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SOLIDARITY

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2015 REVIEW

2015, another year full of solidarity at Emmaus!

Focus on European actions.

SUMMARY

Figures. p3

Once again, the groups showed their commitment to supporting solidarity within the Movement.

Solidarity supports seven initiatives. p4

Financial support makes it possible to invest, renovate, and develop actions in the current world, but solidarity exchanges find their essence in human exchanges.

Follow-up on actions from 2014. p11

Europe's geographical and administrative situation makes travels and meetings possible and easy, so let's not hesitate.

European Collectives. p13

In 2015, meetings all year long were a real driver for solidarity exchanges between Emmaus Europe groups, be they financial, material or human.

Solidarity work camps. p13

Intra-European transports. p17

It is good to know that Emmaus groups are still striving to welcome, protect and support people who suffer. They also fight all kinds of deprivation factors.

Regional fairs. p18

Solidarity perspectives. p19

This is a snapshot, which is obviously not comprehensive, of actions taken collectively in 2015...

Figures on solidarity: financial support.

The 2015 European solidarity program approved by the Emmaus Europe Regional Council on 22/02/2015 covers 7 actions taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Ukraine.

On 31/12/2015, € 99,763 were given to the seven groups in question, for the initiatives under the 2015 program.

- 4 actions received the necessary support and were carried out completely.
- 3 actions were given the necessary support and are still on-going. Out of these 3 actions, 1 is on the long-term and will be repeated again in 2016 as initially planned. This partly explains the difference between the total amount of the programme that was approved and the subsidies that were allocated. For more information, refer to 'dedicated subsidies' in the association's accounts.

Source of the funding paid out to the groups under the 2015 European Solidarity Programme. Total € 99,763



2 actions, which are part of the 2014 solidarity programme, received the second round of fund allocation early 2015 and were therefore able to finalise the implementation phase in 2015.

The association's accounts show the details regarding funds transfers.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA. A field of 1,2 hectares was bought and mobile homes were installed in Banja Luka to start the new community.

Nova Generacija is an association gathering social workers, psychologists, trainers and other professionals acting to protect youngsters who have to beg or are homeless. It offers them a shelter, food as well as adapted medical and psychological treatments in housing centres and day-care centres.

The objective of the group, which is to create a community activity for homeless people in Banja Luka, started in the following way:

- **A social company called “NG Emmaus” was created** as the Bosnian law states that it is forbidden for associations to sell objects received as donations in Bosnia. The company is owned by Nova Generacija.
- **A plot of 12 000 m2 was bought** in the countryside, about 20 km away from the centre of Banja Luka. It is an agricultural field that can be cultivated and which is well located as it is close to the motorway as well as other infrastructures. Its size corresponds to the community needs (housing, auxiliary buildings, warehouse, etc.)
- **2 containers were installed** for housing purposes, 1 for the kitchen, and 1 for the bathroom. They welcomed 4 companions to start with.
- **A shop was opened and 2 transports were received**, one from France and one from Germany, which will make it possible to confirm that textiles and small objects are what sells best.



Amount dedicated to this action : € 17,500.

LITHUANIA. Works made it possible to prepare the opening of the future Emmaus shop.

The missing persons' families support centre in Lithuania aims at raising awareness as well preventing and protecting people against human trafficking.



In 2012, in order to implement the group's actions, the city of Vilnius lent facilities to the group for 10 year. They include one major building of 700m², as well as two pavilions and 0,5 hectares located in the regional park of Verkiai, in Vilnius. Gradually, the pipes and sewage systems were repaired, as well as the roof.

This summer, in 2015, European solidarity supported the preparatory works as well as the organization of works in order to open an Emmaus shop soon. 11 voluntary workers from neighbouring cities were involved for a whole week to clean and repair, as well as paint the walls, the ceilings and the floors. They also fitted two bathrooms, cleaned the basement and prepared shelves in order to install the equip-

ment that will soon be sold in the new shop.

