



EMMAUS EUROPE
EMMAÜS EUROPE
EMAUÍS EUROPA

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAUS EUROPE
18 – 20 OCTOBER 2018

TURIN - ITALY

PRESENT	NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES		VOTERS
	Sabina ARNAUT JAHIC , Bosnia-Herzegovina Marie BALSECA , Italy Annick BERTHIER , France Willi DOES , president of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Julio DE LA GRANJA , Belgium Grzegorz HAJDUK , Poland	Gélu NICHITEL , Romania Lottah-Mathilda ÖLHUND , Sweden Délia RESENDE CLEMENT , Portugal Grigory SEMENCHUK , Ukraine Jean-Marc SIGRIST , Switzerland Sue TAYLOR , UK Jos VAN DER MEER , the Netherlands	13 WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)		VOTERS
	Willi DOES , president of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Maryse FAURE , France Jean-Philippe LEGAUT , member of the exec, Romania Nathalie MARTZ , France	Silvana NOGAROLE , Emmaus Europe secretary, Italy Eduardo SANCHEZ , Spain Maria Luisa TESTORI , Italy	7 WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	WISE PERSON		
	Birgitta GORANSON ILISTE , member of the Regional Executive, Sweden		
	EX OFFICIO MEMBER		
	Patrick ATOHOUN , Chair of Emmaus International		
	GUEST PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS		
	Marie-France BEDLEEM , France Thomas BODELET , Emmaus International Secretariat Lise DAVIET , Emmaus International Secretariat	John HARRISON , UK Michael "Spike" HUDSON , UK	
EMMAUS EUROPE SECRETARIAT			
Véronica ACEVEDO-CARO , admin-finance assistant Marie TIXIER , events coordinator Théo ROBIN , solidarity coordinator	Clara DE ROUSSEL DE PREVILLE , intern on the <i>Environmental aspects focusing on the next phases in the circular economy process</i> internship. Gabriela MARTIN , chief executive		

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


APOLOGIES RECEIVED	NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES	COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)	GUEST PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS
	José Maria GARCIA BRESO , Spain Martha HANNUS , Finland	Michael HEAP , Emmaus Europe treasurer, UK Tobias PETERSSON , Sweden	Jorgen OLSEN , Denmark Julien KALIMIRA MZEE MURHULA , Denmark

- PREAMBLE	<p>Willi Does, the president of Emmaus Europe, thanked everyone at the venue (Certosa conference centre) and Franco Monicchi for their warm welcome.</p> <p>He introduced the new national delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sue Taylor, the UK national delegate. - Grigory SEMENCHUK, Ukraine national delegate. <p>Emmaus International members in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patrick ATOHOUN, chair of Emmaus International - Thomas Bodelet, officer in the international solidarity and campaigns department. - Lise DAVIET, officer in the international solidarity and campaigns department. <p>He also welcomed the following: Marie-France Bedleem and John Harrison, who are standing for election to become CEI, and announced that François Mollard had informed the regional executive a few days ago of his decision to withdraw his CEI candidacy.</p> <p>He reminded the meeting that three CEI posts remain to be filled following the resignations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keith Tolladay. - Hans Van Beek. - Julia Finer. <p>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.</p> <p>Willi Does rounded off the introductory session by thanking Gabriela Martin, the EE chief executive, for her hard work and professionalism over the years. He advised participants that they would have the chance to thank Gabriela during the meeting.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	DECISIONS
1. Administrative matters	<p><u>Approval of the agenda for the 18-20 October 2018 Regional Council</u> No additions, comments or objections were recorded about the agenda.</p> <p><u>Approval of the minutes of the March 2018 Regional Council held in Mazères in France</u> No additions, comments or objections were recorded about the minutes of the Regional Council held in March 2018 in Mazères in France.</p>	<p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the agenda of the 18-20 October 2018 Regional Council: ✓ For: 19 votes ✗ Against: No votes ● Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the minutes of the March 2018 Regional Council held in Mazères: ✓ For: 19 votes ✗ Against: No votes ● Abstentions: No votes</p>

<p>2. 2018 financial situation & 2019 projected budget</p>	<p><u>Presentation of the financial situation for the first half of 2018</u> Michael HEAP submitted a presentation of the financial situation in the first half of 2018. This presentation provided information about actual expenditure and a projection for the position at the end of the 2018 financial year.</p> <p>Michael HEAP remarked that our financial situation is healthy but stated that the amount of membership dues received is disappointing. Emmaus Europe has collected 88% of the expected income from the groups, while the organisation hoped to receive 95%.</p> <p><u>Update on the payment of membership dues from 2018 and previous financial years</u> The meeting was informed about the 2018 membership dues received by Emmaus Europe. As of 31 August 2018, €259,807.55 had been received equating to 163 groups paying their dues for 2018.</p> <p>Furthermore: - €17,400 of dues had been collected from 11 groups for 2017.</p> <p>However, the following observation was made: only half of the groups have paid their dues for 2018. Michael Heap asked the national delegates to follow up with the groups in their respective countries.</p> <p><u>2019 budget to be presented to the Regional Council</u> Michael HEAP presented the 2019 budget which will be submitted to the Regional Council for approval, subject to any changes made by the executive.</p> <p>Michael HEAP has worked on the assumption that the number of collectives and working groups would be reduced because of the regional assembly, and likewise that there would only be one regional council in spring 2019.</p> <p>He also assumed that additional advocacy would be done for the European Parliament elections and that there would be a focus on migration, meaning a small reduction for the working group on migration.</p>	<p>👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the 2019 budget: ✔️ For: 19 votes ❌ Against: No votes 👉 Abstentions: No votes</p>
<p>3. Nations Round Table</p>	<p><i>See Appendix 1</i></p>	
<p>4. Emmaus International session</p>	<p><u>Solidarity transposed into criteria for the Emmaus Movement at the international level. Methodology and facilitation method suggested by Emmaus International</u> This guide is the result of a long process stemming from the 2016 World Assembly. The process aimed to reframe international solidarity and explain how it fuels our campaigning work.</p> <p>The Movement's groups pledged in Jesolo to give a fresh boost to international solidarity in order to address extreme poverty and raise the profile of Emmaus</p>	<p>👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>

