

# 2020 ACTIVITY REPORT



emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

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# LIVE, DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

BY CARINA AALTONEN

## Dear friends,

I hope you are safe and well. It has been an emotional year in many aspects. We went into different phases, from instant panic and fear of disease to canceling all activities and meetings. The lockdowns all over Europe and layoffs of staff made life even more difficult.

**The uncertainty was challenging to handle.** We had no fixed day or date when we could go back to normal again. Slowly we started to adapt to the new situation. We started to meet online and even have digital meetings with our colleagues from the same country, sharing experiences and getting advice. Emmaus Europe went on a virtual European Tour of the Nations to reach a broader picture of various countries' situation. We managed to cope with the new situation, even if it was hard on all of us.

**Today we feel the world has changed, and it has.** We know this will not be temporary, and we realize things will be different from now on. The loss of normalcy, the fear of getting the Covid-19 into a community or a group, the fear of economic toll, and the loss of connection. When will we be able to meet again? When will it be safe to arrange the next World Assembly or even participate in a national meeting? We know that life as we knew it will not be back, and we need to actively take part in forming the future world that we want to have.

**In Europe, probably the first time in history, the safety of people has been put before economy and business.**

Borders as well as shops, restaurants and hotels have been closed, lockdowns and restrictions have forced people to stay put and not move around. In some places the most vulnerable have been taken care of. In London, for example, appr. 1,700 homeless people were accommodated in hotels when the Covid-19 peaked in March last year. They also got all their meals and any medical care as required, along with other types of immediate support. This emergency accommodation was unfortunately not intended as a long-term solution, but it shows that the society easily could help the most vulnerable people to get off the streets. If we want.

**To erase poverty and homelessness is a political choice.**

The poverty is a reality for millions of people in Europe and a threat for many millions more. The number of people that are at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Europe can reach from 92,4 million people (2019) to 125 million during the crisis. According to the latest study of European Anti Poverty Network, there are five trends of the new social crisis:

- The severe material deprivation is increasing.
- Gender inequality and poverty are deepening.
- Homelessness is widening.
- Children living in poverty are distancing themselves from those who are not
- Precarious, low-quality employment is spreading.

**The “new profiles” of poverty** is people who fell into poverty during the 2008 crises, had recovered and now return to being poor and people who became poor or materially deprived for the first time. It is incomeless workers due to layoffs or/and the cease of their main economic activity as self-employed worker or small business owner. Young people and students who survived on part-time jobs which no longer are available. Women working in the domestic and care services, often with informal contracts. Women who had to leave their jobs to take care of children or relatives and therefore are not entitled to unemployment benefits. Irregular migrants who cannot access neither the formal nor the informal labor market. Frontline workers infected with Covid-19 (i.-e hospital cleaners or public transport drivers) as Covid-19 is not recognized as a work-related disease and they are not entitled to (full) social protection. I have not mentioned all those groups of people that already, before the pandemic, lived in poverty. Poverty is a denial of fundamental human rights – economic, social, and cultural. There is a moral and political imperative to change it, together with people with direct experience of poverty and exclusion.

**One thing is sure. As governments, businesses, and societies begin to emerge from the pandemic, and they must now urgently shape new economic and social systems that improve our collective resilience**

and capacity to respond to shocks while reducing inequality, improving health, erase poverty and protecting the planet. In Emmaus, as a vital part of civil society and a movement for peace, justice, and human rights, we must do our share of the work. Thank you all for all the work you have done, for your engagement and commitment. We will continue the struggle.

**During the last year, life has been strange, filled with anxiety, uncertainty, waiting, fear, anxiety, irritation, frustration, and helplessness.**

But it has become strangely real too. The moments of happiness, joy, and quality of life have also been there. Emmaus’s work at various levels, locally, regionally, and internationally has been essential and has given me personally both meaning and goals. In the shadow of death, the light of life shines brightest, and in the shadow of a pandemic that distances us, relationships with those we love are what matter. The past year has cost in so many ways. But it has given us something too. A presence and an awareness that we, and life, after all, are finite, and that is why it is so incredibly precious.

