



EMMAUS EUROPE
EMMAÛS EUROPE
EMÁÚS EUROPA

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAUS EUROPE
08 - 10 MARCH 2018

Mazères, France

IN ATTENDANCE	NATIONAL DELEGATES		DELEGATES WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	Sabina Arnaut Jahic , Bosnia-Herzegovina Annick Berthier , France Willi Does , President of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Julio De La Granja , Belgium José Maria Garcia Bresó , Spain Grzegorz Hajduk , Poland	Martha Hannus , Finland Michael “Spike” Hudson , United Kingdom Lottah-Mathilda Olund , Sweden Délia Resende Clément , Portugal Jean-Marc Sigrist , Switzerland Jos Van Der Meer , Netherlands	12 with voting rights
	EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL COUNCILLORS		DELEGATES WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	Willi Does , President of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Maryse Faure , France Michael Heap , Emmaus Europe Treasurer, United Kingdom Jean-Philippe Legaut , Regional Executive member, Romania Nathalie Martz , France	Silvana Nogarole , Emmaus Europe Secretary, Italy Tobias Petersson , Sweden Eduardo Sanchez , Spain Maria Luisa Testori , Italy Hans Van Beek , Regional Executive member, France	10 with voting rights
	FORMER WORLD COUNCIL MEMBERS	WISE PERSON	
	Marie-France Bedleem , France Jorgen Olsen , Denmark	Birgitta Goranson Illeste , Regional Executive member, Sweden	
	INVITED GUESTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS	EX OFFICIO MEMBER	
	Stéphane Melchiorri , Emmaus International Secretariat Javier Pradini , San Sebastian	Patrick Atohoun , President of Emmaus International	
	EMMAUS EUROPE SECRETARIAT		
Marie Tixier , Events Coordinator Théo Robin , Solidarity Coordinator Gabriela Martin , Chief Executive of Emmaus Europe			

* Willi **Does** has two votes, one as Germany’s National Delegate and one as an Emmaus International Councillor.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED	NATIONAL DELEGATES	EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL COUNCILLORS	FORMER WORLD COUNCIL MEMBERS	EMMAUS EUROPE SECRETARIAT
	Marie Balseca , Italy Gélu Nichitel , Romania	Julia Finer , Sweden Keith Tolladay , United Kingdom	Assumpta Ayerdi , Spain Julien Kalimira Murhula Mzee , Denmark	Véronica Acevado Caro , Financial Administration Assistant.

- INTRODUCTION -	<p>Willi Does, President of Emmaus Europe, thanked everyone from the Domaine de Garabaud which was hosting the Regional Council meeting, along with the leaders of Emmaus Pamiers, for their warm welcome.</p> <p>He also welcomed the delegates from Emmaus International:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patrick Atohoun, President of Emmaus International - Stéphane Melchiorri, Head of International Solidarity and Political Lobbying <p>Last but not least, he thanked the interpreters for making the meeting possible, along with the Emmaus Europe Secretariat team for organising the meeting and for their consistent professionalism.</p> <p>Willi Does concluded by wishing the entire Regional Council a very pleasant stay, while attending this statutory meeting,</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	DECISIONS
1. Administrative matters	<p><u>Approval of the provisional agenda for 08 - 10 March 2018 Regional Council.</u> No additions, comments or objections were recorded about the agenda.</p> <p><u>Approval of the minutes of the October 2017 Regional Council held in Höör, Sweden.</u> No additions, comments or objections were recorded about the minutes of the October 2017 Emmaus Europe Regional Council meeting in Höör, Sweden.</p>	<p>The Emmaus Europe Regional Council approved the provisional agenda for 08 -10 March 2018 by a majority vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>For</u>: 20 votes. ✗ <u>Against</u>: 0 votes • <u>Abstentions</u>: 0 votes <p>The Regional Council members present unanimously approved the minutes of the October 2017 Regional Council held in Höör, Sweden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>For</u>: 21 votes. ✗ <u>Against</u>: 0 votes • <u>Abstentions</u>: 0 votes
2. Financial issues 2017 Auditor's report Provisional 2018 budget	<p><u>Presentation of the financial statements for the financial year ending 31 December 2017</u> Michael Heap, Emmaus Europe treasurer, presented a budget update as of 31 December 2017. The soundness of the financial situation was noted.</p> <p><u>The 2017 Emmaus Europe's treasurer's report was read by Michael Heap.</u> 2017 was a year of change and development for Emmaus Europe. There have been both staff replacements and team changes, along with developments in the form of partnerships created, particularly in the content of migration and the circular economy.</p> <p>He added that it would be impossible to carry out the duties of treasurer without the support of the team trained at regional level, whose knowledge and skills</p>	<p>The financial statements for the 2017 financial year were unanimously approved by the Regional Council members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>For</u>: 21 votes. ✗ <u>Against</u>: 0 votes • <u>Abstentions</u>: 0 votes <p>The balance of €927 carried forward from the 2017 financial year was unanimously approved by the Regional Council members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>For</u>: 21 votes. ✗ <u>Against</u>: 0 votes • <u>Abstentions</u>: 0 votes

should not be overlooked.

OPERATING COSTS

Our total expenditure in 2017 was €364,450, while our income totalled €419,377, leaving us a surplus of €54,927. This is due in part to staff changes at regional headquarters, fewer communications and recruitment of fewer interns compared with 2016.

As a result, we can now make better provisions both for the 2019 Regional Assembly and for training and development meetings at European level, focusing on three campaigns.

We can invest in additional internal reinforcements to support ongoing work on migration and the circular economy.

Anticipated provisions are as follows:

- €15,000 for the Emmaus Europe Regional Council
- €20,000 for the Emmaus Europe Regional Assembly
- €4,000 for European training
- €15,000 carried over as general administration revenue for 2018

Michael **Heap**, Emmaus Europe treasurer, is pleased to announce that having estimated that income from membership fees would be €300,000, we have in fact received €378,767.

70% of membership fees had already been paid before the end of June, though this included a number of payments relating to 2016 and 2015.

Michael **Heap** thanked all groups who recognise that membership fees are Emmaus Europe's primary source of revenue, apart from funds provided to us by Emmaus International.

He is pleased to announce that 2017 produced an operating profit of €927.

LOANS

In 2014, we allocated the following loans:

- €35,000 to the Villafranca group: repayment underway and up-to-date, with a balance owing on 31 December 2017 of €14,000.
- €30,000 to the Lumea group: repayment underway, though a month behind schedule, with a balance owing on 31 December 2017 of €13,000.

In 2016, we allocated the following loan:

- €25,000 to Emmaus Rzeszów: repayments began in October 2017 with

instalments up-to-date. The amount repaid as of 31 December 2017 was €1,251

INVESTMENTS

Crédit Coopératif: we have €187,918.49.

Livret A savings account: we have €82,015.32.

Banca Etica: we have €182,558.26 in our account.

