



Minutes of the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (RAEE)

11-12 May 2011 - Paris, France.

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2011 AFTERNOON SESSION

2pm: Opening session of the Ordinary Regional Assembly

ITEM ON THE AGENDA	DISCUSSIONS / DEBATES	DECISIONS
<p>Introductory remarks by Julio de la Granja, president of Emmaus Europe</p>	<p>Julio de la Granja welcomed participants to the 4th Regional Assembly, following on from the October 2009 assembly that positioned Emmaus Europe on the European political stage, in particular due to the organisation attending the European Parliament.</p> <p>He thanked the Emmaus groups that had contributed to preparations and the smooth running of the meeting, and introduced the staff and interns from the Emmaus Europe Secretariat.</p> <p>Julio de la Granja paid tribute to Abbé Pierre and asked the meeting to take time to remember the Emmaus members who had passed away over the past two years.</p> <p>He went over the content of the two days and introduced Simon Grainge, the Regional Assembly moderator, and the members of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe.</p>	

<p>Introductory remarks by Simon Grainge, the Regional Assembly moderator</p>	<p>Simon Grainge invited all the Assembly participants to express their views unreservedly to make for a quality debate.</p>	
<p>Speech delivered by Jean Rousseau, President of Emmaus International</p>	<p>Jean Rousseau hailed the regional dynamic. He commented on the fact that politics, an important work area that the Emmaus Europe Region has chosen to develop, were a central plank of the assembly agenda. This work provides the international Movement with an important basis, as Europe has a key role as an entity in the world.</p> <p>The President of Emmaus International presented the main thrusts of the schedule for the groups for the nine month period leading up to the World Assembly, which is to be held in Anglet on 18-25 March 2012. He stressed that Emmaus International will be receptive to feedback supplied by the groups about the postponement of the World Assembly that had been originally scheduled for October 2011 in Brazil.</p>	
<p>Speech delivered by Jacques Barrot</p> <p>Vice-president of the European Commission from 2004 to February 2010</p> <p>European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs from April 2008 to February 2010</p> <p>Member of the French Constitutional Council since February 2010</p>	<p>Jacques Barrot had been invited to attend the assembly by Emmaus Europe and talked about his experience as the European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs and reviewed the asylum package. He stressed the importance of Emmaus' initiatives and asked Emmaus to tirelessly continue to champion them:</p> <p>Europe is questioning itself: Although there have been successive European Union Councils of Ministers, Cecilia Malmström, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, has still not managed to reach an agreement on the right of asylum, despite the European Parliament's constructive view of the issue.</p> <p>However, Europe would not be Europe if it was not a haven for persecuted people. The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, adopted during the French presidency of the Council of Ministers, plans to implement a Europe of asylum by 2012.</p> <p>A few recent statistics:</p> <p>In 2010, there were 257,800 asylum seekers in the European Union, i.e. 515 asylum seekers for every 1 million inhabitants. France is the European Union state with the most asylum seekers. On average, one-third of asylum applications are approved. There is a need to differentiate between those who have really been persecuted and economic migrants.</p> <p>Implementing the Europe of asylum involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining protection modes, namely the protection enshrined in the Geneva Convention, and subsidiary protection for those who are not entitled to asylum as such but do need protection. • The creation of a support office to provide the necessary expertise on asylum seeker reception conditions. The office has been set up in Malta and should be operational before the summer. It should enable support to be provided for countries experiencing strong migration pressure, particularly Greece. 	

- Progress on the status of long-term residents.
- The Dublin II regulation. The regulation results in asylum seekers being sent back to the first EU country in which they set foot. The European Court of Justice has penalised Belgium for having applied this system by returning an asylum seeker to Greece where it observed that reception conditions were inadequate.
- Some states have therefore stopped sending asylum seekers back to Greece: this is the case for Germany, Finland and Denmark, and, more recently, France.

Moreover, two other issues are currently at a standstill in the Council of Ministers:

- Minimum standards for asylum seeker reception: inadequate in many countries.
- Harmonisation of procedures, which must be upwards harmonisation. This involves humane and receptive treatment for torture victims. Reception staff need suitable training if they are to display this capacity to listen and understand.

There is a need for true European solidarity to prevent countries from isolating themselves. Selfishness has become a widespread phenomenon. Cecilia Malmström has found it extremely difficult to obtain a relocation programme. However, it is vital that protected people are distributed around Europe. It is wrong that an asylum seeker's chance of being granted asylum ranges from 1-65% depending on the country to which they are applying. European asylum policy should take on another dimension: responsibility for receiving migrants must be shared.