In solidarity,  
*Carina Aaltonen,*  
*President of Emmaus Europe*



# THE HIGH POINTS OF 2020



On 12 March 2020 representatives of Emmaus Italy «did the rounds» in the border region alongside members of the French groups.

## ADVOCACY IN THE MIDST OF A HEALTH AND SOCIAL CRISIS

### ■ POVERTY AND THE HEALTH CRISIS: SOLUTIONS FOR BOTH TODAY AND TOMORROW

Early 2020 was marked by campaigning calling for action in response to the Covid-related economic crisis; action that would not replicate the poor choices made at the European level during the 2008 economic crisis.

#### Interpellations from the European Council

• **Emmaus Europe and the other members of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) lobbied the members of the European Council who met at the end of March 2020 to manage the Covid-19 crisis.** We put forward measures to ensure that the most vulnerable people were not left behind, and we proposed a reform of European social and health systems based on a tax reform, in order to reduce inequality when the crisis comes to an end.

*See the page «Call on the European Council for the protection of the most vulnerable against Covid-19», News section on [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)*

• **With our partners from ATD Quart Monde, we held talks with the MEPs who belong to the fighting against poverty intergroup,** in order to appeal to the other MEPs about these issues at the end of the first lockdown.

*See the appeal published in June 2020 on [eapn.eu](https://eapn.eu)*



#### Interpellation of the European Commission

• **The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), of which Emmaus Europe is a member, also lobbied the European Commission on various issues.**

– **With regard to the impact of the crisis on the poorest people,** EAPN conducted a Europe-wide study and also formulated crisis exit strategy recommendations.

*See the publications section on [eapn.eu](https://eapn.eu)*

– **On a better protection of minimum income for all European citizens:** working with Caritas Europe, the CES, Eurodiaconia and the Social Platform, we added our voices to the invitation made by the European Council to the European Commission to “initiate an update of the Union framework to effectively support and complement the policies of Member States on national minimum income protection.” We published a joint declaration calling for a European framework to strengthen the safety net for all. We were supported by 45 MEPs, 33 civil society organisations across the EU, 42 academics, and the EESC “Workers” group; making for support from all sections of politics and from across Europe.

– **Regarding the social justice aspect to be taken into account when implementing a Green Deal policy across Europe**

*See the publications section on [eapn.eu](https://eapn.eu)*

## ■ ADVOCATING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITHIN THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

### 26 November 2020 to May 2021: European Social Economy Summit

This event organised by the European Commission and the German presidency of the European Council was initially scheduled to take place in Mannheim in order to develop European policy on the subject.

Our aim, along with the RREUSE partners (European reuse and recycling network to which Emmaus Europe belongs), was to use the summit to stress that the circular economy should remain within the remit of the social economy, and avoid the greenwashing of new circular economy players. However, the whole event went online because of coronavirus, and digital meetings were held, starting in November 2020, and continuing on into 2021. The first meeting in which we took part with RREUSE took place on 26 November, and focused on: *The crisis exit strategy: what role should the social economy play in building a resilient and sustainable economy?*

**Emmaus was represented by Les Ateliers du Bocage, a French group involved in reusing IT equipment.** Emmaus Navarra will take part in the meetings in 2021, followed by our President Carina Aaltonen, who will participate in the final event on 26 May.

## ■ ADVOCATING FOR A GLOBAL TEXTILE STRATEGY

In April 2020, at a time when the European Commission was preparing its new “global strategy for textiles”, Emmaus Europe, RREUSE, and a group of 65 CSOs (civil society organisations), presented their detailed vision for the sector’s future (textiles, clothing, leather goods and shoes).

We called on the European Commission, the MEPs, and European governments to support an ambitious strategy that would reform the textile industry’s economic model worldwide for the post-coronavirus world. (See sidebar)

The textile sector has long been epitomised by violations of labour law and human rights, as well as the immense pressure that it places on our environment and climate.

The European Union has pledged to develop a strategy for the textile industry that addresses the issues of environmental sustainability and human rights.



