



EMMAÜS EUROPE
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REPORT VIEW 2013

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1. The president's message by Julio de la Granja

“We know that an alternative socioeconomic model is possible, so let's spread a wave of peace and fraternity.”

You have been fantastic, not just by taking part in the Paris Salon in support of European solidarity, but also by getting involved in our annual solidarity programme which funded initiatives in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Bosnia, Lithuania and Italy.

The profits from the Paris Salon were allocated to combating human trafficking in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lithuania. Many European countries have now become aware about the need to bolster anti-trafficking initiatives. The struggle against trafficking needs to be a priority. This global scourge makes human beings into slaves at the mercy of a harmful underground economy, which generates billions for mafias.



« ON N'EXISTE QUE PAR LA RENCONTRE »

« WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE »

« SOLO EXISTIMOS EN EL ENCUENTRO CON EL OTRO »

ABBÉ PIERRE



EMMAUS EUROPE
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A big thank-you to our Italian friends for hosting the meeting

Many of you also attended our **meeting in Verona in Italy** on the topics of the economic crisis and sustainable development. This event enabled us to get to know each other better and share our everyday lives and our work to address extreme poverty and social exclusion. The meeting programme sought to reflect the reality of all the European Emmaus groups, who were keen to learn about each other's methods and take a collective look at Emmaus' social, economic and political role. We still have many concerns.

Europe as a continent has been thrown off course by an economic, social and political crisis, and by values being weakened. It should be noted that these crises have the greatest impact on the most deprived members of society, with European policy constantly widening the gulf between the rich and poor, the majority and the minority.

Furthermore, our irresponsible attitude towards the exploitation of the planet's resources is jeopardizing the lives of future generations. There is an urgent need to change course and to take action in order to preserve our shared asset.

The European Union has decided to allocate €3.5 billion to helping the most deprived people in Europe for the 2014-2020 period; the same amount of funding as for 2007-2013. This is a good piece of news if we compare it with the restrictive social policies in force in the countries of the European Union. However, it is a bad piece of news if we take into account the fact that the EU has grown. 28 Member States must now share this unchanged sum as opposed to 25 in 2007. And it is also bad news if we take into account the rise in poverty and social exclusion over the past few years throughout Europe and particularly in Southern Europe. Does the EU really care about consolidating its social dimension? **We know that an alternative socioeconomic model is possible.** This has been proved every single day for decades by our grassroots work. We therefore need to champion our proposals to the new European Parliament to be elected in May 2014. With this in mind, Emmaus Europe will be doing political lobbying in the form of recommendations and a questionnaire for the prospective MEPs in the 13 countries of the EU where Emmaus is present.

Our lobbying also focuses on migration, an issue on which we actively campaigned in 2013 and will continue to do so in 2014. **The besieged fortress that is Europe comes at an enormous cost, not just in money terms, but also and more alarmingly in terms of the thousands of human lives lost at our borders.** We should not forget the suffering experienced by all these people, who are forced to leave behind their home countries, only to be rejected and ignored at the gates of Europe. No human being is 'illegal'.

In late 2013, there was an escalation in the violence against the population in Ukraine. Emmaus, a Movement of peace and justice, raised its voice so that political decisions were taken to stop the spread of **fratricidal confrontations**. We wish to pass on to the Emmaus members in Ukraine our **friendship and encouragement at this difficult time.**

We will be running two major lobbying initiatives in 2014, the first event will be held in early April in Lampedusa and will focus on migration, with the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE) taking part, and the second event will take place in Brussels on 6 May and will centre on Emmaus Europe's values and aspirations. Emmaus member groups and prospective MEPs will be invited to take part. Numerous challenges still need to be met.

Let's hope that 2014 brings even more of us together to work in accordance with Abbé Pierre's ethos, to address extreme poverty and destroy its root causes, serve those who suffer most, and **spread a wave of peace and fraternity.**

2. Issues at stake in 2013

2013 was marked by the adoption of the instruments in the asylum package that still needed to be approved and about which EE had been concerned over the past few years.

Certain Member States blocked the process of harmonisation and this had a considerable impact on respect for fundamental rights. The widespread use of vague wording makes the standards rather opaque and insufficiently precise (use of the conditional tense and ambiguous wording).

Since the adoption of the recast asylum package on 26 June 2013, new rules should come into force during the second half of 2015. These new rules make provision for common procedures and timescales for handling asylum applications across Europe, among other areas.

The coming into force of the instruments listed above still needs to take place in order to get to the home stretch leading up to their transposition into Member State national legislation.

The European Asylum Support office, based in Malta, has also reiterated the importance of full and correct transposition of the Package in order to improve the rights of asylum seekers in Europe and give States the tools they need to have a balanced and fair approach to asylum.

It remains to be seen if this new legislative impetus stemming from a political desire on the part of the authorities to cooperate will make for a fairer and better quality asylum system as regards asylum seeker rights.

In 2013, it has to be said that these rights have gone backwards.

