



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAÜS EUROPE

24/02/22 - VIDEOCONFERENCE

emmaüs

EUROPE

PRESENT 23 VOTERS

Carina Aaltonen, Sabina Arnaut-Jahic, Mikel Azkona, Marie-France Bedleem, Julio De La Granja, Maryse Faure, Tony Ferrier, Jose Maria Garcia Bresó, Martha Hannus, Michael Hudson, Anu Lähde, Serena Lemmens, Robert Opoka, Aurore Querel, Grigory Semenchuk, Amanda Stekly, Maria-Luisa Testori, Leïla Thouret, Jérémie Urdy, Jos Van Der Meer, Charlotte Wester, Gelu Nichitel, Eduardo Sanchez, Pierre-Yves Lengart, and Jean-Philippe Légaut.

GUESTS

Patrick Atohou, Adrien Chaboche, Sandrine Rastoul, and Ms Omar (auditor).

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Eve Poulteau (chief executive), Marie Tixier (events coordinator), and Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator).

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Christian Calmejane, Rosa Gil Elorduy, Virginia Tallone

FOREWORD	<p>Carina welcomed the meeting participants. The meeting took place on a very sombre day, as 24 February was the day that Russia began its invasion of Ukraine in an unprecedented attack, with repercussions going beyond the borders of Ukraine. For the past few hours, the world's thoughts have been with Ukraine, and we are thinking of our two groups – Nasha Khata and Oselya.</p> <p>We will speak more about the matter during the meeting. Carina suggested changing the meeting agenda: starting with the financial update, and then switching to Ukraine. We hope that the internet is working in Ukraine so that Grigory can speak. Tony will then talk about the Emmaus Evolve Programme, on behalf of Emmaus UK.</p> <p>Participants had a lot to say about migration at the last RCEE, and it was very frustrating to have to cut short the discussion; today, once again, the pandemic has meant that we are having to meet virtually. The in-person meeting in April will finally enable us to speak in depth about the issues that we have not tackled at previous meetings.</p>
-----------------	---

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. Approval of the minutes	The RCEE approved the minutes of the previous meeting.	The minutes of the previous RCEE were unanimously approved.
2. Presentation and discussion of the 2021 accounts	<p>Jean-Philippe took the floor, and then the auditor will speak. Overview of the major thrusts of the report, sent out in advance.</p> <p>Membership dues The level of membership dues received remained high in 2021 (roughly €320K). The number of groups that paid dues dropped significantly (56%): fewer reminders were sent out during Véronica's maternity leave.</p> <p>Some areas of expenditure were reduced (the RCEE) caused by in-person meetings not being held (online).</p> <p>General administration costs Changes have been made to reduce costs and allocate as much funding as possible to help the groups. Increase in communication costs (translations in particular) because we have developed a regular newsletter. It is an important link for the groups.</p> <p>Surplus generated: €51865,66K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We have maintained the level of membership dues, and have had fewer expenses: a surplus has been generated to potentially fund new initiatives. → We have reversed unused reserves and they are included in the surplus. → We have given up half (€25K) of the EI funding, but we have kept the other half to underline our decentralised remit. 	

Cash and investments

Significant reserves, new initiatives can be envisaged, and we can also look at making investments (like EI and in addition to the EI Ethical Fund) so that the money does not sit in the current account.

Solidarity Three projects supported, a unique year because an upper limit of €15K was approved in a vote.

Emergency aid for India €10,000

ISF emergency aid to help support Afghan refugees following the fall of Kabul: €5K.

2022 budget outline Same ethos as 2021, but with greater spending on the migration campaign, and maybe another campaign about the circular economy and donations. We have also budgeted for a meeting on migration and an amount to help trial member groups take part in the WA.

José Maria: To confirm, do we have over €600K in cash? Are we going to take an executive decision about the €70K in the EEF? What are we going to do with this money, invest it, withdraw it, use it?