The European Refugee Fund has €628 million at the present time. This is not enough to finance a common asylum policy.

There is a need to differentiate between legal and illegal migration.

I am calling on the Emmaus groups to apply pressure in order to promote a 'duty of dialogue'.

Readmission agreements must be accompanied by significant aid packages from Europe.

Tunisia must be supported in its quest to become a democracy, notably in order to ask it to readmit illegal migrants once the situation in the country has stabilised.

The European Court of Justice recently asked for these illegal migrants not to be classed as ordinary prisoners.

It is important to have a positive view of migration because migrants can be an opportunity for progress. We therefore need to shake up national opinions and move away from isolationist attitudes.

This is a fair, and, more than ever before, much-needed combat.

Following on from Jacques Barrot's speech, a debate got underway with the floor.

<p>Approval of the 2011 Regional Assembly agenda</p>	<p>None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the agenda.</p>	<p>Approval of the 2011 Regional Assembly agenda: Adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 126 • Abstentions: 0 • Against: 0 <p>out of 144 voters</p>
<p>Approval of</p>	<p>None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose</p>	<p>Approval of the minutes of the October 2009 Brussels Regional</p>

<p>the minutes of the October 2009 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (Brussels)</p>	<p>the minutes of the October 2009 Brussels Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe.</p>	<p>Assembly: Adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 136 • Abstentions: 0 • Against: 0
<p>The President of Emmaus Europe's report for the October 2009 – April 2011 period</p>	<p>In his report, the president Julio de la Granja referred to European current affairs and Emmaus Europe's own news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political and citizen Europe is currently confronted with internal and external crises, with populations that have been left by the wayside on the continent, and with populations who are experiencing extreme poverty on other continents and who see Europe as an oasis. • Emmaus Europe's three work areas: political lobbying, sustainable development and empowerment. 	<p>Approval of the President of Emmaus Europe's report for the October 2009 – April 2011 period: Adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 134 • Abstentions: 0 • Against: 0
<p>Adoption of the activity report for the October 2009 - April 2011 period</p>	<p>Julio de la Granja presented the main thrusts of the work done since the October 2009 Regional Assembly, notably by the four European collectives, the two world councils and the <i>Lobbying politicians and civil society</i> and <i>Sustainable Development</i> working groups.</p> <p>He also highlighted that in 2010 Emmaus Europe successfully managed to strengthen its links with the groups due to significant efforts made by the Executive and the Secretariat, leading to Emmaus Europe's profile being raised among the groups and improved understanding of its various initiatives.</p> <p>He also commented that, for the first time, the Emmaus Europe groups did not manage to fund all the planned solidarity initiatives.</p>	<p>Approval of the activity report for the October 2009 – April 2011 period: Adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 137 • Abstentions: 1 • Against: 0
<p>Review of Emmaus Europe's 2009 and 2010 annual accounts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmaus Europe's 2009 and 2010 accounts were certified by the auditors and are available for the groups to consult. • The accounts were kept under control over the two financial years: expenditure was consistently kept in line with income. Emmaus Europe made a profit at the end of both financial years. • The European groups are getting better and better at sending their membership dues to the region, and there are currently no plans to review the membership dues scale. • Funding was earmarked in the 2010 financial year for the May 2011 assembly. • With regard to solidarity initiatives, it has been difficult since 2010 to meet the needs expressed by the Collectives. In some cases, certain initiatives cannot even be fully funded. 	<p>The Regional Assembly approved the 2009 and 2010 annual accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 137 • Abstentions: 1 • Against: 0

4pm: Adjournment of the Ordinary Regional Assembly

4.30pm: Opening of the Extraordinary Regional Assembly

<p style="text-align: center;">Amendment of Emmaus Europe's statutes</p>	<p>The assembly members voted on the compilation of proposed amendments to the Emmaus Europe statutes made at the 15 October 2010 Regional Council and sent to them in advance so that they could prepare for this session.</p>	<p>✍ Section II AIM AND OBJECTIVES Article 3 - Aim <i>Addition</i> "...as defined by article 55 of the Emmaus International statutes." Adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 132 • Abstentions: 6 • Against: 1 </p> <p>✍ Section II AIM AND OBJECTIVES Article 4 - Objectives <i>Addition</i> "1. Coordinate the region's Emmaus members organisation." Adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 113 • Abstentions: 12 • Against: 13 </p> <p>✍ Section II AIM AND OBJECTIVES Article 4 - Objectives <i>Addition</i> "3. in order to refer it to the region's members organisation and" Adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 132 • Abstentions: 2 • Against: 5 </p> <p>✍ Section IV- 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Article 15 - Frequency <i>Amendment</i> "It takes place every four years or at any other shorter interval decided by the regional board." Adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 111 • Abstentions: 8 • Against: 24 </p>
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✍ ALL OF THE STATUTES

Amendment

Replace the term “group” with “**member organisation**”.

