes back over the statutory basis and the decision-making process for solidarity initiatives in Emmaus Europe. This is followed by some facts and figures that help to quantify the financial aspect of solidarity.

Other solidarity exchanges – exchanges of materials, skills and experiences – are highlighted in the section about the initiatives.

The review finishes with observations about the strengths and potential areas for improvement over the coming years.

## Supporting European solidarity, a collective process

The 21 May 2005 Emmaus Europe inaugural general assembly unanimously adopted motion 1 with 107 votes in favour: **“The inaugural general assembly wants Emmaus Europe to be a forum for exchanging practices, solidarity and coordinating initiatives.”**

The 2005 Emmaus Europe statutes amended in 2011 therefore stipulate the following: **“To achieve its aims, Emmaus Europe endeavours to (...) examine, adopt and monitor regional solidarity initiatives put forward by members of the region.”** (article 4.6)

The European collectives, working groups and local or regional solidarity committees firstly get to work to fuel the debate and formulate recommendations and opinions about the initiatives to be carried out and the support to be provided. The human, material and financial resources required are presented and discussed and

progress reports on the groups' work are delivered.

The region's decision-making bodies then examine and take a decision, based on information from the grassroots and drawing on the opinions of partners.

Once the initiatives are underway, the beneficiary groups submit reports and invoices as proof of expenditure and send in their news regularly, thus enabling everyone to keep up to date with the progress of the initiative. All documents can be consulted at the Emmaus Europe secretariat, which provides regular updates about initiatives that are ongoing or have been completed.

The collectives also have a role to play in that they publicize progress and pass on news.

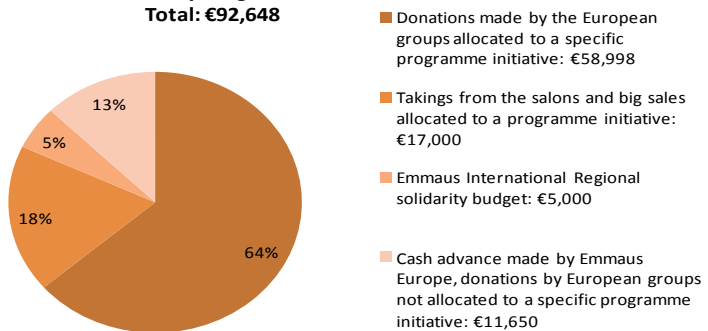
For more information, please visit: [www.emmaus-europe.org](http://www.emmaus-europe.org).

## Solidarity facts and figures: financial support

The solidarity programme approved by the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe on 28/2/14 comprises 10 initiatives and totalled €161,000 at the launch for all the groups. As of 31 December 2014, out of the total funding amount of €161,000, €92,648 had been paid out to the groups:

- Five initiatives have been fully resourced and completed, accounting for €71,000.
- Two initiatives have not been fully implemented as they have not received sufficient funding. However, a first payment has been made to each of them, totalling €17,000.
- One initiative has been implemented over the course of a year (2014-2015). A first payment of €3,000 has been made.
- One of the initiatives has not been completed as planned but will continue in 2015. A first payment was nevertheless made for the amount of €1,648.
- An initiative has been postponed until 2015 on the group's decision and due to the climatic conditions.

**Source of the funding paid out to the groups under the 2014 European Solidarity Programme.**  
Total: €92,648



Donations made by the European groups and a regional salon provided funding for the non-programme initiatives of which there were four in 2014, totalling €9,500. The association's accounts will provide information about the transfer of funds.

## Solidarity in practice

Clear progress has been made by the initiatives thanks to solidarity. Progress has been made under the auspices of the European solidarity programme, by non-programme initiatives, the Collectives, solidarity events, the regional transport programme and work camps. The main achievements in 2014:

Two community houses almost completed in Poland.

Two plots purchased and a new community created in Romania.

The development of income-generating, textile and farming activities in Ukraine and Romania.