Shares in the Banca Etica : €2,625 as of 31 December 2017.

Banca Etica guaranteed ethical credit fund: we have €150,000 invested in the Banca Etica within the Emmaus International ethical fund, a commitment that was renewed in both 2016 and 2017.

An Emmaus International task group, of which Michael is a member, is currently looking at this option along with alternatives for the future, in view of the restrictions on fund availability. This task group will probably publish its results in the early summer of 2018.

The Emmaus Europe Regional Executive has asked to withdraw €80,000 from this fund, which will go ahead in 2018, and has agreed to leave the balance of €70,000 in the guarantee fund.

SOLIDARITY

In 2017, we received dedicated funds totalling €132,128 of which €84,039 has been spent. We also received €40,406 in non-programme funds of which €62,110 has been spent.

The Executive Committee also advanced €27,306 to ensure that the programme's planned solidarity initiatives can be maintained, in anticipation of funding to come from groups.

As in previous years, unspent funds were carried over either as dedicated funds or non-programme funds.

As of 31 December 2017, we have the following solidarity funds:

- Dedicated funds: €93,196
- Non-programme funds: €155,718
- Total: €248,914

This fund allows us, if required, to make advances for solidarity initiatives before funds become available.

Emmaus Europe treasurer, Michael Heap, read the general auditor's report produced by Sylvie Thizon.

“In compliance with the assignment entrusted to us by your Regional Council, we have conducted our audit of the Emmaus Europe Association’s annual accounts relating to the financial year ending on 31 December 2017, which are attached to this report.

In accordance with French accounting rules and principles, we certify that the annual accounts are in order, are genuine and present a faithful image of the operating result from the previous financial year and the Emmaus Europe Association's financial position and assets at the end of the financial year.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of annual accounts

Our remit is to prepare a report on the annual accounts. Our goal is to obtain reasonable assurance that the annual accounts taken as a whole are free from material irregularities.

Reasonable assurance provides a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards will consistently detect any material irregularity. Irregularities may be the result of fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or collectively, they may reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users of these accounts taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As specified in article L.823-10-1 of the Code of Commerce, our role is to certify the Association's accounts, not to guarantee its viability or the quality of its management. ”

Presentation of the 2018 financial statement as of 26 February 2018. New solidarity account.

Michael **Heap**, Emmaus Europe treasurer, reminded the meeting that the budget presented was approved at the October 2017 Emmaus Europe Regional Council meeting in Sweden.

He mentioned that he will perform the 1st quarter analysis for 2018 after the April 2018 Regional Executive meeting. As is the case for any organisation, its wage bill is a major component of expenditure. He stated that our staff will receive a 1.5% adjustment in line with the inflation rate.

With regard to the solidarity account’s new presentation, Michael **Heap** proposed that what remains to be raised for the 2017 initiatives will continue to be collected within the 2018 programme.

The 2017 General Auditor’s Report **was unanimously approved** by the Regional Council members present:

✓ **For: 21 votes.**

✗ **Against: 0 votes**

• **Abstentions: 0 votes**

👁 Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.

Michael **Heap** proposed that the Emmaus Europe Regional Council should delay a decision on what remains to be raised for 2017 until October 2018.

<p>3. 2017 Activity Report</p>	<p><u>Presentation of 2017 policy and descriptive reports</u></p> <p>Willi Does presented his 2017 policy report. He pointed out that the report contains some striking examples of isolationism, retreat into national self-interest and competition between nations, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Parliament dismissed its Vice President, Ryszard Czarnecki, for insulting a fellow Polish MEP, whom he compared to a Nazi collaborator. - On the same day, MEPs voted against the principle of a common European list for the next elections. This common list was based on the idea of bringing Europe closer to its citizens, to become a more democratic and open Europe. <p>The absence of war in Europe, or rather in central Europe, does not mean we are living through a period of peace.</p> <p>Silvana Nogarole presented the 2017 activity report, emphasising the fact that Emmaus Movement stakeholders must remind EU decision-makers of the Movement’s values.</p> <p>She reminded delegates that the purpose of this report is to raise awareness within the European Emmaus groups, encouraging them to identify with the activities spearheaded by Emmaus Europe.</p>	<p>The 2017 policy report prepared by the President of Emmaus Europe was unanimously approved by the Regional Council members present.</p> <p>✓ For: 21 votes.</p> <p>✗ Against: 0 votes</p> <p>• Abstentions: 0 votes</p> <p>The 2017 Emmaus Europe Activity Report was unanimously approved by the Regional Council members present.</p> <p>✓ For: 21 votes.</p> <p>✗ Against: 0 votes</p> <p>• Abstentions: 0 votes</p>
<p>4. Nations Round Table</p>	<p><i>See Appendix 1</i></p>	
<p>5. 2018 Annual European Solidarity Programme Material and financial support</p>	<p><u>Review of initiatives undertaken in 2017</u></p> <p>The 2017 European solidarity programme approved by the Emmaus Europe Regional Council on 18 February 2017 included eight initiatives undertaken by six groups in four European countries. The approved projected budget for the programme was €211,968.</p> <p>As of 31 December 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €137,856 in donations had been received from European groups. - €79,667 was paid to five groups for their initiatives undertaken within the framework of the 2017 programme. - Five initiatives received all the support they needed and have been completed in full. - Two initiatives were partially funded and are due to be implemented from this spring onwards 2018. - There is one initiative pending, which is awaiting more clearly identified prospects. <p>Two reminders about the solidarity programme were sent out, in May and July 2017, to European groups, with the aim of enabling us to receive and allocate the funds needed in time to implement the initiatives before the summer.</p>	<p>👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>

REGIONAL TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

2017 saw 105 lorry loads of donated goods cross Europe. These shipments represent a very important source of goods for groups faced with an economic context that makes it difficult for them to collect this type of item; it also gives sender groups a chance to show solidarity by replenishing their stocks.


In addition, in most cases the programme presents an opportunity for a fruitful meeting and successful exchange between the groups involved. The transport programme runs throughout the year and is a specific agenda item for discussion at the meetings of the collectives. The Emmaus Europe secretariat receives offers and requests for shipments and, if necessary, links up the partner groups with the aim of being fair and transparent.

Analysis of 2018 initiatives presented by groups.

- [Italy Initiative](#)

Emmaus Quarrata

New heating system


 Application for €25,000.

This initiative was approved by the Emmaus Europe Regional Executive meeting in December 2017, for presentation to the Regional Council in March 2018 and then for submission to the Fondation Abbe Pierre programme.

- [Poland initiative](#)

Emmaus Lublin

Construction of a shop

 Application for €60,000

This initiative was approved by the Emmaus Europe Regional Executive meeting in February 2018, for presentation to the Regional Council in March 2018, then for submission to the Emmaus International programme with funding of €73,290, and from Emmaus Europe.