## RECOMMENDATIONS BY EMMAUS EUROPE AND ITS PARTNERS FOR A MORE GLOBAL STRATEGY ON TEXTILE:

- European legislation on corporate due diligence (duty of care) for human rights and environmental protection. The legislation would cover all sectors of the economy, but would contain sector-specific requirements for the textile industry. This type of legislation would force businesses to accept their responsibilities, for their own business and also for their whole supply chain.
- More stringent environmental regulations covering the way in which the textile products sold in the European Union are designed and produced, and producer legal and financial responsibility for waste, and a reuse and recycling policy involving social economy stakeholders.
- Legal obligations in terms of business practice so that brands and retailers put an end to their unfair buying practices. The Covid-19 crisis has dramatically shown how brands can get away with cancelling orders at the last minute without honouring payments, leaving workers unpaid, and a heap of unsellable products.
- Governance reforms and enhanced application of the law in producing countries, in order to address the root cause of the sustainability issues in textile value chains.
- More stringent constraints in terms of trade policy in order to use the European Union’s market power to foster sustainable manufacturing practices in the textile sector.

## ■ ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AN UNCONDITIONAL WELCOME IN EUROPE

Representatives of Emmaus in Italy took part in an outreach initiative with French groups and other associations on the border on 12 March. However, the other border initiatives that we had planned before the lockdowns have had to be postponed, and it has to be said that this year has not enabled many European initiatives on this issue to be carried out, even if the European groups themselves have been very active in this area.

Nevertheless, Emmaus Europe reacted to European migration policy news by publishing joint press releases with Emmaus International.

See press releases on [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org):

- «Fires in the Moria camp: solidarity with all the victims»
- “Joint statement by Emmaus international and Emmaus Europe: No compromise on the right to seek asylum”

Reception of asylum seekers on the Balkan route by FIS-Emmaus.



## ■ NEW MIGRATION AND ASYLUM PACT: HOW TO MOVE AWAY FROM POLICIES THAT GENERATE POVERTY?

The European Commission has relaunched work on a “new pact for migration and asylum”, with the stated desire of making it one of the cornerstones of its term of office. The Commission launched a consultation in summer 2020. Emmaus Europe responded in order to share the alarming experiences of the European groups. Above and beyond its position in favour of freedom of movement, which is not taken into consideration by the Commission in its pact roadmap, Emmaus Europe has based its proposals on the new experiences of poverty created by current migration policy and which our groups have to face.

By responding to the consultation, Emmaus Europe sought to get these situations taken into consideration when the pact is being developed, as well as the environmental and economic issues that contribute to modern-day migration, and we suggested that the tangible measures should be based on the following ambitions.

See Emmaus Europe’s contribution to the consultation on [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)

### Emmaus proposals:

- Put an end to European policies that create extreme poverty, such as the Dublin Regulation, and enable people to claim asylum or apply for residency in the country of their choice.
- Expand and improve access to humanitarian visas in asylum seekers’ countries of origin in order to prevent deaths on the migration routes.
- Redirect funding from European taxes currently used for Frontex to funding asylum seeker reception provision (Geneva Convention and climate and economic refugees) to enable more refugees to be taken in and in more humane conditions.
- Stop funding regimes that violate human rights (Turkey, Libya etc) to manage Europe’s borders.

The European Commission finally published its pact in autumn 2020 with a different vision. Work then got underway in Migreurop (network of associations and researchers of which Emmaus Europe is a member) to work out how to inform the citizens of Europe about these issues and take action on the legislation currently being drafted.

## A YEAR IN WHICH WE IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES

This almost “static” year enabled us to develop the policy areas chosen at the Regional Assembly and which did not necessarily require in-person meetings.

### ■ THE CREATION OF EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES BETWEEN EUROPEAN GROUPS

The aim of this policy area was to enable the European groups to learn from each other, and develop our Emmaus-specific approach to certain subjects that concern us. We had initially wanted to hold two-day meetings with a group that would have provided a good example of the issue. However, the pandemic forced us to reorganise this initiative and make it into a remote initiative, once we managed to find an affordable online interpreting system.

### THE “TOUR OF EUROPE”

At the start of the pandemic, we primarily got in touch with each other by email and telephone to catch up on the news from the groups around Europe.

■ As of June 2020, we began a virtual “tour of Europe”, meeting with the various European countries to more fully discuss the issues that they were facing and find out how they had collectively addressed them. The idea was also to enable the president and co-president of Emmaus Europe to gain a good grasp of the situation in the different European countries and the views of their elected members, in order to get through the crisis and then build the Emmaus of tomorrow.

