

# SOLIDARITY

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## 2017 REVIEW

# Solidarity, the Emmaus Movement's core value, is implemented by groups and individuals across Europe in many different ways...

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Solidarity is a core value of the Emmaus Movement and is at the very heart of life in the Europe Region. It legitimises our struggles and assertions through daily acts, as well as enabling Emmaus activists to forge closer ties.

The European annual solidarity programme enables the groups to develop and undertake initiatives funded by donations made by other groups.

The work forums that are the geographical collectives bring together Emmaus partners in order to draw on each and every member's experiences and differences to discuss and build something together.

The transport programme is a direct wealth redistribution initiative between areas with different socio-economic contexts. Sending container loads to other groups makes good use of our customers' donations.

The summer camps open up Emmaus to volunteers keen to give their time and enable them to enjoy a worthwhile human experience. The camps are also a means of championing the movement's ideals to a broader public.

Our big sales are a chance for the Emmaus groups to meet up, chat and socialise, and offer a great showcase for the movement.

We know that the solidarity-based Europe of Emmaus really works, so let's continue to promote our initiatives and implement solidarity on a daily basis.

# THE 2017 EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

Country Group	Initiative	Total cost	Approved by the 18/2/17
ITALY - Emmaus	Redevelopment of the community (phase one)	€55,000	€25,000
LITHUANIA - Missing Persons' Families Support	Joining forces to combat trafficking. Next phase of building work on the house.	€27,128	€27,128
ROMANIA – Em- maus Iasi	First phase of the project to set up an educa- tional farm on the Belvédère plot of farmland.	€108, 711	€49,360
ROMANIA -	Create a micro-credit fund to offer access to	€81,530	€20,000
UKRAINE – Em- maus Oselya	Expand Oselya's sorting and storage capacity. Two-year project.	€130,000	€74,000
UKRAINE- Nasha Khata	Support the group's farming work.	€1,800	€1,800
	Build a well.	€5,680	€5,680
	Support the organisation's work by paying the	€9,000	€9,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€211,968</b>

*\*Regional Council of Emmaus Europe – the organisation's board*

## Financial support

The 2017 European solidarity programme approved by the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe on 18/2/17 **contains eight initiatives run by six groups in four European countries.** The approved projected budget for the programme was €211,968.

As of 31 December 2017:

- **€137,856 of donations had been** received from the European groups.
- **€79,667 had been paid out to** five groups for their initiatives run under the framework of the 2017 programme.
- Five initiatives were fully funded and were completed.
- Two initiatives were partially funded and are set to be implemented as of spring 2018.
- One initiative is pending. We are awaiting more clearly defined plans.

Two reminders about the solidarity programme were sent out in May and July 2017 to the European groups in order to receive and transfer on time the funding needed to roll out the initiatives before the summer began.

Emmaus Europe's accounts give details of the flows of funding if you are looking for further information.

## Italy – Emmaus Padua improves community living conditions

Emmaus Padua has undertaken conversion work in order to improve companion living conditions and increase the number of residential places available. The aim was to refurbish the dining room and rebuild one of the community's accommodation areas.

The group had to demolish one of the buildings before doing the groundworks and laying the flooring. A perimeter wall was built and the building was connected to the water and power supply.

The asbestos dining room roof was also replaced. The ceiling was repaired, improved heat insulation was fitted, and the building was rewired.



By doing this work, the group has made the premises safer for the community's companions.

This building work was the first phase of a larger redevelopment project. In the long term, the Padua group believes that this work will enable it to increase the number of places offered, in addition to improving the living conditions of existing residents.

Emmaus Europe and Emmaus Italy provided support for the building work.

Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€25,000**



## Lithuania – The Missing Persons' Families Support Centre inaugurates its Green House

The MPFSC has undertaken major building work. The aim was to bring together the Emmaus charity shop, day centre for trafficking victims, and emergency accommodation in the same place.

The group has changed the ground floor window and has refurbished the interior of the ground floor (ceiling, walls and flooring).



Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€27,128**

The building now has three emergency rooms, a kitchen, two bathrooms, an office and the Emmaus charity shop.

The new premises were officially opened on 14 October 2017 with a



large number of official representatives attending the event, including representatives of the ministry of work and social security, the public prosecutor's office, the police and Vilnius council.

The group feels that the centre will benefit a large number of people by offering shelter and support to victims and people at risk of human trafficking and forced prostitution, and through the telephone helpline and training courses delivered.



## Romania – Frères Europa wants to offer housing opportunities to young adults

Frères Europa's initiative seeks to address an internal and external issue. Firstly, the community can only house young people up to the age of 30. Furthermore, the legislative framework in Romania makes it very difficult for disadvantaged people to take out a mortgage and therefore buy a property.

Frères Europa wants to develop a micro-credit system to enable young community leavers to become home owners.



The group wants to start by building two houses, which will be bought over time by the young people, who will ultimately become homeowners. The scheme also enables them to live independently.



Repayments by the young people will enable the fund to be replenished and new houses to be built. The fund will therefore be self-sufficient.

At the present time, the group has a plot of land and the administrative formalities are underway to determine the regulatory requirements that will enable plans to be drawn up. The intention is to build the houses in 2018 with the help of the young people who will subsequently live in them.

Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€7,500**

Amount still needed to complete the amount requested from Emmaus Europe: **€12,500**



## Romania – Un coup de main d'Emmaus Iasi wants to open an educational farm



The Iasi group has been developing a partnership with Emmaus Fribourg and a Swiss market garden for the past year. Members of the Romanian community regularly travel to Switzerland to receive market gardening and organic farming training.

The knowledge acquired will be put to good use in Iasi on the group's various farms and particularly the Belvédère site. The group intends to turn the Belvédère site into an educational farm for local residents and students. They could visit the farm and spend several days working on it.

Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€6,000**

Amount still needed to complete the amount requested from Emmaus Europe: **€28,060**

The Iasi group has already received a metal structure donated by Emmaus Ferrara. The structure will be used as a shop and warehouse. The intention is to erect the structure during a summer camp to be held from May to September 2018. Volunteers will be able to attend for varying periods of time to help with the construction, utilities connection work and the construction of two timber houses. Finally, preparations will be made to enable the group to launch the farm work with the help of an agronomist.

In the meantime, the Iasi group is focusing on obtaining the last few permits, preparing the plan with the architect and in accordance with the regulations in force, and the groundworks.





## Ukraine – Oselya mutual aid community is improving its sorting methods

Oselya mutual aid community is the first organisation to have installed clothing collection containers and now has 23 of them in Lviv. The group is continuing to work to achieve recognition as a key player in the circular economy in Ukraine and to secure the long-term future of its collection work.

However, the group is encountering a number of practical issues when attempting to collect and sort unwanted items. The group only has two very old trucks which they use to collect donations every day from all the containers. Furthermore, the warehouse is too small and does not provide proper sorting and storage space.



One of the group's projects is to purchase a new larger warehouse to



increase its sorting capacity.

The group hopes in particular to improve its sorting methods and that a larger proportion of the collected clothing can be put to good use.

In 2017, several Oselya representatives travelled to France to visit several groups and observe the methods in use. The group wants to improve its own practices and has already partially changed the way it operates following these visits.

The group is also starting to look for a plot of land for its warehouse and the next phase of the initiative hinges upon this property search.

Amount still needed to complete the amount requested from Emmaus Europe: **€24,625**

## Ukraine – Nasha Khata has its own water supply and is developing its farming activities

Just like in 2016, solidarity has enabled Nasha Khata to cover the wages of two leaders and an administrator.

This enables the group to carry out and develop its activities with greater peace of mind. The group is home to 32 companions who collect and sell second-hand goods, and also work on the farm.

Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€9,000**



The group has also developed its farming activity. Solidarity has enabled them to purchase the seeds they need and harvest roughly nine tonnes of cereals.