- [Ukraine initiative](#)

Nasha Khata

Support for the community's farming activities.

 Application for €1,150

- The Regional Council **voted by a majority** to support the Emmaus Quarrata “New heating system” initiative, which will be incorporated into the Fondation Abbé Pierre programme.

✓ For: 20 votes.

✗ Against: 0 votes

• Abstentions: 0 votes

- The Regional Council **voted by a majority** to support the Emmaus Lublin “Construction of a shop” initiative, provided that it obtains a €60,000 bank loan

✓ For: 18 votes.

✗ Against: 0 votes

• Abstentions: 3 votes

The Regional Council **voted by a majority** to support the Emmaus Lublin “Construction of a shop” initiative, for submission to the Emmaus International programme with funding of €73,290.

✓ For : 19 votes.

✗ Against: 1 vote


• Abstentions: 1 vote

- The Regional Council **voted unanimously** to support the Nasha Khata “Supporting the community's farming activities” initiative with €1,150 of funding.

✓ For: 22 votes.


Nasha Khata

Purchase of a second-hand minibus for the Nasha Khata community.

 **Application for €8,000**

Nasha Khata

Support the Nasha Khata community's activities by covering salaries.

 **Application for €9,000**

• **Romania Initiative**

Frères Europa – Satu Mare

Creation of a microcredit fund to support access to housing.

 **Application for €20,000**


The Frères Europa 2017 initiative will get underway in spring 2018. The administrative aspects have been completed with funding from Emmaus Europe. In order to fully fund this initiative, the idea of transferring it to the Fondation Abbé Pierre programme was discussed.

Initiatives co-funded by international organisations / Europe included within the 2017 – 2018 programme.

• **Ukraine initiative**

Emmaus Oselya


Expansion of the textile sorting and storage activities.

 **Application for €74,000, spread over 2017 to 2019.**

• **Romania Initiative**

Emmaus Iasi

1st stage in the creation of an educational farm on farmland at Le Belvédère.

 **Application for €49,360**

✘ **Against: 0 votes**

• **Abstentions: 0 votes**

The Regional Council **voted unanimously** to support the Nasha Khata “Purchase of a second-hand minibus for the Nasha Khata community” initiative with €8,000 of funding.

✓ **For: 22 votes.**

✘ **Against: 0 votes**

• **Abstentions: 0 votes**

The Regional Council **voted unanimously** to support the Nasha Khata ““Supporting the community's activities by covering salaries” initiative with €9,000 of funding.

✓ **For: 20 votes.**

✘ **Against: 0 votes**

• **Abstentions: 2 votes**

• The Regional Council **voted by a majority** to support the Frères Europa “Creation of a microcredit fund to support access housing” initiative, which will be transferred to the Fondation Abbé Pierre with funding of €20,000.

✓ **For: 19 votes.**

✘ **Against: 0 votes**

• **Abstentions: 3 votes**

<p>6. European geographical collectives</p>	<p><u>Romania Collective</u> The next meeting of the Romania Collective will take place on 11 and 12 April 2018 in Iasi, Romania.</p> <p><u>Poland/Ukraine collective</u> The next meeting of the Poland / Ukraine Collective will take place on 25 and 26 April 2018 in Nasha Khata, Ukraine.</p> <p><u>Bosnia Collective</u> The next meeting of the Bosnia Collective will take place on 03 and 04 May 2018 in Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
<p>7. Themed collectives Migration and Human Trafficking</p>	<p><u>Migration Collective</u> An event took place in early March 2018 at Grande Synthe (with which Emmaus International has links).</p> <p>Within this context, the prospect was discussed of organising the June 2018 meeting of the Migration collective in Bosnia, in order to focus attention on the European dimension of this global issue. An action plan developed by the Migration Collective working group was presented to the Regional Council.</p> <p><u>Joining the ECI (European Citizen Initiative)</u> The European governments are failing to deal with the issues caused by migration. European citizens from different backgrounds have joined forces to help migrants. However, in the eyes of our leaders, this solidarity is a crime.</p> <p>Nowadays in Europe thousands of citizens who want to help migrants are running the risk of fines or custodial sentences because they support those who are fleeing all types of violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken. <p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote the action plan submitted by the Migration Collective working group: ✓ For: 21 votes. ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote Emmaus Europe joining the ECI: ✓ For: 21 votes. ✗ Against: No votes • Abstentions: No votes</p>
<p>8. Spotlight on training in Europe</p>	<p><u>2018 edition of the “Emmaus in all its facets!” training course at Emmaus Cologne, Germany</u> The 2018 edition of the “Emmaus in all its facets!” training course will take place on 03 - 06 June 2018, hosted by Thierry Muniglia and Brigitte Mary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
<p>9. Follow-up to the 2015 RAEE & 2019 RAEE</p>	<p><u>2015 RAEE</u> The mid-term action plan was updated to include achievements to date.</p> <p><u>2019 RAEE</u> At the last Regional Council meeting in October 2017, the decision was taken to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken. <p>The Regional Council approved by a majority vote the presentation of the internal regulations and proposed</p>

accept the Murcia region's bid to host the RAEE. Proposed details concerning the arrangements and budget were supposed to be submitted by 20 November 2017 by both applicant cities: Murcia and San Sebastian.

However, only San Sebastian submitted the required information by 20 November 2017. The Emmaus Europe Regional Executive decided that San Sebastian should host the next Regional Assembly, taking place at the end of October 2019, and ruled in favour of the Fundacion Social Emaús group's application.

Delegates are advised to arrive on 27 October 2019 and depart on 31 October 2019.

The key issues for the Emmaus Europe Regional Assembly are likely to be:

- The Extraordinary General Assembly which will vote on issues including:
 - Adoption of internal regulations
 - Amendments / additions to the Emmaus Europe statutes.

Emmaus Europe's internal regulations

The draft version was examined by the Regional Executive, reviewed by a legal expert, then analysed again by the task group on 07 December 2017.

The conclusions drawn were that two significant changes in substance need to be made to the statutes, which will require an Extraordinary General Assembly to be held in addition to a vote on the internal regulations.

This was presented to the March 2018 Regional Council as follows:

• SECTION IV-2: Emmaus Europe Regional Council

Members – End of term of office – Addition of a bullet point at the end of the article.

Regulation 12 in its current form in the draft internal regulations to be extracted and included within the statutes:

- When replacing an Emmaus International Councillor (CEI), the Regional Council takes a vote to select a new CEI.

- Candidates for election will be those who stood for election at the previous Regional Assembly elections but were not elected. The period of office of representatives elected by the Regional Council runs until the next Regional Assembly.

• SECTION IV-3: Executive Committee

Article 39 – Members and term of office.

Proposed amendment to the statutes: the Regional Executive has a minimum of five members. In addition, Regulation 16 of the draft internal regulations would

amendment to the statutes at the Regional Assembly 2019:

✓ For: **20 votes.**

✗ Against: **0 votes**

• Abstentions: **0 votes**

👁️ Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.

