

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2021



emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

## SUMMARY

<b>EDITORIAL BY CARINA AALTONEN</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>POLITICAL ACTION WITH A GRASSROOTS PRESENCE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Migration policy cannot be dissolved in a Covid tonic .....	7
Head online for the social and solidarity economy!.....	11
For progress on social rights in Europe .....	14
<b>EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES TO MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER</b> .....	<b>15</b>
The Emmaus of tomorrow: what will be the role for young people in our movement ? .....	16
Selling online: how to launch and then develop this activity .....	18
The Emmaus of tomorrow: how can we bring about renewal within our groups? .....	20
<b>SOLIDARITY TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Global, tailor-made solutions .....	23
The transport programme - at the heart of our solidarity.....	26
The joy of meeting in person again - the collectives.....	29
Summer camps: discovering the wealth of diversity in our movement.....	31
<b>COMMUNICATION TO HELP THE GROUPS TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER</b> .....	<b>32</b>
Launch of our new website.....	34
Our newsletter – at the heart of the life of our region .....	35
Our Instagram account, a mosaic of Emmaus .....	35
<b>EMMAUS IN EUROPE IN 2021</b> .....	<b>36</b>
Our movement is getting bigger.....	37
Return of the visits of trial member groups .....	37
<b>STATUTORY MATTERS IN EUROPE</b> .....	<b>38</b>
The various bodies have held meetings .....	39
Changes of board members .....	40
A new solidarity officer.....	40
<b>FINANCE</b> .....	<b>42</b>

# A YEAR OF RESILIENCE

BY CARINA AALTONEN

Dear friends,

**Peter Sands of the Global Fund said, «without equity we cannot end COVID-19, HIV or any other pandemic”.** I would agree with this, but I would add that inequality in itself is a pandemic and that the fight against this scourge should be a priority on both the national and international levels. In addition to the fight against inequality, we should also focus on the fight for climate justice. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, summed it up well when she said, “the most unfair thing about climate change is that those who are least responsible for it are those who are the most affected by it”.

**Climate justice is not just a global problem, there are also important topics to discuss on the national and regional levels.** Systemic and structural inequalities – including those based on skills, race, sex, ethnic origin and age – have made many people more vulnerable to the risks of climate change and of future pandemics.

**Despite the continued global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 has not been such a bad year for us in Europe.** Our movement has shown its resilient nature. In many countries governments have supported salary costs so we have been able to continue with our activities, reopening our shops and starting to meet up in person once again for our meetings and events.

**At Emmaus Europe we have at long last been able to recommence with the visits to our trial member groups** in Georgia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. We organised three on-site meetings of the collectives in Latvia, Croatia and Romania.

**The meeting of the Poland-Ukraine collective** was held in Madona, Latvia, and brought together 28 people from 8 European countries. One of the topics discussed was the situation of migrants in the region. The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, brought over exiles from the Middle East and Africa to send them on to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. The Polish government declared a state of emergency on the border between Belarus and Poland, preventing external stakeholders from being able to see what was happening and what measures were being taken. The border police brutally pushed back any exiles who tried to cross the border and confiscated their personal effects. The Emmaus groups of the Poland-Ukraine collective were shocked by the political developments in their countries and worked with their local partners to offer what support they can. Public opinion and the attitudes of governments towards migrants and towards people in exile have changed in Europe, the trend is now for a more aggressive, hard-line approach.

However, voices defending human rights have been heard during collective initiatives launched in Poland and elsewhere in Europe.

**In Calais, France,** Anais Vogel and Ludovic Holbein went on hunger strike for a month, from October to November, in order to draw attention to the difficult living conditions, harassment and daily humiliation faced by exiled people in this region which borders the UK. The hunger strikers demanded that the French police stop destroying the migrant camps in the region and that they stop confiscating personal effects and tents in the winter months. Over 300 members of Emmaus in Europe took part in a symbolic 24-hour fast in support of the Calais hunger strikers.

The unacceptable situation for exiled persons in Spain, Italy, Greece, Bosnia-Herzegovina and elsewhere led us to preparing an awareness-raising campaign for 2022 in our shops. As part of this campaign, we will be sharing Emmaus' experience of migration with our customers.

**The regional executive committee met** twice in the autumn in Paris. There has not been an on-site meeting of the regional board, however, since the meeting held in San Sebastian. The regional board has held online meetings, but it is not easy to build the same atmosphere as at meetings where we are all in the same place.