	<p>International's struggles, which reflect the values and principles of action formalised in the 5th key text adopted at the 2016 World Assembly.</p> <p>A process lasting a year and a half, involving elected representatives from the four EI regions, was put in place, with several stated objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More effectively explain international solidarity in Emmaus. - Ensure that the values championed by the movement and the solidarity initiatives are in keeping with each other. - More effectively analyse the impact of our solidarity initiatives. - Showcase the meaningful nature of these initiatives in order to bolster our campaigns. <p>At the same time as the guide is sent out, in the next few days a new website will be launched aimed at groups wishing to benefit from movement solidarity. Groups submitting projects for funding will do so based on the 10 principles of action presented in the guide.</p>	
<p>5. Solidarity at the Forum for Alternatives (Geneva 2018)</p>	<p><u>Feedback from the Forum for Alternatives</u></p> <p>The idea of providing a review of the Forum for Alternatives (17-20 September 2018 in Geneva) was raised.</p> <p>It was stressed that some European groups did not get involved in the event.</p>	<p>👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>
<p>6. European annual solidarity programme - 2018 Practical and financial support</p>	<p><u>2018 European solidarity programme. Progress report on 31 August 2018</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ukraine initiative</u> <u>Nasha Khata</u> Support the group's farming work. ✍️ <u>Application for €1,150 fully funded.</u> Purchase of a minibus ✍️ <u>Application for €8K fully funded.</u> Support the organisation's work by paying the salaries. ✍️ <u>Application for €9K fully funded.</u> <p>The three initiatives have been rolled out and the group will submit the financial reports in the near future.</p> <p><u>Emmaus Oselya</u> Expand Oselya's sorting and storage capacity. ✍️ <u>Application for €74K</u></p> <p>The group has found a plot of land and the purchase process is underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Romania initiative</u> <u>Emmaus Iasi</u> First phase of the project to set up an educational farm on the Belvédère plot of farmland. 	<p>👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>

 **Application for €49,360**

The last permit is expected to be issued by October. Winter will put a stop to the work, which will begin in spring.

2018 European initiatives supported by the annual international solidarity programme and the Fondation Abbé Pierre (FAP) programme

• **Romania initiative**

Frères Europa

Micro-credit for companion housing.

 **Funded by the FAP - funding amount €24,500**

The FAP has approved the project. Building work has been postponed until spring, so the agreement is pending.

• **Italy initiative**

Emmaus Quarrata

New heating system for the community.

 **Funded by the FAP - funding amount €25K**

The FAP has approved the project. The group needs to get in touch to finalize the agreement.

• **Poland initiative**

Emmaus Lublin

Build a new shop.

 **Funded by the international solidarity programme - funding amount €73,290**

The agreement with EI has been signed and the plot of land has been purchased using the loan. The admin work is underway, and the bank transfer will be requested when the group is ready to start work.

2018 regional sales

The Region 8 sale took place on 9 September 2018 in Metz in France. Willi **DOES**, Théo **ROBIN** and Marie **TIXIER** took part. The profits will be shared out as follows:
- Allocation of 40% (roughly €16K) to European solidarity, with the breakdown to be specified at a later date.

The Dijon big sale was held on 15 September 2018. Willi **DOES**, Gabriela **MARTIN**, Clara **De Preville**, and Véronica **Acevedo-Caro** took part. It was a circular and solidarity economy-themed sale. The profits will be shared out as follows:
- 50% to Emmaus Europe for Oselya in Ukraine.
- 50% for local solidarity, developing housing for companions in Autun (Etang).

👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.

👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.

	<p><u>Launch of the 2019 solidarity programmes</u> A call for projects to be funded by the 2019 programme was made in early October 2018.</p> <p>These projects will be examined by the European geographical collectives and the next regional executive so that they can be rubberstamped at the next regional council and by the relevant EI and FAP governing bodies.</p> <p><u>2018 European transport programme</u> The meeting looked at the 2018 planned transport programme table. It was observed that many loads are criss-crossing Europe. It was mentioned that lorry loads are shared out unequally across Europe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
<p>7. European geographical collectives</p>	<p><u>Romania Collective</u> The Romania Collective will meet on 23-4 October 2018 in Cambridge in the UK.</p> <p><u>Poland / Ukraine Collective</u> The next meeting of the Poland / Ukraine Collective will be held on 13 – 14 November 2018 in Lublin in Poland.</p> <p><u>Bosnia Collective</u> The next Bosnia Collective will be held on 21-2 November 2018 at Val-de-Brie Insertion in France.</p> <p>These three meetings will constitute an opportunity to take stock of the geographical collectives now that they have been running for over a decade, and to discuss any potential changes to them.</p> <p>- <u>Bosnia collective representative</u> A proposal was made to the Regional Council to co-opt Michael "Spike" Hudson as the Bosnia Collective representative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. The Regional Council voted unanimously to co-opt Michael "Spike" Hudson as the Bosnia Collective representative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 19 votes ✗ Against: No votes ● Abstentions: No votes
<p>8. Migration and human trafficking collective</p>	<p><u>Feedback about the meeting on 20-3 June 2018</u> The meeting of the Migration and Human Trafficking collective was held on 20-23 June 2018 in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.</p> <p>The working group focused on the refusal to welcome migrants to Europe and its repercussions, notably with regard to human trafficking and agreements between the EU and neighbouring third countries.</p> <p>Thanks to the mobilisation of Emmaus activists in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, all the European Emmaus groups met up and discussed how to defend the right to human dignity for migrants.</p> <p>We can only make our voice heard if we step up our work and draw on our own experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.

