



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OF EMMAÜS EUROPE

3 FEBRUARY 2022 – ZOOM MEETING

emmaüs

EUROPE

PRESENT

Carina Aaltonen (president), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Aurore Querel (secretary), Leila Thouret, Sabina Arnaut-Jahic, Maryse Faure.

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

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

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Eduardo Sánchez

FOREWORD	<p>Carina took the floor to introduce the meeting. The December executive was highly effective; we tackled a large number of issues. The migration conference, the current awareness-raising campaign... Another campaign is planned about overconsumption and donating good quality items to Emmaus. The topics of Fast Fashion and good quality donations could be combined in order to arrange a companion meeting in 2023; this would enable work to be done on the companions' charter.</p> <p>Rather than moving the offices to Brussels as suggested by Renzo at the online WA, we opted to work on our advocacy aims and therefore examine the option of hiring a new member of staff to focus on these issues. We plan to meet with the European commissioner for international partnerships, along with the chairs of Emmaus International and Emmaus France, regarding partnerships with the African Union. This needs to be done over the coming months, while France holds the EU presidency. We also want to suggest a meeting between the EE and EI executives in March in order to work more effectively together at different levels, and iron out misunderstandings. In the hope that these two hours of discussion are fruitful, I welcome you all to the meeting.</p>
-----------------	---

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting	No comments were made about the last meeting's minutes.	The minutes of the December 2021 Regional Executive were unanimously approved.
2. 2021 end-of-year accounts and adjustments to the 2022 budget	<p>Two matters to be addressed together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2021 final accounts - Projected budget for 2022 <p><u>2021 final accounts</u> The table provided is provisional, as Véronica is on maternity leave, and the accounts need to be approved at three levels: the EE treasurer, then the chartered accountant, and finally the external auditor. Consequently, the final figures (to be approved by email) should differ by a few hundred euro. (See the result below)</p> <p>Expenditure Important information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work to reduce the secretariat's operating costs. - Savings made by holding the RCEE remotely. - Group monitoring: more visits have been carried out, and this is good news because it enables us to provide better support. 	<p>The projected budget for 2022 was approved in its current state.</p> <p>An ethical investment proposal could be discussed at a forthcoming RCEE.</p> <p>The executive signed off the 2021 accounts with a surplus of €51,865.95. The executive will suggest to the RCEE that the surplus is allocated to the organisation's aims.</p>

Solidarity: €65,000 of solidarity spending amounting to €20,000 of food aid (EI Programme), €15,000 for Poland, €10,000 for Croatia, €17,000 unallocated solidarity, and €3,000 for Oselya (Ukraine) out of donations of €64,000 (almost balanced the books).

Income

Membership dues are up, €18,000 over the projected figure for 2021. More reminders would have enabled us to collect more dues, but Véronica being on maternity leave made this difficult. There is still potential for raising more funds this way.

We have received €25,000 from EI for decentralised coordination (out of an average budget of €50,000 for EE in other years).

The final accounts were approved by email by all the executive members following work done by the chartered accountant and sent to the executive members.

We have made a surplus of €27,865.95 for 2021.

As we discussed last year, our external auditor is suggesting reversing some of our unused provisions for expenses.

Following discussion with her, we felt that we could keep back €40,000 for the next RAEE to spend in 2023 and €10,000 could be earmarked for organising an event, using this money in 2022 for a conference on migration issues or the world assembly.

On the other hand, we agreed to take back from the cash fund the €5,000 not used for the RCEE, the €15,000 earmarked for an employee leaving, and the sum of €4,000 earmarked for inflation without being used for several years.

This makes for an additional sum of €24,000 to be added to the 2021 result.

Resources available late 2021 (cash) €610,000, held in Banca Etica, Crédit Coopératif, the *Livret A* savings account and Crédit Mutuel.

The question was raised about whether it would be worthwhile investing some of this cash in an ethical fund?

Over €150,000 in cash tied up, equating to the loans extended to the groups, and the money invested in the Emmaus Ethical Fund.

Maryse raised the question of a bank investment, in the knowledge that the Emmaus Ethical Fund fulfils this investment role.

Jean-Philippe agreed, but emphasized that the money was pointlessly sitting in our accounts, and could be used in an ethical and responsible manner.

Eve reiterated that EE has already invested over €70K in the EEF and that Emmaus International invests its cash in other ways, and we could do the same.

2022 projected budget Clarifications

- Travel to visit new groups
- Advocacy budget: €37,000.
- ➔ Membership dues and travel involving networks of which we are members.
- ➔ Poster campaigns (migration and textiles)
- ➔ €20,000 for the conference on migration and work camp (September 2022).
- ➔ €10,000 to help the European groups to take part in the WA.