Adopted:

- For: 87
- Abstentions: 13
- Against: 13

✍ Section IV- 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 25 – Exclusive powers of the ordinary regional assembly

Addition

8. The regional assembly elects the president of Emmaus Europe by a two-thirds majority [...] The mandate can be renewed once.

Adopted:

- For: 138
- Abstentions: 0
- Against: 4

✍ Section IV- 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 25 – Exclusive powers of the ordinary regional assembly

Addition

8. Change 1b) Votes are taken by a show of hands, unless otherwise requested.

Proposal rejected and measure not adopted

✍ Section IV- 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 25 – Exclusive powers of the ordinary regional assembly

New addition

8. Change 1c), the proposed addition becomes: **Votes are taken by a secret ballot.**

Adopted:

- For: 114
- Abstentions: 2
- Against: 1

✍ Section IV- 2. REGIONAL COUNCIL

Article 28 - Members

Amendment

The Regional Council is made up of:

- **The president of Emmaus Europe elected by the regional assembly.**
- The Councillors of Emmaus International (a maximum of **four** councillors per country).

Adopted:

- For: 114
- Abstentions: 7
- Against: 14

✍ Section IV- 3. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

Article 39 – Members and term of office

Addition

- The president elected from among the members of the regional assembly **automatically becomes the president of the Regional Council and Regional Executive.**

Section unanimously adopted

Addition

The Regional Executive has a minimum of three members [...]. Regional Executive members have a four-year mandate, which can be renewed once.

Entire article unanimously adopted

✍ Section IV- 3. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

Article 40: Meetings, decisions and minutes

Amendment

The Regional Executive meets as often as necessary and at least four times a year

Unanimously adopted

✍ Section IV- 3. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

Article 41 - Guests


Amendment

Co-opted members

***In order to more effectively perform its role, the Executive can include a maximum of two people who are not Regional Council members, and who are selected based on their skills and experience in Emmaus Europe. If necessary, the Executive can entrust them with duties.**

Adopted:

- For: 129
- Abstentions: 4
- Against: 4

		<p>*These members can vote at Executive meetings and attend the Regional Council holding a consultative vote. <u>Proposal rejected and measure not adopted</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 30 • Abstentions: 12 • Against: 90 <p>*Their mandate ends at the following regional assembly and can be renewed once. <u>Proposal rejected and measure not adopted</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 66 • Abstentions: 17 • Against: 53 <p>*The Executive decides on a case-by-case basis if the co-opted member should attend all the Executive meetings or only be present for items on the agenda that equate to his or her area of expertise and specific duties. <u>Adopted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 133 • Abstentions: 3 • Against: 0 <p> Section IV- 3. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE <i>Addition of an article</i> Article 46a – End of the president’s mandate The whole article was put to vote. <u>Unanimously adopted</u></p>
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6pm: Closure of the Extraordinary Regional Assembly

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2011 EVENING SESSION

Screening of Olivier Masset-Depasse’s film, *Illégal*.

The film was released in October 2010 (Belgium, Luxembourg and France) and on DVD in March 2011.

An emigrant from Belarus, Tania has been living illegally in Belgium for eight years with her 14 year old son Ivan. Tania is arrested during a police check and is placed in a detention centre. Threatened with deportation, she leaves no stone unturned in her quest to find her son.

This film addresses the issue of foreign nationals being held in detention centres and challenged Emmaus Europe, with the organisation being committed to migrants’ rights and the right of asylum.


Consequently, Emmaus Europe decide to screen the film at the Regional Assembly and, in addition to the assembly participants, invite the Emmaus France and Emmaus International staff from their headquarters, located in Montreuil, France, to attend.

The film’s director, Olivier Masset-Depasse, attended the screening to present his film, and was accompanied by Tommaso Fiorilli, the film’s director of photography.