The goodwill of the States when transposing these measures into national legislation will be needed.

All of these questions deserve to be raised and closely monitored, especially as the 2009-2014 period of office is drawing to a close for the European institutions and we are entering the run-up to the European elections.

Why should we care about respecting migrants' rights?

Just like the lobbying done during the 2009 electoral campaign, in 2014 Emmaus Europe will still be demanding respect for migrants' rights in Europe and respect for the human rights of all the socially-excluded people that we take in and who demonstrate with us on a daily basis their dignity

and ability to contribute to social and economic life, as long as they are not permanently abused (being banned from having a fixed abode, work, access to healthcare and education).

The most humane possible European society The costs of border surveillance and combating immigration are out of proportion and bring about serious human rights breaches. Migrants drowning close to our coastlines, being parked in horrendous detention centres or being hunted down as soon as they arrive on European soil are serious breaches of the principle of humanity. The fact that Europe still allows these migrants, because they are deemed to be illegal, to be pushed into doing illegal work and into crime in order to survive goes against its history and founding principles. At Emmaus, we prove every single day that it is more beneficial to take in migrants and train them to make a dignified living. They immediately take on a human face and we are all proud of them.

In 2014, Emmaus Europe is calling for the prospective MEPs to take a stance on these issues and to join together in order to resuscitate the spirit of a more humane Europe.

We support a 2014-2019 legislative term that advocates a Europe of reconciliation and a Europe in which human rights are exercised freely

In 2013, in light of the erosion of rights in this period of socio-economic crisis, it is worth asking questions about whether **the European Charter of Fundamental Rights** is actually being respected / applied when rights are being systematically flouted.

Adopted on 7 December 2000, the Charter lists all the personal, civil, political, economic and social rights of EU citizens in a single document. The charter applies to the European institutions and their bodies.

2009 will therefore have marked the future of the Union: from then on, the Charter has applied to the Member States when they implement the legislation. **Any violations of the charter may be grounds for legal action in the national and European courts due to its binding legal nature.** The European Court of Justice increasingly refers to it.

All of those working on a daily basis in the Emmaus European groups are asked to become involved because they champion a true social alternative, due to their experience and daily thinking: this social alternative comes about through promoting social justice and respect for the fundamental rights of humans and their environment.

3. The Europe Region in 2013

287 member organisations in 16 countries

The **eighth year in the life of the region was all about the groups'** desire to address the root causes of extreme poverty and social exclusion and about decentralising initiatives across a large geographic area. Many exchanges are taking place in Europe. The language barrier does not in any way hamper the desire to share experiences and learn from others. Finally, championing the Emmaus values and educating people about them is proving to be an integral part of the regional dynamic.

Country	Number of member groups	Number of trial member groups
Belgium	4	
Bosnia	1	1
Denmark	2	
Finland	5	1
France	195	1
Germany	4	
Italy	13	
Netherlands	16	1
Poland	3	
Portugal	2	
Romania	1	2
Spain	5	
Sweden	5	
Switzerland	10	
UK	20	7
Ukraine	1	
TOTAL	287	13

4. What do the European groups do?

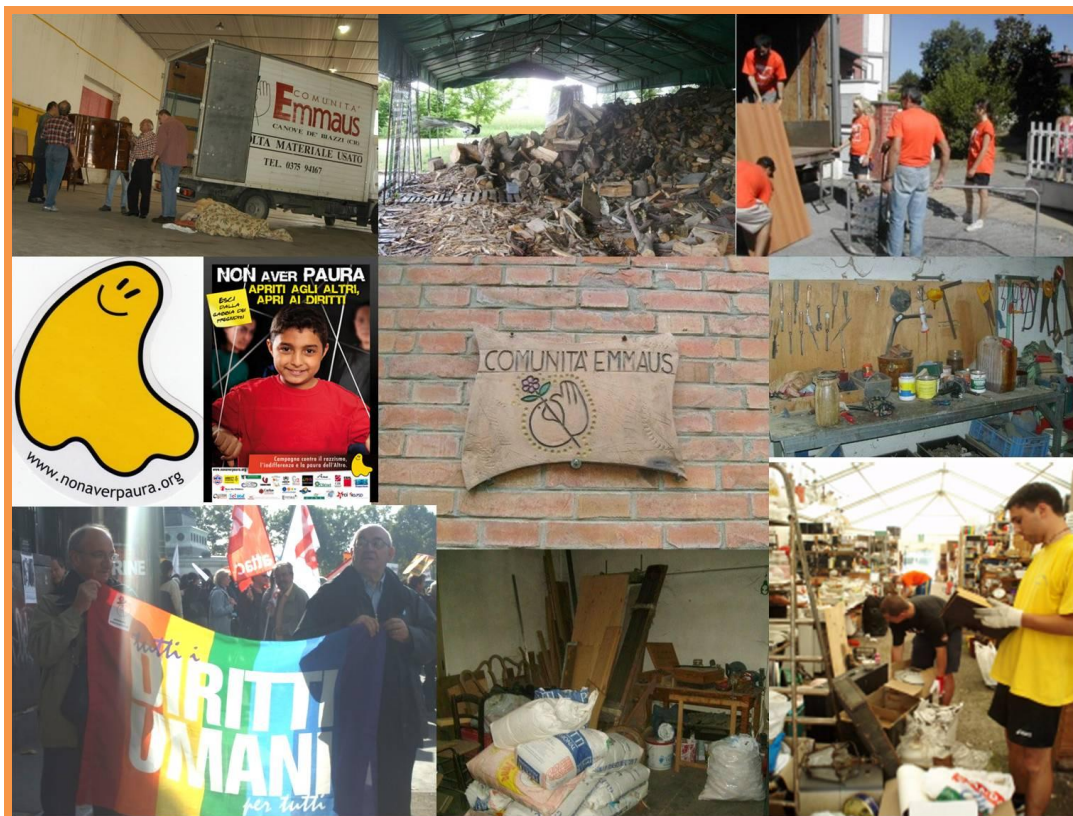
Emmaus' work is still completely relevant today. The issues addressed by Emmaus are continuing in the 21st century. The following initiatives were part of the daily lives of the groups in Europe in 2013.