Income

“Meetings provision” covering the migration conference and work camp.

Regarding the potential new employee, this is costed at €50-55,000 a year depending on contract type, but has not been budgeted for because we have to discuss the need with the RCEE.

	<p>→ Internal communication posted the biggest variation, because of the translation cost of the newsletter, created in 2020.</p> <p>Carina put forward the idea of setting up a working group made up of members of the RCEE and interested people to work out how to invest the money sitting in our accounts so that it benefits our target groups, invest in a good cause. It would be worthwhile discussing the subject at an upcoming RCEE.</p> <p>Jean-Philippe stated that there are two options based on what we are looking to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make an investment with our bank, simply. No need for a working group. - Do something worthwhile: Emmaus Ethical Fund, or another instrument, which may require the creation of a working group. <p>As a reminder, all Crédit Mutuel investments are regarded as being ethical because they are shared: making an investment is therefore an act of solidarity.</p> <p>Carina suggested that we just discuss the matter at a future RCEE.</p> <p>Carina suggested planting trees to offset the carbon footprint of the many journeys to be made.</p> <p>→ Raise with the European groups.</p> <p>Sandrine added that €237,000 of dedicated funds are still available, of which €200,000 is unallocated solidarity. This reserve can be used for solidarity initiatives.</p>	
<p>3. Solidarity</p>	<p><u>Nova Generacija:</u> <u>Regarding the sum of €15,000 from dedicated funds</u> Maryse reiterated that the group is a trial member, and they need to consider an income-generating activity. They also have a large, unoccupied plot of land in the countryside. The project submitted by the group is too complex to be understood by the RCEE, so the executive is asking them to take the time to explore a way of using this sum of €15K from</p>	<p><u>Decisions taken</u></p> <p>Nova Generacija: Proposal to fund the development of the Blue Phone (€5K) approved for submission to the RCEE.</p>

dedicated funds for an initiative that will enable the group to stabilise its position (maybe new premises?)

Regarding the project submitted for 2022 solidarity:
(application for €5,000 to develop the Blue Phone project).

Sabina feels that this project is a normal development phase for the association. The aim of in-person meetings with beneficiaries meets a real need in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The initiative could be subsequently supported by local companies. There is a real need for social support in the country. The project is simple, and they are not fearful of moving forward. They could then generate income by offering their services to businesses in a second phase. Maryse took advantage of the discussion to find out what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina with regard to the presidency and upcoming elections.

The situation is becoming more and more complicated. Two entities, three representatives (Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian). Soon a fourth president representing minorities, which will be even more complicated. Everyone is working on their own. An update about the situation was provided at the last Board in December 2021.

Emmaus Geo

We need to think about how to kick off a discussion on solidarity criteria at the next RCEE.

As a reminder, Emmaus Geo is a trial member group and should not be able to apply for more than €5,000. As the project is coherent, and it will have a major impact on the group's development, the issue of submitting a bigger funding application (€21K) to the RCEE was raised.

This raises the issue of the criteria that we set for the trial member groups, as trial membership is a time when they need support to develop, even if the Emmaus Movement should not be regarded as a source of funding.

Emmaus Geo

The executive approved the funding application for €21,000 in principle. The issue of European Solidarity Programme funding criteria needs to be worked on prior to the RCEE.

The subject needs to be discussed by the RCEE to see if we could abandon this criterion of €5K maximum for trial members.

Emmaus Iasi

Maryse suggested downsizing this very big project (€166,000, of which €20,000 from EE, and €102,000 from FAP).

Jean-Philippe raised a similar matter. Despite it being a very coherent and worthwhile project, the amount requested could be a stumbling block. When previous major projects (€100,000) were submitted, there were discussions in the movement about unfairness, as it was impossible to support all the groups with such big amounts of funding. In terms of communication, we do not want this to backfire against Iasi and fuel dissent that could have a negative impact on the group.

- Strategy of putting forward the whole project? In the knowledge that major sums were paid out three years ago.
- Be mindful about not generating too much of an imbalance.

Carina reiterated that the application of €20,000 made to EE is for solar panels. The remaining amount would be funded by FAP: €102,00 if FAP approves the project and/or the amount.

Carina thought we should allow EI to discuss the sum. The application could be downsized if it is deemed to be too much.

Suggest to the RCEE a funding application for the building of €20K for the European Solidarity Programme.