	<p>European Citizens' Initiative For the record, EE has joined the ECI to call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An end to the crime of solidarity. - Support for citizens who are offering a home and new life to refugees. - More effective resources and regulations to defend all victims of exploitation and criminality. <p>As of late September 2018, 90,000 signatures had been collected in Europe. One million need to be collected by February 2019.</p>	<p>👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>
<p>9. 2019 European Parliament elections</p>	<p>EE's stance: September 2018 - it is time to assert democratic values. In 2019, Emmaus wants the European Parliament, Europe's only democratically-elected institution, to be a solid counterweight to the European Commission.</p> <p>We, the members of Emmaus Europe, call on the prospective MEPs to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An environmentally-friendly European policy that promotes the common good and commonly-held assets. - A more inclusive and social economic policy. - A more humane European migration policy. <p>ADVOCACY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to be careful about group visits/invitations to Emmaus Europe events extended to candidates who in no way share Emmaus' values, but who would win votes by appearing with Emmaus members (in countries in which Emmaus Europe has political capital). - All candidates must be asked about their views on the rights of each human being and on the ideals of a united, solidarity-based Europe, with a pacifying role in response to all sorts of conflict. - <u>A suggestion has been made by Nathalie Martz to produce a video with the help of someone from her team at Emmaüs Solidarité during November.</u> The idea would be to record personal accounts and plans/concrete initiatives run by different communities and groups. This could be an interesting option. <p>WHAT STRATEGY FOR A BETTER IMPACT? Some of the ideas put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce an elections kit. - Organize roundtables in the groups prior to the elections. - Update the human rights website and the posters. - Use of Twitter and a fresh approach, while being aware of the amount of work this involves on a daily basis. - Undertake a citizen consultation exercise at the end of 2018. - Lobby the Heads of State in Sibiu in Romania on 9 May 2019. - Produce a poster representing human rights expressing the assertion that everyone has rights and not just some people. 	<p>The proposed position paper was unanimously approved by the Regional Council:</p> <p>✓ For: 19 votes ✗ Against: no votes ● Abstentions: no votes</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting at the European Parliament - Publicise the Civic Forum's campaign: https://megacampaign.eu 	
<p>10. Sustainable development Solidarity and circular economy.</p>	<p>The publication of the framework waste directive is being monitored. EE is analysing and explaining the content (themed and chronological summary and comparison of EE's amendments with the definitive wording).</p> <p>These circular economy strategies are being implemented by the national delegates or national governing bodies based on the issues/priorities in the country (focus on a handful of countries for the national transposition phase).</p> <p>The intention is to update the position paper based on the discussions with the working group (overview of the assertions for 2019 and 2024).</p> <p>A poster and a document explaining the circular economy terminology were produced in September 2018 and were sent to all the European groups.</p> <p>Work has got underway on identifying European groups who would potentially get involved in an environmental practices knowledge exchange programme. Objective criteria such as the following are being used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising the awareness of members of the RCEE and group stakeholders <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Circular economy terminology 1.2. Poster 2. Advocacy and lobbying at the European and national levels <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Amendments with a view to the adoption of the Circular Economy Package. 2.2. Position paper with a view to national transposition. 3. Identifying group practices and know-how <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Exchange programme 3.2. Visual and written atlas. <p>A proposal was made for the next Regional Council of 2019 to have a day focusing on diversifying initiatives in the Emmaus groups on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The circular economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collecting unwanted goods. - Waste recovery - Shop design - Waste tracking and traceability. - Environmental practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy - Farming/food - Water - Housing - Waste 	<p>👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>

	<p>- Advocacy, networks and communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise public awareness - Lobby politicians. - Take part in local, regional and national networks. <p>This proposal was made so that the national delegates can present one of these 12 topics and their groups' innovative initiatives at the next Regional Council in 2019.</p>	
<p>11. Network-based working</p>	<p><u>Update on the EAPN membership process</u> Emmaus Europe's application for full membership was submitted to the EAPN general assembly on 29 September 2018 in Vienna in Austria. Gabriela Martin and Michael Spike Hudson took part.</p> <p><u>CEES (EUROPE & SOCIAL ECONOMY CIRCLE)</u> Gabriela MARTIN is taking part in the monthly meetings with European policymakers. Jean-Philippe LEGAUT is taking part in the Unite2Care platform.</p> <p>Emmaus Europe's regular participation in the CEES meetings will come to an end when Gabriela Martin's contract finishes in December.</p> <p>A proposal was made to ask Gabriela Martin and Jean-Philippe Legaut to take part in the upcoming CEES meetings as our representatives.</p> <p>The participatory contribution to the Unite2Care platform was discussed at the last meeting of the CEES in September 2019, with it being stated that Emmaus Europe does not have the same level of resources as the other members. Following talks, it was agreed that EE would pay an annual contribution of €500.</p>	<p>👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously voted to give Gabriela Martin and Jean-Philippe Legaut a mandate to take part in the upcoming CEES and Unite2Care platform meetings: ✓ For: 20 votes ✗ Against: No votes ● Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved in a vote the participatory contribution of €500 to the Unite2Care platform. ✓ For: 20 votes ✗ Against: No votes ● Abstentions: No votes</p>
<p>12. Elections (current term of office)</p>	<p><u>Vote to elect new CEI - current term of office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marie-France BEDLEEM, France - Simon GRAINGE, UK. - Martha HANNUS, Finland - John HARRISON, UK 	<p><u>The elected CEI are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marie-France BEDLEEM, France: 16 votes - Martha HANNUS, Finland: 17 votes - John HARRISON, UK: 16 votes <p><u>The following candidate was not elected:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simon Grainge: 11 votes
<p>13. 2019 RAEE</p>	<p><u>2019 RAEE - Update on arrangements</u> The next regional assembly will be held on Sunday 27 October – 1 November 2019 at the University of San Sebastian, which has capacity for 330 delegates.</p> <p>A deposit has not yet been requested to secure the booking. A contract specifying the terms and conditions of the service has not yet been drafted. The booking needs to be made by February 2019 at the latest.</p> <p><u>2019 regional assembly facilitator</u> The secretariat was asked to approach Peter Woodward at the April 2018 executive in order to enquire about his availability and ask him about his fee.</p>	<p>Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p> <p>👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>