Solidarity economy work: Collecting, repairing and selling second-hand goods. Offering shelter and support, training and reinclusion to the most disadvantaged people.

Social initiatives in the following areas: housing, social aid (emergency accommodation, social support, combating illiteracy etc), fighting for the rights of the weakest members of society (shelter and support for migrants, people with disabilities etc), protecting the environment and developing Fair Trade.

Initiatives to safeguard human rights: campaign to ensure that the right of asylum is respected and campaign against human trafficking (grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities). At a more global level, the Emmaus groups are working for a Europe that is more respectful of migrants' rights (reception and support).

International solidarity initiatives: sending containers of goods and other forms of support for the activities of groups in a variety of countries.



5. Regional life: involvement and subsidiarity

a. **The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe* - RCEE** – is the organisation’s Board. Two council meetings were held in 2013.

15-17 February 2013 in Montreuil, France.

The classic nations’ roundtable session presented by the national delegates kicked off the debates about issues relating to the situation in each country, including the number of existing groups and communities, latest news / changes in the groups, the groups’ work on the Emmaus Europe / Emmaus International themes, latest events in the country, with emphasis on the themes that are closely related to Emmaus Europe / Emmaus International. The delegates rounded off their presentations by detailing the human trafficking situation in their countries.

As is always the case at the end of the financial year, Emmaus Europe’s accounts were reviewed by the auditor, who came to the meeting to present his report. The Regional Council meeting was also the chance to rubberstamp the solidarity programme and marked the start of support for the initiatives run by the groups in 2013.

Apart from the statutory meeting itself, this council meeting included two key events.



The participants visited La Friperie Solidaire group’s *Le labo de l’Abbé* boutique and enjoyed a fashion show of the group’s designs followed by a buffet (Maisons Alfort, Paris Region).



Le Labo de l'Abbé boutique in Paris' 11th arrondissement



The shop showcases and sells the items made by employees on inclusion contracts

11-13 October 2013 - Lviv, Ukraine

The European elected representatives' stay in Ukraine began with a meeting with the public authorities at Lviv City Hall. The following took part in the meeting: Oleh Bereziuk, Lviv City Council representative for humanitarian affairs, Jean Rousseau, the president of Emmaus International, Albina Mykhnevych, member of the Oselya group, Julio de la Granja, president of Emmaus Europe, and Nataliya Fedorovych, representative of Lviv council social services.

Julio de la Granja, Olesya Sanotska, Albina Mykhnevych and Jean Rousseau at Lviv City Hall



“Emmaus’ ethos of mutual support, sharing and addressing isolation should be taken on board by Ukrainian society. In Ukraine, prejudices still exist about the homeless. At the

outset, we had to convince the people of Ukraine in order to combat their indifference. We asked them to donate clothing, crockery, furniture, food and money. Gradually, the idea of giving took root and Emmaus gained the trust of the people of Lviv. I hope to be able to count on the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs in order to expand the resocialisation and reintegration of the homeless in Ukraine.” Olesya Sanotska, director of

Olesya

The group’s partners and friends from all over Europe came to the second statutory meeting in 2013 of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe.

Guided by the companions and leaders, the Emmaus representatives from all over Europe visited the different work premises which illustrate the group’s wide range of activities.



Sofa repair workshop at the Oselya shelter

At lunchtime on 11 October, the meeting participants enjoyed a lunch of soup with a large number of the city’s homeless. The meal was prepared by volunteers and friends from Oselya, partner associations and the council. Over 100 people enjoyed a hot lunch accompanied by hot drinks. The lunch pepped up spirits before the start of the freezing winter weather!



b. Meetings of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe

Four meetings were held of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe in 2013. The executive's members are as follows: *Julio de la Granja, President, Willi Does, secretary, Alain Capmas, treasurer. Xavier Vandromme and Silvana Nogarole (members of the executive)*. All the meetings were face-to-face and took place in the shared Emmaus headquarters in Montreuil on **1 February, 31 May and 14 December 2013. The 14 September meeting was held at Emmaus Metz in France.**

In 2013, upon the invitation of the Emmaus International Executive Committee, Emmaus Europe presented an update of its upcoming initiatives at the 26 September meeting. A debate with members of the America, Asia and Africa regions then ensued.

