



EMMAUS EUROPE
EMMAÜS EUROPE
EMAUÍS EUROPA

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAUS EUROPE

06 – 08 October 2017

Höör – Sweden



PRESENT	NATIONAL DELEGATES		VOTERS
	Sabina Arnaut Jahic , Bosnia-Herzegovina Annick Berthier , France Willi Does , president of Emmaus Europe, Germany* José Maria Garcia Bresó , Spain Grzegorz Hadjuk , Poland	Martha Hannus , Finland Michael "Spike" Hudson , UK Gélu Nichitel , Romania Lottah-Mathilda Olund , Sweden Délia Resende Clément , Portugal	10 WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)		VOTERS
	Willi Does , president of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Maryse Faure , France Michael Heap , Emmaus Europe treasurer, UK Silvana Nogarole , Emmaus Europe secretary, Italy Tobias Petersson , Sweden	Eduardo Sanchez , Spain Maria Luisa Testori , Italy Keith Tolladay , UK Hans Van Beek , member of the executive, France	9 WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	FORMER WORLD COUNCIL MEMBERS	WISE PERSON	
	Marie-France Bedleem , France Jorgen Olsen , Denmark	Birgitta Goranson-Iliste , member of the executive, Sweden	
	GUEST PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS		
	Sabine Benjamin , Emmaus International Secretariat Grégoire Chauveau , Emmaus International Secretariat Lise Daviet , Emmaus International Secretariat	Zbigniew Drakowski , Poland Robert Jansson , Finland Natalya Sanotska , Ukraine	
	EMMAUS EUROPE SECRETARIAT		
	Véronica Acevedo-Caro , admin-finance assistant Marie Tixier , Emmaus Europe events coordinator Gabriela Martin , Emmaus Europe coordinator	Théo Robin , solidarity coordinator Marine Didier , environmental issues intern	

*Willi **Does** holds two votes because he is the Germany national delegate and an Emmaus International Board member (CEI).

APOLOGIES RECEIVED	NATIONAL DELEGATES	COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)	FORMER WORLD COUNCIL MEMBERS	PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS
	Marie Balseca , Italy Julio De La Granja , Belgium Jean-Marc Sigrist , Switzerland Jos Van Der Meer , the Netherlands	Jean-Philippe Legaut , Romania Nathalie Martz , France	Assumpta Ayerdi , Spain Julien Kalimira Murhula Mzee , Denmark	Patrick Atohoun , Chair of Emmaus International Nathalie Péré-Marzano , Emmaus International Chief Executive

Friday 6 October 2017

09:30 – 13:00

Session devoted to socio-political issues in contemporary Europe and a radically changing world. How does Emmaus address the issues of our age? The members of the Regional Council worked in three groups to discuss the subject and the various aspects.

Following the discussions and debates, a document was drawn up to encourage discussion in the groups. (See *the declaration*).

Venue: Backärgarden conference centre in Höör, Sweden.

- Preamble

Willi **DOES**, the president of Emmaus Europe, thanked everyone at the Backärgarden Conference Centre and Birgitta **GORANSON ILISTE** for their warm welcome.

He introduced the new national delegates:

- Annick **BERTHIER**, national delegate for France.
- Martha **HANNUS**, national delegate for Finland.
- Lottah-Mathilda **OLUND**, national delegate for Sweden.

He also welcomed three staff members from the Emmaus International Secretariat:



- Sabine **BENJAMIN**, head of the Emmaus International membership, memory and communication department.
- Grégoire **CHAUVEAU**, officer in the international solidarity and campaigns department.
- Lise **DAVIET**, officer in the international solidarity and campaigns department.

Finally, he thanked the interpreters who made the meeting possible, and the EE Secretariat team for arranging the meeting and for the professionalism they display at all times.

Introduction

2017 was marked by terrorist attacks across Europe, mainly in Sweden and the UK, and also by the presidential elections in France and the federal elections in Germany.

Willi **DOES** rounded off by wishing the whole Regional Council a pleasant time at this statutory meeting.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	DECISIONS
<p>1. Administrative matters</p>	<p><u>Approval of the agenda for the 6-8 October 2017 Regional Council</u> No additions, comments or objections were recorded about the agenda.</p> <p><u>Approval of the minutes of the February 2017 Regional Council held in Paris in France</u> No additions, comments or objections were recorded about the minutes of the Regional Council held in February 2017 in Paris in France.</p> <p>Martha HANNUS, the Finland national delegate, stated that an amendment needed to be made to the roundtable document in order to correct the number of Finnish groups.</p>	<p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the agenda of the 6-8 October 2017 Regional Council: ✓ For: 19 votes. ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The minutes of the Regional Council held in February 2017 in Paris in France were approved by the majority of the Regional Council. ✓ For: 17 votes. ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: Two votes</p>
<p>2. 2017 financial situation Projected budget for 2018</p>	<p><u>Presentation of the financial situation on 30 August 2017</u> Michael HEAP, the EE treasurer, presented the actual budget as of 30 August 2017. The following information was highlighted: - Overall, the budget on 30 August 2017 was balanced. The rise in membership dues has achieved the targets set by Emmaus Europe. - The low level of solidarity donations was highlighted at this point.</p> <p><u>Update on the payment of membership dues from 2017 and previous financial years</u> As of 30 August 2017, €250,018.34 had been received equating to 172 groups paying their dues for 2017. Furthermore: - €55 worth of dues has been collected from one group for 2018. - €59,801.95 has been collected from 36 groups for 2016. - €4,800 of dues has been collected from two groups equating to 2015.</p> <p>In mid-July a 2016-2017 membership dues reminder was sent out by the Emmaus Europe Secretariat to the groups that had not paid their dues by that point.</p> <p>Michael HEAP also thanked the national delegates for the follow-up work done after the groups had been reminded to pay their membership dues. He explained that groups need to be up to date with their dues in order to have voting rights at the 2019 Regional Assembly.</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

Proposal of the 2018 projected budget

Over the summer, Michael **Heap** sent a memo to the members of the Regional Council asking them to submit the priorities that they would like to see Emmaus Europe adopting in 2018.

Michael **Heap** presented the outline of the projected budget for 2018. This outline has been developed with Willi **Does**, Michael **Heap**, Gabriela **Martin**, Véronica **Acevedo-Caro** and Emmaus Europe's accounting firm.

This proposal will be voted on but will be readjusted at the 2018 Regional Council if necessary.

The following information was highlighted because the presentation of this version of the budget (operating budget) has been slightly altered as follows:

- The admin-secretariat section has been split into three separate budgets: secretariat salaries, accounting / audit fees, and secretariat admin costs.
- The coordination and training headings have been changed and replaced with *European Coordination* and *Training in Europe* in order to differentiate between these expenses and those relating to Emmaus International.
- The WCPAIS and WCTNG budgets have been deleted.

Michael **Heap** spoke about the following priorities in the proposed budget for 2018:

- Conclusion of the advocacy work on the circular economy and work with the groups on the implications for existing and new social enterprises in their respective countries.
- Maintain and develop the work of the Migration Collective, particularly the partnership with Migreurop and Article 13, and develop deeper partnerships with Emmaus France and Emmaus International to extend our reach and rationalize expenditure.
- Take a more proactive stance on training, not just with regard to our heritage, but also meeting the needs of the groups by delivering operational training that reflects the reality of a rapidly changing environment for social enterprises and the political environment in Europe.
- As part of the transition from six work areas to three focus areas, Emmaus Europe needs to develop and deliver training in conjunction with Emmaus International in order to incorporate campaigning work into solidarity, while fostering the sharing of knowledge and skills throughout the region as an important component part of solidarity between the groups.