	<p>Mr Woodward has agreed to act as the 2019 regional assembly facilitator.</p> <p><u>Preliminary programme & budget</u> The preliminary programme was presented. It was stressed that the extraordinary assembly needs to be planned in the middle of the programme in order to enable participants to attend and reach a quorum.</p> <p>The budget for the assembly was also presented. Information about additional overnight stays is lacking at the present time. Eduardo will let the EE secretariat know as soon as he has the information.</p> <p><u>Update on the workshops</u> The workshops were discussed. The idea of setting up a working group on the following topics was mooted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration - The circular economy - Solidarity and collectives. - Networks and partners. <p><u>List of public figures sounded out so that we can send out invitations</u> Willi DOES is thinking of inviting Martin Schulz, the former president of the European Parliament, and of checking whether he is available.</p> <p>It has also been suggested that Thomas Piketty, the French economist, should be invited again. He was unable to attend in 2015 because he had just presented his new book. A proposal was also made to invite Pablo Servigne, for his work on cooperation and mutual support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁️ Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
<p>14. 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>Italian organisation: Palermo</u> Founded in 2015 following a summer camp in Palermo in partnership with LIBERA and other local organisations. The community is located in a villa confiscated from the mafia and is in the outskirts of Palermo (Sicily). <p>The charity shop is located in a building in the former Palermo Exhibition Ground. The council has verbally authorised the group to use the building.</p> <p>Emmaus Cuneo is mentoring Palermo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Croatian organisation: TOMS</u> Association of people with physical disabilities founded in 1988. The association is located in Trogir on the Adriatic Coast in southern Croatia. <p>TOMS has two small offices in the town centre, a building with two rooms for therapeutic activities, meetings etc with the members slightly outside the town centre, and ground floor premises in a bigger building for a kindergarten and its</p>	<p>The Regional Council unanimously approved Palermo's trial/full membership application to join Emmaus International/Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>✓ For: 17 votes ✗ Against: No votes ● Abstentions: No votes</p> <p>The Regional Council approved in a majority vote TOMS' trial/full membership application to join Emmaus International/Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>✓ For: 12 votes ✗ Against: One vote ● Abstentions: Four votes</p>

	<p>therapeutic activities (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy). All of these buildings are provided by the local council in return for a symbolic rent.</p> <p>The organisation's professionals also work with children with disabilities to facilitate their integration into mainstream education. They work in close partnership with teachers and parents.</p> <p>The association places a special emphasis on elderly people. The local districts in which the association works are small and the volunteers know a lot of people. To prevent institutionalisation, the association provides "home help" but also helps people with disabilities in institutions to enjoy activities in the community.</p> <p>The association has developed a riding for the disabled site aimed at children with disabilities on a plot of land donated by a hotel owner. The site is managed by volunteers.</p> <p>The association has managed to convince Trogir council to adapt some public spaces to meet the needs of people with disabilities, notably providing disabled access to the beach and the sea.</p> <p>Hamzalija OKANOVIC, Sabina ARNAUT-JAHIC, International Solidarity Forum, Gabriela MARTIN, chief executive, and Hans VAN BEEK, representatives of Emmaus Europe, paid a visit to the group on 10-12 September 2018.</p> <p>The ISF is the group mentoring TOMS.</p> <p><u>Emmaus International / Emmaus Europe simplified membership procedure</u> The framework for these applications is the simplified membership procedure put in place by Emmaus International with Emmaus France in 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRI D'UNION • EMRA • SOS FAMILLES BOURG EN BRESSE • SOS FAMILLES COURS SUR LOIRE • SOS FAMILLES ESSONNE <p><u>Termination of Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe membership</u> The following no longer belong to the Movement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmaus Bjorka, Sweden. • Emmaus Breda, Netherlands. • Emmaus Charleroi, Belgium. 	<p>👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p> <p>👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.</p>
<p>15. Other items and closing round table session</p>	<p><u>Launch of the working groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European elections working group Nathalie MARTZ, Maryse FAURE and Marie-France BEDLEEM volunteered to form this working group. The group will be supported by Marie TIXIER from the EE Secretariat while awaiting the arrival of the new chief executive. - Advocacy committee Nathalie Martz and Maryse Faure will take part in the advocacy committees. 	<p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the launch of the working groups by giving a mandate to the elected representatives who have volunteered to take part.</p> <p>✓ For: 17 votes</p> <p>✗ Against: No votes</p> <p>• Abstentions: No votes</p>

	<p>- Bolstering the working group in the run-up to the Regional Assembly Eduardo SANCHEZ, Willi DOES, Sue TAYLOR, Maryse FAURE, Martha HANNUS and Marie TIXIER.</p> <p><u>Date of the next Regional Council of Emmaus Europe</u> The following date was suggested for the 2019 meeting: - 27 February - 2 March 2019, venue to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Bolstering the Regional Executive</u> Michael Spike Hudson has been asked to join the executive.</p> <p><u>Final roundtable session</u> 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.</p> <p>The president once again thanked Gabriela Martin who is finishing working for Emmaus Europe in late 2018, and he also thanked the staff at Certosa Conference Centre for hosting the meeting, and Franco Monicchi, for their warm welcome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken. 👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
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As there were no further items on the agenda, the President closed the meeting.

Willi **DOES**
President of Emmaus Europe

Silvana **NOGAROLE**
Secretary of Emmaus Europe

Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE)
18-20 October 2018 in Turin in Italy

NATIONS ROUND-TABLE SESSION

Presentations delivered by the national delegates on the following five issues:

1. How many Emmaus groups / communities in the country?
2. Latest news / changes in the groups?
3. How are the groups working on the Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe themes?
4. Latest social, economic and political events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE.
5. Are you aware of initiatives being taken to handle the issue of migration? How do you list them?