The heating and electrical systems are currently being repaired.

Amount dedicated to this action: € 20,000.

On the long term, the objectives are the following:

Offer leisure activities and raise awareness amongst young people in order to protect them from human trafficking.

Give victims the opportunity to have a job experience. Provide psychological, legal and social support offered by qualified specialists, which would make it easier for them to be reintegrated in the society.

POLAND. Brat Albert organizes workshops during the summer works.

Initially implemented in Nowy Sacz, in the south of Poland, Brat Albert grew bigger in 2003 with the opening of a new centre in Cracow.

The Cracow community was officially inaugurated on the 13th and 14th of March 2015, on the occasion of the Poland-Ukraine Collective.

The group welcomes about 40 companions on 2 different sites; they carry out traditional activities such as collecting, sorting, repairing and selling. Brat Albert experienced a decrease in equipment collection because of a decline in quality as well as an increase in the competition, and therefore decided to focus on developing the workshops, especially for carpentry.



A work camp was organized in summer 2015 for the third time in Cracow and for the first time in Nowy Sacz. It lasted for 2 weeks and gathered both volunteers and Emmaus companions to work on the new workshops.

Despite the low number of volunteers, this was the opportunity to share the companions' daily work, to prepare the vegetable patch and to be creative within the workshops. The companions then finalized the work that had been started.

Amount dedicated to this action:
€ 8,033.

POLAND: Emmaus Lublin is currently renovating its community house n°3 as well as the sales room.

Emmaus Lublin is a community where people live and work. It is made of three organizations: the Emmaus community, the 'Parmi nous' foundation, which offers therapeutic workshops for disabled people, and the Emmaus social coop. 32 people live in Emmaus Lublin.

The objective of the group is to increase the number of available spaces for companions in house n°3, and to improve conditions in the sales room.

Works include thermal insulation, finishing the refurbishment of the front of the building, renovating the car park and bring the fire protection system up to standards.

Amount dedicated to this action:

€ 20,000.

The group received subsidies during the last term of 2015 but the works were difficult to carry out in winter. They are now on-going.



The group still has other activities on the side:

- Collecting, sorting, repairing and selling objects at a low price in its 2 miscellaneous shops.
- The social coop carries out production activities, in which 8 companions are involved. The social coop's services and production activities are mainly in the field of "landscape architecture", garden furniture, bus stops, benches in parks, chess tables, bins. Emmaus communities also helped the group sell these products in France and in Switzerland.

ROMANIA. The 'Amicii d'Emmaus' selling point grew bigger thanks to solidarity works.



This action goes with the project that started in 2010 and was reinforced first of all by the purchase of the land in 2014, and then by the installation of the first containers for textile. It is supported by the work done by European companions and voluntary workers every year.

The main objective is to improve working tools and to look at promising sectors for autonomous activities.

Amount dedicated to this action: € 9,500.

Activities carried out in July and August 2015:

- **Creation of a storage surface** of 100m² accessible via a wood staircase.
- Garden furniture was made during a **workshop** (bench and table).
- **Clothes given in the containers** located in the city centre were collected. They were sorted, and parcels were prepared, to then be distributed to families.
- **Leisure days** were organized (walk along the Danube, visit of the Baile Herculane seaside resort, and of the Baia de Fier women's cave).
- Participation in **sales days**.
- **Visit of the shelter and time spent with kids.**
- Progress was made on **electricity works**. It was necessary to take advice and define the norms and conditions that are applicable in the country before buying the required equipment.
- An electricity system was installed in the **sales room** to bring it up to standards.
- During the opening on the 2nd of August, the association decided to **celebrate the 5th birthday of Emmaus in Târgu Jiu**.
- **A fresco was painted** on the front of the building.
- **The garden was tidied.**

UKRAINE. Sorting conditions were improved at the Oselya warehouse. A textile activity was developed and awareness was raised amongst the public.