French Emmaus groups donated a

tractor to Nasha Khata and this has been a great help to the group.

Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€1,800**



Finally, the group is very close to their neighbours, Caritas. Until this year, Nasha Khata was reliant on Caritas for its water supply. In 2017, the group started work to dig its own well.

This has enabled the group to secure the long-term future of its work and to have greater peace of mind and work more effectively on the farm.

Amount transferred by Emmaus Europe to this initiative: **€5,680**

# The European collectives

The European geographical collectives are important forums at which the groups can meet and discuss. They offer groups and members the chance to develop partnerships and build friendships. The collectives are also a good opportunity to discuss the groups' solidarity initiatives, the news and the socio-economic and political contexts in different countries. The geographical collectives cover Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania and Poland-Ukraine.

These three working groups generate ideas while also implementing the initiatives chosen by Emmaus Europe. They are open to all activists in the Emmaus Movement from across the region.

Collective	Meeting date and venue	Number of participants	Number of groups represented	Number of countries represented
Bosnia Herzegovina	2 April 2017 in Bosnia-Herzegovina	15	8	4
	30 November 2017	26	14	5
Poland-Ukraine	17 March 2017 in	34	16	10
	27-8 October 2017	31	15	10
Romania	25-6 April 2017 in Romania	22	8	4
	19-20 September 2017 in France	37	17	5

The European collective meeting reports are available in the members' area:  
<http://emmaus-europe.org/669-members-area/collective-working-group>

## Bosnia-Herzegovina Collective

The Bosnia-Herzegovina collective started discussions in 2017 with two Croatian associations that wish to join the Emmaus Movement. The Centre for Missing and Exploited Children took part in the November meeting and presented its work.



An exchange programme with the Netherlands has been up and running for over a year and visits and stays in both countries took place in 2017. The visits and stays have proved very worthwhile as participants are able to see what life is really like at both ends of Europe.

The collective also had the chance to discuss relaunching the annual Bosnia-Herzegovina convoy project. In October 2017, a truck travelled from France, and the stakeholders involved want to continue and develop this initiative in 2018.

Finally, the Nova Generacija group informed the other members about a difficult situation. The activities of a former member are now placing the group in an irregular situation with the authorities. The Emmaus Europe Regional Executive has been approached about supporting the group.

## Poland-Ukraine Collective

The Poland-Ukraine Collective has a large number of member groups and guest participants and last year focused on the groups' news and their solidarity programme initiatives. In addition to the three Polish groups and two Ukrainian groups, the collective welcomed representatives of the MPFSC (Lithuania), Amis3 and Smiltene (Latvia), and the Georgian association. These organisations were able to present their activities and the question now is how best to work with them and integrate them into the collective.



The collective meetings were also the chance to discuss the situations of Oselya (Ukraine) and Rzeszów (Poland). A mentor has been appointed for Emmaus Rzeszów and adjustments have been made to organisational procedures to secure the group's future.

## Romania Collective

The Romania Collective was the chance to discuss group news and notably social reforms in the country. Specifically, the significant and rapid increase of the minimum wage constitutes very positive social progress but equally puts the Emmaus groups in a difficult position because their economic models were not designed for it.

The collective was also the chance to further develop the topic of the circular economy in conjunction with the discussions in the European institutions on the Circular Economy Package.

The Romanian institutions have been approached and discussions have been held with them at the various levels: the country's delegation in Brussels, the president of the Romanian Parliament, the French embassy in Romania. One of Emmaus Europe's campaign areas is showcasing the role of social stakeholders in the circular economy and notably of all the Emmaus groups working on this subject in their day-to-day lives.



# European transport programme

2017 saw 105 lorry loads of donated goods cross Europe.

These lorry loads are a vital source of goods for the groups whose economic contexts make it difficult for them to collect unwanted goods, and a way for sending groups to renew their stock, while also helping others. Moreover, they are often the chance for the groups involved to meet up and enjoy interacting with each other.