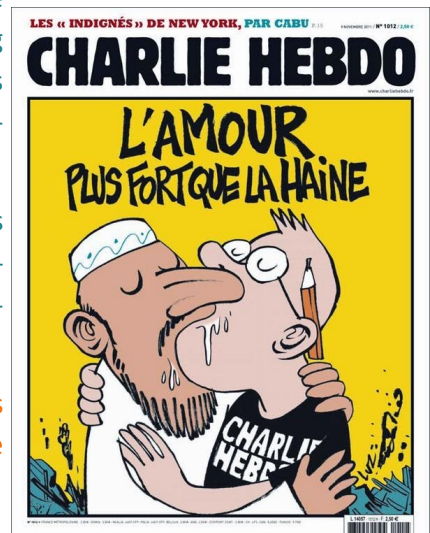
A 'helping hand' in response to emergency situations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Italy.

Continued support for income-generating activities taking the form of exchanges of materials and skills.

Volunteers were hosted at the work camps, thus encouraging interaction and the Movement's history and values to be conveyed.

Joint working and discussions continued in order to move forward in the European Collectives.

An alternative social model is possible and we are all active participants in it!



## The work of Oselya in Ukraine continued and bolstered despite the complex geopolitical situation in the country.

2014 was particularly marked by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Ukraine.

Emmaus Oselya had to contend with an increase in local requests for support. One way in which the community responded was to switch the focus to income-generating activities.

European solidarity enabled the wages of the group's five employees to be paid; these employees enable the community to operate, with it comprising **workshops, two shops, a shelter and centre providing a shower area, changing rooms and hairdressing service for the homeless in Lviv.**



Funding amount allocated:  
€18,000

Noteworthy achievements :

**The group has continued to support the most deprived people,** running outreach solidarity initiatives, such as handing out food, outreach teams, putting on Christmas and Easter meals and getting a street magazine sold by the homeless, as well as supporting its partners in Ukraine.

**The textile business** is growing due to textile containers being installed throughout the city. The increase in the textile collection has enabled the shop to be transformed into a place of storage and a new shop, larger, better, equipped and attracting more customers to be opened.

**Furniture repair work** and companion training in this area has been bolstered.

The local community and decision-making authorities **increasingly recognize and value the work done by the group.**

**Hosting the October 2014 European Poland-Ukraine Collective** enabled the meeting participants to observe these developments.

## The Targu Jiu companions' living accommodation, which is now owned by the group, was set up thanks to a work camp.

**The work camp was held from 9 July – 3 September 2014 in two periods.**

The 2014 Targu Jiu camp enabled the European volunteers to meet people and interact while selling, unloading trucks and enjoying some tourism. This camp was also the chance to do sport and play games with children from the children's home. The history of Romania during WW1 was presented because few people know that the Romanians fought alongside the Allies.

**A dance performance Without Borders was put on in Sarajevo and Srebrenica by young French, German, Romanian and Bosnian people on the theme of fraternity on the earth.** It drew inspiration from the anniversary of the start of WW1 in Sarajevo and the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Funding amount allocated:  
€20,000

The Lille Salon bringing together groups from Northern France took place on 12 April 2014 and donated some of its takings to the group: €6,500.



**Another news item from the group :**

The 6,000m<sup>2</sup> plot comprising the current 800m<sup>2</sup> shop was purchased for roughly €250,000 in October 2014.

Loans were received from friends of Amicii d'Emmaus, Emmaus Europe and European groups. Amicii's own funds and European solidarity donations enabled the sale to go through. Thank you to everyone involved!

## A new renovated community in Timisoara, once again able to accommodate young people.

Frères Europa based in Satu Mare wished to take up the initiative run in the village of Sanmartinu Maghiar, a mainly Hungarian village, located 40km from Timisoara on the way to Serbia.

The house donated to Frères Europa by an association that had disbanded has been reopened in order to house young homeless people from Timisoara, offering them accommodation, work and socio-educational monitoring.

**The first stage involved contacting young homeless people who might be willing to go on an inclusion scheme.** Outreach work has been done with the former volunteers.



Three young people moved in and have started work with the support of a paid employee tasked with managing the project.

The work camp to renovate the house for the young homeless people supported by Emmaus Europe took place on 12-27 April 2014.

European companions attended to support the Romanian companions. Apart from seeing the reality of the group's life, the participants discovered local Easter traditions.

The roof and walls have been redone, parquet flooring has been laid, bedrooms have been fitted out and a bathroom has been created.

The group has also been renting a shop opposite the local market since September 2014.

All that now needs to be done is to install the heating system and complete a second bathroom.