Then ask the RCEE if they are willing to support Iasi's application to develop their project to the tune of €100,000, and we would leave it to EI to work out the amount of support suggested to FAP.

Emmaus Iasi

The executive rubberstamped the proposal to submit a funding application of €20K for solar panels to the RCEE.

Then ask the RCEE if they are willing to support Iasi's application to develop its project up to €100,000, leaving it to EI to work out the funding amount put forward to FAP, while reiterating that it will be submitted to the EI Board for an opinion, which will average out the applications made by the other regions, to find out if we need to downsize the project in order not to create an imbalance with the other regions.

Regarding the allocation of funding applications between EI and EE

We are awaiting an opinion from the RCEE about funding support, and must wait for new international solidarity criteria to be set at the March 2022 EI Board.

4. Migration campaign

We still need to find two photos tailored to the messages and posters because Emmaus UK no longer holds the copyright for the photos we used to trial the posters.

	<p>How can we make a connection and suggest to the groups that they link the campaign more broadly with other advocacy issues, with the opinion of the NDs from each country.</p> <p>Timing: approve late Feb/early March, and post out to the groups not needing a translation into their local language.</p> <p>International migration meeting: a fantastic initiative, according to Maryse. The topic is global, and the meeting would enable the groups to undertake exchanges, go to Poland, Italy, and then meet up in Calais to discuss the issue. Significant work on the topic of migration, which is not solely located around Calais. Maryse's proposal to decentralise the event so that it takes place in different locations.</p>	
<p>5. 2022 schedule</p>	<p>24 February AM: Migreurop colloquium on the migration pact. Available languages: French and English, and follow-up to the Europe-Africa Summit, which will be held just before.</p> <p>Mid-March: Possibility of a meeting with the EI exec.</p> <p>5 April (morning): exchange of practices, in-person, on improving shop displays in order to convey the Emmaus message. Carina could take part.</p> <p>5-6 May 2022: Regional summit in Strasbourg. No answer with regard to the roundtable with partners</p>	
<p>6. Awareness-raising and advocacy position</p>	<p>In the first instance, it is not a question of recruiting someone, but working out and setting our advocacy and supporting groups with advocacy remit.</p> <p>Next RCEE: significant discussion time on the following topics: movement's advocacy communication, showcasing examples developed by Emmaus, supporting the groups with awareness raising.</p> <p>After some discussion, the question to be put to the RCEE is as follows: to what extent should we develop advocacy, and what does it involve?</p> <p>Sabina reiterated that the groups do not have the time to get to grips with these matters. In her view, Emmaus Europe needs a new employee to devote their time to this task. We need to find the time to learn and train this person. It is important that we have someone who solely works on this topic.</p>	<p>The whole exec approved the approach of discussing the content of our advocacy work and the idea of recruiting a new member of staff at the next RCEE, at a workshop.</p>

	<p>Carina felt that even working a lot in the groups, it is not enough to convey core messages on migration, climate change, etc. We need to do many things. The need for a new post is clear. A four-person team is not adequate.</p> <p>If we decide to recruit someone: Cost: €50-55 000. Costs vary depending on contract length (more expensive if it is a short contract). In the first phase, we could start with a temporary contract until the RAEE to try out this new role.</p>	
<p>7. Organisation of the RAEE</p>	<p>Only Iasi has volunteered to host the meeting. The Netherlands do not feel up to arranging the RAEE, due to a lack of human resources.</p> <p>Update on progress made by Iasi: seeking a venue, but there are lots of options.</p> <p>Several community sites to visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iasi community - Belvédère plot - Popesti farm <p>The team is highly motivated, both the older and newer members are really keen to arrange a big event.</p> <p>RCEE: approval of Iasi's proposal to host the RAEE, and review proposals for the assembly's theme (in April).</p>	<p>The executive agreed to submit Iasi's proposal for a vote by the RCEE.</p> <p>RCEE: approval by the RCEE of Iasi's proposal to host the RAEE, and review proposals for the assembly's theme (in April).</p> <p>Dates: Autumn 2023, preferably before November. Nota bene – 14 October: Pilgrimage to Iasi, prices shoot up. Avoid the week of 14 October.</p>
<p>8. April RCEE agenda and allocation of remits</p>	<p>Shared facilitation of the major topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration - The circular economy - Discussion of the action plan, which could incorporate the discussion of advocacy. - Statutes - Global report, time to link it with international issues. <p><u>Next meeting:</u> 24 February Zoom RCEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End-of-year accounts and budget 	

Next EI board: 14-18 March
Next in-person RCEE: 21-23 April

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