	<p>remain as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to coordinate more effectively with Emmaus International, the Emmaus Europe Regional Executive is composed of both Emmaus International Councillors and National Delegates. 	
<p>10. Emmaus International session</p>	<p><u>Meeting of African groups in December 2017</u> Emmaus groups in Africa, that are members of Emmaus International, met in Ouagadougou on 11-15 December 2017 to mark a new stage in the development of the Emmaus Movement in Africa and affirm our commitment to the focus areas agreed at the Jesolo World Assembly, in April 2016.</p> <p>This meeting provided an opportunity for around 80 participants - Emmaus group leaders and members in Africa - to get to know each other, share experiences and create a common vision for the Movement in this region. The Movement is particularly concerned about the violence committed against migrants along with the denial of their rights in both Europe and Africa.</p> <p>Since 2000, more than 45,000 people have died attempting to cross borders, with 15,000 deaths in the past three years alone. The groups reaffirmed their commitment to the free movement of people and respect for the rights of all migrants, irrespective of their status, nationality or background</p> <p><u>Emmaus International Alternatives Forum</u> This projected Alternatives Forum was a decision taken in Jesolo, with the intention of injecting new impetus into international solidarity in the fight against poverty.</p> <p>The planned forum will take place on 17-20 September 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. Its objectives are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a campaign message in collaboration with non-Emmaus partners. - Put forward alternative initiatives designed to support the most disadvantaged groups, placing them at the heart of the debate in order to raise their profile and encourage them to rebuild their lives. 	<p>👁 Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p> <p>👁 Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>
<p>11. Sustainable development Circular and solidarity economy. Lobbying political decision-makers.</p>	<p>The Circular Economy Package (CEP) provides opportunities, but also threats for Emmaus in Europe: its position may either be strengthened or jeopardised. → The challenge facing Emmaus is to safeguard and consolidate its position as a social stakeholder in the Social and Solidarity Economy sector (SSE) in general, and in the Circular Economy (CE) more specifically.</p> <p><u>Main risks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CEP creates a regime that favours profit-motivated private sector players to 	

the detriment of social stakeholders, such as Emmaus, which strive to forge social ties (by creating jobs and reintegrating people into society) while also protecting the environment (reducing waste and).

- Within this context, there is a real risk of the “social and solidarity economy” model being misused, hijacked and trivialised.

2018 overview - Take action based on outcomes at every stage

The latest developments on the Circular Economy Directives were approved by the national parliament environmental committees in late February 2018.

The legality of the texts will be examined in mid-March 2018. They will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union in autumn 2018. Following a 2-year period, they will be transposed into national law.

At the level of Emmaus Europe, we will need to clarify the terms used and reflect them in our practices. For example:

- The issue of a waste hierarchy and need to demonstrate consistent good practice within our groups.
- Respond to more human realities and adopt a sober approach since we are experiencing climate change, given that our planet has an end-date and those who pollute will pay the price.

Membership of the LE CERCLE and EAPN European networks

The Emmaus Europe Regional Executive is proposing that the Regional Council should take a vote on whether Emmaus Europe should join these networks:

CERCLE EUROPE ET ECONOMIE SOCIALE

The Cercle Europe et Economie Sociale (CEES) targets social economy businesses whose activities and working arrangements are increasingly being impacted by Europe.

These businesses share values and ways of working that set them apart from other goods and service sectors, while still able to compete with these sectors.

Social economy businesses often feel threatened by the EU’s development and tend to adopt a defensive position.

At the same time, this type of business model is frequently misunderstood by the European institutions, or at worst simply overlooked. It is then dealt with in exactly the same way as other forms of business structure.

The Regional Council approved **by a majority vote** Emmaus Europe’s membership of **LE CERCLE EUROPE ET ECONOMIE SOCIALE**.

- ✓ For: **15 votes.**
- ✗ Against: **2 votes**
- Abstentions: **4 votes**

Willi Does volunteered to be Emmaus Europe's Europe & Social Economy Circle (CEES) representative.

The majority of the Regional Council gave a mandate to Gabriela Martin, Emmaus Europe’s chief executive, to represent Emmaus Europe at the two lunches arranged by the Europe & Social Economy Circle.

- ✓ For: **20 votes.**

The Circle wishes to reduce the gap between social economy businesses and the European institutions.

The Circle enables the two worlds to meet and hold discussions, and offers a unique forum for promoting the social economy's values and practices at European level.

The aim of the CEES is to share issues, hold discussions with European decision-makers and pass on news of EU developments relevant to businesses.

Discussions with European decision-makers are designed to offer them information that is as objective as possible, presented in an informative fashion, to enable them to take the most enlightened political decisions possible and gain a better understanding of the diverse facets of the social economy.

Outside speakers from academia or other backgrounds may be invited in order to enhance the objectivity of discussions with European decision-makers, where relevant.

The Circle brings together directors and managers of social economy businesses who are keen to promote the social economy at European level.

The Circle was created by Stéphane Desselas, Honorary Chair of the Circle and President of **Athenora Consulting**.

European Anti-Poverty Network

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network bringing together national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroots groups as well as European organisations campaigning against poverty and social exclusion. It was established in 1990 and is made up of a network of 31 national networks and 13 European organisations.

EAPN lobbies for and in collaboration with people experiencing poverty, and their organisations, and seeks to empower them to be agents of change. In particular, EAPN organises the European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty (PeP), which help to bolster the rights of people living in poverty to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Emmaus International became an elected member of the network at the very first EAPN General Assembly in 1991 and was for many years an active member of EAPN. Some years ago, after Emmaus International took the decision to restructure into decentralised regions, it gradually became less involved and Emmaus Europe took over this role until 2010, with Xavier Vandromme given the

✘ **Against: 0 votes**
 • **Abstentions: 1 vote**

The Regional Council approved **by a majority vote** Emmaus Europe's membership of the **EAPN network**.
 ✓ **For: 14 votes.**
 ✘ **Against: 2 votes**
 • **Abstentions: 4 votes**