**The virtual world assembly was a success** – congratulations to Emmaus International! At the assembly we were able to meet with Emmaus groups from across the globe, although such encounters are often too short. We need to be all together in order to hold debates and to share our different ideas, thoughts, feelings and doubts. Hopefully the pandemic will be well and truly over next year so that we can move on to a “new normal” where we decide to build a society based on equality, inclusion and sustainability!



Carina Aaltonen, Chair of Emmaus Europe.

# POLITICAL ACTION WITH A GRASSROOTS PRESENCE



## MIGRATION POLICY CANNOT BE DISSOLVED IN A COVID TONIC

**During the 2-year period where the COVID-19 pandemic dominated the news we sometimes had the impression that immigration in Europe had stopped** or that everything was better in terms of immigration.

In June 2021 the Migreurop network (of which Emmaus Europe is a member) published a paper outlining what happened to exiled persons during the pandemic. In this paper they highlighted the additional discrimination that migrant persons faced during COVID. This included people being put under quarantine on boats in Italy and people being denied access to welcome centres like on the Franco-Italian border in Ventimiglia. Inequality in access to COVID vaccines has also created a new form of discrimination.

However, the emergency measures taken by certain States (Portugal and Italy) in order to regularise the situations of foreign nationals – who they needed in their workforce during the pandemic – have shown that other solutions are possible. Their approach could be used as an example of how we can move away from migration policies focused solely on repression.

Representatives of Emmaus Europe at a protest in support of the rights of exiled persons, Paris.

---

## ■ THE NEW EUROPEAN PACT ON MIGRATION ASYLUM NOTHING NEW, UNFORTUNATELY

In late 2020 the European Commission published its 'new pact on migration and asylum' which is meant to guide future European laws on this matter. We made proposals for this pact during the public consultation phase of the discussions.

Unfortunately, the overall approach remains unchanged, Europe is continuing with its policy of closed borders and externalisation. We initially had the impression that the Pact would take us out of the Dublin agreements but, in the end, it does not challenge the notion of 'country of first entry'. What the Pact does do is to propose making the detainment of new arrivals who do not have visas something systematic at borders in order to "sort" them. It thus seeks to legitimise the existence of centres such as those on Lesbos.

Throughout 2021 the Pact was debated by the European Council (where ministers of each Member State hold discussions) and by the European Parliament in order to be able to publish draft bills on this topic by the end of 2022.

Emmaus Europe reminded the European Commission and Parliament of our proposals and outlined how the policy of closed borders creates the conditions for increased xenophobia and allows dictators such as Belarus' Mr Lukashenko to put thousands of people in danger in order to toy with Europe's fears.

---

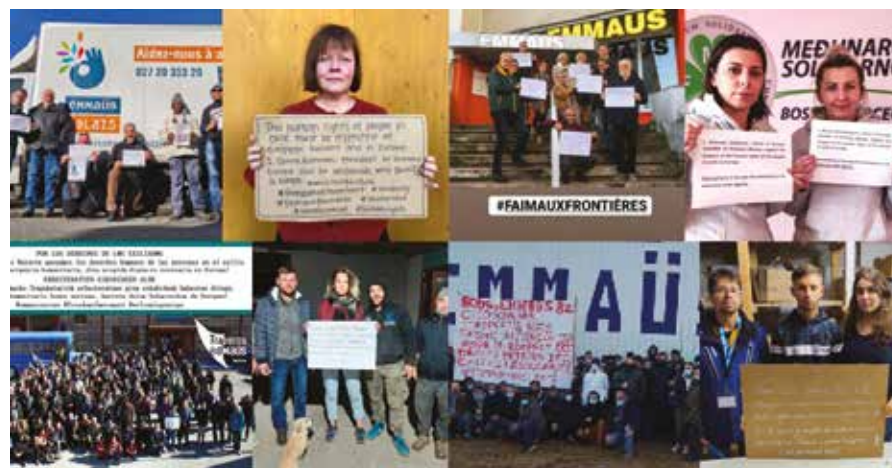
## ■ A DIGNIFIED WELCOME FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

When the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, many of the Emmaus groups wondered, "what can we do to help them?"