Feedback about the audit of Emmaus Rzeszów conducted in May 2017

Audit start date: Week of 24-28 April 2017

Report received: June 2017


In September 2017 a meeting was attended by the legal representatives of the group, Pierre **Dubois**, a member of the Poland/Ukraine Collective, Willi **Does**, the president of Emmaus Europe, Michael **Heap**, the Emmaus Europe treasurer, Hans **Van Beek**, a


The proposed projected budget for 2018 was **approved by the majority of the Regional Council:**

✓ For: 18 votes.







✗ Against: No votes

• Abstentions: One vote

 Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.

	<p>member of the regional executive, Gabriela Martin, the EE coordinator, and Nathalie Péré-Marzano, the EI chief executive.</p> <p>Emmaus Rzeszów was asked to live up to its responsibilities, in line with local circumstances, and to take into account the following recommendations. It was also highlighted that working together is in the common interest.</p> <p>Governance and sharing of responsibilities It was recommended that Emmaus Rzeszów should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bolster its board and move towards achieving a balance between day-to-day management responsibilities and those relating to strategic governance. - Review its statutes in order to analyse its own practices, comment on them and share them with Emmaus Europe, with a view to ultimately amending them. <p>Financial management and accounts The accounts from previous years need to be rectified before the 2016 accounts are closed and filed. Emmaus Europe will cover the difference between the hours undertaken by the current accountant and the extra cost of those devoted to reviewing the 2013-2016 accounts. Emmaus Rzeszów needs to find out if the accountant is willing to undertake this work before the end of 2017. Emmaus Europe wants to be informed if any problems arise.</p> <p>Development plan in place Continue trialling the existing development plan and adopt a plan for 2017-2021. Repairing and reusing goods will be the cornerstone. The group's dependence on lorry loads of donated goods should be reduced as a result.</p> <p>Emmaus Europe will fund the purchase of a sodablasting machine needed to trial an income-generating activity (estimated cost in France is €3K). Emmaus Rzeszów must regularly report back to the Emmaus Europe Regional Executive. The next meeting is on 8-9 December 2017.</p> <p>Pierre DUBOIS is providing support alongside Grazyna. The EE President will recommend that the EE Regional Executive should give him a mandate and set the remit for the working group.</p>	
<p>3. Update on the payment by the European groups of their EI membership dues</p>	<p><u>Update on the payment of membership dues to Emmaus International by the European groups</u> The Emmaus International Executive Committee would like more information about the groups that are not up to date with their membership dues, do not take part in World Assemblies, or do not get another elected representative to represent them.</p> <p>The Emmaus International Executive Committee has appointed Hans VAN BEEK to collect information from the groups. He presented a hard copy list to the national delegates</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

	<p>containing information about defaulting groups in Europe.</p> <p>Emmaus International is currently reminding the groups about the 2017 membership dues. Hans VAN BEEK reminded the meeting that trial member groups do not pay membership dues but Emmaus International has asked them to make a small contribution.</p> <p>Willi DOES said that one possible reason why the groups no longer take part in the international life of the Emmaus Movement is that they are wondering about the decentralisation process started by Emmaus International, which involved costs being reduced when the regions were created.</p> <p>Hans VAN BEEK told the meeting that there are many French groups that do not pay their membership dues to Emmaus International. He also advised that Annick BERTHIER had been informed about the matter.</p> <p>Délia RESENDE CLEMENT, the Portugal national delegate, said that the Porto group pays their dues every year but never receives a receipt from Emmaus International.</p> <p>José Maria GARCIA BRESO stressed the fact that a clear discussion about decentralisation is needed.</p> <p>Silvana NOGAROLE suggested that the matter should be discussed at the next Emmaus International Board in November 2017.</p>	
<p>4. Nations Round Table</p>	<p><i>See Appendix 1</i></p>	
<p>5. Emmaus International session</p>	<p><u>Workshop:</u> The Emmaus International session involved the delegates working in small groups on the new solidarity criteria resulting from the Jesolo 2016 World Assembly.</p> <p><u>Update on the work done in the regions</u></p> <p>Using the proposed principles of action and proposed approval processes from the May 2017 Board, the representatives of the EI regions have continued the discussion at regional meetings. The aim of this regional work was for the CEIs (Emmaus International Board members) to familiarize themselves with and make the principles adopted more suited for practical implementation by working with the elected representatives and the national delegates from their region.</p> <p>The outcomes of the work done in the regions will be presented at the EI November 2017 Board.</p> <p>Emmaus International Alternatives Forum</p> <p>The planned alternatives forum is a result of a decision taken in Jesolo to give a fresh boost to international solidarity as part of the struggle against poverty.</p> <p>Maryse Faure said that Emmaus International wants to establish a clear campaign stance reflecting the values and principles of action of the</p>	

	<p>Emmaus Movement by demonstrating solidarity through the international movement's collective life as well as being responsive and promoting the initiatives being run outside of Emmaus by groups working on the same issues.</p> <p>The planned forum is scheduled to take place on 8-11 September 2018 in Geneva in Switzerland. The following have been invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jean Singler, friend of the community and human rights representative. - ZEP, a French-speaking Swiss comic book creator, who is the author of the <i>Titeuf</i> series. - Kofi Annan, the former secretary-general of the United Nations, could be the forum's patron. <p>Geneva city council will offer free accommodation to all the participants in nuclear shelters. The city's nuclear shelters are open to the homeless in December but in September they do not house anyone.</p> <p>The aim of the forum is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a campaign message with our non-Emmaus partners. - Put forward alternative initiatives aimed at the most deprived people to raise their profile and encourage them to rebuild their lives. 	
<p>6. 2017 European annual solidarity programme Practical and financial support</p>	<p><u>Update on the current initiatives supported by Emmaus Europe in 2017</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Romania initiative</u> <u>Un Coup de Main d'Emmaus Iasi, Romania</u> First phase of the project to set up an educational farm on the Belvédère plot of farmland.  <u>The initiative will cost €49,360</u> <p>The Iasi group has received a metal structure from Emmaus Ferrara. The educational farm will provide an opportunity for socially-excluded people.</p> <p>It was mentioned that €6,000 has been transferred for this initiative by Emmaus Europe. A further €43,360 needs to be raised to fully fund the initiative.</p> <p>The meeting was informed that Emmaus International's co-funding will be transferred directly to the group in the coming days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Frères Europa – Satu Mare</u> Create a micro-credit fund to offer access to housing.  <u>The initiative is set to cost €20,000</u> <p>Work will get underway in spring 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ukraine initiative</u> <u>Emmaus Oselya Mutual Aid Community, Lviv</u> Expand Oselya's sorting and storage capacity.  <u>The initiative is set to cost €74K over 2017-2018</u> 	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

The Oselya group is facing new challenges. They have started to collect and recycle clothing/household linen. They currently need a warehouse offering more sorting space.