Yes, we have €600K.

A decision needs to be taken regarding the EEF and investment of some of our cash reserves.

JM: Regarding planned spending on salaries in 2022, how many people does the figure cover?

The four current members of staff.

→ No additional comments were made on the 2022 budget, it will be used as a working budget until the next RCEE, which will adjust it based on the reworked action plan.

The auditor took the floor to present her report

Ms Omar presented a document detailing the role and remit of auditors and the audit.

Two points were highlighted:

- The pandemic's impact on our work.
- Allocated solidarity funds

No regulated agreements were signed during the financial year.

No questions following Ms Omar's report.

3. Vote on the 2021 accounts and reappointment of the auditor

2021 accounts 22 votes for, no abstentions and no votes against.

The 2021 accounts were unanimously approved.

		<p>The €51 865.99K surplus was allocated to the association's funds.</p> <p>Reappointment of the auditor 22 votes for, no abstentions and no votes against. The auditor was unanimously reappointed.</p>
<p>4. Update on the situation in Ukraine</p>	<p>We had planned to discuss the situation in Ukraine when we put together the meeting agenda. However, we could not have imagined how serious the situation has become. Grigory then spoke to us about the situation in Ukraine.</p> <p>Grigory: This is a bad day for Ukraine. We were awakened today by bomb alerts. We could hear bombing and missiles in the distance for an hour this morning.</p> <p>This morning, Russia began a new phase of aggressivity against Ukraine, our country is being invaded, and Russia has bombed the country from east to west. This is a tragic day for Europe and the world. We must remain united in the fight against the madness of the dictator in power in the Kremlin. The situation is stable in the Lviv region where our members are located. There was some panic on the streets, people are trying to withdraw cash, and build up a stockpile of food. Many people are going to military service recruitment offices, and are donating blood. Fighting is already intense in the East and South of Ukraine.</p> <p>There have been several Russian air strikes. Fortunately, there have been no injured people in Lviv. According to the Ukrainian army, everybody knew what was happening. The operations on the ground by the Russian army are in an active phase in the North, East and South of Ukraine, and on the Belarussian border. The Ukrainian army is staying strong in order to neutralise the Russian army.</p> <p>We are receiving lots of news from civilians living in Donetsk. Here in Lviv, we are receiving lots of calls from members of</p>	<p>The Regional Council unanimously voted to transfer funding of €15K (general solidarity) to support the two groups (Oselya and Nasha Khata) in Ukraine.</p> <p>The RCEE adopted the declaration condemning the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and sent out as a proposal by Carina in the morning.</p>

Oselya, we are expecting a wave of displaced people from North and East Ukraine.

What we need to do:

- Provide as much support as possible for Ukraine at all levels: information, government appeals, calls to boycott Russian and Russia-related products. We need to really isolate Russia.

This war is a terrible mistake, and our groups are already planning to work with refugees. A lot of trains arrive from Eastern Ukraine and stop in our region.

We will send you more information about how to support Oselya and Nasha Khata following the meeting.

Grigory shared documents using the document sharing feature: [Stand with Ukraine](#): the website provides a lot of factual information.

<https://ukraine.ua/news/stand-with-ukraine/?fbclid=IwAR22K5mFw2FMdyt1JJH3024-OPGP4jx3hhA2CZE44vz8y0eSgBbLBT1CRnc>

This message is alarming, but I never thought that this situation could actually happen. I just didn't expect to wake to air raid warnings and fear. The Russians have shown us that nobody is safe today.

Even if the bombing is faraway, the Russians are bombing across the country, which fuels the feeling of panic. Ukraine has been fighting for over eight years, and will cope.

We are grateful for your help.

Carina: Thank you for these chat links, and for giving us your news, we will do what we can to help you.

Are you OK with the declaration that we have put together?

Maria-Luisa Testori joined the meeting.

Grigory: Yes, the EE declaration is very precise and sounds great.