On the European level we sent out a message in a press release alongside our partners from Migreurop, denouncing Europe's response to the drama of the Afghan people who were fleeing the Taliban regime. The EU's response was to do all they could to contain these exiles in countries near to Afghanistan and to finance measures taken in countries neighbouring Europe to limit emigration to the EU. The executive committee of Emmaus Europe decided to support our group in Bosnia-Herzegovina which is on the front line of the migrant route in the Balkans, notably by passing on the call for donations sent out by Emmaus Italy. Thanks to support under our international solidarity programme, IFS-Emmaus was able to build a kitchen in its welcome centre in Velika Kladuša, close to the border with Croatia. The number of families in this centre has risen drastically following the fall of Kabul, in addition to the large number of men who were already present on site.



A camp of Afghan families at the border with Croatia in the region covered by IFS-Emmaus.



A few of the hundreds of messages published by the European Emmaus groups on social media.

---

## ■ CITIZEN-LED MOBILISATIONS IN BORDER REGIONS

Faced with repeated rights violations by French police - who were destroying makeshift camps and confiscating the personal effects of exiled persons trying to reach the UK - three French activists went on hunger strike in November in Calais. The Emmaus movement as a whole supported this strike and Emmaus Europe called upon the European groups to do a symbolic one-day fast and to post messages about this matter on social media. At the same time rights violations committed against migrant persons were a regular occurrence on the borders of Poland, Italy, Croatia and Spain. This has been going on for far too long. In total hundreds of Emmaus activists participated in this initiative, from Finland all the way down to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

---

## ■ A VIDEO MADE WITH MIGREUROP TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Ever since its creation this network, of which Emmaus Europe is a member, has focused on outlining the harmful impact of the EU's migration policies which violate the principle of freedom of movement. Demanding, in the name of equality, freedom of movement and of settlement for all, is at the heart of the efforts to defend the rights of migrant persons. It is also a key part of a society of greater fairness and equality. This video is a great tool to be used both internally and with people from outside of Emmaus to help them to understand current migration policies and how they could be changed. It is still highly relevant and you can share it with others if you wish to do so!



You can download or watch the video on freedom of movement (available in French and in English) here: <https://migreurop.org/article3062.html>



To find out more about this international campaign and/or to join this campaign take a look at [abolishfrontex.org](http://abolishfrontex.org)

### ■ CAMPAIGN #ABOLISH FRONTEX

Frontex is the European border and coastguard agency. In 2021 a series of investigations led by journalists and human rights defenders put Frontex in the spotlight. Evidence has shown that the EU's border protection force is regularly involved in refoulements and rights violations.

**Emmaus Europe and the other members of the Migreurop network have supported a campaign which has put forward 10 demands:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ■ Abolish Frontex   | ■ Stop the surveillance of people on the move |
| ■ Regularise migrants   | ■ Empower solidarity                          |
| ■ Stop all deportations   | ■ End the EU's role in forcing people to move |
| ■ End detention   | ■ Freedom of movement for all                 |
| ■ Stop the militarisation of borders (and stop the military-industrial complex) | ■ End the EU border regime                    |



Excessive textile production, press of Le Relais, France.

## HEAD ONLINE FOR THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY!

### ■ TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY FOR TEXTILE IN EUROPE

In January the European Commission published its roadmap for the EU's strategy on sustainable textiles, asking for contributions from civil society during this process. Emmaus Europe, alongside more than 60 other associations, contributed to the 'Civil Society European Strategy for Sustainable Textiles, Garments, Leather and Footwear'.

We were delighted to see this document mentioned in the roadmap which will guide future laws. We also appreciated the fact that the impact that COVID-19 had on the second-hand textile, clothing, leather and shoe industry was also taken into account.

#### **Recommendations of RREUSE**

However, RREUSE (European reuse network of which Emmaus Europe is a member) took this public consultation as an opportunity to insist on the following points:

- That the EU should prioritise prevention and preparation for reuse rather than recycling
- That the EU should protect operators of reuse who are part of the social and solidarity economy
- That the EU should not believe that the voluntary efforts made by producers, or the new economic models of liberal companies will be enough to overcome this challenge

## ■ THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY SUMMIT: PLENTY OF EMMAUS REPRESENTATION!

In 2021 the European Commission organised several online sessions of the European Summit which was initially meant to be held on site in Mannheim under the German Presidency. The goal of this summit was to prepare a Social Action Plan which could be used as a guide for European policy in the years ahead.

In March Gorka Mediavilla from Emmaus Navarra presented the reuse and environmental awareness work done by Emmaus in his region as well as his group's social stance. The debate during this session focused on what is required in order to launch such activities and the importance of instilling this more social vision of the economy on the European level.