***The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe is comprised of 11 Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI):**

Simon Grainge, Javier Pradini, Jean Karekezi, Gérard Racinne, Hans Van Beek, Margarita Zilliacus, Silvana Nogarole, Tobias Petersson, Dzenana Sabic, Gianni Belletti and Franck-Benoît Puntous.

15 national delegates:

Willi Does, Germany, Gérard Corpataux, Switzerland, Grzegorz Hajduk, Poland, Gélu Nichitel, Romania,

José Maria Garcia Bresó, Spain, Helka Ahava, Finland, Jos Van Der Meer, Netherlands, Délia Resende Clément, Portugal, Neil Booker, UK, Nanna Nilsson, Sweden, Maryana Sokha, Ukraine, Annie Blanc, France, Huriya Mulahejnovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Maria Luisa Testori, Italy, Julio de la Granja, Belgium.

C. Meetings of the European collectives

Driving forces for solidarity in Europe, the European collectives are working groups whose purpose is to organise the solidarity initiatives aimed at needy groups, with the aim of being transparent and securing their long-term future. **The following meetings enabled us to gain a greater understanding of the situation of the groups in 2013.**

Romania Collective

- 20 February at the shared headquarters in Montreuil, France.
- 13 September at Emmaus Metz, France.

Poland / Ukraine Collective

- 15-16 March at Emmaus Rzeszow. The collective meeting was followed by a tour of the site where the Rzeszow community house is being built in **Przedmieście Czudeckie**.



The participants were able to assess **building work progress and see first-hand the house** which is now fully roofed. The visitors were also able to see the layout of the **new store** inside the community building.

- 20-21 September at Emmaus Brat Albert/Nowy Sacz. The meeting was followed by a visit to the plot where the new community house is being built in Krakow, Poland. **The house is already habitable.**



Bosnia Collective

- 22 November 2013 in the shared headquarters in Montreuil, France.

The meeting was led by **Hans Van Beek**, the Collective reference person, and saw the participation for the very first time of an International Solidarity Forum partner association from Slovenia - the Socio Public Institution based in Celje. Socio is a public foundation formed in 2002 and its work targets needy people.

Nova Generacija, an Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International trial member since October 2012, visited groups in the Paris Region before the meeting started.

In a general sense, these meetings constituted an opportunity to support the groups and discuss:

- Everyone's news.
- Progress made on the initiatives supported by Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International in 2013.
- Applications for funding for 2014.
- Lorry loads and convoys: completed loads and convoys, what went well and areas for improvement.

As for the themed collective...

▪ **The Migration and Human Trafficking Collective met on 21 May 2013 at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (France).**

The meeting was preceded by a visit to Emmaus Mundolsheim.

Xavier Vandromme called on people to rally round by reminding the meeting participants about Emmaus Europe's work over the years on the Collective's various themes. The principles of "first help those who suffer most" and "fight extreme poverty and the causes of extreme poverty" are inherent to the Emmaus Movement. These are universal principals and apply to each of the Collective's topics, be it human trafficking, migration, asylum or minority groups. **Mobilisation, awareness raising, lobbying and training were core issues for this meeting based on dialogue.** A dialogue not only between the groups in attendance but also between all the groups and the Council of Europe experts. The work of the groups engaged in the struggle against human trafficking, with a focus on Lithuania and Bosnia, was also presented.



A roundtable discussion with experts on the topic of human trafficking was arranged by Emmaus Europe. The following speakers were invited by Emmaus Europe:

- **Claudia Lam, administrator at The Council of Europe Convention on Action on Trafficking in Human Beings Secretariat.** Claudia Lam presented The Council of Europe Convention on Action on Trafficking in Human Beings as part of her keynote speech. The convention came into force in 2008 and has also implemented a **monitoring mechanism taking the form of a group of experts on human trafficking (GRETA)**. This independent body has 15 members and publishes reports on the implementation of the convention in the countries that have ratified it. To this end, apart from country visits, a questionnaire is sent to the local authorities and civil society is also consulted.
- **Sergey Khrychikov, head of the Council of Europe Migration Observatory.**
- **Michaël Guet, head of the Roma and Travellers Division, Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers, and member of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma issues' support team.**

Emmaus Europe, as a representative of civil society, has complex and ambitious initiatives! Several potential work areas arose as a result:

Internal initiatives Continue to expand the practical resources, posters, explanations and information about these issues.

External initiatives Take advantage of the European Parliament electoral campaign. Raise awareness among elected representatives and make contact with the European Court of Human Rights.