■ The meetings were also beneficial as they enabled us to talk to the members of the national organisation boards who are not usually involved in the European meetings, and consequently develop a more widely-shared European vision.

■ At a rhythm of one meeting a week, Carina Aaltonen and Simon Grainge were able to “tour” all the countries before the end of autumn.

■ The Executive has decided to continue with these meetings in 2021 to enable selected topics to be discussed with the national organisations once a month.

### • Textile overdose

**The first discussion looked at the textile overdose that we are currently experiencing.** The Covid-19 pandemic has made the European Emmaus groups ask even more questions about the textile that are donated. We have been receiving too many and poorer quality garments since the advent of fast fashion. Those who had found a solution, albeit not totally satisfactory, in exporting these textile, have had to face the inherent contradictions of the situation with border closures, and the smaller groups are drowning under piles of clothing sorted during lockdown. The subject was definitely topical, even if it was already towards the top of the list of discussion topics.

**This first digital meeting on 27 November enabled the groups in Europe to hold their first online discussion.** We learned about the experience of Emmaus Navarra in Spain. The group has developed a cloth manufacturing business, making use of worn cotton clothing, and their clients are the car industry and wholesalers. We also chatted to the director of Retritex in France; an organisation created by several Emmaus communities so that their surplus textile are not wasted. Finally, our partners from RREUSE presented the issues at stake with the European Commission’s textile strategy and the implementation of separate textile collection, which will become mandatory for EU countries by 2025.

**The digital discussion attracted some 15 participants from eight different countries, and encouraged us to continue with this type of discussion in order to find out about other views of a single subject.** However, further meetings will be needed for textile, as the subject is too broad for a single meeting, particularly if we want to hone our shared strategies.

### • The place of the young people of tomorrow in our movement

**A second exchange of practices was planned for 2020 but finally took place on 12 January 2021** and focused on the role of young people in our movement in the future. Several other meetings are planned throughout the year: watch this space!

First exchange on textile overdose, November 27.





## ■ NEW COMMUNICATION METHODS AND RESOURCES

**The development of internal and external communications is one of the major projects to be carried out for the benefit of the groups and in order to meet the objectives of the 2020-2024 strategic report.** Consequently, several initiatives were launched and implemented to raise the profile of our initiatives and ideas, strengthen links between the groups, and publicize their experiences. Communications focus on the life of the groups to enable us to get to know each other better and form a stronger and more united movement in Europe.

### **Emmaus in Europe: the newsletter by and for the groups**

A newsletter has been sent out every month to all the European groups since spring 2020. The newsletter brings together news from the groups in all four corners of Europe, while also sharing regional news, such as solidarity, advocacy work, and the life of the region. This new publication is helping us to get to know each other better, share our experiences, and keep up to speed with regional events. Each monthly issue has a geographical or themed focus, as well as a section dedicated to good ideas put forward by the groups in Europe. The movement is bursting with new ideas on how to adapt to changes in the wider world and launch new projects, in addition to the traditional and important work done by everyone on a daily basis: this is most definitely a source of mutual inspiration!

### **Emmaus Europe on Instagram**

In the same vein as the newsletter, Emmaus Europe's new Instagram account endeavours to inspire us all by sharing the activities undertaken by the European groups on a daily basis. However, the account opened in spring 2020 is different in that it is public, which enables internet users to see what Emmaus in Europe is all about. The idea is to reach out to Instagram users, whether or not they are involved in the movement, and foster engagement. The account also belongs to the Emmaus groups, who can ask to share their activities via Instagram, and tag *@emmauseurope* and use the *#emmauseurope* in their own publications in order to provide the broadest possible picture of the work done by the movement in the region.

### **A new website: reflection and development**

The website is a core component of internal and external communications. The current website dates back to 2013 and no longer seemed to meet the organisation's needs today. A discussion process was launched in order to set in motion a redesign, with the following aims:

- Focus site content on the life of the groups and their initiatives to enable us all to get to know each other better and be stronger together.
- Publicize the diversity of groups outside the movement and highlight the importance of their work and the values that they champion.
- Share the resources of Emmaus in Europe to learn from our experiences and underline Emmaus' strength, and the openness of the movement.
- Gain a better understanding of what is aimed at the general public and what is aimed at the member groups.
- Coordinate better with the Emmaus International's websites.