Natalya **Sanotska** thanked the whole Regional Council for approving the application at the start of the year. She told the meeting that in August 2017 a handful of people from Oselya visited Emmaus Chambéry and platforms in the region to gain an understanding of the sorting system. They really appreciated the visit. She also told the meeting that Oselya is working with representatives of Lviv council.

The group has found a plot of land. However, they are currently undertaking the necessary checks to see if the plot is suitable for them to buy.

Nasha Khata

Support the community's work by paying the wages.

 **The initiative has been fully funded**

Nasha Khata

Help build a well.

 **The initiative has been fully funded**

The well project is important for Nasha Khata as it gives the community access to a water supply. Nasha Khata relied on Caritas for water; Caritas then stopped supplying water.

Nasha Khata


Support the community's farming business.

 **The initiative has been fully funded**

• **Italy initiative**

Emmaus Padua

Redevelopment of the community


 **The initiative will cost €25k**

The first phase of renovation work has been completed. Emmaus Europe has been asked to make a payment so that the initiative receives full funding in November 2017.


• **Lithuania initiative**


Missing Persons' Families Support Centre


Joining forces to combat trafficking. Next phase of building work on the house.


 **The initiative will cost €27,128**


The meeting was advised that the group receives good support from Emmaus groups

 Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.





 Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.



 Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.



 Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.

 Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.


	<p>in Finland and France.</p> <p>The group has been focusing its efforts on raising awareness about the scourge of human trafficking for over a decade. Consequently, a significant amount of funding has been generated for their work. The next phase will come to fruition in October and November 2018. The group plans to open a shop in mid-October 2017. This will enable them to generate their own income.</p> <p>Willi DOES said that Emmaus Cologne has dispatched a lorry filled with goods to help them to develop their income-generating activities.</p> <p>They need to continue developing their income-generating activities.</p> <p>Financial aspects of European solidarity</p> <p>Michael HEAP told the meeting that European solidarity funding in 2017 had been rather low due to the small amount of donations received.</p> <p>Willi DOES said that Emmaus Europe does have allocated solidarity funds and that they should be used, but he also stressed the need to continue encouraging the groups to get involved.</p> <p>Hans VAN BEEK and Willi DOES asked the Regional Council to give the Regional Executive a mandate to analyse and take a decision on future financial priorities.</p>	<p>The majority of the Regional Council gave the Regional Executive a mandate to analyse and take a decision on how to use the existing allocated funds based on future solidarity funding priorities</p> <p>✓ For: 16 votes.</p> <p>✗ Against: No votes</p> <p>• Abstentions: Two votes</p>
<p>7. Follow-up to the 2015 RAEE & the 2019 RAEE</p>	<p><u>Progress report on the undertakings stemming from the action plan confirmed at the Manchester Regional Assembly in September 2015</u></p> <p>Hans Van Beek referred to the fact that the document was updated at the Haarzuilens Regional Council in October 2016.</p> <p>The need to list achievements in a document in time for the 2018 Regional Council was highlighted.</p> <p><u>Discussion about the venue for the 2019 Regional Assembly</u></p> <p>To date, Emmaus Europe has received an offer to host the assembly from San Sebastian in Spain and also from Emmaus Murcia.</p> <p>Emmaus Murcia's offer was not received in time due to an oversight on the part of José Maria GARCIA BRESO, Spain's national delegate.</p> <p>He has therefore asked the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe for a vote to be taken on Emmaus Murcia's offer to host the 2019 RAEE. Gabriela MARTIN reviewed the preliminary organizational phase roadmap for the RAEE and stressed the importance of electing European representatives.</p>	<p>The Regional Council proposed reviewing the action plan at the February 2018 Regional Council.</p> <p>Emmaus Murcia's offer to host the Regional Assembly was accepted by the majority of the Regional Council:</p> <p>✓ For: 14 votes.</p> <p>✗ Against: Four votes</p> <p>• Abstentions: One vote</p> <p>The Regional Council majority gave a mandate to the Regional Executive to choose the venue for the next regional assembly:</p> <p>✓ For: 18 votes.</p>



	<p>It was requested that a mandate should be given to the Regional Executive to choose the venue for the next RAEE by examining the two offers received and the figures to be submitted by 20 November 2017.</p>	<p>* <u>Against</u>: No votes • <u>Abstentions</u>: No votes</p>
<p>8. European geographical collectives</p>	<p><u>Romania Collective</u> The last Romania Collective of 2017 took place on 19-20 September 2017 at the Emmaus Roanne Committee of Friends in France. Maryse Faure thought that it is a very interesting way of discussing and finding out about other issues. The collective concept should be developed.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Romania Collective will take place in Iasi in Romania. The date remains to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Poland / Ukraine Collective</u> The next meeting of the Poland / Ukraine Collective will be held on 27 – 28 October 2017 in Nowy Sacz in Poland.</p> <p><u>Bosnia-Herzegovina Collective</u> The next Bosnia Collective will be held on 30 November 2017 in Montreuil in France.</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>
<p>9. Migration and Human Trafficking Collective</p>	<p><u>Priority topics chosen by the representatives: schedule, budget, coordination with representatives, and the EI and EE Secretariats</u> Nathalie Martz and Maryse Faure took part in the Crossing the Straits of Gibraltar event on 2-4 September 2017 (initiative run jointly by Emmaus France, Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe) in order to raise awareness and promote Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights within the Emmaus groups in Europe.</p> <p>Maryse Faure spoke about the migrant cemetery where migrants who tried and failed to cross the Mediterranean are buried. An open door was placed on the beach to signify that Europe’s doors and gates are open.</p> <p>Willi Does commented that there was a need to focus on this topic in order to identify a joint communication strategy. He also mentioned the progress that needs to be made to achieve better communication between the various bodies in the Emmaus Movement.</p> <p>The meeting was reminded about Maria Balseca’s involvement in the General Assembly of Migreurop in Sicily in May 2017.</p> <p><u>Campaign event on 12-13 December 2017 in Brussels in Belgium</u> Following a suggestion made by Marie Balseca, as part of our advocacy work it has been proposed that we take part in the Migration Justice Euro-African event campaigning against the outsourcing of migration policy. The event will be held in Brussels on 13 December 2017 and aims to get the whole of civil society and all non-profit networks to</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p>The Regional Council gave the Regional Executive a mandate to take part in the December 2017 event.</p>

	<p>join forces.</p> <p>The possibility of European Emmaus groups taking part in this event was raised in order to find out if the groups would be interested and make arrangements. Michael HEAP reminds that the capacities of the European secretariat are limited. The Regional Council was asked to take a decision on Emmaus Europe's involvement in this event.</p> <p><u>Update on the Migration blog run by Emmaus International. Coordination with the Europe Region.</u></p> <p>Sabine Benjamin presented the migration blog. Its editorial stance not only focuses on condemning but also seeks to showcase the grassroots and advocacy work done by the Emmaus Movement in order to drum up more support.</p> <p>The blog is aimed at members of Emmaus International, civil society stakeholders and the general public. It contains varied content such as articles, texts, reports, photos, videos and drawings.</p> <p>The blog will be launched on 18 December 2017. The blog may also be used to publish personal accounts of human trafficking, political refugees and the stories of those living in the Emmaus communities.</p> <p>It is mentioned on Emmaus Europe's human rights website launched in 2013. (http://droitshumains.emmaus-europe.org/)</p> <p>Willi DOES mentioned the video made after the April 2014 Regional Council in Lampedusa. He suggested that it should be passed on the International migration blog.</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>
<p>10. Internal regulations for Emmaus Europe</p>	<p><u>Review of the first draft</u></p> <p>Updates to the draft internal regulations for Emmaus Europe were incorporated at the meeting in January 2017.</p> <p>Since then, the Regional Executive has got to grips with the matter and asked for the regulations to be reviewed by a lawyer specialising in 1901 law associations. The review would take account of Emmaus Europe's and Emmaus International's statutes in order to check that the draft is aligned with them.</p> <p>However, the issues raised now require a further meeting to be held to address them before any further action can be taken.</p> <p>Silvana Nogarole, the Emmaus Europe secretary, told the meeting that she was keen to bring together the people who participated in the internal regulations working group last January.</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