### Workshops

As part of the closing sequence of the summit in May our Chair, Carina Aaltonen, represented Emmaus at two workshop sessions:

- **One held with RREUSE on the topic of 'A greener Europe: redefining the social economy with the environmental transition and the European Green Deal'.**
- **The other with members of the 'Advocating 4 non-profit enterprises' coalition on the topic of 'A new approach in order to boost social innovation: limiting the profits of enterprises'. This session was aimed at ensuring that the different status of social and solidarity enterprises be recognised as this is not yet the case in all European countries.**



■ You can watch the videos from the summit here:  
<https://www.euses2020.eu/mediatheque/?lang=en>

## ■ CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

In early March the European Commission opened a period of contribution to its roadmap for the action plan for the social economy.

**RREUSE (the European reuse network of which Emmaus Europe is a member) contributed** by outlining that the success of this action plan would depend on the intrinsic link between the social and the circular economies as well as on new partnerships between social enterprises and the public and private sectors with a wide range of different value chains. As key contributors to a social economy, whose main goal is to have a social, societal and environmental impact, social and solidarity enterprises should be at the heart of this action plan. The wide variety of social and solidarity enterprises means they are well-placed to achieve their social, circular and digital objectives, thus laying the foundations for the economy of the future, one which will serve both our planet and its people.

### Recommendations of RREUSE

In order to create a sustainable socio-economic environment in Europe and in order to make the most of the potential of the Action Plan for the Social Economy, RREUSE published several recommendations based on four priorities:

1. Mainstream the social economy within circular policies and beyond
2. Recognising the real values of social enterprises who are active in the circular economy
3. Improve access to funding for social enterprises
4. Acknowledge social enterprises' role in skilling and upskilling to meet changing market needs

**We also focused on the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which further exacerbated pre-existing inequalities** and we outlined the link between social difficulties and precarity as well as the pitfalls of our current economic model. Last of all, we highlighted the boost that this terrible crisis could eventually provide to the redesigning of our economies, helping us to move towards a more inclusive and more sustainable model.



### ■ THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS ACTION PLAN

The European Commission published its European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan on 4 March 2021. Its goal was to fulfil the promise made by the European Parliament, Council and Commission in 2017 that Europe's economic and social model would provide shared prosperity and opportunities for all.

The action plan outlines three key political targets in the areas of employment, skills and social protection to be reached by 2030. The main target, however, focuses on poverty and social exclusion. The next step is for the targets in this plan to inspire laws (European directives) and sub-action plans.

**The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), of which Emmaus Europe is a member, published its initial opinion on the three main targets of the plan:**

#### **Poverty Reduction**

This target aims to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030, of which at least 5 million should be children. EAPN considers it essential that a poverty reduction target is one of the three headline targets. However, this target is a significant scaling back of the ambition of the Europe 2020 target of 20 million, and this was before the COVID-19 pandemic took place.

#### **Minimum Income**

For EAPN it is crucial that the action plan contains an initiative for a Council Recommendation on minimum income in 2022 to effectively support and complement the policies of Member States. Given that this is no time for business as usual, EAPN strongly regrets that the action plan does not include a Framework Directive on minimum income as a binding EU legislative proposal.

#### **Further initiatives**

EAPN is glad, however, to see the action plan's several relevant initiatives for the fight against poverty and social exclusion such as an EU strategy on the Rights of the Child, a Council Recommendation establishing the European Child Guarantee, a European Platform on Combatting Homelessness and an Action Plan on the Social Economy.

One thing to bear in mind with the implementation of this plan is: can the different key initiatives effectively contribute to an improved rights-based access to social protection and affordable public services, including health, care, housing and energy?

# EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES TO MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER





# THE EMMAUS OF TOMORROW

## WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR MOVEMENT ?

**17 participants came to this event from 8 different European countries.**

**Nicola from Emmaus Italy gave a presentation to open the discussion.** Italy has committed to mobilising young people thanks to Emmaus' values by financing Nicola's job. Nicola described the initiatives he has organised in high schools and universities across Italy: focusing on Emmaus' topics, working with young people during and after the summer camp events as well as maintaining relationships in the long term with people who come to the camp events. For example, young people who attend a camp event will then be involved in organising the event for the year after.

**Martina and Tena from the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CNZD, Croatia)** explained how their mentorship programme works, how they manage and organise volunteering at the centre (with a major focus on training which allows young people to then promote their experience amongst employers) and how they use modern technology to communicate with young people.