<p>PORTUGAL Délia Resende Clément</p>	<p>There are two Emmaus groups in Portugal: Caneças and Porto.</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.</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>ITALY Marie Balseca</p>	<p>1. There are 19 Italian groups.</p> <p>2. <u>General points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavily involved in the issue of migration because of the political context which has been made extremely difficult and rigid by Salvini, Italy's Minister of the Interior. <p><u>Specific points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmaus Palermo continues to involve a large number of young volunteers in the summer camps (80 participants in total) and continues to focus on helping migrants. <p>The villa confiscated from the mafia and located on the outskirts of Palermo was officially inaugurated on 20 July 2018. It is home to five companions and power is supplied by <i>ènostra</i> (a co-operative energy supplier that sells renewable and sustainable energy).</p> <p>A community that works with an extensive network of associations.</p> <p>3. Advocacy work focuses on combating the rise of the far right in Italy (Lega Nord party) and raising awareness about supporting migrants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took part in the Migration Collective in Bosnia (June 2018). • Took part in the March for Peace from Perugia to Assisi (October 2018). • Emmaus Italy continues to support The Aquarius (search and rescue ship), and all the campaigns to rescue and help migrants. • Partnership with the Mediterranean awareness raising and monitoring initiative Emmaus Italy has decided to support and join forces with the NGOs and non-profits (Arcinazionale, Ya Basta Bologna, Sea-Watch, the online magazine I Diavoli and the social enterprise Moltivolti di Palermo) which began making arrangements in July for an

	<p>Italian ship (Mediterranea) to be bought in order to undertake an act of civil disobedience against the nationalist discourse and to defend international law which states that saving lives at sea is mandatory. This is the first mission in international waters solely organized by Italy.</p> <p>The project is being supported politically and financially by Nichi Vendola and three MEPs (Nicola Fratoianni, Erasmo Palazzotto and Rossella Muroli).</p> <p>4. Salvini (Lega Nord) has been in power since 4 March 2018. The socio-political climate is worrying. A large swathe of the middle classes adheres to the Minister of the Interior's neo-fascist ideas. The number of migrants arriving in Italy has dropped significantly. The emergency is deemed to be over. The Salvini decree of 4 October 2018 (<i>Decreto Salvini</i> number 113) makes provision for urgent measures on international protection, migration and public security, and bolsters the Ministry of the Interior. The decree's provisions include abolishing humanitarian protection, revoking refugee status, increasing detention periods in repatriation centres, increasing the budget for deportations, and a series of measures criminalising "opponents" of the Salvini laws (prison sentences for groups blocking public roads, arming the police with tasers and so on). This is very concerning for non-profit networks that champion social rights.</p>
<p>BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Sabina Arnaut Jahic</p>	<p>Emmaus groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina 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>Latest news / changes in the groups 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>The circular economy Businesses have been involved in reuse and recycling for 15 years. Some groups could replicate this initiative. Collection points have been created but collected items cannot be sold.</p>
<p>UKRAINE Grigory Semenchuk</p>	<p>Emmaus Oselya is continuing its work. We have 18 adult companions and two teenagers, nine employees and up to 10 regular volunteers. The main income-generating activity is collecting used goods from textile donation containers located throughout the city.</p> <p>We now have 23 containers. Every week, we collect around 10 tonnes of textiles. We also collect furniture and household goods from people's homes. Recently, one of our trucks broke down and required very costly repairs.</p> <p>Emmaus Oselya does not receive container loads and relies solely on local collections. Another issue that we have encountered with textiles collections is that we are no longer able to sell poor quality clothing for recycling.</p> <p>Apparently, some recycling plants are no longer operating. This means that we have lost another source of income and that we have to transport poor quality clothing to the refuse bins. At the present time, we are only able to sell jeans and cotton clothing. We have sold 18 tonnes in 2018. However, we continue to sell paper, metal and plastic.</p> <p>The purchase of the plot of land for the warehouse should be completed next month. Supporting the poor remains our priority.</p>

	<p>Nasha Khata There are 40 companions including two families at Nasha Khata. They are developing the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carpentry - they have finished repairing the first part of the woodwork. -They have increased the amount of wattle in the winter months. -They undertake solidarity work: once a week, we serve free dinners to needy people. -They organise a Christmas meal for needy people. Close to 100 people attended. -They are discussing the idea of selling second-hand clothing in Drohobych by arranging street sales and by increasing the number of textile collection containers. Negotiations are ongoing with the local authorities about funding the members of Nasha Khata. <p>-They are talking again with the local authorities about the council premises that could be used for community activities. The main aims and issues that they wish to address this year: they are going to expand their farming work, particularly pig farming. This means that we need to undertake the repair work at our own expense. They are undertaking active awareness-raising campaigns by applying for various sources of funding.</p> <p>We have included in the budget the cost of repairing the second part of the woodwork and the roof, but the money has not yet been found. They are actively seeking sponsors for the repair work.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">POLAND Grzegorz Hajduk</p>	<p>Regarding the political context in Poland, the government comprises populists, members of the far right and anti-EU parties. Emmaus groups in Poland 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. However, the group is starting to pay off its debt.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA Gélu Nichitel</p>	<p>1. How many Emmaus groups / communities in the country? There are three Emmaus groups in Romania: Iasi, Satu Mare and Targu Jiu.</p> <p>2. Latest news / changes in the groups? Emmaus Iasi has experienced a number of changes and new arrivals/initiatives:</p> <p>⇒ Team news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dana, a social worker, arrived in October 2017. - Laurentiu left in March 2018; he was the former co-leader at Iasi and a social worker. - Adrian, the co-leader at Popesti, left in April 2018. - Simon, a psychologist, arrived in October 2018. -Loredana, an outreach social worker, arrived in October 2018. -Leïla (civic service volunteer), was promoted to the post of Popesti co-leader in October 2018. <p>⇒ Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to build a second-hand store and a third residential centre on the Belvédère plot close to Iasi. - Practically all the planning permission needed to start the building work has been obtained. - Work is scheduled to start in spring 2019. - Popesti: arrival in October 2018 of a herd of goats, the group is starting to produce cheese. - Outreach programme: resumption in October with the new social worker, and a mobile team, made up of a companion and an occasional volunteer. - Partners: looking for a new restaurant in addition to ÎnCuib to prepare the soup distributed when doing outreach work.