THURSDAY 12 MAY 2011 MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS

9am – Reopening of the Ordinary Regional Assembly

<p style="text-align: center;">Election of The Councillors of Emmaus International</p> <p style="text-align: center;">World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">World Council on Training and New Generations members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">President of Emmaus Europe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Member of the Wise Persons' Committee</p>	<p>Presentation of the 12 candidates for the posts of Councillor of Emmaus International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gianni Belletti, Comunita Emmaus Ferrara, Italy • Simon Grainge, Emmaus Cambridge, UK • Silvana Nogarole, Comunita Emmaus Villafranca, Italy • Tobias Petersson, The Swallows India Bangladesh, Sweden • Javier Pradini, Emaus San Sebastián, Spain • Dzenana Sabic, International Forum of Solidarity, Bosnia-Herzegovina • Margherita Zilliacus, Emmaus Westervik, Finland • Hans van Beek, Emmaüs Cherbourg, France • Jean Karekezi, Emmaüs Cholet, France • Franck Benoît Puntous, Amis d'Emmaüs Carbonne, France • Gérard Racinne, Emmaüs Reims, France • Eddy Thoreau, Emmaüs Synergie, France <p>Presentation of the four candidates for the World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie France Bedleem, Comité d'Amis d'Emmaüs Armentières, France • Franco Monnicchi, Grupo Emmaus Cuneo, Italy • Jorgen Olsen, GTU, Denmark • Margaret Tuccori, Emmaus Brighton & Hove, UK <p>Presentation of the candidate for the World Council on Training and New Generations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrice Crohin, Emmaüs Bourg en Bresse, France ✎ Tobias Petersson, who was also standing for election as a CEI, withdrew his WCTNG candidature. <p>Presentation of the candidate for the presidency of Emmaus Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julio de la Granja, La Poudrière, Belgium ✎ Emir Nurkic Kacapor withdrew his candidature on 11 May 2011. <p>Presentation of the candidature for the Emmaus International Wise Persons' Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birgitta Göranson Illiste, Föreningen Svalorna, Sweden 	<p>The following were elected as Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gianni Belletti: 137 votes • Simon Grainge: 135 votes • Margherita Zilliacus: 131 votes • Tobias Petersson: 128 votes • Dzenana Sabic: 125 votes • Silvana Nogarole: 124 votes • Javier Pradini: 124 votes • Jean Karekezi: 122 votes • Gérard Racinne: 108 votes • Franck Benoît Puntous: 103 votes • Hans van Beek: 102 votes <p>✎ Eddy Thoreau, the French candidate who received 95 votes, was not re-elected as a Councillor of Emmaus International.</p> <p>The following were elected as members of the World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franco Monnicchi: 139 votes • Margaret Tuccori: 137 votes • Jorgen Olsen: 129 votes • Marie France Bedleem: 125 votes <p>The following candidate was elected as a member of the World Council on Training and New Generations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrice Crohin: 127 votes <p>Elected as president of Emmaus Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julio de la Granja: 131 votes <p>✎ Emir Nurkic Kacapor received four votes.</p> <p>Birgitta Göranson Illiste's Emmaus International Wise Persons' Committee candidature received 114 votes. She will be put forward to the March 2012 Emmaus International World Assembly.</p>
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<p>Workshops (lasting three hours)</p>	<p>Each workshop started with a discussion session on the World Assembly. The meeting had originally been scheduled to take place in October 2011 in Brazil but was cancelled as only a small number of groups had registered to attend, and has been postponed until March 2012 in France.</p> <p>The Regional Assembly participants then worked on the theme of the workshop that they had chosen to register for the previous day:</p> <p>Theme 1: Political lobbying So what does political decision-maker and civil society lobbying actually involve?</p> <p>Theme 2: Sustainable development / Degrowth 2.1 How can we promote, consolidate and share on a day-to-day basis our environmentally friendly initiatives both inside and outside the Movement? 2.2 What role does Emmaus aspire to take on as a champion of alternatives to the economic, social and environmental crises?</p> <p>Theme 3: Empowerment How can we foster empowerment in the groups?</p> <p>Theme 4: Creativity workshop It's time to be imaginative!</p>	
<p>Feedback on the conclusions of the workshops</p>	<p>The work of the seven themed workshops was pooled and their conclusions were presented to the members of the Regional Assembly who were once again meeting in a plenary session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Political lobbying</i> workshop was presented by Margaret Tuccori. • The <i>Sustainable Development / Degrowth</i> workshop by Thierry Muniglia Raynal. • The <i>Empowerment</i> workshop by Françoise Clausse. • The <i>Creativity</i> workshop by Margherita Zilliacus. <p>The summary document listing all the findings was projected at the same time.</p> <p> Please refer to the document attached as Appendix 1 for the work proposals made by the Regional Assembly.</p>	<p>The proposals put forward by the 4th Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe's seven themed workshops were put to vote:</p> <p>Adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: 76 • Abstentions: 0 • Against: 0 <p>Through this vote, the Regional Assembly gave the Regional Council a mandate to work on the work proposals and put in place the Emmaus Europe 2011-2013 framework action plan.</p>
<p>Other items</p>	<p>Discussion of the cancellation of the October 2011 Brazil World Assembly and its postponement until March 2012 in France.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julio de la Granja presented the conclusions of the consultation of the 	