Carina: You can add details or amend the declaration and let us know.

How can we back our members and help support the displaced people with Oselya and Nasha Khata? We can start with the €15K to be transferred to the two Ukrainian groups.

The Polish groups could take in Ukrainian refugees.

Robert Opoka, Poland national delegate: this is a horrible and tragic day. We are going to be 100% mobilised. I have spoken with Zbigniew from Lublin. Zbigniew managed to speak to Natalia before the invasion began. They shared the hope that the invasion would not happen. And yet it did.

Obviously, the Polish groups are totally in favour of supporting the Ukrainian people. We want to host refugees. The first refugees from Ukraine are already on their way and have arrived in Warsaw, according to different sources of information. The borders could be closed, but we are witnessing large numbers of refugees arriving.

Jean-Philippe: A large number of refugees are also trying to come to Romania. The authorities say they are preparing to support refugees, but it is not easy to find out if the border is really open.

Patrick Atohoun: this morning's news is challenging the whole international movement. We are receiving a lot of calls asking what is going on, what can we do?

Initial stance: be supportive, but this should go beyond the European dimension, because it is an issue for all the other regions. Who would have predicted what happened this morning? Putin has lulled Western politicians and the whole

	<p>world into a sense of security in order to then attack Ukraine. We must condemn his action.</p> <p>Emmaus International will also provide information within the movement to demonstrate our solidarity. Human solidarity, emotional solidarity, in ideas and by providing funding. We stand together and we share this pain.</p> <p><u>Carina</u>: Thank you very much Patrick. EE is going to swiftly publish and circulate a press release. We are drafting a joint press release with EI to condemn the situation and the war in Ukraine. A big thank you to Grigory, we will pray for you, please tell your friends and family that we are supporting them.</p> <p><u>Eve</u>: The exec has suggested transferring €15K to support the groups in Ukraine. We will be in touch with them to find out their needs over the coming days.</p>	
<p>5. 2022 SOLIDARITY</p>	<p>Three projects were submitted to the RCEE for a total of €46K (ESP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emmaus Geo: €21K, renovation of a social centre in Kvareli. - Emmaus Iasi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €20K: finalisation of the building work on the shop and storage area on the Belvédère site. €102K: wants to submit to FAP a building project with four homes for companions wishing to live with their families. PS: <i>In the end, this project has been postponed and will not be submitted to FAP this year.</i> - Nova Generacija: €5K, pilot project to set up Blue Ambassadors, outreach with child victims of domestic abuse. <p>The application submitted by Emmaus Geo, a trial member, enables us to start a debate on an EE criterion set in 2019 stating that trial members cannot exceed a threshold of €5K when making funding applications. However, we have realised that trial membership is a time of development, so trial members need more support, and were ending up utilising bilateral funding, whereas the ESP aims to focus on working collectively, meaning that this criterion is actually counter-productive.</p>	<p>1. Amendment of the criterion limiting trial member solidarity funding to €5K</p> <p>The RCEE voted in favour of abolishing the criterion limiting trial member solidarity funding to €5K, provided that funding helps to make the group's work sustainable, with 19 votes in favour and one abstention.</p> <p>2. Emmaus Iasi:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The project to finalise the storage area and shop, for funding of approx. €20K, was adopted with 21 votes in favour and one abstention. b. The RCEE voted in favour of allowing Emmaus International to set the amount requested from FAP, taking into account other funding applications. 17 votes for, one vote against and two abstention. <i>5/4/22 update</i>: For property reasons and due to the cost of materials

1. Emmaus Iasi:

Patrick: We cannot put forward €102K for the FAP, we need to see what can actually be funded. Maybe put forward the project over one-two or three years.

For the first year, such-and-such an amount, and then included in the following year's programme.

José Maria : Thank you for the clarification.

If major investment is needed, why not apply for a loan from the Emmaus Ethical Fund?