The participants placed the stress on sharing experiences, awareness raising, collective actions and citizenship.

d. A quick overview of events in Europe

7-9 February	World Council on Training and New Generations
22 March	World Water Day
1, 3, and 14 April	Regional Salon in Lille, France: showcasing European initiatives.
26-27 April	European meeting in Verona, Italy
16 June	Emmaus Paris Salon to support international solidarity, (Europe Region projects)
3 and 4 August	Emmaus UK General Assembly in Nottingham
11-17 August	Emmaus Villafranca – Emmaus groups in Romania meeting.
9 - 13 September	World Council on Training and New Generations meeting in San Sebastian, Spain.
15 September	Regional Salon in Metz: showcasing European initiatives.
22 September	Took part in the Paris Region sale at La Roche Guyon Château, France.
14 and 15 October	Container information day arranged by Emmaus International at Marseille Pointe Rouge, France
5 November	Discussion day about asylum policy in France run by Emmaus Bussières et Pruns – Riom. With the involvement of Emmaus France, Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe.

6. The event of the year - the Verona meeting in Italy.

“Seeking to create shared, open and collective discussion forums”

Against the backdrop of a period of social and debt crisis, Emmaus Europe examined social issues in greater depth in Verona in order to gain a better understanding of the environment in which it works. Meeting participants made discussion of the topics that are the lifeblood of Emmaus Europe’s work and its raison d’être into the central plank of this meeting.

220 participants from 110 Emmaus groups from 16 European countries contributed to the suggestions box. Representatives from Austria, Lithuania and Albania were also keen to take part in the event.

Representatives came from Sweden, Portugal, Romania, UK, Ukraine, France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Poland, Netherlands and Switzerland.

The aim of the event: share experiences and make progress on common policy areas during the two-day meeting that was organized into 20 workshops. Two experts were invited to deliver lectures:

- “Looking beyond austerity to a solidarity economy” - Professor Bruno Amoroso, former economics professor at the University of Roskilde in Denmark.
- “The limitations of development” - Maurizio Pallente, a former literature teacher and currently an energy and environmental technologies consultant and member of the Happy Degrowth movement.

The national delegates offered their view of the meeting



Review of the meeting Following these discussion days, the participants expressed their **desire to continue moving forward with Emmaus Europe with the aim of *sharing, enhancing and publicising the work of the member organisations***. The member organisations therefore wish to:



The economic, political and social role of Emmaus Europe

- Continue the work on the right of asylum at EU level and on migration in a more general sense.
- Lobby the May 2014 European Parliament elections candidates about the Emmaus values.
- Work internally and externally on the issue of the Roma community and specifically to combat their exclusion and stigmatisation. Also work in a general sense to combat the exclusion of minority groups (right to healthcare, work and education). As such, it was suggested that the Emmaus groups should establish a themed day on 10 December, as this would coincide with International Human Rights Day.
- Continue working on human trafficking and preventing it, especially in the field of education, help and support for victims.
- Work to get the public authorities to support the social and solidarity economy.
- Work in a network on different topics.
- Work on ethical finance.

A sustainable lifestyle and degrowth for Emmaus Europe

- Support the European 2014 Water Initiative with a launch day in the European groups in order to collect one million signatures in at least seven EU countries.
- Foster exchanges between the groups on farming techniques.

All of this makes for many ideas and initiatives for the future. The meeting reflects the bottomless pool of future initiatives developed by the European groups who wish to help each other out.

7. Work areas in tune with the Movement's collective dynamic

I. Emmaus, sustainable development and empowerment, what are our common values?

A reminder of the work themes that the region set itself at the 2011 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe.

- **The issue of sustainable development** and its many facets: the discussion was steered towards new horizons: happy degrowth, water being public property and local development all challenge us and will direct our actions. These issues must not be disconnected from the subject of human development.

One of the **priority action areas** highlighted by Emmaus Europe was **promoting the role of the Emmaus groups as champions of alternatives to the social and economic** crises through in-depth work on environmental issues.

It was from this standpoint that the *Environment: review and prospects in the European groups* was developed. The same goes for the practical guide. The first offers a series of ideas about respecting the environment in our groups, while the latter suggest practical techniques and ideas to implement. **The questions come alive in the Emmaus groups because they are championed by all the group stakeholders.**

In the run-up to the 2015 Regional Assembly, we are going to focus on expanding **the snapshot** of the Movement at European level in order to attempt to see what **farming practices** are implemented by the groups, with the idea being to help promote these practices in order to bolster them.

- The theme of **empowerment** was confirmed as being important at the May 2011 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe. Discussions on the issue were held at the statutory meetings. Work done in the groups on the issue has been collated and publicised in order to examine in greater depth what empowerment means in Emmaus.

Exchanges should further enable us to progress and identify good examples and good practice, which can then be developed. **The compilation of examples of empowerment is still on the agenda.** This compilation will include the experiences that you wish to share with the Europe-wide Movement with a view to preparing for the 2015 Regional Assembly.