	<p>European groups carried out as part of the Regional Assembly preparations and during which the groups could list their reasons / motives for taking part / not taking part in the October 2011 World Assembly in Brazil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The leaders of the Regional Assembly workshops also reported back on the discussions held on this point at the beginning of their workshops. • A debate got underway with the floor. 	
<p>Closing session of the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe</p>	<p>Julio de la Granja closed the 4th Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe by thanking all the participants and listing upcoming European events and meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-10 June, training and solidarity camp for volunteers and friends of Emmaus, on Åland Island, Finland. • 9-28 July, youth camp in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. • 10 July – 4 September, international summer camp in Turin, Italy. • 4 September, Regional Salon in Haguenau, France. • 10 – 11 September, national salon in Turin, Italy. • 9 October, regional salon in Nice, France. 	
<p>As there were no further items on the agenda, the meeting was closed by the President.</p>		
<p>THURSDAY 12 MAY 2011 EVENING SESSION</p>		
<p>Cultural evening Having contacted a range of entities about organising a cultural evening, the City of Paris offered to invite assembly participants to visit <i>La Comédie parisienne</i> exhibition dedicated to Jean-Louis Forain at the Petit Palais, the City of Paris' Museum of Fine Art.</p>		
<p>FRIDAY 13 MAY 2011</p>		
<p>Trip to Esteville The trip comprised a visit to Emmaus Rouen followed by lunch at the community and was rounded off by a visit to and presentation of the future Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre in Esteville.</p>		

Julio de la Granja
President of Emmaus Europe

Xavier Vandromme.
Secretary of Emmaus Europe

2011 RAEE Proposed initiatives

1/Political lobbying

- Organise a local lobbying joint action day for the groups.
- Have the same political message at national and Emmaus Europe level.
- Accept external funding from ethical sources.
- Define political strategies that respect differences in Europe.
- Continue working on migration and water.
- Work in networks and join existing networks.
- Work with the media, civil society and young people.
- Circulate news about EE's work themes in the different European countries.
- Issue to be tackled: poverty from all of its angles. Address the root causes.
- Create partnerships at local level and pass on information to all the levels.
- Get the companions involved. Need to listen.
- Open up to the world outside the Movement.
- Communicate at all levels (communication difficulties caused by the language barrier).
- Put together a schedule of joint initiatives for the European groups (include lectures on political issues).

2/Sustainable development and degrowth

- Sustainable development involves caring for those who are close both physically and in terms of time and those who are faraway both physically and in terms of time.
- Change people's mentalities (educational games).
- Proposal to create resources such as a database / catalogue of experiences and draw up a list of resource people for an exchange of practice.
- Enable people to gain better knowledge of environmental law at European level and do lobbying work.
- Prioritise the creation of purchasing platforms (group buying).
- Train people about technical environmental aspects.
- Appoint reference people in the grassroots groups to convey the environment theme.
- Make an inventory of good practice in the groups.
- Encourage exchanges between groups interested in specific common themes.
- Favour human contact with a view to happy degrowth.
- Raise awareness about network-based working on water and energy in general, and in particular on nuclear power.
- For future EE meetings, remember to provide ashtrays outside the building.

3/Empowerment

Enable everyone to feel happy wherever they are!

- 1/Everyone pledges to take a step towards empowering someone else in the group and report on the outcomes in order to put together a list of examples.
- 2/ Find good examples of groups that practice empowerment.
- 3/ Encourage interaction between all the stakeholders: leaders, volunteers and companions.

Introduction

Empowerment: a value or a tool for Emmaus with all of its limitations?

Is empowerment the future of the Movement?

Not a means of manipulating people.

Empowerment is about focusing on people rather than what they do. Empowerment requires a climate of tolerance and trust between people.

Organise meetings

Summer schools (a meeting at which participants discuss one or two themes without taking decisions and which enable empowerment).

Meetings between all the stakeholders – volunteers, companions and leaders.

Incorporate the theme of empowerment into the youth camps.

Communication

More succinct documents.

Elected representatives should get out and about more and raise awareness about the European dimension.

Hand over and pass on experience.

Coordination

Encourage the grassroots groups to provide the impetus and foster their involvement.

What is the link between someone's hierarchical status and empowerment?

How to move from 'I' to 'us' (collective empowerment)?

Accumulate knowledge of practices.

4/ Creativity

- Need for human contact.
- Need for ambassadors to visit the groups.
- Preference for films on Youtube / images
- Use the term *sharing* instead of *solidarity*.