Oselya is made of a community with workshops, two stores, a sorting and storage area, a social hotel and a shelter with a shower, changing rooms and hairdresser for homeless people living in the city of Lviv. In 2015, the group focused on developing clothes collecting and sorting activities, as well as promoting these concepts in Ukraine in order to achieve economic autonomy.

- **10 containers were produced** to collect clothes, and 8 of them are already installed and distributed across the city of Lviv.

- **Refurbishment of the warehouse :** the equipment needed for the sorting area was bought and made it possible to sort clothes in a more precise way, and in more comfortable conditions. The quality of the clothes sold in Emmaus shops was therefore improved. Lamps, extinguishers and shelves were installed; trolleys, counters and professional scales were bought. The storage area in the attic was increased, the



floor was changed and the walls were painted.

- **The street magazine 'Prosto neba'** is still published in order to offer a social and economic activity to homeless people, as well as raise awareness amongst the general public.

- **A book in Ukrainian** is currently being prepared to talk about the Emmaus movement. Negotiations are on-going with a writer and a publishing company to issue a book in Ukrainian about Emmaus and its ideas.

Amount dedicated to this action:
€ 15,180.

Three salaries were also paid thanks to the dedicated funds in 2014. Total amount: € 11,400.

UKRAINE. Nasha Khata is getting organized and develops its own agricultural activities.

The objective of the support given is to contribute to the stability, management and organization of the Nasha Khata community, **by paying for the salaries of the two people in charge, and by supporting the group's agricultural activities**, such as planting cereals and potatoes, as well as developing the farm. An accountant joined the team in September 2015.

One of the persons in charge, invited by the French 'Franche-Comté Bourgogne' Emmaus region (R9) came to work for about 20 days with several Emmaus groups. Also, 2 missions were organized by R9 in Ukraine:

- April-May for 10 days: 8 volunteers worked with Emmaus companions in Nasha Khata.
- October for 4 days: a representative from R9 and a producer growing organic products went to Nasha Khata in order to support the group in the preparation of the field and the seeds.



Harvest for 2015: 15 tons of potatoes, 4 tons of wheat, about 4 tons of alfalfa and peas, 6 tons of corn. 6 hectares of hay were baled. The harvest was not as good as expected as the seeds were not planted deep enough due to weeds, and the fact that the land was not ploughed enough.

Preparation for 2016:

The 3 hectares were ploughed, the land was turned and the seeds were well buried.

- 10 kg of dry peas were mixed with wheat, barley and rye. 0,4 ha were planted with this mix.
- Wheat was planted on 2 ha.
- 0,5 ha are ready to be planted with potatoes in spring 2016.

Amount dedicated to this action :
€ 9,550

ROMANIA. Following the action launched in 2014, the Iasi Emmaus community built its attic.

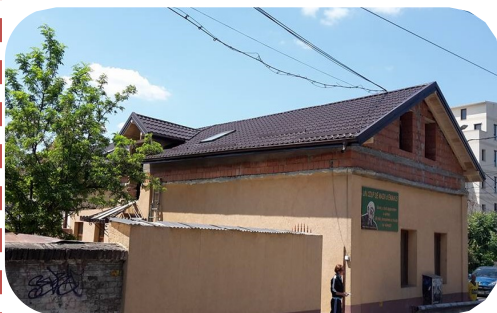
Emmaus Iasi *Un coup de main* raised the roof and fit bedrooms in the attic. The community was therefore able to increase its welcoming capacity (5 additional beds), and offer more comfort to the 20 companions who live there.

The works were initially planned for summer 2014 and were then postponed to the following summer as subsidies received before the spring / summer were insufficient. Thanks to the companions as well as

voluntary European workers who arrived in May 2015, the works were then finalized.

- The roof was taken down and replaced by a new one.
- Windows and lateral partitions were installed, as well as a new floor and a staircase.
- The electrical and sewage systems were connected to the grid.

Amount dedicated to this action:
€ 28,250.