	<p><i>Christmas on the Streets</i> event with a new financial partner since last Christmas: ASEMDPV, the association of parents of medical and dentistry students in Iasi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trucks: 20 truck loads in 2018, mainly from Swiss and French Emmaus communities. A further four loads are expected to arrive before the end of the year. <p>3. How are the groups working on the Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe themes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively involved in international meetings to debate EI and EE topics (took part in the Migration Collective and the Forum for Alternatives). - Set up and arrange on a twice yearly basis the Romania Collective which enables the groups to link up with EE and EI and to debate socio-political issues. <p>4. Latest social, economic and political events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October 2018: referendum to approve the ban on gay marriage. The referendum was a failure due to the low turnout. - In 2018: new social law, all NGOs must have training centres. - Amendment of the social law on NGO transparency: NGOs must now meet social criteria and have a professional team comprising several social workers, a psychologist, and a centre administrator. <p>5. Are you aware of initiatives being taken to handle the issue of migration? How do you list them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration in Romania: project to welcome roughly 1,500 people and build reception centres but very little transparency and information about the conditions governing their arrival and how they will be housed. Romania is viewed as a transit country by migrants. - Emigration from the country: the second highest rate of emigration in Europe. No political measures are being taken to encourage Romanians to stay. Social welfare is extremely limited.
<p>NETHERLANDS Jos Van Der Meer</p>	<p>There is little activity in the federation. Most of the groups are busy with their local social initiatives and their own affairs.</p> <p>Emmaus Domstad and Emmaus Haarzuilens are involved in the circular economy in Utrecht. Sustainability and the circular economy are key topics for the city.</p> <p>As ever, more parties are needed to form a coalition.</p>
<p>BELGIUM Julio de la Granja</p>	<p>1 - Emmaus groups in Belgium: La Poudrière - consists of three residential and working communities with 50 people in three regions of the country - Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders. Two small traditional communities are also located in Wallonia (Mons and Charleroi), each with fewer than 10 companions. Each group is independent and undertakes its own initiatives.</p> <p>2. Latest news and changes in the groups. In Lodelinsart (Charleroi) the community has closed down because there are no more companions or volunteers on the site. I am requesting that the community's membership of EE and EI is revoked.</p> <p>The 10th youth camp was held at La Poudrière in August and attracted 11 young people from six countries. La Poudrière celebrated its 60th anniversary at Rummen Farm in September.</p>

	<p>3 - How are the groups working on EI/EE issues? Only La Poudrière works actively with EI and EE: youth camps, big sales in Lille and Paris etc. Only La Poudrière has an ethical bank account (with Tridos).</p> <p>4 - The current right-wing Belgian government is developing a highly liberal policy, which does not make the life of workers easy and equally does not help address poverty.</p> <p>5 - Migration: Just like everywhere else in Europe, migration policy in Belgium is a chaotic nonsense. The government wants to open increasing numbers of detention centres in order to deport migrants to their home countries. Families with children have not had to stay in detention centres over the past few years. However, in 2018 the government opened a detention centre close to Brussels airport to lock up families with children, despite strong opposition from civil society. As a matter of fact, since the closure of the Calais Jungle in France, many migrants are trying to cross to the UK from Belgian ports.</p>
<p>SWEDEN Lottah-Mathilda Ölund</p>	<p>Emmaus groups in Sweden: there are four-member groups in the country although two are trial members. 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>
<p>UK Sue Taylor</p>	<p>1. How many Emmaus groups/communities exist in your country? UK has 33-member groups of which 29 are communities providing accommodation for approximately 800 companions.</p> <p>2. News and groups/changes Traditionally UK groups have received a supported housing subsidy from the government to help support and run the communities. Over the last two years this has been under threat as the government were aiming to reform funding to supported housing providers. This would have had a significant impact on the level of funding Emmaus communities were able to access after April 2020, with overall income for 29 communities across the UK being reduced by up to one third and a very real and critical threat to many of their futures and viability.</p> <p>The government has recently decided to stop its reforms and has reversed its decision.</p> <p>Emmaus groups will still be able to claim the subsidy. The UK communities will now be in a more stable position. It is disappointing that the government has taken more than two years to reach this conclusion as we have had to spend time developing plans to mitigate against these major changes, which are no longer happening. This has been a very important lesson for the groups about the value of being financially self-sufficient. Our priority now is to focus on developing our services so we can help even more people who are experiencing homelessness and social exclusion.</p> <p>3. How the groups treat the issues related to Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe? Getting UK groups involved in EI/EE matters is still difficult even more so over the last two years with the housing subsidy reforms threatening the survival of many communities, but there are some good signs. There are regular EE/EI news updates being sent out to communities and an increase in sharing overseas events and campaigns. The UK Assembly invited the President of EI to attend and activities and projects in EE/EI were promoted. The 'founding texts' have been circulated to remind people of the values of the Movement. Three groups attended the Forum of Alternatives, the Romanian collective is being held in the UK, containers are being sent, regular visits to Calais continue and there are two more representatives from UK groups seeking election as Councillors of Emmaus International.</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 continues to be the main feature of the government and media on a daily basis since the vote. The potential failure of the Brexit negotiations and unsettled politics may also pose a risk to world economic growth, according to the International Monetary Fund.

There has been some good news however; the government has published its Rough Sleeping Strategy and this sets out plans to deliver on its commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and to end it entirely by 2027. The strategy has three core pillars – prevention, intervention and recovery – and is based on a principle of *repaid rehousing*. This aims to ensure that anyone new to rough sleeping or threatened with rough sleeping has their needs assessed quickly and is helped rapidly into a home, along with the provision of appropriate support.

To give some context, there are more than 5,000 people sleeping rough across England. Rough sleeping has increased by 169% since 2010 and that number is expected to increase further.

Street homelessness is just one aspect of the current crisis as over 78,000 households were accepted as homeless last year and were added to housing waiting lists. There are already over 1.1 million people on housing waiting lists and only 290,000 homes were made available last year leaving a national shortfall in England of 800,000 homes.

A shortage of social housing and the lack of affordable private rental homes mean that many local authorities are having to place families and individuals in temporary accommodation. This includes bed and breakfast rooms with shared cooking and toilet facilities.

There are almost 80,000 households in temporary accommodation, a surge of 64% since 2010. The cost of providing temporary accommodation has risen 56% in five years with 290 councils spending nearly £1 billion and the government spending £3 billion on housing subsidy.

The government are pledging £9 billion in affordable homes including £2 billion to help councils and housing associations build properties for social rent. 357,000 new affordable properties have been delivered since 2010 whereas many suggest that 300,000 homes need to be built every year to meet demand.