Funding amount allocated: €8,000



# Move and reorganize Emmaus Satu Mare's living space\*.

## Casa Noua can even welcome guests!

The Frères Europa association in Satu Mare is continuing to educate, train and socially include young people in difficulty and to promote equal opportunities in Romania.

Thanks to European solidarity, **Frères Europa moved to new living accommodation in November 2014, comprising:**

- Living accommodation.
- Transition flats
- Workshops (pottery, domestic appliances, clothes sorting)
- An office and storage area.

The total purchase price was €125,000. The first instalment has already been paid to the owner. Frères Europa secured a loan from Emmaus Europe and bridging loans from the European groups while awaiting the sale of its former property.

**Funding amount allocated: €20,000**

The Lille Salon bringing together groups from Northern France took place on 12 April 2014 and donated some of its takings to the group: €6,500.



Thank you to everyone and you are all now invited to come and share in the group's day-to-day life because the new house has enough room to accommodate friends!

*\*The 26-8 September 2014 Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (the region's board) meeting in Porto approved the amendments to the initiative.*

## The fitting-out of Emmaus Kraków in Poland marks the end of the renovation work.

**The work camp took place from 24 June to 3 July 2014.**

Ten Emmaus volunteers from various countries joined forces with the 12 companions in order to develop the grounds around the community. Pavements were built, the lawn was planted, fences were put up and an organic vegetable garden was created.

**The renovation work inside the community house is finished, the companions moved into the new house and the vegetable garden now meets some of their food needs.**

The aim was to improve the companions' quality of life and increase the community's food self-sufficiency, while trialling new forms of personal development by looking after the garden.

The workshops are being developed and the emphasis will be placed on developing local collections.

While the local media took an interest in this development, the group hopes that the official inauguration of the new house will arouse more interest in the group's social undertakings.

**A date for the diary: 13-14 March 2015 for the Poland-Ukraine Collective and the official inauguration of the community!**



## Recognition for the human trafficking prevention work done by the Missing persons' families support center in Lithuania



€ 116000

**The flagship human trafficking prevention initiative – Girl and Boy Power –** developed by the group and supported by Emmaus Europe since 2008 involves organising empowerment working groups for young people. The group's prevention work has also been recognized by the country's government.

### **Objectives:**

**Raise** children's and young people's awareness about the scourge of human trafficking.

**Discuss** gender, sexuality and equality-related issues.

**Boost their confidence and self-esteem** and build their capacity and independence.

**Stop them from becoming victims** of trafficking and exploitation and from becoming socially excluded.

**In order to achieve these objectives,** in addition to managing the missing children appeals platform, **the association has continued to run prevention initiatives:**

Two-day training course for boys' groups' trainers.

8 working groups for 40 girls with learning difficulties. The groups meet 24 times a year in various towns in the country.

15 working groups for 150 boys. The groups meet 24 times a year in various towns in the country.

Funding amount allocated: €10,000 of which €5,000 comes from the Emmaus International Regional Solidarity Support Fund.

## A new facility bringing together under the same roof the day centre, accommodation centre and a future Emmaus shop in Vilnius in Lithuania. The roof has been repaired!

Loaned by the local council for 10 years, the facility is located in Verkiiai Regional Park in Vilnius.

It comprises a main building (700m<sup>2</sup>), two other buildings and a 0.5 hectare plot of land.

The plumbing and wastewater systems were turned on in 2013 and the roof was repaired in 2014!

Funding amount allocated: €18,000, of which €4,000 came from the Emmaus Paris Region Big Sale held in La Roche Guyon on 14 September 2014.

### Long-term objectives

**Offer leisure activities** to young people from foster and at-risk families, thus preventing them from wandering the streets and falling into the trap of trafficking.

**Offer care for victims of trafficking and prostitution.**



**Offer psychological, legal and social support** delivered by specialists, thus increasing the chance of victims being able to reintegrate into society.

**Provide human trafficking victims with the opportunity to work in the Emmaus shop.**

In July 2014, a work camp was held in Lithuania by the Emmaus groups from Finland and enabled interior work to be done.

A note to keen DIYers: work still needs to be done in 2015!

## In Banja Luka in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Nova Generacija is preparing to develop a community thanks to advice and exchanges with members of the region.