The association created in 2001 brings its support to young homeless adults by offering activities related to various areas: collecting, sorting, selling, farming and agricultural activities, carpenter workshop and personal training.

There are numerous solidarity activities at local level: street work, distribution of food, furniture and blankets.

POLAND. Following the actions initiated in 2014, the kitchen and dining-room areas in the Rzeszów Emmaus community are now ready.

European solidarity supported the **fitting and launching of a kitchen with a canteen in the community house located in the city of Przedmiescie Czudeckie.**

The action had not been finalised by the end of 2014, as some of the subsidies had not been granted. The 28 residents and community members can now stay on the premises to have their meals together.

The building benefited from European Union funds to **install renewable energy equipment:** underfloor heating, solar panels, thermal insulation, heat and water recovery systems.

Amount dedicated to this action: 13 000 €.



International Solidarity has been supporting the construction of the community house since 2009. **The building includes the housing part, the second shop of the group, as well as a storage area and work-shops.**

The group will now be able to focus on developing its work-shops, the veg patch and the chicken farm as planned for the future.

Work, exchange, discovery.

The European Collectives

European Collectives are working groups gathering Emmaus partners in meetings and during visits in order to organize solidarity actions in a collective way.

The idea is indeed to work together and give a framework to solidarity actions for groups in need, following a transparent and long-term approach.

There are the Romania, Poland-Ukraine, as well as Bosnia Collectives, which meet once or twice a year.

NB: these working groups are open to all, be it companions, friends, employees. Emmaus Europe covers housing costs and living costs incurred by the meeting for two people in each group.

Pictures showing the groups in 2015 in the following pages....

The Solidarity work camps in Europe.

In 2015, solidarity work camps were organised in 9 European countries, on top of the groups who welcomed volunteers all year long or during the summer without any particular activity being organised as such. Whether companions or youngsters wanting to give a hand, there were many volunteers willing to work with Emmaus groups on a daily basis. Works are still concrete means to share solidarity and to exchange.

The minutes of the European meetings are available at the following address : <http://emmaus-europe.org/669-members-area/collective-working-group/collective-and-working-group-meeting-reportsfollow-up-documents>.

For information and feedback on the works carried out: <http://emmaus-europe.org/208-welcome-to-the-section-new-generations/175-the-summer-volunteer-programme-youth-camps-in-europe>.

The Poland-Ukraine Collective. March 2015 in Krakow, Poland.



This meeting was an opportunity to inaugurate the community, supported by the whole Movement.

The members of the group were joined by friends, volunteers from the group as well as companions from other Polish communities who came especially for that, in order to spend some time together while enjoying music in the background.

A working day was organised. It started with the presentation of the work done by the three Polish groups and the 2 Ukrainian groups. This was followed by debates and discussions on issues related to

Emmaus activities. Everybody presented various perspectives and future events to close the session. The development of workshops as well as textile and agricultural activities was particularly highlighted.



After visiting the community and its workshops, sharing a meal is an opportunity to have informal discussions, and it gives people time to meet. Many thanks to the cooks!

The Romania Collective.

April 2015 in Iasi, Romania.

The three Romanian groups were there, around the table lent by the French Institute



in Iasi, to talk about the various activities. In Romania, the three groups work with young adults in order to train them. Two of these groups are still in their trial period and are gradually implementing and stabilising

their activities. Romanians and other partners are working together to think of future actions, as well as financial, equipment or human needs.



The meetings are also opportunities to go and visit, which makes

it possible to see the works performed by the welcoming group. In this case, after the visit of the community and the shop in town, the group stopped at the agricultural site of the Belvedere, which is 7 hectare wide. The group then went to Popesti, the second location for housing and agricultural activities. A party was organised there to celebrate the group's 15th birthday. The companions were proud to show what they had achieved, and special thanks went to Julio De La Granja for his commitment as Chairman of Emmaus Europe.



The Bosnia-Herzegovina Collective. November 2015 in Banja Luka.