<p>12. Emmaus Movement membership procedure</p>	<p>mandate. Officially, Emmaus has never ‘ceased’ to be a member of EAPN.</p> <p><u>Applications for trial/full membership of Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>French organisations</u> <p><u>Saint Gaudens, France – Applying for full membership.</u> The Emmaus Saint-Gaudens community is campaigning for an unconditional welcome, with decent accommodation and solidarity-based work.</p> <p><u>Sète – Frontignan, France – Applying for full membership.</u> Originally an annex of Emmaus Montpellier, it became a community in its own right in 2004. It hosts 16 companions and performs the traditional type of work found in every community. It is located in the Thau basin south of Montpellier.</p> <p><u>Saint Nazaire, France – Applying for full membership</u> Formerly a branch of the Nantes community for five years, the group became an independent community on 1st December 2016. Group’s statutes: the standard statutes of Emmaus communities in France. The group’s purpose: “The aim of the association is to implement the policy directions of Emmaus International, Emmaus Europe and Emmaus France in keeping with the ethos of the Emmaus Universal Manifesto.</p> <p>It is developing shared solidarity-based activities aimed at combating social injustice and the various forms of exclusion, in particular by hosting companions. These companions live within the community and take part in solidarity economy activities as outlined in article L.265-1 of the French Social Action and Families Code (People hosted by voluntary organisations and carrying out solidarity-based activities).”</p> <p>The group is based in Trignac, in region 3 of Emmaus France, which borders the town of Saint-Nazaire (department 44: Loire region).</p> • <u>Spanish organisations</u> <p><u>Traperos de Huelva, Spain – Applying for trial membership</u> Huelva is located in southern Spain, 50km from the Portuguese border. With a</p> 	<p>The Regional Council approved by a majority vote the French Saint Gaudens group's application for full membership of Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe: ✓ <u>For: 21 votes.</u> ✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u> • <u>Abstentions: 0 votes</u></p> <p>The Regional Council approved by a majority vote the French Sète Frontignan group’s application for full membership of Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe: ✓ <u>For: 19 votes.</u> ✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u> • <u>Abstentions: 2 votes</u></p> <p>The Regional Council approved by a majority vote the French Saint Nazaire group’s application for trial membership of Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe: ✓ <u>For: 17 votes.</u> ✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u> • <u>Abstentions: 0 votes</u></p> <p>The Regional Council approved by a majority vote the Spanish Traperos de Huelva group’s application for trial</p>

population of 150,000 people, it is famous as the place where Christopher Columbus began his voyage of discovery in 1492.

British businesses developed a chemical production facility here in the 19th century (Rio Tinto). This industrial progress came to a halt in the 1970s.

The town has an unemployment rate of over 30%, particularly among young people. A consequence of this industrial development is that the land is heavily contaminated, which in the past has led to demonstrations against this industry/policy.

San Sebastian Cooperative, Spain – Applying for trial membership

After separating from the Social Foundation Group, Saint Sebastian in 2009 in an extremely challenging economic context, the group is experiencing huge financial pressures.

The cooperative has accreditation to run a clothes recycling centre (ground floor), plus a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment service. The total floor space rented from the local authority is 1,000m².

This social and economic enterprise is consistent with the ethos of the Saint Sebastian cooperative, whose team of men and women work on a day-to-day basis recycling goods to sell in its charity shops.

• Croatian association.

The Centre is located in Osijek, in north-east Croatia. It focuses its activities mainly within Osijek and its surrounding areas. Some of its activities have a nationwide reach. The Centre has an office in the capital, Zagreb, which is the country's administrative centre and seat of government.

The Centre is an Association founded on 27 November 2006. It was initially created in response to two concerns: a growing awareness of the vulnerability of children in difficult circumstances, who can fall victim to online sexual exploitation and abuse, and an unwillingness on the part of the authorities to address this problem. The association's remit has gradually evolved to include child protection in general, offering professional help to children living in difficult circumstances (through negligence, mistreatment or abuse) and following up on this by providing information, training and advice. It also seeks to raise civil society awareness of the problems facing young people. The Centre maintains a particular focus on missing children and migrant children seeking asylum and/or unaccompanied children.

membership of Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe:

✓ For: **21 votes.**

✗ Against: **0 votes**

• Abstentions: **0 votes**

The Regional Council approved **by a majority vote** the Spanish San Sebastian Cooperative group's application for trial membership of Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe:

✓ For: **17 votes.**

✗ Against: **0 votes**

• Abstentions: **4 votes**

The Regional Council approved **by a majority vote** the Croatian Osijek group's application for trial membership of Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe:

✓ For: **17 votes.**

✗ Against: **0 votes**

• Abstentions: **3 votes**

Two conditions were laid down for the entire length of the trial membership process:

- Finding ways a self sufficiency
- Should have their on way to have funds

<p>13. Diary and final round the table evaluation</p>	<p>Final round the table evaluation: The elected Regional Council members expressed their pleasure at working together and sharing a wealth of ideas. Prospective areas for development were described as stimulating.</p> <p>Willi Does thanked the interpreters and technicians for all their hard work. He thanked the Emmaus Pamiers group once again for its warm welcome.</p>	<p>👁 Topics raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>
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As there were no further items on the agenda, the President closed the meeting.

Silvana Nogarole
Secretary of Emmaus Europe

Willi Does
President of Emmaus Europe

Appendix 1 to the minutes of the Emmaus Europe Regional Council meeting (RCEE)
08 - 10 March 2018 – Mazères, France

NATIONS ROUND TABLE

Presentations delivered by National Delegates on the 5 following points:

- 1. Number of existing member organisations.**
- 2. Latest news / changes to member organisations.**
- 3. How member organisations are working on the themes championed by Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.**
- 4. Latest social, economic and political events in the country in question, with the focus on themes closely linked to Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.**
- 5. Do you know what actions are being taken to address migration? How are you recording them?**