**The process of reflection got underway in spring 2020 and the web development started at the end of the year, with the new website scheduled to come online in spring 2021.**

Emmaus Europe's Instagram account *@emmauseurope*





More information in Emmaus International's video report on YouTube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YbQpPI\\_Od0&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YbQpPI_Od0&t=2s)

## AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR SOLIDARITY

### ■ THE MOVEMENT'S COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

#### Creation of emergency mechanisms

When the pandemic started in early 2020, Emmaus International and its four regions (Emmaus Africa, Emmaus America, Emmaus Asia and Emmaus Europe) decided to suspend their usual solidarity programmes and pool the movement's resources. This decision enabled emergency funding mechanisms to be developed to meet the needs as quickly and tangibly as possible of the groups whose work was affected by Covid-19. The various mechanisms put in place notably funded groups' running costs and the rollout of their social initiatives.

#### The funding was primarily raised thanks to the work of the movement's groups.

47 groups contributed to the mechanism, and we are also grateful to the national organisations in France, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Sweden, who kindly rallied round. The collective efforts by the movement's members raised over €800,000 across the whole period, i.e., two-thirds of the resources needed to meet the emergency needs. **Contributions were also made by foundations, by Emmaus International's allocated funds, as well as the four regions' emergency funds, which were reallocated.**

Thank you once again to those who were able to take part!

The "One meal per day" program of the International Solidarity Forum-Emmaus provides a daily hot meal to its beneficiaries.

#### Supporting the running of the groups

**Most of the groups had to suspend their income-generating activity** because of lockdown and decisions taken by the government in their countries. Some did not have enough cash to continue running, and in particular to cover the basic needs of companions.

**In Europe, most of the groups opted not to apply for this support, as they felt that the situation was perhaps even worse elsewhere in the world**, despite the already very difficult conditions for many groups.

**The emergency funding mechanisms supported Emmaus Oselya in Ukraine**, so that the group could continue running and keep open its workshops, as well as the numerous initiatives aimed at the homeless in Lviv, as they were particularly hard hit during the pandemic.

#### Support for local solidarity initiatives

**The emergency funding mechanisms also helped a large number of groups to maintain and even step up their social initiatives to respond to the dramatic circumstances faced by the most socially-excluded people worldwide.** Specifically, and as a one-off, the Fondation Abbé Pierre (FAP) decided, in agreement with Emmaus International, to dedicate its solidarity programme to food aid initiatives run by the Emmaus groups.

**In Europe, this funding mechanism was used to support the International Forum of Solidarity-Emmaus in Bosnia-Herzegovina**, which for many years has been operating a daily soup run in several villages and towns as part of the "One meal per day" project. The number of people needing this help grew with the crisis, and the initiative supported over 700 people on a daily basis.



## ■ OUR TRANSPORTS, A MEANS TO HELP RESTART ACTIVITY

### 88 donation-sharing lorry loads in 2020

Despite the programme practically grinding to a halt in spring and summer because most of the charity shops were closed and collections were halted, 88 lorry loads were shipped in Europe in 2020. Some 29 groups from 12 countries were involved in this programme to share donations and the movement's resources. A big "well done" to all those involved! More than ever, these lorry loads are a key and very tangible way of addressing inequality between regions and countries.

*The transport table is updated regularly and is available in the members' area on [emmaus-europe.org](http://emmaus-europe.org)*

Country	Group	Loads received		Dispatching groups	
		Groups	Country	Groups	Country
<b>BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA</b>	<b>Emmaus-ISF</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GEORGIA</b>	<b>Emmaus Geo</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<b>Amis3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Emmaus Smiltene</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>MPFSC</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>Emmaus Brat Albert</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Emmaus Lublin</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>6</b>	
	<b>Emmaus Rzeszów</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>7</b>	
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>Amicii d'Emmaūs</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Emmaus Iasi</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>1</b>	
	<b>Emmaus Satu Mare</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>4</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>		<b>18</b>	

The lorry loads ship over 1,000 tonnes of goods and equate to €500K of solidarity every year.