Nova Generacija is an association bringing together social workers, psychologists, educational support workers and other professionals.

The association has a **support and protection centre open 24 hours a day for young people involved in begging and vagrancy.**

**A telephone crisis line and a day centre** enable support to be provided to children, to give them shelter and meals, and tailored medical and psychological care.

The group's objective is to create a community for the homeless. The first phase involved arranging inter-group meetings so that expertise could be shared, supported by Emmaus Europe.



Nova Generacija has paid visits:

- **To Switzerland and France on 26 – 30 May 2014.**

Emmaus groups visited: Sion, La Chaux de Fonds, Berne, Etagnière, Geneva, Annemasse.

- **In the Paris region from 30 June to 4 July 2014.**

Emmaus groups visited: Bougival, Les Ulis, Longjumeau, Le Plessis Trévisé.

**In 2015, Nova Generacija is launching the community!**

Funding amount allocated: €10,000.  
Initiative ongoing.

## Renewable energy benefits Emmaus Rzeszow's companions in Poland.

The building of the kitchen has been postponed until early 2015, as the initiative did not receive sufficient funding.



The building of the community house, supported since 2009 by international and European solidarity is currently being completed.

The aim is to offer decent accommodation and work to the community's companions and increase its residential capacity.

Thanks to EU funding, renewable energy systems were fitted in 2014: underfloor heating, solar panels, insulation, water and heat recovery systems.

The group's second shop, open since October 2013 in the community, provides funds for community operations.

The next stage supported by European solidarity is the **fitting-out and opening of a kitchen and refectory in the community house in Przedmieście Czudeckie.**

Funding amount allocated: €20,000

The initiative had not been fully resourced by late 2014, **so it is still underway and should be finalized in 2015.**

## The work on Iasi's loft in Romania has been postponed until spring/summer 2015.

**European solidarity is helping the group to increase its accommodation capacity by creating single rooms.** At the present time, the community has four bedrooms for 20 companions, so the aim is to build single rooms in the community house loft so that the companions enjoy greater privacy and an additional five places can be created.

The camp initially planned for summer 2014 has been postponed until spring/summer 2015, as it did not receive the necessary resources in time.

As funding is now available, the loft construction camp will take place from mid-May 2015 for three months, so volunteers take note, as help will be needed to:

- Demolish the roof and replace it with a new one.
- Fit the windows and side walls.
- Install the floor, electrics and plumbing.

Funding amount allocated:  
€30,000

The association was founded in 2001 and provides support to young homeless adults, offering them activities run on the various sites: collection, sorting and selling, farming and agricultural activities, carpentry workshop and individual training.

A wide range of local solidarity work is done: outreach work and handing out food, furniture and blankets.



## Support for Nasha Khata's income-generating activities in Ukraine.

### Non-programme activity

The French Emmaus Region of Franche-Comté/Burgundy wished to allocate 80% of the profits from **the Emmaus Chalon sur Saône sale held on 12 April 2014** to Nasha Khata to help it to **farm two hectares of cereals and a hectare of potatoes.**

The president and a leader were invited to the salon to experience the event, meet the participants and also take the chance to visit farms in the region.

#### Phases :

In July 2014, an Emmaus representative from the region and a professional organic farmer paid a **visit to Nasha Khata in order to assess the local agricultural potential** and decided upon activities to be rolled out jointly with the group.

**€1,000 was paid out to clear and plough the plot. Wheat, barley and peas were sown.** The project is being monitored by regular telephone calls between the region and Nasha Khata. Next phase: community-based training for the leader at Emmaus Dijon-Norges.

**European solidarity has provided €3,000 worth of support for the wages of the two leaders** in order to ensure the continuity of the group's work.





## A strong and supportive response to flooding in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Non-programme activity

Two waves of flooding took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2014, the first in May and the second in August.



The Emmaus International Forum of Solidarity Forum (IFS) immediately took action in response to the flooding. Initiatives included organizing and distributing practical humanitarian support to the local populations and a public kitchen was set up to help the most deprived people in Doboj, serving 1,300 meals a day.