These long-term projects can be funded by other entities.

2. Nova Generacija (NG)

Jose Maria: For projects put forward by trial members, members in waiting, progress needs to be made so that they become self-supporting.

For non-productive projects, such as development, social and population assistance projects, I feel that these projects should be funded by the group itself through self-sufficiency, and work to develop aid projects, etc. Regarding funding for trial members, we need to see what the majority opinion is on the RCEE.

Applications for initiatives to help groups become self-funding by means of an effective project: these projects need to be funded. Social action projects: should be submitted once the group is a member of Emmaus.

Maryse: Yes, reiterate that this group has been a trial member for many years, and there are lots of ups and downs in the group's story to date. It would be premature to respond if we don't know whether they are going to stay in the movement. Should we wait a little while? The RCEE needs to have a frank discussion about trial members and funding applications.

Sabina: There is more to say about these groups' experience and know-how. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the members are

following the war, *this project was postponed by Iasi.*

3. Nova Generacija (NG)

The RCEE approved support of €5K for NG for its pilot project (Blue Ambassadors) with 21 votes in favour.

4. Emmaus Geo

The RCEE rubberstamped support of €21K for Emmaus Geo for its Kvareli social centre renovation project, with 19 votes cast in favour, and one against.

government partners because social policy is inadequate. The direction of travel is that the services offered will in the long term generate an income, even if it is more challenging than in other countries. The NG team is building its capacity, it has solid expertise with the government and local business. It is clear to see that there is a need to focus on the needs of children, who are the beneficiaries of this project. They need to build capacity in order to do this.

The feeling is that they will become self-sufficient. They need this funding to expand their activities.

Amanda: Regarding future requests, the issue of sustainability needs to be considered. More information about project sustainability needs to be included. NG's application is legitimate and robust. It is valid on paper, but we need to see if it is sustainable. I feel that it is important to check how it could be funded.

Eve: This is an example of the difficulty of "living together" in Europe, as each country has its own issues. NG has for a long time endeavoured to develop a "traditional" income-generating activity (charity shop), but it cost them more money than it was making. A charity shop was not appropriate, and in this case delivering services to councils seems more suitable. "*First help those who suffer most*", we talked with them to see how they could support those who suffer most.

They have contracts with the national government and the region to help children in distress. They want to go further in order to support at-risk children.

We need to see the full context, which differs from other countries.

Jose Maria: We have understood the issues. This is a great project and is consistent with the dynamic of BH groups running honest and ethical projects.

A question regarding form: if a trial member starts applying for funding, the group needs to be able to evidence its sustainability, and commit to self-funding in the long term, to demonstrate the sector in which it could be most productive and develop local solidarity and/or receive solidarity support.

This trial period is needed for groups to consolidate and seek out strong support. And then comes the question of relations with the Emmaus Movement: we need to get to know each other and see if the group is going to adhere to the Emmaus principles and values. A group can apply for funding if the group has been approved. However, the mentor group needs to forge solidarity links. The ISF could apply to EE via European solidarity. Personally, I find it hard to understand that a trial member is applying for funding, regardless of the importance, validity etc of the project...it fits with EI solidarity.

I am expressing reservations about the very idea that trial members can receive funding.

Should we retain a funding threshold for trial members and their projects?

3. Amendment of an EE criterion

This contribution enabled Jean-Philippe to go back over EE's solidarity criteria: they were approved in order to organise the ESP, and notably to differentiate between full and trial members. The €5K threshold for funding applications made by trial members was approved so that EE does not give the impression of being a funding body, and to limit funding options for trial members, so that they understand that values are of the utmost importance.

We discussed this criterion at the last exec, and it does have several limitations:

- No difference between non-members and trial members.
- Institutional solidarity via EE, and inter-group solidarity: the groups with good "inter-group" contacts have access to parallel

funding which is a lot more than €5K, which is rather unfair for those who do not have these contacts during a phase in which they need support for their development.