The long-awaited green paper on social housing, which has been developed in the wake of last year's Grenfell Tower tragedy, was published in August. The paper proposes increasing the powers of the regulator to ensure quality standards are met within the social housing sector. This would include league tables assessing housing associations against a series of key performance indicators. It also puts forward measures to empower social housing residents to tackle rogue landlords. In addition, the paper proposes new shared ownership schemes for social housing tenants to offer a "springboard" into home ownership, along with initiatives to tackle the stigma and stereotypes that are perceived to be connected with living in social housing. Previous policies to force councils to sell off their highest value social homes have been reversed. Although the paper promises to boost supply of social housing, the strategy has been extensively criticised for not going nearly far enough as it is not accompanied by any new funding for house building. The government has opened a consultation on its proposals, which will run until 6 November.

Social Enterprise UK has published new research looking at the contribution the social enterprise sector makes to the UK economy. [The Hidden Revolution](#), finds that the social enterprise sector is much larger than previously estimated: if larger social enterprises such

as building societies and cooperatives are included in the analysis, there are around 100,000 social enterprises in the UK, employing two million people and contributing £60 billion to the UK's gross domestic product (GDP). This represents 3% of UK GDP, three times the size of the agriculture industry, and 5% of employment – as many jobs as the creative industries sector. New social enterprises are being set up at three times the rate of conventional businesses.

The report argues that as a result social enterprise should be considered as part of mainstream thinking around policymaking and economic strategies. It proposes ways in which the government can support the growth of social enterprise and accelerate a more inclusive economy.

5. Are you aware of initiatives being taken to handle the issue of migration? How do you list them?

At local level UK groups show solidarity to migrants by offering solidarity beds and support other local organisations that support refugees and asylum seekers. Many UK groups work with local food banks which provide supplies to low income households such as migrants and asylum seekers.

There is very little interest in campaigning on migration issues.

At a national level, the government has announced new measures to reduce migration and actively removing undocumented people from the country.

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Ending Homelessness [has published the findings](#) of the second year of its inquiry into preventing and relieving homelessness. Emmaus UK is a member of the steering group of the APPG and Simon Grainge, Chief Executive, attended the launch of the report at the Houses of Parliament on behalf of Emmaus.

This year's work focused on groups who face significant practical barriers to exiting homelessness – migrants and young people – and rapid rehousing approaches that can be used to support those with low-level needs to exit homelessness quickly. Rapid housing models focus on quick access to secure, permanent accommodation, along with a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. There are various models of rapid rehousing that can be effective depending on a person's individual circumstances and level of support needs. Housing First focuses on delivering support to people with complex needs; Critical Time Intervention (CTI) can be used to help people access housing during a period of transition (e.g. leaving care); and Help to Rent schemes can be effectively applied to support those with low to medium support needs access and sustain private rented accommodation.

The report includes a series of recommendations for policy makers, and those referring to migrants include:

- Civil legal aid for immigration cases should be reinstated to ensure all migrants have access to justice.
- The no recourse to public funds condition should not be imposed on vulnerable groups, including care leavers, victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery, and migrants applying for leave to remain under the family/private life rules
- New duties requiring immigration checks as part of renting a property or opening bank accounts should be scrapped
- The 28 day 'move-on' period for people granted refugee status to leave Home Office accommodation should be extended to 56 days

Crisis and Homeless Link jointly commissioned economic and policy researchers WPI Economics to scope the possible impact of Brexit on homelessness. Trying to predict the precise impact of Brexit on homelessness is impossible at this stage. However, the scoping work identified four key factors that will influence how Brexit could affect homelessness and the experience of people that are homeless:

- Immigration status and rights
- Access to housing, healthcare, employment and homelessness services
- Funding for homelessness prevention and relief
- The bigger picture

Immigration status and rights

European nationals who arrived in the country before March 29, 2019 will need to apply for one of two types of status by no later than June 30 2021:

- Settled status if they have already exercised treaty rights (i.e. lived continuously in the UK) for five years or more; or
- A temporary residence permit if they have exercised treaty rights for under five years.

It will be mandatory to hold one of these two statuses and it will be necessary for all EU citizens to apply – the statuses will not be automatically conferred.

Although the UK government has promised a “streamlined, quick and user-friendly” process for applying for the new statuses, concerns remain as to whether various groups of EU citizens will in practice be able to fulfil the requirements. Homeless EU citizens, or EU citizens who have experienced homelessness while in the UK, are a key group that could face difficulties, for a number of reasons:

- EU nationals, and particularly those who are homeless, may not make an application at all. This may be because they are unaware of the need to do so, fear being rejected, are mistrustful of interacting with officials, or are unable to afford the £65 fee;
- The fact that the application process is expected to be solely available online may prove a barrier for EU nationals who are homeless with no internet access or low computer literacy;
- Many homeless people may not be able to produce the required documentation, e.g. proof of when they arrived in the country or of their work history.

This points to a risk that some EU nationals currently may ‘fall into’ illegal status post-2021, meaning that they would not legally be able to work, rent a home or access non-emergency healthcare services. Ineligibility for housing benefit/ Universal Credit would also mean that they would be unable to access emergency accommodation, and this, along with a fear of being deported simply by interacting with officials, could push vulnerable EU nationals further from support – simultaneously worsening their position and putting them at greater risk of abuse or exploitation.

Providing immigration advice is a regulated activity, meaning that anyone dispensing legal advice on immigration who is not registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner could be committing a criminal offence. This could limit the ability of homelessness organisations to advise clients, or risk them inadvertently breaking the law.

Access to housing, healthcare, employment and homelessness services

Housing supply

The reliance of the construction industry on EU labour could have a knock-on effect on house building. It could increase the cost of labour (and therefore of house building), and/or there could be delays in completing construction projects as new workers need to be recruited and trained.

Access to housing and healthcare

We do not yet know what the rights of EU nationals moving to Great Britain after Brexit will be, nor their eligibility for financial and non-financial support, including accessing the benefit system and healthcare. This system will clearly be crucial for the future risk of homelessness, especially as a lack of entitlement to Housing Benefit prevents access not only to private rented accommodation but also to hostels.