**These presentations showed us that recruiting new volunteers, especially young people, is something which requires time and resources.** A single recruitment initiative will not be enough, you must expect to have to send out reminders, to have to remobilise, to listen to people's expectations and to meet these expectations. This work can be done on the country level or by the individual groups, but specific staff or resources need to be assigned to recruiting new volunteers.

**The open debate with the participants led us on to several other topics,** including: how to adapt how we operate and the idea of launching new types of activities in order to meet the expectations of young people, the different forms of commitment offered by the groups (volunteering, staff positions, governance roles, work in the public interest, etc.), how to communicate and interest young people in Emmaus' model and values and, lastly, how to train, upskill and put more responsibility on the shoulders of young people. The idea of having people within Emmaus Europe focusing on this topic seemed to appeal to several of the participants. Nicolas from Emmaus Palermo is the first such contact person, so feel free to get in touch with him for any queries you may have. We hope to identify other contact people very soon!



## WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS

- That training people and giving them real responsibility helps them to upskill
- That we should offer flexibility in the working hours of our missions (evenings, weekends, etc.) and that, generally speaking, we should take into account the needs of young people
- That we should promote volunteering and its impact and thank our volunteers for their work
- That we should communicate far and wide, notably via the media and social media, to ensure that people are talking about us
- That involving young people in your activities first will help Emmaus' values become clearer in their minds
- That we should base ourselves on the desires and skills young people can offer in order to provide them with missions (possibly new missions) and roles which suit them
- That working directly with high schools and universities can help to reach out to young people
- That discussing the environment and human rights is a good way of getting young people interested, these are topics which help us to attract their attention
- That having young people in for internships, civic service (or other volunteering programmes) and work in the public interest can be a good way of getting people into the movement for the first time
- That we should inform young people of the rich diversity of Emmaus initiatives across the globe so that they can remain involved in the movement even if they move to a different region/ country
- That creating a group dynamic at the summer camp events allows you to remobilise young people to organise future events or for other initiatives. Once the group dynamic is there the group will then evolve in its own unique way

Nicola Teresi and young volunteers in Palermo, Italy.

# SELLING ONLINE

## HOW TO LAUNCH AND THEN DEVELOP THIS ACTIVITY

**38 participants came to this event from different 12 European countries.**

In recent years many Emmaus groups from all across Europe have started to sell objects online themselves or by joining an online sales platform, such as the French cooperative, Label Emmaus. Faced with the challenges of the health crisis, which shook up our lifestyles and methods of consumption, new groups have taken their first steps on this digital adventure which is not always easy to launch.

**During this exchange we focused on how to launch online sales and how to communicate about this activity.** We heard about the experiences of Emmaus Jura (Switzerland), Label Emmaus (France), Emmaus Social Foundation (Spain) as well as from all the participants.

This meeting was enlightening and allowed us to look at everything involved in this activity. The three groups who gave presentations explained how they first started selling online and outlined both the positives and negatives of the initial launch. Whilst selling online seems like a good thing in order to diversify its activity the participants also discussed the potential pitfalls.

**The cooperative Label Emmaus**, which unites the online stores of the French Emmaus groups, also presented its independent marketplace. We also made the most of their training course to carry on the dialogue with an experience of taking photos to sell articles online and hearing about best practices when writing the texts for selling online.

**As regards this activity, everybody agreed: selling online will never replace the more human aspect of selling in our shops.** Selling online is another option for us, one which has certain advantages, such as gaining in visibility, reaching out to another audience, or selling products which we could not sell in our shops at a fairer price. During the pandemic selling online was also a way of maintaining our solidarity sales. There are a lot of advantages for this activity which seems to be becoming increasingly important!



### WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS

■ That selling online requires significant human resources, skills (in technology, logistics, photography, etc.) and infrastructure, notably for storage and stock management between the online shop and the on-site shop

■ That uploading articles to an online platform is a lot of work (around 30 minutes per article), as is dealing with complaints. At the same time, it is essential to have a wide range of products available online. One good idea put forward to deal with this issue was to focus on upcycled products where we have significant quantities of products available. We could also sell furniture and rare products online which we have not been able to sell in our stores. Another idea was to create a brand of upcycled products as has been done in Spain. This solution also allows you to avoid the issue of managing multi-channel stock.