<p>BELGIUM Julio De La Granja</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Emmaus groups in Belgium:</u> There are two small traditional communities. Each group is independent and runs its own initiatives. 2. <u>Latest news / changes in the groups:</u> La Poudrière is celebrating its 60 anniversary in September 2018. The Lodelinsart group (Charleroi) has ceased trading because it no longer has any companions and is now under the supervision of the La Poudrière community and Belgium's National Delegate, Julio. Over the course of 2018, the shop, which is currently full of goods, will have to be emptied and the building sold, which will take several years. Julio has informed Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International that this group has ceased trading. The ninth youth camp, held in Peruwelz in August 2017, involved 7 young people and was successful. Within the space of 9 years, 80 young people have passed through Péruwelz (67 girls and 13 boys). 3. <u>How member organisations are working on the themes championed by Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe?</u> Only La Poudrière is currently working with Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe, on issues including youth camps, the Lille and Paris Solidarity Sales, etc. La Poudrière has an account in the Triodos ethical bank. 4. <u>Latest social, economic and political events in the country:</u> The current right-wing Belgian government is pursuing a very liberal policy, which is not making life easier for working people nor helping to alleviate poverty or migrants' situations. 5. <u>Migration:</u> This is currently a topical issue in Belgium. The number of migrants obtaining refugee status has risen slightly, in spite of the tighter laws. Cases of asylum granted on health grounds have virtually disappeared, whereas a few years ago, several thousand people held this status in Belgium.
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	<p>One very remarkable case in Belgium (which is unique within Europe) is the situation in Maximilian Park in the north of Brussels. More than 300 migrants are being offered overnight accommodation by the residents of Brussels and its surrounding area; this involves not only a meal system, but also daily transport to the homes of the various host families by volunteers in their cars. By dispersing the migrants to a range of overnight accommodation options offered by local residents, these volunteers (around 3,000 in total) have prevented police raids on the site.</p> <p>Belgium has been repatriating Sudanese migrants, with a number put in prison and tortured. There have been numerous articles in the press, with calls for the Secretary of State for Migration to resign. Unfortunately he belongs to Belgium's main political party, which is ready to bring down the government if the Secretary of State resigns.</p> <p>Belgium is also a stakeholder in the Catalan independence issue (Spain) since the Catalan president and 4 of his advisors came to Brussels to escape being sent to prison in Spain. The Belgian press has remarked that while Catalan people are welcome in Belgium, Sudanese people and other non-EU migrants are not. The five Catalans were offered asylum by the same minister who ordered the deportation of Sudanese migrants. He belongs to a Flemish nationalist party.</p> <p>The government has just approved a new law on squatting, penalising those who occupy empty buildings with fines or prison sentences. Until now, such issues were handled by justices of the peace, with no criminal prosecutions involved. In February, the parliament considered a new law, giving police authority to enter any building (privately owned included) occupied by migrants and to arrest them. There has been vociferous opposition to this law (from judges, artists, intellectuals and journalists). Watch this space....</p>
<p>BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Sabina Arnaut Jahic</p>	<p><u>Emmaus groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina:</u> There are 2 groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The International Solidarity Forum (ISF) is a full member of the Movement. Nova Generacija, based in Banja Luka, is a trial member.</p> <p><u>Latest news / changes in the groups:</u> In terms of the socio-political context, Bosnia-Herzegovina has submitted an application for EU membership. Though this request has been accepted, the country has yet to meet the required criteria. The process may go on for several more years.</p> <p><u>Circular Economy:</u> For the past 15 years, businesses have been involved in reuse and recycling. Some groups could replicate this initiative and in fact collection points have been set up, although collected items cannot be sold.</p>
<p>SPAIN José Maria Garcia Bresó</p>	<p><u>Emmaus groups in Spain:</u> Emmaus Spain has 8 member groups, 5 of which are members of Emmaus International and 2 groups applying for trial membership (Huelva and San Sebastian). Spain's socio-economic and political situation is highly charged. The politicians are discredited. There is currently a conflict between Madrid and Catalonia regarding Catalan independence.</p> <p>Since the turn of the century, the population has increased due to people arriving in search of work from countries in Latin America and eastern Europe. Now the Spanish are leaving Spain in order to find work anywhere in Europe or elsewhere.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND Martha Hannus</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 existing groups active within Emmaus Finland: Emmaus Helsinki, Emmaus Westervik, Pääskyt/Svalorna and Emmaus Åland. Emmaus Aurinkotehdas has not been active since 2015. Emmaus Jokioinen has not paid their fees and has been contacted by the Chairperson of Emmaus Finland by mail without responding. Emmaus Finland has decided to send a registered letter to Jokioinen, and if no response and explanation is received from the group, their membership in Emmaus Finland will be terminated. 2. Latest news: Emmaus Åland has opened a restaurant with climate friendly food while at the same time providing work opportunities to long time unemployed. An urban garden project has also started in the center of Mariehamn, where ecological vegetables will be produced while providing meaningful activities for migrants, people with health issues and long term unemployed with a very low threshold. In order to secure the operational conditions for the Emmaus Second Hand Building materials and furniture, Emmaus Åland also bought the building where the operations are located. Emmaus Helsinki has successfully continued their work with the work pool, Keikkapooli, for migrants and other persons having a difficulty establishing themselves on the labour market. Emmaus Westervik has continued a series of talks on topics related to social change such as nonviolent communication and sustainable fashion in Ekenäs. Efforts to support the Roma people in Europe are also on the agenda of the Finnish groups. Both Emmaus Westervik and Emmaus Åland are about to enter into cooperation with the organisation E-Romnja in Romania, and Emmaus Helsinki is supporting a project in Bulgaria. 3. All the groups in Finland are working actively with the issue of migration and freedom of movement. Circular economy was the theme of the annual meeting of Emmaus Finland, where new models for the Emmaus groups in a circular economy were discussed. Food security has long been a topic for the aid work of Pääskyt/Svalorna in India, and is now also something discussed within Emmaus Åland as a result of the establishment of the urban garden. 4. Latest events in the country – In Finland, we now see the decisions coming from the Migration Board for the persons arriving to Finland as refugees in 2015. In many cases, the decisions are inhumane and do not adequately reflect international conventions such as the UN convention on the rights of the child. This has led to protests from social movements, and also politicians. Due to changes in migration law, more people are becoming undocumented migrants than before 2015, which also challenges social actors to find new ways to meet the needs of this group. <p>Another development is the new so called activity model, which demands that unemployed persons can show that they have been doing some kind of work, voluntary or paid, for at least 18 hours/3 months, in order to receive their unemployment benefits. Furthermore, Finland has held presidential elections, where the conservative candidate Sauli Niinistö was reelected as president with 62,7 % of the vote. The candidate from the True Finns (right wing populist party) received 6,9 % of the vote, as compared to the Social Democratic candidate, who received only 3,2 % of the vote.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Actions taken to address the issue of migration within Emmaus Finland – work pool (Helsinki and Åland), taking in interns and employing migrants, cooperating with other organisations working with migrants such as Hirundo and the Deaconess Institute of Helsinki. Emmaus also supports the Global Clinic, which provides free health care for undocumented migrants and EU-migrants.
<p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE Annick Berthier</p>	<p>The 288 groups that make up the Emmaus Movement in France are split into three branches, each of which focuses on a different type of work. There are also 13 trial member groups.</p>

	<p>From a geographical perspective, Emmaus France is divided into 10 regions. 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. Emmaus France represents and coordinates the Emmaus Movement at national level and the national team based in Montreuil helps to organise the operational implementation of the Board’s decisions.</p> <p>The board, which comprises 25 elected representatives from throughout France, delegates operational or other coordination activities specific to branches to those elected to the branch committees. To those elected to sit on the Emmaus France college of regions, it delegates regional and cross-cutting coordination between the groups.</p> <p>Emmaus France is taking a strong stance at the present time, when the actions of the new government have led us to question how the most vulnerable are going to survive in France.</p> <p>Since the last RCEE, Emmaus France has undertaken a variety of initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Campaign</i> against lowering the personalised housing allowance (APL) and against housing policy in general. – <i>Campaign</i> against reducing the number of “State-aided contracts”, penalising those most alienated from the workplace. – <i>Campaign</i> against the planned immigration law. – <i>Campaign</i> against the “Collomb circular” which calls into question the unconditional welcome we offer within our groups. – Involvement in the government’s anti-poverty initiative. – Involvement in the government’s circular economy initiative with a view to preserving its social and solidarity dimension. <p>Other campaigns are being undertaken on a daily basis without receiving media coverage, including the promotion of alternative sanctions to prison, reintegration of prisoners at the end of their sentences and reintegration of the most vulnerable through access to housing.</p> <p>However, the usual forms of lobbying are no longer relevant, confronted with a government that allows no room for consultation and compromise. Emmaus France is looking to implement other types of non-violent activist lobbying, aimed at raising awareness within civil society.</p> <p>Finally Emmaus France is developing inter-group solidarity initiatives throughout the country, in particular groups offering support to refugees.</p> <p>All these activities are undertaken in collaboration with partners - Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe being the principal ones – along with platforms of associations that share our views.</p>
<p>GERMANY Willi Does</p>	<p>Four groups are members of Emmaus International: there are two trial member groups in Krefeld (Anstoss eV) and a second very stable group close to Cologne, in Bergisch - Gladbach.</p> <p>2. In 2018, we are planning to work on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stabilise the situation in Sonsbeck – Resume discussions on creating a national structure in Germany with statutes and a new National Delegate.