The idea is to show what the groups are doing in order to inform people, encourage them and to question. We must continue learning from others' experiences and carry on developing an alternative way of life, which is sustainable because it is environmentally-friendly and respectful of others, and is based on sharing, solidarity, living together and helping each other.

The website is now used to show how existing practices are relevant and publicises these practices within the Emmaus Europe region. Visit www.emmaus-europe.org to download the environmentally-friendly practices guide, empowerment practices and information about stepping up practices in these areas.

Although this vision has been shared in Emmaus Europe, the sizeable task of encouraging society to reinforce the ideas already being implemented in Emmaus remains to be done!

II. Political lobbying: migration, poverty and minority groups...

“Power is not about enhancing the pleasure of those who are happy, but about relieving those who suffer unjustly” Abbé Pierre

Although Emmaus is a Movement totally unaffected by the manipulative influence of political parties, the world of politics does have an impact on the groups.

Discussions and community visits demonstrate that politicians do not know us sufficiently well.

Two concerns persist for Emmaus Europe:

- True upwards harmonisation of European standards.
- True solidarity between States.

Political lobbying based on a human rights approach via events, taking a stance that respects differences in Europe, and the commitment of all the groups working on a day-to-day basis, is key for our future; a **future closely linked to the evolution of crisis-ridden Europe**. We need to continue challenging politicians.

In line with the work on migration and human trafficking, the following initiatives **from 2013** should be highlighted:

- **Willi Does taking part in the roundtable discussion organised by the MEP Cornelis De Jong** on reducing poverty in Europe (Brussels, October 2013).

- **Letter sent by Emmaus Europe to the MEPs calling for children to have the right to an identity in Bosnia-Herzegovina** (June 2013)

A simple administrative issue of an ID number was hijacked by local politicians, who turned it into a national/ethnic problem. The outcome is that the most vulnerable citizens – children – were unable to obtain proper medical care and to travel abroad and their right to an identity was also refused. In this context, Emmaus Europe asked the MEPs to become more involved in this issue, to pressurize Bosnian politicians about the right to have an identity and of course about a sustainable solution compliant with European standards.

- **Regional involvement:** Emmaus Europe took part on 5 November 2013 in Emmaus Bussières et Prun's lobbying day in France, in which Emmaus International and Emmaus France also took part. The theme of the day was: **What happens when taking in asylum seekers raises issues?**

- ***Let's combat the stigmatisation of the Roma community / travellers* questionnaire (October 2013)**

In Europe, one group is particularly stigmatised – the Roma Community. All too often, they have no rights. The Roma are excluded from their home country where they are second class citizens, and also find themselves excluded wherever extreme poverty has forced them to go. 10 December was the chance to reiterate that everyone should enjoy fundamental rights and that no exceptions are acceptable.

The Roma community is the biggest ethnic minority but only accounts for 1.2% of the EU's population and is particularly stigmatised.

Emmaus Europe wishes to lobby the European authorities about the issue of the stigmatisation of the Roma community / travellers. However, to be heard, we need to demonstrate that for years Emmaus in Europe has been able to offer a dignified life on a day-to-day basis to the many people living in its grassroots groups.

An anonymous questionnaire was sent out in order to explain our attitude and legitimise our lobbying.

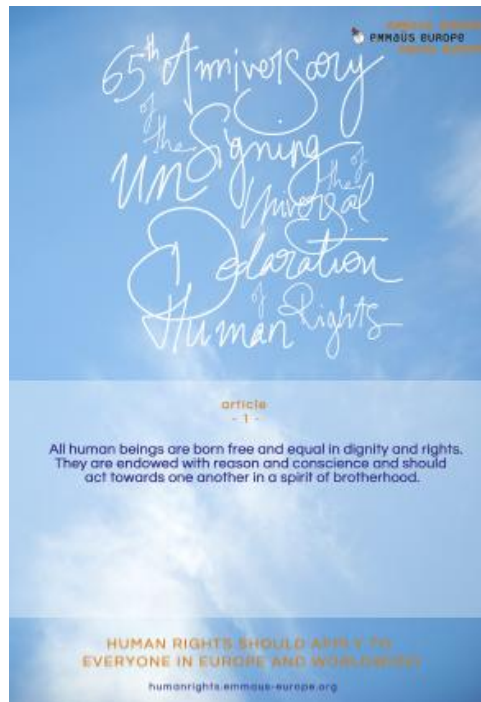
- **65th anniversary of the signing of the UN Declaration on Human Rights – (December 2013)**



Emmaus Europe turned the spotlight on fundamental rights on the 65th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948. Following the horrors of WW2 and in a world divided into two blocs, the Declaration transcended the context, making human life of supreme importance. In our current changing society, it is now time to take ownership of the Declaration and make its ideals into a reference point for everyone.

An ad hoc website showcasing the Declaration was launched on 10 December 2013. The website was publicised to the European institutions and throughout the member groups. Emmaus Europe invited each group to develop the form of public action that best suited it, publicise it to the authorities and obtain media coverage.