	<p>The next meeting at which work will be done on the internal regulations will take place in December 2017.</p>	
<p>11. Sustainable development / solidarity economy</p> <p>The circular economy Lobbying political decision-makers</p>	<p><u>Feedback about the lobbying and the tabled amendments which were selected</u> Four trilogues – negotiations between the Member States, European Parliament and European Commission – will be held about the waste directive included in the Circular Economy package, in order to find out if the Member States agree to these directives. We already know that some states do not wish to approve these directives or are engaging in doublespeak.</p> <p>At the time of the Regional Council meeting, the situation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The social and solidarity economy is excluded from the circular economy or at least it will not be recognized or encouraged. - Waste prevention seems to be accepted as a concept, as is the waste hierarchy. (Reuse > recycling > energy conversion). - It would seem that the difference between waste/non-waste is starting to take shape. Waste that has been recycled/prepared for reuse should not subsequently be regarded as waste. - Next round of negotiations: 25 October 2017. Priority topic: recycling and landfill targets for 2030. <p><u>Lobbying work in the run-up to January 2018 if the Framework Waste Directive is applied (at the national level)</u> A survey of national legislation and about the circular economy in Europe has been shared with the members of the working group in Europe.</p> <p>The aim of this initiative is to publicize and share the difficulties encountered by the groups across Europe when complying with the legislation regulating their environment-related activities.</p> <p>It must be acknowledged that regulations affect the Emmaus groups in their day-to-day work.</p> <p>Marine Didier, an intern, has compared some aspects of the legislation in different Member States. She gathered together responses from the national delegates in summer 2017. They identified the stumbling blocks and constraints encountered by the groups.</p> <p>An awareness-raising and promotional resource for the groups is currently being produced with the help of Emmaus Europe’s graphic designer and will be published in late October 2017.</p> <p><u>Invitation from RREUSE to attend the conference in Charleroi/Belgium</u> about the social</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p> <p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

	<p>economy's involvement in creating a circular economy (23-4 November). The members of the Regional Executive stated that they are unable to attend because of the EI Board meeting.</p> <p>Gabriela Martin will take part in a planned session in order to deliver a presentation during the second session: Making the circular economy a reality: European stories.</p>	
<p>12. Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe membership procedure</p>	<p><u>Applications for trial/full membership of Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>German organisation: Bergisch Gladbach-Punto</u> The group has been in existence for 10 years and has a large shop. It works to reintegrate people who have been dependent on drugs. The group's members have been taking part in the Emmaus Salon in France for several years and in the Emmaus Europe training courses in Cologne. A handful of companions live on site but the premises are not suitable for a community. The group has close links with and is monitored by Emmaus Cologne. Willi Does, Hans Van Beek and Gabriela Martin visited the group in late June 2017. • <u>Latvian association: Smiltene</u> Contact was forged with Smiltene in the 1990s but has been irregular over the past few years. Smiltene is a functioning group. They have submitted all the paperwork required for trial membership. Willi Does and Gabriela Martin visited the group on 27-30 August 2017. It was recommended that the group operates properly and has a stable financial situation. The Finnish members in attendance volunteered to support the group during the trial membership period. Emmaus Åland will be the monitoring group. • <u>Swedish associations: Emmaus Fredriksdal and Emmaus Åkvarn</u> Both have been members of Emmaus Sweden since 2009, the year when the national organisation was founded. Like all the other members of Emmaus Sweden, they have made their contribution to Emmaus International every year by holding a solidarity sale. As stated in the annual report, from the outset the groups have wanted to "continue in the spirit of the Emmaus Movement to work on international solidarity combined with projects in Sweden to support the homeless, refugees and other marginalized groups." Emmaus Fredriksdal and Emmaus Åkvarn are recognized as Emmaus groups by Emmaus Sweden and make an active contribution to the Emmaus Movement in Sweden. At the outset, both were part of Emmaus Björkå but when Emmaus Björkå 	<p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote Bergisch Gladbach-Punto's trial membership application to join Emmaus International/Emmaus Europe. ✓ For: 15 votes ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote Smiltene's trial membership application to join Emmaus International/Emmaus Europe. ✓ For: 14 votes ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote Emmaus Fredriksdal's trial membership application to join Emmaus International/Emmaus Europe. ✓ For: 15 votes ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote Emmaus Åkvarn's trial membership application to join Emmaus International/Emmaus Europe. ✓ For: 15 votes ✗ Against: No votes</p>

	<p>moved to Gothenburg, they became separate organisations.</p> <p>The documents relating to the governance of Emmaus Fredriksdal and Emmaus Åkvarn fit with the standard framework for Swedish social organisations. They have been granted 90 konto status, a quality standard conferred by the state on social organisations, which guarantees that the funds raised/generated are used to achieve solidarity objectives.</p> <p>The boards of both organisations are primarily made up of members and employees, with independent members being in the minority. While having separate governance mechanisms at the operational level, they share resources in order to maximize the effectiveness of the two organisations. They have the same director.</p> <p>Michael Heap and Gabriela Martin visited the groups from 2-5 October 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish associations: Caracol from Huelva and San Sébastian. A request for trial member of these two groups has been received by the International and Europe secretariat. However, the visits haven't took place yet. • French associations: Emmaus Saint Gaudens, Emmaus Sète Frontignan and Emmaus Saint Nazaire. Emmaus Saint-Gaudens and Emmaus Sète Frontignan have submitted full membership applications. The European Secretariat was sent their applications by the international secretariat. <p>The framework for these two applications is still the simplified membership procedure put in place by Emmaus International with Emmaus France in 2011.</p> <p>In order to be able to present the groups to this governing body and then to the EI Board, a presentation document needs to be drafted listing the key features of the groups. The document must be produced by the elected representatives and not by the members of the group in question.</p> <p>The same scenario applies to Emmaus Saint Nazaire's trial membership application.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstentions: No votes <p>The Regional Council decided to postpone the vote on this matter until its first meeting of 2018.</p> <p>The Regional Council decided to postpone the vote on this matter until its first meeting of 2018.</p> <p>The Regional Council is asking the Emmaus International Board to work on harmonizing full and trial membership procedures</p>
<p>13. The former World Council_working group</p>	<p>Emmaus in all of its facets training course held at Emmaus Cologne, Germany</p> <p>Willi DOES informed the meeting about the course held on 11-14 June 2017 in Cologne by Emmaus Europe with the involvement of Brigitte Mary from Emmaus International and Dzenana Sabic Hamidovic, a trainer teacher, and course leader.</p> <p>The 11 course participants were satisfied and found the course interesting.</p> <p>Willi DOES suggested organizing a half day of training for the collectives and expressed his desire to see training further developed but this does depend upon EI. He also</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