Country	Receiving group	Loads re- ceived in 2017	Dispatching groups	Number of dispatching groups per	Total dis- patching groups
Bosnia Her- zegovina	ISF-Emmaus	3	3	4	29
	Nova Generacija	1	1		
Latvia	Amis3	5	2	3	
	Emmaus Smiltene	2	2		
Lithuania	Missing Persons’ Families Support	2	2	2	
Poland	Brat Albert	7	3	11	
	Emmaus Lublin	17	5		
	Emmaus Rzeszów	18	9		
Romania	Amicii d’Emmaüs	16	5	17	
	Emmaus Iasi	22	9		
	Frères Europa	12	5		
Total		105			

The transport programme was organised and implemented over the course of the year and was discussed in detail at the collective meetings. The Emmaus Europe Secretariat receives offers and requests and links up the partner groups if necessary with the aim of being fair and transparent.





The members of Emmaus Cologne and Lublin unloading a recently arrived lorry in Poland.

Nova Generacija unloads a container sent from Finland.



The French groups from Alençon, Bourges, Lyon and Val de Brie Insertion jointly hired a truck to send goods to the ISF, following in the footsteps of the convoys sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina until 2015. The participants wish to restore this tradition and organise an annual

convoy of several trucks to Bosnia-Herzegovina every year. The geographical collective will be a good forum for making plans. The plan is to organise a convoy for 2018!

The French community of Emmaus Bougival has donated a truck to the European movement. Following an appeal to all the European groups, the regional executive decided to allocate the donation to Brat Albert in Poland.

A large number of groups have requested new trucks to help them run their projects.





# The 2017 summer camps in Europe

19 June - 11 August  
Westervik, Finland



Emmaus contributes to reducing waste in our society by re-using and recycling which creates work opportunities. Come to work as a volunteer with Emmaus Westervik's team in the second-hand shop! The work includes collecting and sorting second-hand goods, furniture transports and other Emmaus work tasks.

[emmaus@surfnet.fi](mailto:emmaus@surfnet.fi)

1er- 31 July  
Catanzaro, Italy.

[emmauscatanzaro@gmail.com](mailto:emmauscatanzaro@gmail.com)  
334.3428931



29 July - 13 August  
Åland, Finland



To collect and sort second-hand goods, load a container. Gardening and other work tasks, discover Emmaus. Organize cultural events, discuss human rights.

[robert@emmaus.ax](mailto:robert@emmaus.ax)

10 - 24 July  
Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina



To take part in renovation of schools, roads and houses, water supply and distribution networks, in cleaning parks, rivers and lakes. Also, in various educational, entertainment and sports activities focused on tolerance, reconciliation and preservation of peace.

[mladi@mfs-emmaus.ba](mailto:mladi@mfs-emmaus.ba)

16 - 30 July and  
30 July - 13 August

Palermo, Italy  
[palermo@emmaus](mailto:palermo@emmaus)  
349.6088262

To take part in Italy, in meetings and social and cultural events, champion the rights of the weakest members of society, and work together to develop a positive, plural and inclusive social model. To take part in community life, self-funding initiatives by collecting and recycling used goods, and solidarity initiatives.

Inscriptions: <http://www.emmaus.it/campi-2017>

30 July- 12 August  
Péruwelz, Belgium



To maintain the buildings of the community and participate in Emmaus' recovery and recycling work and in the maintenance of the green spaces. Cultural activities.

[juliodelagranja@hotmail.com](mailto:juliodelagranja@hotmail.com)

27 July- 1<sup>st</sup> August  
Saint Albans, United-Kingdom



To help with the Emmaus football tournament we are holding for the companions around the UK. Three people could help with preparing the garden, cooking the food, welcoming the companions, and with the organization of the football tournament on the day.

[jennifer.hewson@emmausstalbens.eu](mailto:jennifer.hewson@emmausstalbens.eu)

13- 20 August and 20-27 August  
Arezzo, Italy

[emmausarezzo@emmausarezzo.it](mailto:emmausarezzo@emmausarezzo.it)  
0575.896558

France,  
All summer within groups.