### A support fund to help relaunch temporarily closed groups

The European groups suffered greatly as a result of their shops being shut and their main-income generating activity being mothballed. The priority was reopening their shops when lockdown started to be eased in the various countries. There was also an increased need for goods to sell in the shops. The regional transport programme played a vital role for many groups during this period.

**Emmaus Europe put in place a support fund aimed at all groups so that they could ship lorry loads in order to facilitate the reopening process and help groups weakened by the pandemic to resume shipments.** The fund has already supported a lorry load sent by Emmaus Autun (France) to Emmaus Satu Mare (Romania), and several groups have requested support for early 2021. The fund will remain available in the first half of 2021.



### ■ A survey to help us improve

We took advantage of the temporary shutdown of most of our usual activities to gain some perspective on our practices. A survey of 15 sending and receiving groups was conducted to gain a better idea and quantify the impact for the partners groups, and document the procedures implemented to enable containers to be sent and received. The information collected will be used as the basis for a container guide in 2021 to help the groups to prepare and send container loads. The data collected already demonstrates that container loads are the most important form of solidarity in the Emmaus Movement in Europe.

## ■ COLLECTIVES AND WORK CAMPS TO RECONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

### Meeting up at the geographical collectives

**The European geographical collectives had planned to meet in spring 2020**, having not met for a year. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to cancel just a few days before the meetings scheduled to take place in Osijek (Croatia), Chalon-sur-Saône (France) and Metriena (Latvia).

**As the situation had not sufficiently improved in the autumn, we decided to arrange digital meetings in October 2020** in order to meet up after such a long period without meetings, and exchange news about the situation in the different groups and countries.

**The participants were happy to meet again, despite the distance**, and to be able to catch up on each other's news. The three meetings focused on the repercussions of the crisis on the groups and their close environments, as well as solutions devised and changes planned in the groups in the aftermath of the pandemic. They were also an opportunity to discuss the movement's collective response and to look forward to 2021 to identify the type of solidarity that we might need.

**The groups related very different experiences.** Outreach, distribution and help for the homeless initiatives became particularly important in 2020 for the groups already running them, and generally also gained a public health dimension. Some groups' normal activities were greatly reduced and they therefore decided to develop new and notably income-generating initiatives to survive the crisis. Other groups were able to take advantage of the temporary shutdown of their shops and other public-facing initiatives to work on their other projects (renovations, building work, new projects) and to prepare for reopening.

**Overall, many groups stated that they were in quite a precarious situation and that they were finding it difficult to think too far ahead.** However, a consensus emerged on starting to run things in the normal way again and move away from an emergency ethos. Specifically, the participants expressed a preference for the usual solidarity programmes to resume and support for long-term projects to bolster group resilience.

*The meeting reports are available in the members' area on [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)*

Collective	Date	Participants	Groups represented	Countries represented
<b>SOUTH-EAST EUROPE</b>	2 October 2020	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>POLAND-UKRAINE</b>	14 October 2020	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	9 October 2020	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>

## ■ SUMMER CAMPS TO FOSTER THE ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

**Two summer camps were arranged in almost normal circumstances in 2020.**

La Poudrière (Belgium) and the International Forum of Solidarity-Emmaus (Bosnia-Herzegovina) were able to host around 60 people in total at camps lasting two weeks. In Belgium, participants from several European countries joined in with the usual activities of the Peruwelz community, while in Bosnia-Herzegovina they took part in the Srebrenica massacre commemorations, and in the group's solidarity work, particularly in the construction of the centre for elderly people at Potočari.

**In France, the communities decided to only host French volunteers**, and prioritized local volunteering. Around 100 young people responded to the appeal made by 13 groups nationwide. Elsewhere in Europe, in Finland and Italy, for instance, government restrictions, coupled with a great deal of uncertainty, prevented the groups from opening their doors as they have usually done and still want to do.

Despite the health crisis the La Poudrière group hosted 8 people for their camp event, taking them to over 100 attendees at their youth camps since they were launched in 2008.