Another factor is how Brexit will interact with the “right to rent” checks under the UK government’s “hostile environment” policy, which requires governmental and private bodies to confirm an individual’s immigration status before offering or providing a wide range of services, including a job, a private tenancy, a bank account, and non-emergency healthcare. There are concerns that ‘right to rent’ already acts as a barrier to accessing private rented housing for homeless people of all nationalities as they may not have access to the necessary documentation to meet the requirements. This could lead to people only be able to rent through landlords who are unconcerned with their legal responsibilities, which clearly risks those tenants having no option but to rent poor-quality or dangerous housing. In addition, however, there is a risk that right to rent could act as a barrier for EU nationals who do legally have the right to rent. This could occur if, for example, residential landlords choose not to conduct right to rent checks and instead let to those who ‘clearly’ would pass the checks if they were conducted, e.g. UK passport holders.

It is not yet known whether current reciprocal healthcare arrangements between the UK and other EU countries will continue after Brexit. An inability to access non-emergency healthcare could pose particular challenges for people who find themselves homeless.

Funding for homelessness prevention and relief

Between 2014 and 2020, the UK is set to receive close to €5bn in funding from the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative. The 2017 Conservative Party Manifesto proposed creating a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to replace current European funding. However, no further information is available at present as to the extent to which this fund will cover homelessness prevention and relief. It appears that the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) will have overall responsibility for the fund but that it will be delivered through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

The bigger picture

The impact of Brexit on the economy will have a significant knock-on effect on levels of homelessness. UK government analysis leaked in early 2018 suggested that under various forms of Brexit, the country is likely to see lower growth over the next 15 years than under current forecasts of between 2% and 8%.

Brexit could also see a large number of UK nationals currently living in the EU find themselves forced to return as they are unable to regularise their immigration status. Some of these people could find themselves at risk of homelessness on their return as they may have limited access to support from the welfare system.

An agenda for the homelessness sector

A national agenda for ending homelessness would likely need to consist of several areas of policy working in tandem, including:

- Providing a new and positive settlement for EU nationals who are homeless and currently struggle to access the support they need;
- Ensuring benefit levels and eligibility (including Housing Benefit and the housing payment within Universal Credit) protect all British residents against homelessness, regardless of nationality;
- Fully support the need for Great Britain to recruit and retain a global workforce;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the supply of affordable and social rent housing; • Greater security and rights for private sector renters; and ultimately • The introduction of a 'right to housing'.
<p>FRANCE Annick Berthier</p>	<p>In France, the Emmaus Movement comprises 300 member organisations subdivided into three arms (known as branches) based on their type of work. There are also 13 trial member groups.</p> <p>Emmaus France is also divided into 10 Emmaus 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.</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>Emmaus France has taken a strong campaigning stance during this period when the new French government’s action is making us wonder how the weakest members of society will survive in France.</p> <p>Since the last regional council, Emmaus France has undertaken the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Campaigning against the housing benefit cut (<i>aide personnalisée au logement</i> – APL in French) and against housing policy in general. – Campaigning against the cut in the number of state-aided contracts. This penalises the people who experience the greatest difficulties finding employment. – Campaigning against the future law on migration. – Campaigning against the Collomb circular which jeopardizes the principle of unconditional shelter and support applied in our groups. – Taking part in the government’s anti-poverty initiative. – Taking part in the government’s circular economy initiative to preserve the solidarity and social dimension. Other work is done on a daily basis without actually making headline news. Examples include promoting alternatives to custodial sentences, integration for prisoners at the end of their sentences, integration of vulnerable groups through housing and so on. <p>However, classic campaign methods are no longer effective because the government is not open to dialogue and compromise. Emmaus France is working to develop other activist-run non-violent campaigning methods targeting civil society.</p> <p>Finally, Emmaus France is developing inter-group solidarity initiatives in its area, specifically for groups supporting refugees. All of these initiatives are run with partners – Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe are our leading partners – and umbrella organisations of associations that share our values.</p>
<p>GERMANY Willi Does</p>	<p>There are four EI member groups. Two trial members are located in Krefeld (Anstoss eV) and another near Cologne in Bergisch-Gladbach (very stable).</p>

	<p>4. A new far right party (Alternative für Deutschland) is now established in the country's parliament. Efforts will be made to set up a coalition of the Christians, neo-liberals and the greens.</p> <p>5. Regarding migration, a recently approved law is making it harder to welcome migrants and refugees. If Germany deems that the country of origin is a safe country, the refugees and migrants are deported back to their home countries.</p>
<p>FINLAND Content submitted by Martha Hannus</p>	<p>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. This will be decided on in the next meeting in the beginning of 2019.</p> <p>2. Latest news:</p> <p>No big changes in the groups.</p> <p>3. All the groups in Finland are working actively with the issue of migration and freedom of movement. The groups supported the WelcomingEurope-campaign, and is also cooperating with an organisation that gives legal aid to refugees and undocumented migrants in Finland. Other things that the groups are doing: the labour pools (Helsinki and Åland) employs migrants and people on temporary stay in Finland, all groups are taking in interns and employing migrants, and are 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> <p>Work to support the Roma has continued to be a theme for the Finnish groups. Emmaus Westervik and Emmaus Åland are supporting E-romnja, a feminist organisation supporting Roma women at a grassroots level. Emmaus Helsinki is supporting a project in Bulgaria.</p> <p>Circular economy continues to be a theme of importance. Also, Emmaus Finland will focus on knowledge building among the groups concerning degrowth and ethical consumption.</p> <p>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 through workshops and lectures.</p> <p>4. Latest events in the country – some highlights</p> <p>Right now, there is a basic income trial going on in Finland. 2000 persons are randomly selected to get 560 euros/month without any particular demands attached to it. The trial finishes at the end of the year and will then be evaluated.</p> <p>The Turku Royal Court disbanded the Nazi organisation Nordic resistance movement in September, due to the fact that they violated the association law. This has sparked an interesting discussion on freedom of expression and freedom of association.</p>

The Government has suggested a law that will clearly worsen job security in Finland, creating differences between employees depending on the size of the company they work for. The Unions want the government to discard the suggestion and has threatened to strike. At the moment it is unclear what will happen.

Another topic during the summer was the Finnish law regulating the rights of trans people. Finland still has a law that demands a trans person to be sterile in order to receive gender confirmatory treatment, which violates several international conventions. Many human rights organisations have protested this, but no changes were made by the Parliament. It is not likely that the conservative government will.

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.