■ The issue of the ethics behind the tools we use to sell online was also raised in order to ensure that they are in accordance with our struggles and that we can maintain our independence online. However, it also seems important to have a presence on online platforms which have significant visibility, and such platforms are often not compatible with our values

■ Lastly, that we should ensure we limit the environmental and social impacts of these new technologies and that we should not forget about our local commitment when selling online

At Emmaüs Village Carlton bar codes are used for selling online and in the shop.

# THE EMMAUS OF TOMORROW

## HOW CAN WE BRING ABOUT RENEWAL WITHIN OUR GROUPS?

**26 participants came to this event from 8 different European countries.**

In several European countries the founders of the groups will soon be taking their (well-deserved!) retirement. So how can they pass on to new leaders when their commitment to Emmaus has been one of the key commitments of their lives? If we do not plan for this handover in advance some groups may disappear as their founders leave the Emmaus movement.

Some countries have been getting organised to train and recruit future leaders and some groups have now completed this handover process.

**This exchange of best practices represented an opportunity to hear from the (ex) leaders of French groups** who had passed over the leadership of their groups or who were in the process of doing so – Philippe from Laval and Paul from Toulouse (previously of the Scherwiller group). Emmaus in France has been getting ready for this in different ways. Half of the communities decided to recruit somebody on the national level to work on this. The national organisation recruits and trains staff who are then deployed in one of the communities. The training course, organised with groups of around 10 recruits, lasts for four months and includes internships for individuals in several communities as well as one week of group training per month. In addition to this the recruits have 3.5 days of continuous training per year over a period of four years. The leaders recruited by the communities who are not part of the employer association can also sign up for these four years of continuous training. And all the Emmaus groups have access to a large catalogue of training courses (available from EE in French).

**Duncan from Emmaus UK** presented how things work in the UK. Recruitment is done locally but the national organisation has developed tools to recruit and train board members who then recruit and provide support to new additions at Emmaus. The training courses are then adapted to the needs of each group.

**Several Italians participated in this meeting** and Renzo from the Villafranca community talked about the importance of passing on Emmaus' values to new leaders who are simply looking for a job whereas for him the community was his life's work.

**During the discussion Zbigniew from Emmaus Lublin** offered to share his experience of gradually handing over to a leadership team of four people. The new leadership team gradually took responsibility for parts of the community's activities whilst he worked to transmit Emmaus' values to them.

Emmaus Europe will work with all interested groups and countries on this transition in the years to come as we are arriving at a crossroads in several countries.

Silvana et Renzo handing over to new leaders at the Villafranca community in Italy.



## WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS

- When group leaders are also the founders of their groups a lot of important but difficult work needs to be done to accept that the people who take over from them will not do everything exactly as they did

- This can be particularly difficult in communities where the founders and their families have lived within the community and where their private lives are intertwined with Emmaus

- Several proposals were made for such situations: to work together on the mission statement and to regularly update it depending on the challenges Emmaus must face in order to carry on evolving over time / inviting the founders to write down what they believe is the meaning behind a community so that this can be passed on to those who will take over from them, knowing that the new leaders may decide to do things differently / inviting the founders to note down which key things they believe need to be maintained so that it is easier to accept change on non-essential aspects

- Lightening the load by dividing it up amongst different people (staff, volunteers, companions) if it is impossible for one

person to take responsibility for all of it

- Accepting that there is not one unique model for an Emmaus group: inviting future leaders to visit several different European groups so they can see what different models are possible

- Organising things together (via the national organisation if such an organisation exists in the country) in order to train new leaders when they first arrive at Emmaus and to then offer regular continuous training so they can gradually develop within the movement

- Anticipating transition needs whenever possible by setting up a dynamic community spirit where responsibilities are shared and where there is regular renewal – by limiting, for example, the number of mandates of the Chair, or by recruiting and training volunteers and getting them involved in decision-making

- Providing several opportunities for young people (potential new recruits) to learn about Emmaus such as internships or civic service positions

- Do not hesitate to get in touch with Emmaus Europe on such matters!

# SOLIDARITY TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS



Meeting of the Romania collective at the Children's House in Targu Jiu.

## GLOBAL, TAILOR-MADE SOLUTIONS

### ■ THE RETURN OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

In 2021, despite continued economic difficulties, the groups expressed their wish that the European Solidarity Programme be implemented in its pre-COVID form. By turning away from emergency action and focusing instead on more long-term development projects, Emmaus Europe thus decided to focus on the challenges of the future.