Each group now has the chance to take ownership of the campaign event, adapt it and bring it alive and make it continue in Emmaus Europe. **Visit the website to generate your own leaflet using your favourite article from the Declaration: <http://droitshumains.emmaus-europe.org>.** The website can also be accessed by the general public!

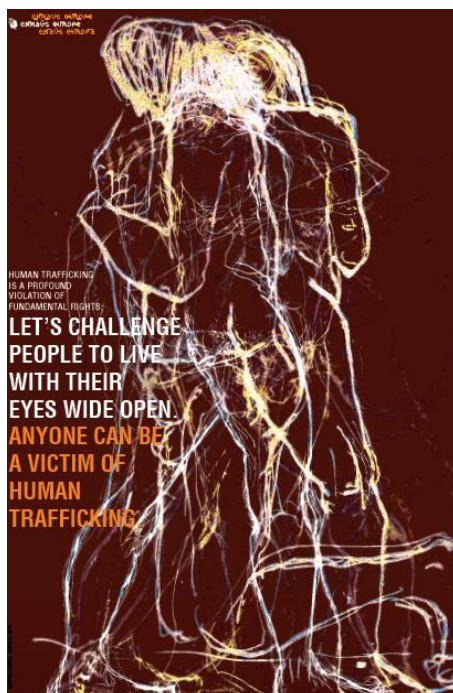


Practical initiatives to combat human trafficking

Emmaus Europe has been committed to combating human trafficking since 2005, with the issue being how to take practical action.

In 2013, Emmaus Europe launched a human trafficking awareness raising campaign aimed at the groups, sending out a questionnaire, poster and practical explanatory and campaign guide.

Human trafficking is a scourge of modern-day society but many of us know little about it. This new **poster** seeks to inform people in order to more effectively raise their awareness.



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Let's challenge people to live with their eyes wide open!

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A big thanks to all the groups that participated in gathering on trafficking experiences!

This commitment was reaffirmed at the **2012 World Assembly** in Anglet and demonstrates the Movement's adherence to the ethos of respecting human beings. A questionnaire **was therefore sent out in order to pose questions about this delicate issue and to better identify everyone's needs and expectations**. This first-ever consultation was the chance to find out what is done in this area in Emmaus.

The Emmaus groups are confronted by the impact of human trafficking on a daily basis: many victims knock at their door to ask for help. This is why Emmaus Europe crafted a practical tool in order to provide a source of information about the topic, as action can only be taken once information has been shared.

A big thank-you to all the groups that contributed to the collation of human trafficking experiences!

Even though human trafficking may appear to be an impossibly complex international issue, this is not the time to give up. **Action on human trafficking can and is being taken. Proof of this is the creation of an anti-trafficking and exploitation resource centre, which was officially opened on 27 November in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina).**

Hans Van Beek attended in his role as the Bosnia Collective reference person and Alain Capmas participated in his role as a member of the Emmaus Europe Regional Executive in order to support the group. Institutional guests also attended the opening.

It is clear that Emmaus Europe cannot by itself meet the challenges of the issue of migration and the different forms of trafficking, including human trafficking, which are highly complex and mobilise major human and financial resources. We need to ensure that the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and the UN Convention on Migrants' Rights are respected.

“Our method is based on the creation, support and animation of circles where all, feeling free and respected, can meet their own needs and help each other.” ”

Article IV of the Emmaus Movement Universal Manifesto drafted in Berne (Switzerland).

8. Emmaus Europe actively supports the most economically disadvantaged groups

a. A solidarity programme* that echoes local needs

Donations made by the member organisations are used to support solidarity initiatives. In 2013, the Emmaus Europe solidarity programme supported 11 initiatives run by nine groups in five European countries. An overview can be found below.

Un coup de main Iasi, Romania	Improve the working environment in order to develop a more efficient income-generating activity.
Emmaus Forbach on behalf of Amicii d'Emmaus, Targu Jiu Romania	Creation of accommodation for the Targu Jiu companions. Volunteer work camp.
Frères Europa, Satu Mare, Romania	Create a street-selling fast food business to facilitate youth inclusion. Setting up an Emmaus type store
Oselya Mutual Aid Community, Lviv Ukraine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the community's work. 2. Outreach work – solidarity initiatives with the homeless and awareness raising initiatives in the region.
Emmaus Brat Albert, Krakow Poland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet housing standards in the community house (finishes). 2. Improve the companions' quality of life by changing their living accommodation and make the community more self-sufficient. Volunteer work camp.
Parmi Nous Foundation - Lublin	Purchase a bus to transport people with reduced mobility.
New Generation, Banja Luka Bosnia Herzegovina	Community house for the homeless. Inter-group meetings at which skills can be exchanged.
Comunita Emmaus Arezzo Italy	Support Emmaus Arezzo: the community is threatened with closure due to financial difficulties.
Nasha Khata, Drohobych Ukraine	Develop their homeless support activities

*Please refer to the solidarity report for more detailed information about these initiatives.