	<p>conveyed his concern about setting up a European working group capable of successfully doing this work.</p> <p><u>World Council on Training and New Generations (WCTNG) members and World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity (WCPAIS) members</u></p> <p>It was highlighted that since the abolition of the world councils as Emmaus International bodies, when there are events such as the regional councils and assemblies, the ex-council members continue to be invited to attend these regional forums.</p> <p>Jorgen OLSEN informed the meeting that he will not be attending the next Regional Council.</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>
<p>14. Other items and closing round table session</p>	<p><u>Date of the next Regional Council of Emmaus Europe</u></p> <p>The following date was suggested for the 2018 meeting: - 9-11 March 2018, venue to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Final roundtable session</u></p> <p>The Regional Council members spoke of their pleasure at working together and sharing inspiring ideas. Prospective areas for development are seen as stimulating.</p> <p>Willi DOES thanked the interpreters and technicians for their services. He also thanked once again the staff at the Backågarden Conference Centre and Birgitta GORANSON ILSITE for their warm welcome.</p> <p>Birgitta GORANSON ILSITE, speaking on behalf of Emmaus Svalorna, thanked the members of the Regional Council for taking part in this meeting with them.</p>	<p> Topic raised for discussion but with no decisions taken.</p>

As there were no further items on the agenda, the meeting was closed by the President.

Silvana Nogarole
Secretary of Emmaus Europe

Willi DOES
President of Emmaus Europe

Minutes of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE)

06-08 October 2017 – Höör, Sweden

NATIONS ROUND TABLE SESSION

Two minutes presentations delivered by the national delegates on the following five issues:

1. Number of existing groups/ communities
2. Latest news/ changes in the member organizations.
3. How are the member organizations working on the Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe themes?
4. Latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and Emmaüs Europe.
5. Do you know which groups in your country use ethical banks ? How do you list them ?

<p>GERMANY Willi DOES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four groups members (Sonsbeck, Krefeld, Stuttgart and Köln). Krefeld's group celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2017 through several events: -Exhibition on their work, -Presentation of the film "Winter 54" at the cinema and a solidarity sale on October 14th together with all the German groups. 2. One trial member group in Krefeld (Anstoss eV) and a second very stable group close to Cologne (at Bergisch - Gladbach) which will request for membership in order to join the movement. -Next year we are planning to work on the following points: -Stabilizing the situation in Sonsbeck -Get back to creating a national structure in Germany with statutes and a new ND. 3. Emmaüs group in Sonsbeck, member of the movement for 30 years now, is facing internal conflicts. Meetings with managers and companions are being held every two weeks. The results are not convincing, so Krefeld and Cologne groups are organizing seminars in order to find solutions. Germans groups will attend the "salon" in Lille, April 2017. 4. Political context: National elections held last week generated the following results: Christian/social democrats' government (Merkel/Schulz) has lost 13% of votes. A new extreme right party ("Alternative for Germany") is now installed at the Parliament. A coalition between Christians, Neo-liberals and the Green party should soon be created. 5. Concerning migration issues, a recently approved law is now making migrants and refugees' hosting more complicated. If Germany considers their country of origin is safe, refugees and migrants are then sent back to their countries.
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<p style="text-align: center;">SPAIN José María GARCIA BRESO</p>	<p><u>Emmaus groups in Spain</u> There are eight Emmaus groups in Spain. Five of them are members of Emmaus International and two of them want to join (Huelva and San Sebastian).</p> <p><u>Latest news / changes in the groups</u> Just like every year, an annual meeting for companions will take place on 20-1 October. Topics such as politics, social issues and culture will be discussed during this two-day meeting. Emmaus Pamplona will be celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2017.</p> <p>The socioeconomic and political situation in Spain is dramatic. Politicians are discredited. There is currently a conflict between Madrid and Catalonia about Catalanian independence.</p> <p>Since the 2000s, the population has increased due to people coming from Latin America and Eastern Europe looking for work. Now the Spanish are leaving Spain in order to find work anywhere in Europe or elsewhere.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UNITED-KINGDOM Michael « Spike » HUDSON</p>	<p>1. How many Emmaus groups/communities exist in your country? In the UK there are 29 member communities that accommodate companions including 4 newer groups that are working towards becoming communities.</p> <p>2. News and groups/changes EUK are Developing a Referral Gateway to maximize accommodation capacity. A referral form and process document has been circulated to Exec Leads and Chairs for them to consult with their community and seek feedback. If a system is agreed, a second piece of work will be developed, looking at marketing Emmaus UK to referral agencies, in order to ensure they fully understand what we do and can make suitable referrals.</p> <p>EUK Companions' Forum. This mechanism for involving companions is being reinvigorated. A schedule of 'Road shows' has started with one meeting being held in Emmaus Burnley with 13 communities/groups represented. There will be a Strategy day for the Forum on 4th December. Training needs for the Forum have been identified.</p> <p>Study visit to Esteville. Has been postponed due to transport issues.</p> <p>3. How the groups treat the issues related to Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe? The EUK Reps are working to include more awareness of the issues related to Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>The EUK induction process has been updated to include 'The Three Struggles'. Space has been requested for the UK National Assembly 2018 March to include discussion on 'The Transition'. Locally groups have been looking at how their Solidarity projects link to 'The Three Struggles'. Completed and returned the Emmaus Environment environmental legislation survey for Marine Didier, Emmaüs Europe, and Environmental Intern.</p> <p>In March 2017 a letter signed by Simon Grainge, Chief Executive of Emmaus UK, was sent to The Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsome Secretary of State at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs stating: "Emmaus colleagues in 13 other countries are lobbying the European Parliament to ensure adoption of 3 particular amendments to the package (Waste Framework Directive) to:</p>

- Acknowledge and bolster the role played by social stakeholders in waste management and recycling
- Keep the distinction between waste and non-waste
- Distinguish between preparing for reuse and recycling targets”

Recycle Week 2017

Emmaus has been successfully celebrating national Recycle Week. So far there have been 21 pieces of news coverage from communities across the UK. Content placed across social media has also been a huge success. On Twitter, when compared to Recycle Week 2016, there has been a 644% increase on impressions, and a 2133% increase on the number of total engagements.

Examples

Emmaus Dover

Furniture upcycler Hester Van Overbeek visited Emmaus Dover’s charity shop as part of a national upcycling challenge for Recycle Week.

Emmaus Leeds

Emmaus Leeds are celebrating a record year for recycling. Over the past 12 months they have diverted 218 tonnes of household goods from landfill.

4. The UK Government has revealed that the Homelessness Reduction Act will come into force in April, with the funding allocations announced this autumn.

The Homelessness Reduction Act will give councils in England more responsibilities to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. It could help prevent more than 40,000 people from becoming homeless each year and save the state as much as £370m a year.

Simon Grainge, Chief Executive of Emmaus UK said: “There is an urgent need to take action to reverse the rapid increase in rough sleeping, which grew by 16% in 2016 and has more than doubled since 2010. This new legislation is a huge step forward in improving support for people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness.