- Other groups have started out without rushing, slowly, phase by phase, in a solid fashion. They sometimes have the opportunity to invest, and have residential premises: there is no point awaiting membership in order to fund more when they fulfil these criteria.

-

Is this criterion relevant? Could we say that we are careful when considering applications submitted by trial members, that EE is not a funding body, reiterate the values, without actually setting an upper limit which could curb and hinder some development opportunities for trial members?

Proposal: abolish this criterion for existing trial members who fit the criteria, and for whom a larger amount would constitute a real funding opportunity.

Pierre-Yves: Why does trial membership last so long?

Eve: Trial membership lasts for two to five years.

Marie-France Bedleem: It depends on the groups; we need to consider undertaking more solidarity with groups that are truly needy.

Carina: Agrees with Marie-France. We have received very few solidarity applications this year. This is worrying: what is going on? We have funds available, and we need to use them in the right way.

Three funding applications from three dynamic groups, willing to work with the different stakeholders in the movement. We need to follow procedures and regulations but agrees with Marie-France.

Eve: Do you want to change this €5K threshold, albeit with some conditions attached?

YES, according to Carina. GEO fulfils these conditions. Carina reiterated that it takes 24 days to ship a container load to Georgia. This is no good, and we need to help them in a different way.

José-Maria: We are mixing up several things. On the one hand, solidarity applications. On the other, the question of whether to retain the €5K limit for trial members? The debate needs to be properly set down.

Amanda: Is it usual to only receive a few applications?

Eve: The low numbers are bound to be linked to the new criteria: two years between projects.

Regarding José-Maria's question, if we do not vote today on the change of criterion, we can only finance Geo to the tune of €5K.

Motion: the RC abolishes the €5K threshold for trial members provided that funding enables the group to become sustainable and self-supporting?

Eduardo: With the current rule, we could not allocate more than €5K. Let's vote on it and then vote on all the funding.

Patrick: The criteria need to be harmonised with the other regions. Emmaus International is concerned that even though EE is part of the EI movement, decisions taken should fit within the framework of collective movement-wide decisions. A lot has been said about trial members, and there are difficulties in all the regions. Some take advantage of this situation to request funding even though they have friends in groups in Europe, etc. We need to foster a dynamic in which groups produce something. Self-funding, suggest that social projects should be funded by the income-generating activity. These ideas will be put forward at the WA, independence, self-sufficiency... Shared, movement-wide criteria.

José-Maria: Sustainability goes above and beyond economic subsistence.

	<p><u>Amanda</u>: Bosnia should be an example, €5K for this pilot project is worthwhile.</p> <p>The same goes for Emmaus Geo. When allocating project funding, I was referring to long-term sustainability, rather than a one-off, ephemeral project. This can take several different forms. Current activities need funding rather than ephemeral activities, activities that can benefit the group. We need to help to develop existing activities and build capacity to ensure larger-scale sustainability.</p>	
<p>6. Choice of venue for the RAEE</p>	<p>The RAEE is scheduled for autumn 2023. We asked for groups to volunteer to host the assembly, and a single response was received from Emmaus Iasi in Romania, who are very keen to host the assembly.</p> <p>Leila presented the plan to host the RAEE using a PowerPoint. Location: northeast Romania. Three sites, Iasi, Popesti (50 minutes) and Belvédère (30 minutes).</p> <p>A lot of networks in the city (students, non-profits, volunteers) and a team that is very keen to host the RAEE.</p> <p><u>Gelu</u>: This would be the first meeting of this scale in Romania. Abbé Pierre visited in 2001, and there was already some awareness of him in Romania. We have endeavoured to publicize his work since we started developing our organisation.</p> <p>With regard to travel options: airport, bus, trains, etc. International airport with flights to Paris and Beauvais, and direct flights to Spain. Travellers can also go through Bucharest, taking TAROM.</p> <p>There is a railway station for those wishing to travel by train. A scout group could volunteer to help the group with arrangements.</p> <p>Airport-community connections are quite quick. Suggested dates: Between 1-13 October, or late October.</p>	<p>The RCEE unanimously voted to hold the RAEE in Romania in October 2023.</p>

7. Migrant reception in Europe

We are witnessing significant tension and backtracking with regard to proper provision for migrants in Europe. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the French borders (Spain and Italy) and Belarus-Poland, and in Calais on the UK border. It is crucial that we respond to this situation.