# 2020 AT A GLANCE

## ■ New trial members (France)

- 100 pour 1 pays Rochefortais
- ACI Ré-emploi
- Emmaüs OGFB-Ferme de Beaudonne
- Emmaüs Pontivy
- Emmaüs Primelin
- SOS Familles Emmaüs Forbach
- SOS Familles Emmaüs Millau
- Tero Loko
- Terre Alter Est

## ■ New full members

- Coup de main Pantin (France)
- Emmaüs Saint-Nazaire (France)
- Emmaüs Aselogna (Italy)
- Emmaüs Florence (Italy)
- Emmaüs Palerme (Italy)
- Emmaüs Norfolk (United Kingdom)

In early January the new executive and some of the outgoing executive members were able to meet at the Abbé Pierre remembrance centre in Esteville.



## ■ OUR MOVEMENT GREW

**We welcomed nine new trial member groups and six new full members.** We had 316 groups located in 20 countries in Europe by late 2020.

## ■ OUR GOVERNING BODIES MET

**2020 turned upside down our meeting habits.** However, despite it all, we managed to keep in touch via digital meetings. The Executive held two in-person meetings (January and March), and then met virtually six times over the course of the year. Since April, the President, the Treasurer and one member of the Executive have held a weekly videoconference with the Chief Executive.

**As for the Regional Council (Emmaüs Europe's board),** the meeting scheduled to take place in April in Paris had to be cancelled. We thought that the meeting could be postponed and that the coronavirus situation would get better, but unfortunately that was not the case. In the end, the Regional Council was remotely consulted in July, and then met virtually in November.

## ELECTED MEMBER CHANGES

Marie Balseca resigned from the Executive because of a lack of availability and has not been replaced, so a National Delegate seat remains vacant on the Executive.

Michael "Spike" Hudson was elected by the Regional Council members to replace Nathalie Martz as a Councillor of Emmaus International. Nathalie had to resign as a result of other professional commitments in Emmaus France.

Virginia Tallone is replacing Marie Balseca as the Italy National Delegate, and Serena Lemmens is replacing Willi Does as the Germany National Delegate.



Serena Lemmens,  
Germany National Delegate



Michael "Spike" Hudson,  
Councillor of Emmaus International



Virginia Tallone,  
Italy National Delegate

# FINANCIAL REPORT

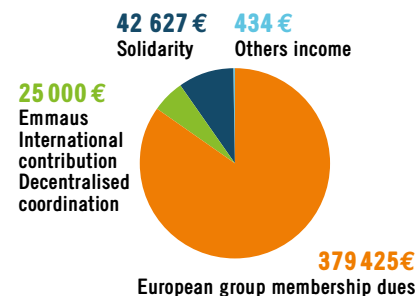
## An unusually large surplus

In 2020 our expenditure totalled €310,341 whilst our income reached €447,286. This left us with a surplus of €137,146 which was moved into our reserves.

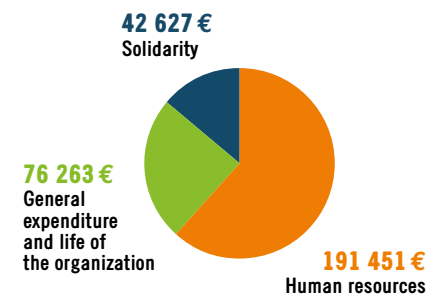
This unusually large surplus was caused by the unprecedented events of last year. Travel restrictions meant we were forced to hold our European meetings online, meaning less money spent on travel and accommodation but also, unfortunately, fewer opportunities for exchange and social interactions. Furthermore, during the period when we were adapting to this new situation we had to reduce the hours of the staff team, benefitting from funds from the French government to cover salary costs. This led to a reduction in staff costs in comparison with previous years. Lastly, we didn't lead our European solidarity programme this year as we opted to focus our efforts on supporting Emmaus International with its international programme.

You can find the full financial report, the treasurer's report and the auditor's report on our website. You can also write to the secretariat of Emmaus Europe if you would like a copy of these documents.

## INCOME



## EXPENDITURE





emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

EMMAUS EUROPE  
47, av. de la Résistance  
93 100 Montreuil France  
33 (0)1 41 58 25 70  
[emmaus-europe.org](http://emmaus-europe.org)

Emmaus Europe is the decentralised organisation of Emmaus International in Europe