“Taking actions to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place is a big step forward and we hope local authorities are given the financial resources they need to fulfil these new duties. It is also essential that the government does not undo this great work with its new welfare reform policies. There is a risk the policies could unintentionally penalise charities and supported housing providers who are working hard to help those who have experienced homelessness.”

5. **Migreurope**

Attended UK launch of Migreurope Report on Privatization of Migrant Detention system in March 2017. Established contact with UK Migreurope Rep Bill MacKeith.

Removal of EU Rough Sleepers

The number of EU mobile citizens being removed from the UK has increased fivefold since 2010. One of the main targets of these enforced removals are mobile EU citizens who sleep rough. Through the adoption of an unprecedented - at EU level - piece of legislation, the UK has made sleeping rough a sufficient reason to forcibly remove EU nationals. This implies that

	<p>even those who are working but cannot afford a place to live, may be subject to administrative removal.</p> <p>Besides criminalising homelessness and adopting myopic and xenophobic measures, FEANTSA believes that the UK's interpretation of free movement rights is unlawful. FEANTSA calls on the European Commission to adequately address this issue by starting investigations. UK policies not only infringe EU citizens' rights but also jeopardise the work of homelessness services which work daily with people who need support and, instead, see their situation becoming even more precarious.</p> <p>EUK are considering a campaign that we could get involved in both locally and nationally possibly through a partnership with FEANTSA?</p>
<p>POLAND Grzegorz HAJDUK</p>	<p>Regarding the political context in Poland, the government comprises populists, members of the far right and anti-EU parties.</p> <p><u>Emmaus groups in Poland</u></p> <p>The number of groups in Poland remains unchanged. There are four Emmaus communities: Nowy Sacz and the Krakow site, Lublin and Rzeszów. Emmaus Rzeszów currently has a major debt following the construction of the community house.</p>
<p>BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA Sabina ARNAUT JAHIC</p>	<p><u>Emmaus groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina</u></p> <p>There are two Emmaus groups in the country. The International Solidarity Forum (ISF) is a full member of the Emmaus Movement. Nova Generacija in Banja Luka is a trial member.</p> <p><u>Latest news / changes in the groups</u></p> <p>Regarding the socio-political context, Bosnia-Herzegovina has applied to formally join the EU. The application has been accepted but the country still has to meet requirements. The process could take several years.</p> <p><u>The circular economy</u></p> <p>Businesses have been involved in reuse and recycling for 15 years.</p> <p>Some groups could replicate this initiative. Collection points have been created but collected items cannot be sold.</p>
<p>UKRAINE See by Nataliya SANOTSKA See by Zbigniew DRAKOWSKI</p>	<p>Current situation in Emaus Oselya</p> <p>Emmaus Oselya continues its work. We have 15 companions, 6 full time and 2 part time workers, and 10 everyday volunteers. We continue to run Social support center for people who live in the street, we distribute food once a week in downtown, and organized Easter breakfast as always. For the last year we also had a project with local elderly people supported by Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research.</p> <p>Last month the book about history of Emmaus, Abbe Pierre and Oselya was published. It's big event for our community. We've been waiting for a while to have it published. The author of the book is famous Ukrainian writer who is member of Oselya. We presented this book in September during Literature festival and it attracted a lot of attention. The book will be sold in the network of book stores all over Ukraine.</p>

Another news about Oselya is that Natalya Mysula who was National Delegate and executive director since beginning of the year resigned her position in Oselya. Unfortunately, she faced some difficulties working in community and had emotional burnout. So the Board hired two more people and right now they have internship in community.

About Solidarity program action. We are still looking for a spot to build depot, we have few options to consider.

This collection and sorting activity is a new challenge for us and our city. Recently it became a very important issue. In Ukraine we have never had obligatory waste sorting and no culture of recycling. Because of some ecological problems, the city is very much concerned about recycling. As long as we have some experience and we have been doing this work for couple of years now, they see us as the partners and they want Oselya to be the important stakeholder in the clothing recycling. It's a good opportunity for us. We participate in many meetings and programs of city council and expect to take this niche. Many nonprofits want us to share our experience so we have visitors from all over Ukraine. This ecological part of our work is very actual and even urgent, so we are now concentrated on its development. And we hope that solidarity program project will help us with that.

NASHA KHATA

Natalia Sanotska and Zbigniew Drazkowski visited Nasha Chataon Sep, 23rd 2017. We had meeting with Vasyl Holod, responsible, Oksana accountant and Father Andriy.

During the last 6 months the following happened in community:

Fundraised 5 500 EUR from Caritas Vienna for reconstruction of the premises for carpenter workshop. Caritas – Wiedeń

1. The community held 3 work camps with participants from Emmaus Innsbruck, Emmaus Dijon and organization Bauorden from Germany.
2. The two social projects were implemented, financed by local authorities.
3. The new (second) shop with the stuff for children was opened next to the old one.
4. Community finished summer farm works and started autumn works. It was easier this years as community received tractor from Emmaus Dijon.
5. The well is being build for the needs of community. This project is financed by Emmaus Europe.

This actions also took place

1. Charitable Easter breakfast for 120 homeless people.
2. Every Thursday food distribution for 50 homeless people.
3. Free furniture, clothing and shoes donation for appr. 100 poor people.

Nasha Khata needs:

1. Finances for the salary for 3 employers next year.
2. Vehicle, van; no older than 5 years, otherwise you can't bring it to Ukraine.

	<p>Emaus- Lublin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In December 2016 we started cooperation with Lublin Volunteer Center. Dozens of volunteers help homeless people in the streets (street workers). On Feb 12th together with them we organized “Meeting in the open air”. We invited homeless people from Lublin. The meeting was devoted to the 10th anniversary of Abbe Pierre death. Also since December until now, besides every Sunday food distribution that we do for many years already, we provide food for homeless people on two extra days in a week. The food is distributed by volunteers from Lublin Volunteer Center. 2. In spring 2017 the representative of Emmaus Fredriksdal group from Sweden contacted us in order to establish cooperation. Robert Jansson, responsible of the group visited us and Emmaus Rzeszow twice. He tried to contact Emmaus Krakow but he didn’t succeed. Since April we received 5 transports from Emmaus Fredriksdal. This support together with transports from other groups and growth of local collections led to general growth of sale income in our group. 3. We have made important and strategic decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Since March we limit economic activities in production; we focus on pizzeria as its income keeps growing since January 2017. – In August we started to rent warehouse premises, we increase the sales area and in September we hired the worker responsible for sorting of clothing; – As long as the location of our shop is not convenient for our customers, we are in the process of buying a plot in a good location and at the same time close to the current site. We have already signed an initial purchase agreement. For this purpose, we want to borrow about EUR 50 000 from Polish government fund for the development of social enterprise. For construction we would like to ask for help from Emmaus groups ...
<p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA Gélu NICHITEL</p>	<p><u>Emmaus groups in Romania</u></p> <p>There are three groups in Romania on four sites.</p> <p>Frères Europa in Satu Mare is a community with 15 companions. The house at Timisoara managed by Satu Mare is home to three companions and community service volunteers.</p> <p>Iasi has been open for 15 years and has 35 companions.</p> <p>Amicii in Târgu Jiu is gradually developing.</p> <p><u>Latest news / changes in the groups</u></p> <p>A Romanian law regulating social organisations has just been passed. The law affects all the Romanian groups, who have had to adapt to it very quickly.</p> <p>Emmaus Iasi was the hardest hit, as it has had to reduce the number of companions. The community’s residential capacity has been cut to 30 since the law came into force.</p> <p>Furthermore, Frères Europa in Satu Mare can no longer accommodate companions over the age of 30.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PORTUGAL</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are two Emmaus groups in Portugal: Caneças and Porto.