Suggestion: Two proposals were discussed at the last exec. We made progress on the awareness raising campaign in our charity shops, to be supplemented by lobbying politicians. We also discussed the idea of a European migration meeting; it was José Maria who floated the idea. This could be an opportunity to review the situation in each country and local Emmaus campaigns. The exec thought that this meeting could be held at the same time as an international work camp, as was the idea pre-COVID, in Calais in October. However, having raised the matter with EI, it seems that the timescales are too short for a work camp, and more time would be needed. An international work camp could be envisaged in 2023 if held in early spring.

Emmaus International is planning to organise a conference on local migration governance in Strasbourg in late October of this year. This is taking place within the framework of the Organisation for Universal Citizenship. We could look into how to link these two conferences.

The situation in Ukraine is going to further highlight the issue of provision for refugees in Europe.

Eve **with regard to the poster campaign**

The aim is to raise the awareness of Emmaus charity shop customers across Europe, by positively depicting welcoming migrants in Europe.

The intention is to ship the printed posters from Paris and translate them into the language of each country. National organisations can include their logos if they so wish.

The groups could also use these posters to challenge MEPs or campaign at the national level.

Everything is almost ready for France: four posters/group.

Shipping schedule: from mid-March to mid-April depending on the translations and the different European countries.

If you have any other ideas for promoting this campaign (social media), please get in touch!

Charlotte: Regarding social media, when does the campaign start? Will a short explanation accompany the campaign? This is needed for workers in small shops.

Eve: Yes, the campaign will be properly explained. The European pact on asylum and migration will be at the forefront. We are looking to run a simple campaign in order to raise awareness.

Ideas for social media are welcome.

Jérémie: This is a delicate issue in Switzerland, few groups were enthusiastic when they saw the proposed posters, and we aren't really faced with the problem. We work a lot in our canton with local people, and that is what works. We don't manage to take in refugees in Switzerland. Should the message be tailored to Switzerland?

Eve: In that case, maybe the posters can be used to raise the awareness of the Swiss groups themselves about provision for foreign nationals; we are not saying that we necessarily host refugees in our groups, but that it is important for us to properly welcome foreign nationals.

Maryse: This is one of the movement's struggles. Emmaus is not just about charity shops. We should not abandon this struggle, and Emmaus Switzerland is part of the movement.

Carina: Jérémie's account does not surprise me. People on my island stated that they didn't understand our campaign on the hunger strike in support of refugees in Calais. It is important to know that our shops are places where staff and customers have different points of view. This is something that we need to emphasize on our posters. This will encourage a positive welcoming attitude.

José-Maria: The posters are attention-grabbing and well put together, but are lacking an advocacy message with regard to migration and suffering, and the root causes in migrants' countries of origin. European dispossession of countries in the Global South, systematic violence causing migration.

We need to further develop our message, and gain a better grasp of the causes of migration.

Regarding the conference, a regional initiative is needed, we need to know which content to highlight, the roots of the problem, why Europe provides colossal budgets so that police forces can perpetrate violence on the borders...

We should not hesitate to condemn this situation, and develop a long-term campaign too, via ongoing advocacy.

Luisa: The advocacy aspect does not appear on the posters, but each country/group can develop it. We could do more at the European or local government levels, but the posters are effective awareness-raising tools.