To be committed with Emmaus actions, to meet people and have alternative experiences, through collection, sorting, sale activities and taking part in specific projects.

[www.emmausexperience.org/fr](http://www.emmausexperience.org/fr)

Information about summer camps and youth camps in Europe is available on the website from March onwards:

<http://emmaus-europe.org>, new generations tab.

### Åland, Finland

29 July - 13 August 2017

- 13 participants
- Activities: workshops, trips, sorting, gardening, organising the Emmaus festival.

### La Poudrière, Belgium

30 July - 12 August 2017

- 6 participants
- Activities: the community's day-to-day activities, small building work, painting, cultural visits.

### International Solidarity Forum, Bosnia-Herzégovina

10 - 24 July 2017

- 80 participants
- Activities :
  - ⇒ Cleaning the Potocari commemorative centre following the Srebrenica massacre remembrance ceremony.
  - ⇒ Connecting the drinking water supply in the village of Brosevići.
  - ⇒ Reconstruction, renovation and decoration of houses, historic monuments and the old town in Srebrenica.
  - ⇒ Distribution of humanitarian aid to vulnerable population groups.
  - ⇒ Offering everyday support to the population.
  - ⇒ Recreational activities.



### And also...

A large number of other camps were also held in Europe, notably in France and Italy, but also in the UK and a second one in Finland.

The summer and youth camps are fantastic opportunities for young people from very different backgrounds to meet up. They enable them to rediscover or discover community life and chat to people from all over Europe. They also enable the Emmaus groups to introduce participants to their local regions and situations, and are a good chance to talk about the movement's founding values.

# Regional sales with a European slant

The Nord Pas de Calais Region Salon (or big sale) in Picardy in France took place on 1 April 2017 in Lille. Several European groups took part, notably Germany and Romania. The Iasi group was able to take away unsold items and sell them back home.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Emmaus Salon in Paris in support of international solidarity took place on 25 June 2017 and attracted 130 groups including 18 non-French European groups from Belgium, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, UK and Switzerland. 13,800 people visited the big sale, generating takings of €470,000. €75,000 was transferred to Emmaus International.

A one-off big sale took place in Turin on 14-15 October 2017 and was organised by all the Italian groups. Several French groups travelled to Italy for the event. 6,600 visitors made their way around the 7,000m<sup>2</sup> exhibition centre in Turin, generating a profit of €40,030, with slightly over €7,000 being transferred to Emmaus

Europe to support the solidarity programme initiatives.

A sale was also held in Krefeld on the same weekend as part of the group's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Several German groups took part and Emmaus Germany generously decided to support the work of the MPFSC in Lithuania, donating €2,500 of the profit generated by the sale.

And to round off the year in style, the French groups from the Toulouse region held their fourth regional sale on 5 November 2017. Emmaus Europe had a stand at the event and took the chance to talk about European news and above all to meet up with the groups.

Thank you to everyone - friends, volunteers, companions and employees - for their efforts at these solidarity events.



Toulouse 2017

**E**colo,  
**M**alin,  
**M**ilitant...  
**A**chetons  
**U**tile et  
**S**olidaire

Grande vente de solidarité  
Dimanche 5 novembre 2017  
Entrée : 1 € solidaire  
10 h >

salon-emmaus-toulouse.fr

Parc des Expositions  
accès côté Stadium



MAIRIE DE TOULOUSE



Emmaus Oselya published the first ever book about the history of Emmaus and Abbé Pierre in Ukraine.

The book was launched across Ukraine in September 2017.

And finally...







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**For further information** about solidarity in Europe, how it is organized, the decisions taken and initiatives rolled out, please check out:

- The solidarity reports from previous years.
- Minutes from the collective meetings.
- Transport programme guide and camp schedules.
- Emmaus Europe's website where the aforementioned documents can be accessed.

Please feel free to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat if you would like posters or information resources about solidarity initiatives to display in your shop or around your group's premises.