<p>Délia RESENDE CLEMENT</p>	<p>2. In Porto, the group is planning to create a knowledge-sharing centre. Local residents no longer spend time on the streets and no longer interact or talk to each other. The group wishes to remedy this situation by inviting people to come out of their homes to musical and drama events in the streets. They are also setting up a socially-responsible laundrette.</p> <p>3. From a political perspective, Portugal is doing better, as the coalition is restoring the social rights abolished by the previous government.</p>
<p>FRANCE Annick BERTHIER</p>	<p>In France, the Emmaus Movement comprises 284 member organisations subdivided into three arms (known as branches) based on their type of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 117 residential communities plus one community association (known as ACE). - 77 social action and housing groups. - 89 inclusion structures. <p>Emmaus France is also divided into 10 Emmaus regions.</p> <p>Each entity is an independent legal structure and signs a membership agreement with Emmaus France, enabling it to use the logo and the “Emmaus, founder Abbé Pierre” name. The agreement also lists rights and obligations covering ethics and respect for the Emmaus values.</p> <p>Emmaus France represents and coordinates the Emmaus Movement at national level and the national team based in Montreuil helps to organize the operational implementation of the Board’s decisions.</p> <p>The board comprises 25 elected representatives from throughout France and delegates to those elected on the branch committees operational or other coordination activities specific to the branch and to those elected to sit on the Emmaus France college of regions, regional coordination and cross-cutting coordination between the groups.</p> <p>The 2012 national meeting selected five work areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer shelter and support appropriate to people’s needs. - Convey the voice of the socially excluded and collectively affirm the economic and social alternatives. - Develop the groups and redefine our presence across the country. - Help to secure the long-term future and development of the groups and encourage innovation. - Consolidate democratic governance in each group. <p>In 2016, the Emmaus France board confirmed four priority work areas, which were then rubberstamped by the 2017 General Assembly.</p> <p>Emmaus France is taking a strong stance at a time when freedoms are being violated, particularly freedom of movement, in a world in which everyone is isolating themselves behind their borders.</p> <p>Through its member groups, Emmaus France is also developing initiatives designed to offer lifestyle and development alternatives, thus addressing extreme poverty and its root causes.</p> <p>Finally, Emmaus France is campaigning to ensure that the measures taken by the current government do not ride roughshod over rights that help the most disadvantaged people (for instance, state-aided contracts, housing benefit etc). 2</p> <p>The movement that began when we commemorated Abbé Pierre on 22 January 2017 has mushroomed and is enabling Emmaus to campaign in shared forums with associations and/or collectives which share our values. We are completely independent from the ‘powers that be’ when undertaking campaigns, thus keeping alive Abbé Pierre’s ethos.</p>

	<p>Past, current or future initiatives in 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's death. - Launch of the <i>Chômage , précarité : halte aux idées reçues</i> book (<i>Unemployment and instability: putting an end to preconceived ideas</i>). - Took part in the <i>Chant des Colibris</i> initiative (sustainable transformation). - <i>Alert platform</i>. - <i>Délinquants solidaires</i> initiative (socially-responsible criminals). - Launch of the book <i>Le combat continue : 10 propositions</i> (<i>The struggle goes on – 10 ideas</i>). - <i>Répondons présents !</i> (Count me in) solidarity appeal followed by the publication of a book with <i>120 propositions pour une société solidaire</i> (<i>120 ideas for a society based on solidarity</i>). - National Emmaus Salon (big sale) complete with debates. - Groups' initiatives in Tarifa (Spain) to champion Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guaranteeing freedom of movement. <p>A joint Emmaus International/Emmaus France initiative is underway in the Emmaus France regions in order to champion the campaigns and include the initiatives in the priority campaign areas selected by Emmaus International at the Jesolo World Assembly.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND Martha HANNUS</p>	<p>1. Number of existing groups / communities</p> <p>Six groups reported last meeting. Two of those are inactive (Emmaus Aurinkotehdas, trial member, and Emmaus Jokioinen). 4 active groups: Emmaus Helsinki Emmaus Westervik Emmaus Åland Svalorna/Swallows</p> <p>2. Latest news/changes in the groups</p> <p>The active groups have developed activities within the area of migration, work pool and roma rights. This reflects the current political situation in Finland, where the government is reluctant to address issues of economic and social security policies as well as migrant rights.</p> <p>Continued focus on migration and integration: Emmaus Helsinki has continued working with a labor pool for Roma and Bulgarian migrants; Emmaus Åland is starting a project on integration through work. Helsinki has developed cooperation with a free clinic for migrants (Global Clinic) Emmaus Åland participated in the local Pride festival and hosted a seminar and activism session on the rights of LGBT migrants in Finland and Sweden.</p> <p>Both Helsinki and Åland are about to start projects for the Roma in Bulgaria and Romania respectively. Åland will focus on a project in cooperation with a local organization called E-romnja, a feminist Roma organization. Åland – three day festival “The Emmaus Festival” with focus on rights, sustainability and culture. Westervik has held discussion evenings at a local café to highlight different issues.</p>

	<p>The Finnish groups support solidarity projects in Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Lebanon, Western Sahara, South Africa, Togo, Benin, Peru, Nepal and India.</p> <p>3. How are the groups working on the EI and EE themes? As already mentioned, focus on the migration and integration issue. Joint projects on education such as school project in Togo, press school for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The Swallows are focusing the work in India on the themes of ecological sustainability, secured livelihood and equality.</p> <p>4. Latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE No big changes in national policies in Finland. Government is still undermining the social security policies, and the issue of migrant's rights is still an issue where the human rights and right to asylum is not respected. Recent changes led to that people who did not receive permanent residence but cannot return to their home country are left largely without social security and health care. The support system for organizations working with projects in third countries and developing countries has changed, which has been a challenge for the Swallows that finance projects through government funding.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ITALY See by Maria Luisa TESTORI Absence of Marie BALSECA</p>	<p>Emmaus Italy has organized and supported a large number of events this year. The May assembly was held in Palermo and was attended by the chair of Emmaus International. He also attended the meeting in Assisi which enabled Emmaus' core issues to be relaunched thanks to the involvement of Banca Etica, Numeri Pari and Alex Zanotelli. Furthermore, the meeting with Corrado Clini, the minister of the environment, enabled Emmaus Italy to promote Emmaus' work and present the communities as being active players in the circular economy.</p> <p>The event in Catania in partnership with SOS Méditerranée was all about awareness-raising for the young volunteers who came to Palermo and also for the local organisations and the Italian Emmaus Movement which was delighted to welcome the president of Emmaus France. The Turin meeting will also be the chance to hold a big event and to renew our commitment to stopping the criminalisation of solidarity. The camp organized by Emmaus Palermo in Lampedusa on 23-8 October will also be an opportunity to raise the residents' awareness about the need for more open and humane solidarity.</p> <p>2017 summer camps in Italy The three summer camps in Arezzo, Catanzaro and Palermo were a resounding success. A large number of young people joined the movement this summer and many of them are continuing and will continue to take part in initiatives and events over the course of the year (SOS Méditerranée Catania, meetings, the big Turin sale, the autumn camp in Lampedusa etc).</p> <p>Turin special sale The sale will be held on 14-15 October 2017 in Parc Valentino in 7,000m² of exhibition space. Many young people will be actively involved in the organisation of the event, meetings and promotional work. The big sale will be attended by a large number of French and Italian activists from the third sector and from various Italian solidarity networks (see the programme). Migreurop's <i>Moving Beyond Borders</i> exhibition will also be on display. The profit from the sale will be split 50-50 between the Italian groups in difficulty and between Emmaus International, Emmaus Europe, the Abele group and the Cottolengo institute.</p> <p>Reform of the third sector The reform concerning social cooperatives, volunteer organisations and non-profits will affect the grassroots Emmaus</p>