	<p>3. The German groups will take part in the Lille Solidarity Sale in March 2018.</p> <p>4. A new extreme right party (“Alternative for Germany”) has now entered the German Parliament. An attempt will be made to create a coalition between the Christians, Neo-liberals and Green Party.</p> <p>5. With regard to migration, a recently approved law is now making hosting migrants and refugees more complicated. If Germany considers their country of origin to be safe, refugees and migrants are sent back to their home country.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ITALY Marie Balseca Read out by Maria Luisa Testori</p>	<p>1. How many Emmaus groups/communities are there in your country? 16 communities and 2 groups</p> <p>2. Latest news / changes within the groups? <u>Overall:</u> A downward trend for a number of our second-hand goods shops. (10 out of 16 have seen sales fall, only three have seen a slight increase and we do not yet have figures for the other three).</p> <p>The trend is negative due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continuing economic crisis which is reducing families’ purchasing power - A rise in the number of small shops selling second-hand goods - A reduction in the quality of donated goods we collect for resale - People tend to sell goods they no longer use, rather than donate them to Emmaus. <p>This fall in income is eroding the savings each community has in the bank to meet day-to-day running costs. The bank balances of some communities are precarious.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is very difficult to identify new community leaders because their workload is heavy. They have to deal with every aspect of the community and second-hand goods, and the working hours require a level of commitment that young people simply cannot master. - Increased demand for hosting people with mental health problems and, more generally, the companions we host tend to be older men whom it is very difficult to reintegrate into the local community because they often have cognitive learning disabilities. - Ageing companions who don’t leave the community and are receiving their pensions (this problem is scheduled for discussion at an Emmaus Italy board meeting). - A large number of Italian communities need to carry out renovation work to comply with local housing regulations. (9 out of 16). - Communities are heavily involved with migration, human trafficking, peace and the right to housing. <p><u>In particular:</u></p> <p><u>Rome</u> is having to cope with a heavy financial loss. For the past few months, it has had no leader; now, an older companion, who is close to retirement, is willing to take on responsibility for the community and, with the help of Isabella (the secretary of Emmaus Italy), will try to manage Rome.</p> <p><u>Villafranca</u> needs to expand its sales area to create an assisted employment scheme in the form of a sewing workshop for female migrants. The work is already underway.</p> <p><u>Prato</u> is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. There will be a big gathering on Easter Monday bringing together all</p>

stakeholders from the national Movement, along with the launch of the “Building” video illustrating the multi-faceted aspects of the association.

Arezzo: to address this community’s really complex situation, in February Emmaus Italy dedicated a day to a joint working group, tasked with deciding whether to close the community or continue and, if so, in what way. At the moment, the community is managed by a young companion, but she is having to pay for the management mistakes of the past.

Emmaus Italy decided to close the cooperative, buy the warehouse and continue working with the association. EI will support Arezzo with funding of €25,000.00 to help pay the bills, after which a mortgage will be arranged with the Banca Etica for the purchase of the warehouse. At the same time, the house where the community lives will have to be closed down in a clean condition then rented out, since it belongs to the cooperative.

Florence: The community is looking for a new leader. An applicant is about to undergo a training programme.

Mani Tese is proposing to establish a “study grant in memory of Graziano Zoni” in collaboration with Banca Etica.

The Catanzaro group became a community in June 2017. Its members are working within a difficult climate because of poverty and the mafia. Sales figures are not good and revenue is not sufficient to ensure the community’s independence, with Emmaus Florence offering support by paying the warehouse’s rent. At the moment, the community does not have an official leader.

Finally, Emmaus Palermo has succeeded in obtaining the house confiscated from the mafia from the local authority. All the works are being paid for by Emmaus Italy because Emmaus Palermo is not able to afford them. By way of storage space, they are occupying a large pavilion used by the Fiera del Mediterraneo Exhibition, which is not strictly regular. However they are in talks with the city hall.

Quarrata has requested financial support for the community's heating. They have been virtually without heating for two years now.

The Fiesso community is in the throes of a financial crisis. Income is too low to cover the community’s day-to-day necessities. The leader has notified us that if this downward trend is not reversed, she will find it difficult to pay the companions.

The community needs major work doing: on its heating system, where the indoor temperature currently reaches only 13-14 degrees and on the warehouse which needs insulating against the summer heat. EI has offered an initial instalment of €20,000 to change the boiler. The community requires a further €7,000 to insulate the roof and plans to make an application for this amount to Emmaus Europe.

The Piadena community has altered all the lighting in its warehouse, installing LED bulbs to save energy. They also need to replace the clothing section’s roof, which contains asbestos.

3. How member organisations are working on the themes championed by Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe?

Emmaus Erba has organised a number of events on the themes of migration and peace in collaboration with ten other