An appeal for practical and financial support was sent to the **European Emmaus groups who responded in great numbers. Financial donations, transport, equipment and materials and volunteers were sent to lend a hand on the ground. The amount of €4,000 received by Emmaus Europe was transferred to IFS-Emmaus which used it to buy building materials and notably 10,500 tiles to renovate the houses hit by the flooding and subsequent hail.**

Emmaus International also circulated an emergency appeal in order to help the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina to regain hope. An additional €16,000 was therefore transferred to the group in late 2014, following this appeal.

The Emmaus-IFS was created in early 1999 in Gračanica in the Tuzla canton of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the aim of providing support to vulnerable groups.

The group now works in four towns and cities: Doboj, Srebrenica, Tuzla and Sarajevo.

## The European collectives - work, exchanges and getting to know other people and places.

Shortly after the creation of Emmaus Europe, the decision was taken to provide a regional coordination framework for solidarity links that had been in existence for a long time between groups in Europe.

The aim was not to replace the existing system but instead to **facilitate the work between grassroots stakeholders and their partners**. The aim is to organise solidarity initiatives to help needy groups while endeavouring to work transparently and sustainably.

In 2014, the members of the **Romania Collective** were able to discuss matters and meet in May at the Romanian group Amicii d'Emmaus in Targu Jiu and visit Frères Europa in Satu Mare at the same time. In September, Emmaus Dijon-Norges in France hosted the Collective and presented its different sites.

The members of the **Poland-Ukraine Collective** met in Lublin in Poland in March and in Lviv at Oselya in October, enabling the geopolitical situation in Ukraine to be discussed at length, thanks to the intervention of Ukrainian witnesses who have to contend with this situation on a daily basis.

The **Bosnia-Herzegovina Collective** met in Montreuil in November and was attended by Croatian partners invited by the Emmaus-International Forum of Solidarity and Emmaus partners from the groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**These Collectives were the chance for some to discover the development process of the groups who are continuing to overcome geopolitical, climatic and other barriers in order to first serve those who suffer most.**

As a reminder, these collectives are open to all, companions, friends and paid staff members. Emmaus Europe covers the cost of accommodation and the living expenses incurred by the meeting up to a threshold of two people per group.

## Regional salons with a European slant.

The Nord Pas de Calais and Picardy Region Salon in France took place on 12 April 2014.

25 European Emmaüs groups rallied round for the occasion which generated a profit of €45,156 for solidarity initiatives, of which €13,000 was allocated to European initiatives.

This funding was allocated by the Regional Executive of Emmaüs Europe to the two groups in Romania for their aforementioned initiatives, to the tune of €6,500 each:

- Amicii d'Emmaüs Târgu Jiu
- Frères Europa, Satu Mare

The Franche-Comté and Burgundy Region Salon in France took place on 12 April 2014.

Nasha Khata's two representatives were invited to attend. They were able to observe the efforts of all the friends, volunteers and companions, with the sale delighting the 7,200 people who came to bargain-hunt at the event.

80% of the profits from this sale were allocated to support Nasha Khata's farming activities and will be paid out gradually over several years, in accordance with the progress made by the group.



## Emmaus Salon in support of international solidarity.

The Salon in support of international solidarity took place in Paris on 22 June 2014.

133 European groups took part (of which 120 were from France).

This year, a new bigger exhibition hall with floor space of 22,000m<sup>2</sup> hosted 18,000 visitors who came to support Emmaus' work by making ethical purchases and also to kit themselves out and find some bargains.

The profits, including a contribution by the Emmaus France Solidarity Committee, enabled ethical finance-related projects to be supported to the tune of €150,000, with ethical finance being one of Emmaus International's six priority areas.



## The Paris Region big sale.

The Paris Region big sale took place on 14 September 2014 on the lawns and in the stables of La Roche Guyon Castle in the suburbs of Paris.

The sunny weather and music groups provided the backdrop for this big sale of goods provided by all the Emmaus groups in the Paris Region.

Thanks to the work of the friends, companions, paid employees and volunteers, the region was able to allocate €4,000 to the Lithuanian group, thus helping to repair the house's roof (please see page 10).



## The regional transport programme.

In 2014, 78 lorry loads criss-crossed Europe, heading for Poland, Romania and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**These loads continue to be an important source of income** for the beneficiary groups and a solidarity initiative that involves several stakeholders in the sending groups.