Emmaus will be able to carry on championing a real alternative to the economic, environmental and social crises by continuing to advocate solidarity, respect and fraternity between the generations and between human beings.

Monitoring of the initiatives carried out by Emmaus Europe aims to:

- Help the European organisations to apply for funding.
- Enable Emmaus Europe's governing bodies to examine the applications in greater depth.
- Enable Emmaus Europe to produce progress reports on the initiatives being supported and publicise progress made.
- Ensure fairness and transparency between the European organisations.

Progress reports were produced throughout 2013 for the initiatives funded by the Movement's solidarity via **Emmaus International**. The initiatives in question:

- Construction of the community house in Rzeszow (Poland).
- Construction of the community house in Krakow (Poland).

In this case, the European region liaised between the organisations developing the initiatives and Emmaus International.

b. A brief look at the summer camps

In 2013, 17 volunteer work camps took place in 15 groups in 10 of the countries where Emmaus is present.

Romania (3), UK (1), Poland (1), Bosnia-Herzegovina (1), Ukraine (1), Spain (1), Finland (1), Germany (1) and Italy (7).

Emmaus Europe once again acted as an **information channel** via its website.

As for France, close to 280 people (aged 18 to 63) shared the daily lives of 24 communities and a committee of friends between 15 June and 15 September.

Over 40 nationalities took part.

The convoy and international youth camp in Bosnia

2013 saw the 8th camp and convoy. 107 participants from France, Poland, Italy, UK, Turkey, Canada and Bosnia-Herzegovina came together to work, hand out goods to 1,600 families, enjoy leisure activities, raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and draft projects.

c.Paris Salon in support of European solidarity

We warmly thank all the European Emmaus groups that took part in the 14th Paris Salon.

The Salon was a major event that constituted an invaluable opportunity to continue forging the links that are **so important in the Movement**.

The excellent attendance demonstrated the sheer diversity of the Emmaus groups in Europe.

In 2013, €123,835 from the sales takings was allocated to funding the work of the groups in Europe that combat human trafficking: this funding enabled the awareness raising groups, a refuge for victims, a day centre for young people and an Emmaus shop to continue their work in Lithuania.



Takings were also used to support the rollout of an Emmaus human trafficking prevention and support network by the International Solidarity Forum in Bosnia-Herzegovina, comprising a shelter, a safe refuge, a European community service centre and a site where prevention programmes are delivered.

Emmaus Europe and the other continental regions

In 2013, Emmaus Europe did not accept any of the EI Annual Regional Coordination Fund that Emmaus International allocates to its four regions.

The Europe Region recommended that Emmaus International should share the amount of €58,377 between the Africa, America and Asia regions.

9. A web of shared tools

The Emmaus Europe website launched in 2008 was revamped and refreshed in early 2013.

A clip about the April 2013 Verona European meeting going back over the key moments can be viewed on the website. The clip gives those who were unfortunately unable to attend the chance to see what happened at the meeting.

Find out about life in the region and news from the European groups on www.emmaus-europe.org

Create your own leaflet with your favourite article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on: <https://droits.humains-emmaus-europe.org>

A Verona meeting souvenir poster was created showing the different faces of Abbé Pierre throughout his life.



LIFE ITSELF IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN CAUTION

10. Challenges and opportunities in 2014

2014 will be marked by:

- **The 60th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's appeal broadcast** on Radio Luxembourg on 1 February 1954.

60 years on, in 2014, it is still vital that we take action. This 60th anniversary is the chance for Emmaus' members to rekindle a powerful but unfortunately still relevant memory. The European groups will run a whole range of initiatives to ensure that Abbé Pierre's famous appeal still resonates today!

- In May 2014, 751 MEPs will be elected at the eighth European Parliament elections and they will represent the EU's 500 million plus inhabitants.

Two facts have emerged in the run-up to the European elections: a European public space is the vital component that is missing from a true long-term European democracy and from this angle the role of the European Parliament appears to be key.

However, Europe's citizens still feel that the European institutions - including the European Parliament – **are technocratic and far removed from reality**. This means that the European elections fail to capture the interest of the citizens of Europe. In 2009, turnout was only 42.9%. A communication campaign is already underway in order to prevent increasing voter disinterest and a record level of abstention this time round. **Galvanising voters is absolutely crucial**, as this will guarantee the Parliament's democratic legitimacy.

Another issue to be taken into account is that the MEPs stand for election as members of national political parties. The challenge therefore is to **move beyond domestic issues and make the political parties more European**. These parties need to put forward a programme and joint governing bodies for the European countries. Apart from a European public space, 2014 is all about involving voters in a big shared project. **But what should it be?**

Democratizing European affairs, addressing the European economic and social crisis and having a greater influence on the international stage are the goals of these elections for the officials from the institutions. It is in this context that Emmaus Europe will send a letter to the prospective MEPs. A questionnaire will be attached to the letter in order to find out their views on certain topics. Definitely an issue requiring monitoring!

11. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat

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