	<p>organisations. Over the next few months, we will need to gain an understanding about the extent to which the reform may lead to statutory changes for the Movement.</p> <p>Communication and future prospects Emmaus Italy's website has undergone significant development since last year and the Facebook page has doubled its number of followers (because of the youth camps in particular). The next assembly will be held on 29-30 October 2017 and will coincide with the election of a new president and board. The meeting will also be a chance to discuss one of Emmaus Italy's major problems: identifying new leaders to manage communities in difficulty. Emmaus Rome will need to find a new leader in early 2018.</p>
<p>NETHERLANDS Jos VAN DER MEER</p>	<p>Emmaus Haren has stopped their collecting/sales activities and sold their premises. The responsible moved to Emmaus Feniks. The foundation still exists to round up the financial business. A question went out get an update. Emmaus Friesland already stopped their membership in 2016. Since 6 March 2017 there is a new board of Emmaus Nederland:</p> <p>Jeroen Geurts – chairperson Xander van Asperen – secretary Anita Hoogerwerf - treasurer</p> <p>The secretariat moved to Emmaus Overvecht: Gloriantdreef 403 3562 KW Utrecht Tel. +31 30 666 89 30 Marieke Samson is the new coordinator of the secretariat.</p>
<p>BELGIUM Julio DE LA GRANJA</p>	<p>1- Emmaus groups in Belgium: La Poudrière: Composed of 3 communities with 50 people in 3 regions of the country: Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders. Three small traditional communities exist in Wallonia, with less than 10 companions per community. Each group is independent and carries out its own actions. We had two meetings with Fleur Service Social ASBL (nonprofit association) of Liège, an association created in 1980, which would like to join the Emmaus Movement. Since 2014, it makes part of the TERRE group (former member of Emmaus). Their activities include: accommodation for people in need, material recovery and social moving. The application for membership could be official in 2018.</p> <p>2- Latest news and changes in groups: For the first time, La Poudrière hired in 2016 through a contract of employment a former head of the Poudrière who already worked as a volunteer with us. In January 2017, La Poudrière contracted a second driver. The ninth youth camp in Péruwelz with 7 young people was a great success last August. In 9 years, there are 80 young people who have been to Péruwelz (67 girls and 13 boys). In Lodelinsart (Charleroi) the community is in trouble because there are no companions on the spot and the work is done by volunteers. No changes in other groups.</p> <p>3- How do groups work on the EI and EE themes:</p>

	<p>Only the Poudrière works actively with EI and EE: Youth Camps, Salons de Lille and Paris, etc. Only La Poudrière has an account in an ethical bank, the Triodos bank.</p> <p>4- The current Belgian right-wing government develops a very liberal policy which does not really contribute to improve the lives of workers or the fight against poverty.</p> <p>Change of regional government in Wallonia: For many years this government was formed by the centrist party and the Socialists (the first party in Wallonia). This centrist party wanted to exclude the socialists from the government and managed to make a coalition with the liberals Charles Michel (currently Belgian Prime Minister) in a very abrupt manner. This event will have repercussions in the upcoming elections. To be continued....</p> <p>5- Migration: In 2015 there were 35,500 asylum applications in Belgium, twice the number reached in 2014. Positive decisions reach 60% of requests. In 2016, asylum applications decreased sharply.</p> <p>In Belgium there are 11 million people and around one million foreigners. Within this million people, 63% are citizens of the EU, France being the first country represented.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUÈDE Lottah-Mathilda OLUND</p>	<p>Emmaus groups in Sweden: there are five member groups in the country although only three are active. Some groups are not yet members.</p> <p>The groups are made up of friends as there are no companions. Sales figures are good and the profits are allocated to international initiatives.</p>

The members of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe met on 6 October 2017 and discussed the political situation in Europe in a context of change, and the challenges it poses for the Emmaus Movement.

Following this discussion,

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING

Regarding European policy:

- There has been a shift to the right; the extreme right has made significant electoral progress and there has also been a strong resurgence of nationalists and neo-nationalists.
- A lot of political analysis is based on emotion, meaning that society is very polarized, thus increasing political indifference and populism.
- There is a failure to take into account and recognize the diversity upon which Europe has been built, meaning that migrants and refugees are being rejected.
- In finance, speculation has a sordid influence, increasing insecure work, unemployment and the loss of fundamental rights, and consequently causing a rise in inequality within and between countries.
- Elsewhere in the world powers control and monitor, with a major increase in the use of violence, the subordination of entire states, and minorities becoming invisible and losing their rights.
- New social movements are emerging, as are alternative initiatives, although they are still low-profile and peripheral.

For Emmaus:

- Our movement is focused on sustainability because of its values and practices.
- Our words and deeds make us standard bearers, alongside others, enabling a better future to be envisaged with real hope.
- We need to be very alert in order to prevent social models, differentiating between the 'haves' and 'have-nots', from being reproduced in our groups and organisation, and we need to be aware that sometimes it is difficult for the Emmaus groups to reach a consensus.

WE DECLARE

European level

The various issues involved in exclusion are interlinked and unstable lives prevent people from making plans for the future.

For the Emmaus groups

- We need to step up our commitment at local level, fostering partnerships so that we can work to deliver our vision for society.
- The groups must be at the centre of decision-making.
- We need to be very alert in order to prevent social models, differentiating between the 'haves' and 'have-nots', from being reproduced in our groups.

WE PROPOSE

European level

- True democracy and citizen participation should be bolstered.
- Political choices prioritizing the COMMON GOOD and the defence of everyone's rights (with no exceptions) should be favoured.

For the Emmaus groups, we need to take into account the following:

- The local situation should be a source of ideas for campaigning and change, building local partnerships and working with local and national politicians and other representatives.
- We need to arrange themed meetings about our local situation and how to undertake local campaigning, so that we can convey strong messages at different levels, targeting the local level, nationwide, the region and other institutions.
- We need to advocate at the European level, joining networks, building partnerships and championing diversity.
- We must develop themed training courses based on the needs of the groups, using our practices as a basis for our leadership in this area, and maintaining a balance between social and economic aims.

In Backagarden on 6 October 2017