	<p>associations</p> <p><u>Villafranca</u>: two days of awareness-raising against the arms trade in collaboration with cooperative SOS Casa.</p> <p><u>Treviso</u> is pursuing its partnership with the Venice district based on combating human trafficking.</p> <p><u>Palermo</u>: more than 170 high school pupils took part in the Lampedusa work camp.</p> <p>4. Brief description of the latest social, economic and political events in the country, with emphasis placed on themes that are closely related to Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>The elections on 4 March 2018 fuelled the fear of a sharp rise of both the Eurosceptic and Extreme Right parties. The uncertain results of the election on 4 March represent a new threat to EU cohesion.</p> <p>Since 2013, the country has had to manage an influx of more than 600,000 refugees without receiving any European solidarity at all. This has dealt a terrible blow to the popularity of the centre-left majority (Democratic Party).</p> <p>The Italy of 2018 displays virtually every symptom of the crisis affecting the western democracies: weakening of the traditional political parties and rise of extreme parties, a wave of anti-establishment candidates (5-Star Movement), a disaffected electorate and record level of abstentions. There is one priority, a specific feature of the local area: the rise of xenophobic forces (Salvini's Northern League, Fratelli d'Italia...) and neo-fascist parties (CasaPound)</p>
<p>NETHERLANDS Jos Van Der Meer</p>	<p>Since 6 March 2017, Emmaus Netherlands has a new board:</p> <p>Jeroen Geurts - president Xander van Asperen - secretary Anita Hoogerwerf - treasurer</p> <p>The secretariat has moved to Emmaus Overvecht: Gloriantdreef 403 3562 KW Utrecht</p> <p>Marieke Samson is the secretariat's new coordinator.</p> <p>Overall, there is little going on within the federation. Most groups are busy with their own projects and social activities at local level.</p> <p>Emmaus Domstad and Emmaus Haarzuilens are activity involved with the circular economy issue in Utrecht, where sustainability and the circular economy are key focus areas.</p> <p>As usual, more parties are needed to form a coalition. They are still in the process of forming a new government.</p>
<p>POLAND Grzegorz Hajduk</p>	<p>Regarding the political situation in Poland, the government is made up of populists, members of the Extreme-Right and anti-Europeans.</p> <p><u>Emmaus groups in Poland</u>:</p> <p>The number of groups in Poland has not changed. There are four communities: Nowy Sacz and the Krakow, Lublin and Rzeszów sites. Currently, the Emmaus Rzeszów community is significantly in debt following the construction of the community house.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">PORTUGAL Délia Resende Clément</p>	<p>There are 2 groups in Portugal, Caneças and Porto.</p> <p>2. In Porto, the group is planning to create a knowledge-sharing centre. Local people don't spend time on the streets any more, 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... A project to set up a social laundry project is also underway.</p> <p>3. From a political perspective, Portugal is doing better, with the coalition in power restoring the social rights abolished by the previous government.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UNITED KINGDOM Michael "Spike" Hudson</p>	<p>1. How many Emmaus groups/communities exist in your country? UK has 29 member communities hosting approximately 750 companions.</p> <p>2. News and groups¹/changes The groups are facing a number of financial challenges especially in relation to Welfare Reforms. The recent cold weather that affected much of Europe has highlighted the plight of the homeless, with the UK press reporting several deaths of rough sleepers due to the cold weather. There have been some heart-warming responses to the situation. For example Euston Station in London was closed for the Christmas holidays but opened its doors on Christmas Day to provide 100 meals to the homeless. Many Emmaus UK groups have also provided extra solidarity over the winter with Cold Weather support such as extra night shelters, extra soup runs and distributing supplies to people living on the streets.</p> <p>3. How the groups treat the issues related to Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe? There has been a general lack of involvement although migration is still a hot topic.</p> <p>For the Circular Economy, several groups got involved in UK Recycling week in December 2017 with much social media coverage involving celebrities and up cycling.</p> <p>4. Brief description of the country's latest social, economic and political events, with special interest in issues regarding Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe. Brexit is still dominating the news in the UK. There are divergent views on the economic consequences of UK leaving EU. There have been a number of news stories highlighting how reduced numbers of migrant workers will have a negative impact on staff levels in the National Health Service. And how, "there will be food rotting in the fields" if agricultural workers from Eastern Europe are denied entry to the UK to work.</p> <p>5. Are you aware of initiatives being taken to handle the issue of migration? How do you list them? On a local level many UK groups show solidarity to migrants by offering solidarity beds. Local charities that support refugees and asylum seekers are supported. Many UK groups work with local food banks which provide supplies to low income households such as migrants and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Nationally Emmaus has links with the UK Refugee Council and supports their campaigns for migrant and asylum rights. On an international level Emmaus UK are working with IFS Bosnia to deliver Migration and Human Trafficking training for 4 to 5 UK Groups, and others.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Sweden Lottah-Mathilda Olund</p>	<p>Emmaus groups in Sweden: There are 5 Emmaus Movement member groups but only 3 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 profits are allocated to international initiatives.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UKRAINE</p>	<p>Emmaus – Oselya Emmaus – Oselya continue its work. We have 18 adult companions and 2 teenagers, 9 employees and up to 10 regular volunteers.</p> <p>The main economic activity is collecting used goods through containers for textile all over the city. Today we have 23 containers. Every week we collect about 10 tons of textile. We also collect furniture and household items from people’s houses. Recently one of our 2 trucks was broken and needs a very expensive reparations. At this time we drive only 1 truck and it’s very complicated. Emmaus – Oselya doesn’t receive transports and completely depends on local collections. Another problem that we faced with collecting textile is that we no longer sell bad clothing for recycling. Apparently some recycling factories do not function anymore. For us that means that we lost another source of income and we have to transport bad clothing to the dumpsters. At this time we can only sell jeans and cotton. In 2018 we sold 18 tons of that. But we continue to sell paper, metal, plastic.</p> <p>The purchasing of the plot to build depot there is planned for the next month. Solidarity with poor is still the priority in our work. Social support center every day provides service to about 50 homeless people. (Since the beginning of the year we provided the following service – 148 laundries, 28 haircuts, 292 showers, 859 meals, 512 – clothing). Because of too small building and to many people who get service there, Lviv municipality offered us a different building for the Social support center. It needs reconstruction and it may take a while before we can use it, but we accepted the offer.</p> <p>Every week food distribution to homeless people in downtown (up to 100 people). On January 6th we had Christmas Eve for 500 people. In charity store we give away clothing to poor families (145 families in January, 350 families in February received clothing for free). In February there was extreme cold weather in Ukraine and we did extra street work. For more than two weeks we went to the railway station with soup, tea and sandwiches and give out to homeless people.</p> <p>The book about Emmaus and Abbe Pierre. There was a tour that included many Ukrainian city. The author Andriy Kurkov presented it. Some companions also travelled with him to different cities to talk about Emmaus and Oselya.</p> <p>Nasha Khata In the Community “Nasha Khata” there are 40 companions including 2 families, 2 women and 3 children.</p> <p>We develop the following main sphere of our activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -we are developing the work of the joiner's shop and we have finished the repairing of the first part of the joiner's shop; -we have enlarged the number of wattles in wintry season; -we conduct the solidarity actions: once a week we serve free dinners for people in need; -we organized Christmas supper for people in need. The supper was visited by almost 100 people; -we discuss the opportunity to realize (sell) second hand clothes in the town of Drohobych by organizing street sales and increasing the number of containers for textile gathering;

	<p>-we provide the negotiations with the local authorities about the financial support for the members of the Community “Nasha Khata”;</p> <p>-we provide the negotiations with the local authorities as to the premises in the town of Drohobych for the Community activities</p> <p>The main aims and problems which we want to solve this year:</p> <p>We are going to widen the farmer activity namely in pig breeding. For this reason we need to fulfill the repairing works at own cost. We provide active information campaigns by participating in different grant offers.</p> <p>We put into the budget the cost for the repairing of the second part of the joiner's shop and the roof but we have not found the money for this yet. We are providing an active search for the sponsors to fulfill the repairing works.</p>
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