The regional transport programme is also a **vehicle for exchanges and interaction** between the groups, enabling companions from the receiving group to travel to the sending group to take part in the loading process and from the sending group to travel to the beneficiary group to help with unloading.

It should however be noted at this point that **the emphasis is being placed on local collections** so that the culture of recycling, donating and supporting socially-minded associations gradually enters local mindsets. The development of textile businesses and repair workshops bears witness to this.

**The issue of the transport programme is raised at each European Collective meeting enabling the partners to meet up and continue discussing the content of lorry loads, the type of goods required and the fundamentals of this type of practical support.**

Countries (groups)	Number of transports received in 2014
Poland (Emmaus Rzeszow, Emmaus Lublin, Emmaus Brat Albert).	33
Romania (Un coup de main of Iasi, Amicii of Emmaus Târgu Jiu, Frères Europa of Satu mare)	32
Bosnia and Herzegovina (International Forum of solidarity, Nova Generacija) in response to flooding and annual convoy for the work camp.	13

## European solidarity work camps.

**In 2014, eight non-French European groups and 27 French groups held volunteer work camps.**

The aims of the camps vary. Some camps involve specific building work projects, such as renovating the building in Timisoara in Romania, creating a vegetable garden in Krakow in Poland, and distributing goods to the local community in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, they all enable volunteers from outside Emmaus to discover the Movement by taking part in community life, and volunteers from within the Movement to see a different facet of it.

In Fiesso and Asselogna in Italy, Peruwelz in Belgium, and Murcia in Spain, volunteers are invited to get involved in the groups' day-to-day activities. Recycling, repairing, cleaning and selling goods are therefore on the programme. Seasonal summer events, lectures, discussions and plays also punctuate the everyday work.

Volunteers are also offered the chance to discover a country, culture and local tourist attractions.

The way in which a camp is organized varies considerably. Participants are invited to travel independently to the camp or in some cases can travel together by bus from Forbach in France to Romania or from Grenoble in France to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Participants camp out in tents or rooms in the community are set aside for them.

Equally, some camps are made possible by European solidarity which helps fund their organisation. This is the case at Krakow in Poland, Timisoara and Targu Jiu in Romania.

Thanks to all the participants and groups that support the camps because **these opportunities to interact continue to open minds, awaken consciences and are practical vehicles for solidarity.**

## Discussions on solidarity - strengths and areas for improvement.

### Strengths

- Regular exchanges and the publication of news gives everyone access to the same information, fostering trust between the groups and continuity of support.
- Emmaus Europe's cash fund has enabled funds needed to set up urgent initiatives to be advanced and three loans to be extended so that communities can be firmly established.
- The groups still rally round and get involved in the regional sales at European level.
- A new section on solidarity on the Emmaus Europe website's homepage has been created.
- Real interest displayed by people from outside the Movement in taking part in the work camps put on by the European groups.

### Weaknesses

- The funding target was not achieved and some initiatives have had to be postponed. In 2015, the organisation's cash fund will enable the same amount to be advanced.
- Some groups have had to contend with a difficult financial situation or geopolitical or climatic events that are energy-sapping or force them to request support from the other groups.
- Fewer European groups took part in the Paris Salon in support of international solidarity.
- People from outside the Movement are still not very aware about European solidarity initiatives.

## Solidarity prospects for 2015

The activities of the groups described in this review will continue to develop and be implemented. In the first instance, the Collectives will reflect this continuity.

On 14 March 2015, Brat Albert will host the Poland-Ukraine Collective and the new Krakow community will be inaugurated.

In April 2015, the Romania Collective will continue to discuss the development of the income-generating activities of

the communities that are now owners of their plots of land.

In July 2015, Bosnia-Herzegovina will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the youth camps and will commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre.

The work camps will also continue to fulfil their objective of enabling people to discover the values championed by the Emmaus Movement and the stakeholders involved in it.

**Solidarity will also be debated at the Emmaus Europe regional assembly in 2015.**

Contact people :

47 Avenue de la Résistance,  
93104 Montreuil Cedex

Telephone number: 00 33 1 41 58 25 70

Fax : 00 33 1 48 18 76 85

Email : [contact@emmaus-europe.org](mailto:contact@emmaus-europe.org)

[www.emmaus-europe.org](http://www.emmaus-europe.org)