Regarding Jérémie's contribution, we are entitled and duty bound to break the silence surrounding the situation of migrants. Emmaus' goal is to build a fairer world, and not only fighting against poverty or for the environment, but also by accepting and welcoming migrants. How can we build a fairer world if someone is making out that migrants are enemies, when we do not take into account different languages and cultures? What can we do in the face of trash talk, and minority rights being denied.

These posters are a first step. We could design other, more advocacy-based posters, but we have to start somewhere.

Regarding the European pact on asylum, Carina, Eve, Maryse and other members of the RCEE took part in an online seminar this morning arranged with Migreurop. However, this new pact was launched in 2016, presented to the European Parliament, and then blocked in 2018. The parliament is putting the pact in the spotlight once again following the fire in the Moria refugee camps. However, the formalisation of detention at the borders is unfortunately one of the key points of the pact.

Sabina: We started working on the question in 2017 in Bosnia. Centres have been opened, one for minors, and another centre for people transiting. We feel a moral obligation to help them, give them something to eat, a roof over their heads, clean clothes, access to showers and somewhere to charge their phones. Nowadays, with the support of a large number of organisations, we are no longer afraid of supporting lots of migrants. The minors stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we have recorded 2,000, and sometimes there are up to 10,000 people.

The RCEE agreed on the principle:

- October: European meeting on migration issues.
- To be worked on at the next RCEE.

Tony: What Sabina does is incredible. Question: We haven't spoken much about migrants in the Belarus-Poland area. Will there possibly be more information about that border area following the invasion of Ukraine?

Robert Opoka: Thank you for your suggestions, I hope that we will be able to get the posters translated into Polish.

Patrick: The big moment eagerly awaited for several years is arriving – the next WA in Uruguay. The meeting is a real opportunity to work and come together with our South American friends. There is a desire to create a common thread for the next four years. We have made it possible for all the groups to take part.

Adrien explained the registration process:

- One plane ticket per group covered by EI.
- Groups must pay the registration fee (€600, and €400 for Eastern European countries).
- EE is financially supporting trial member groups in countries with no national organisation.
- Solidarity contributions can be made: a group can be helped to fund their trip to Uruguay.
- Option of submitting an individual request for support.

8. Preparations for the WA

<https://assemblee-mondiale-emmaus.org>

Eduardo: Important decisions to be taken at the first virtual session. Special relations with Latin America. Importance of the shared history with Latin America.

With the EI secretariat, we are trying to get groups to register as soon as possible to reduce the related costs and book flights in advance.

Groups need to register by 31 March and absolutely by 4 April. The CEIs and NDs need to liaise with the groups to mobilise them.

Adrien: EI is going to put together a briefing for the people who will be reminding the groups.

	<p><u>Patrick</u>: Everyone has a part to play. Be mindful about paying membership dues, and arrears need to be paid in order to vote. If some groups are experiencing problems, a request can be submitted to the treasurer to take part anyway, despite arrears.</p> <p><u>Maryse</u>: We are seeing amazing enthusiasm from the groups in South America. We are going to engage the movement for the next four years with key issues, conveying our values, solidarity etc.</p>
<p>9. Conclusion and schedule of upcoming meetings</p>	<p>Carina took the floor to close the RCEE: I wish to thank you for taking part. To conclude, I would like to share this message from Oselya, which provides real hope on this difficult day.</p> <p>“Alone, we are weak, and unable to withstand dread. Let’s stand together, and do our best by sharing. Let’s hope that the war does not last long. Today, 24th February, is the birthday of Oleysia (the group’s founder), who set in motion the Emmaus adventure in Ukraine, so let’s remember her at this time.”</p> <p>Thank you to the interpreters, and to Marie for making the arrangements. Next time, on 21-23 April in Paris, we hope that we can share a glass of wine together!</p>

As there were no further items on the agenda, the president closed the meeting.

Carina Aaltonen
President of Emmaus Europe

Aurore Querel
Secretary of Emmaus Europe