Nova Generacija, which is a member on trial, welcomed the Collective for the first time. Discussions were mainly focused on stabilising recent activities, as well as prospects to come. The day also included a visit of the new field

bought thanks to European solidarity, as well as various day-care and night-care centres for children. The group also welcomed 2 representatives from a Croatian association, who were invited and who were given an opportunity to present their actions.

The following day, the Emmaus Solidarity International Forum invited the members of the Collective to Dobož. They travelled together and visited the food distribution centre, the Duje shelter



(image right), the milk coop as well as the new youngster welcome centre, which was recently inaugurated. The numerous explanations provided then completed the information shared during the meeting.



This is the meal shared with the first 4 companions in Banja Luka.

Intra-European transports

In 2015, 85 transports were organised in Europe.

- 45 towards Romania.
- 37 towards Poland.
- 2 towards the new group in Bosnia-Herzegovina to start its activity.
- 1 for the missing persons' families support centre in Lithuania in December 2015, to test the equipment that can be sold or not when the shop opens in 2016.

These transports still represent an important economic activity for groups who welcome the transports, as well as a solidarity action that enables senders to renew sales.

In particular for groups starting their activities, this year, those transports made it possible to attract their first clients, find out more about their purchasing patterns and their needs, and then start discussing on-going Emmaus actions.

The levels of demand and supply are even, and a fair distribution is done

between groups within each country.

Transport costs are borne either by the receiving group, or by the sender, or shared, depending on discussions between the two concerned groups.

Intra-Europe transports are also an **opportunity for exchanges and meetings between groups**, which enables companions to travel and take part in loading / unloading processes.

It should however **be mentioned that the emphasis is on local collection, mentioned during each Collective meeting**, in order to gradually raise awareness amongst the local community regarding recycling, donating, and supporting associations with a social goal. This was proven by the development of textile activities and repair workshops.

Regional fairs with a European dimension.

The French 'Nord Pas de Calais-Picardie' region fair took place in France on the 28th of March 2015. European Emmaus groups were deeply committed to this event, which resulted in profits for solidarity, amongst which €13,000 for European actions. These funds were allocated to the two following groups for the actions described above:

- € 5,752 for Emmaus Lublin in Poland.
- € 7,248 for Nova Generacija in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The International Solidarity Fair took place in Paris in June 2015, with the participation of numerous European groups.

This was a record year with 28 000 visitors and €630,000 in income. Profits will make it possible to support International Solidarity in 2016.

The great Ile de France sales took place on the 13th of September 2015 in the stables of the Roche Guyon castle, just outside Paris.

Thanks to the work done by friends, companions, employees and voluntary workers, the region was able to give € 2,800 to Oselya in Ukraine for its actions described above.

The French Emmaus region 'Champagne Ardennes, Alsace & Lorraine' fair took place on the 20th of September 2015 in Reims. About 3 500 buyers came, thus generating a profit of €37,000. The region gave €10,500 to European solidarity for actions in Poland and Romania.



Solidarity perspectives for 2016

During the Emmaus Europe Regional Assembly in Manchester in 2015, European Emmaus groups who got together reasserted their commitment to reinforcing the actions and fights against exclusion factors.



“Against hostile international finance, economic and social policies that are responsible for deprivation, security migration policies, non-respect of the environment; in cooperation with civil society.

In order to reach these objectives, the groups have identified the following action plan: (...) **5. Reinforce solidarity within the movement.**”

Representatives from members that were either elected or renewed during the assembly will therefore have to define and implement this action plan.

To be continued...

For more information on solidarity in Europe, on the organisation, the decisions taken and the actions implemented until now, the following documents are available:

- Solidarity assessments from previous years.
- Minutes from groups meetings.
- The transports guide and work camps schedules.
- The Emmaus Europe website, which also includes the documents mentioned above.

Do not hesitate to get in touch with Emmaus Europe secretariat to receive posters or information tools on solidarity actions, which can then be displayed in sales rooms or in the groups.



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