**In 2021 the European Solidarity Programme supported** the purchase of a new van by the Polish group Brat Albert as well as providing €25,000 to support two innovative projects in Croatia.

Thanks to the solidarity of the European groups the TOMS group was able to purchase an electric cargo scooter for its food delivery service. This service is part of its new catering activity whereby the group employs persons with disabilities. In Osijek the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CNZD) was able to develop a multimedia studio thanks to the programme. The objective of the studio is to offer the group's digital services and expertise to local companies in order to generate funds for the group's social initiatives. Thank you to all those involved in the development of these three great initiatives!



■ You can get more information on the **European Solidarity Programme** in the member's area of [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)

### ■ EXTENSION FOR EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL'S EMERGENCY FUNDS

Emmaus Europe's decision to return to its regular solidarity programme would not have been possible without Emmaus International's support to other European groups. The renewal of the Specific International Solidarity Mechanism in 2021 meant that three European initiatives were given support for a total of over €35,000.

**In Romania** the Satu Mare group has started to host eight young people per year in a flat which was purchased thanks to co-financing with Emmaus International. These young people will stay here temporarily, giving them time to get back on their feet after a period of unemployment due to the pandemic or due to other events.

**In Bosnia-Herzegovina** the IFS group was able to build and equip a professional-standard kitchen to be used to serve hot meals to people who were isolated due to the pandemic and to the families of the victims of the Srebrenica massacre.

### ■ EXTENSION OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL'S FOOD AID PROGRAMME

In 2021 Emmaus International extended the funding for its solidarity and emergency initiatives launched at the start of the pandemic. In addition to the IFS group, which had already been given support in 2020 under the emergency food aid programme for its 'One Meal Per Day' programme, Emmaus International also financed projects led by Emmaus Geo (Georgia) and Emmaus Oselya (Ukraine). These three projects meant that hot meals and staple foods were regularly distributed to over 1,600 people in 2021. In total these projects received €29,800 in support (€9,800 from the Abbé Pierre Foundation and €20,000 from Emmaus International).

The solidarity of the Emmaus movement comes in different forms and works on different levels.



The Oselya group (Ukraine) benefitted from our international solidarity for their food aid programme in Lviv.

### ■ GENERAL SOLIDARITY IN SUPPORT OF INDIA AND BOSNIA

Faced with a dramatic situation in India due to the pandemic, the regional board of Emmaus Europe answered the appeal of the Indian groups, contributing €10,000. In September 2021, following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, the regional executive committee of Emmaus Europe freed up funds for emergency aid to be provided to the IFS group. On Europe's front line for the welcoming of migrants on the Balkans Route, the group had asked for €5,000 to support its 'Together Against Hunger' programme. Launched between October and December 2021 the programme has allowed the group to distribute hot meals to over 100 exiled persons every day, including a lot of Afghan families.



On the Balkans Route these exiles can take a break and get some food and drink thanks to the initiative launched by the IFS-Emmaus group.

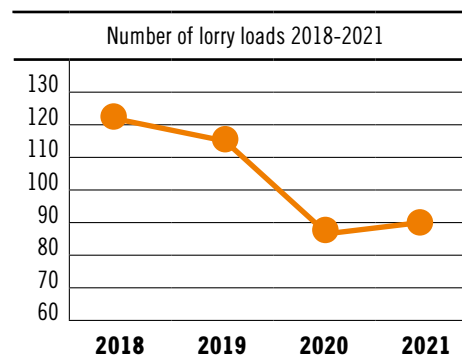
## THE FEEBLE RETURN OF THE TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

### ■ 90 TRANSPORTS IN 2021

The pandemic continued to have an impact on the transport/donation pooling programme in 2021, as it struggled to return to 2019 levels (of 116 transports sent). Despite this, the lorries sent out in 2021 helped the receiver groups to keep their income-generating activities going. Rules related to the pandemic led to a drop in our activity and fewer people coming into our shops all across Europe, so the impact related to the drop in the number of transports sent was not so drastic for the groups. In total 31 groups from 10 different European countries were involved in this pooling programme. Bravo to all involved for your commitment to this programme! Given our hopes that our activities will return to normal, and that the health situation will become stable in 2022, a return to pre-COVID levels with our transport pooling programme will be important and will help to meet the needs of the receiver groups!



The companions from Emmaus Iasi unloading a lorry come from Emmaus Krefeld.



Country	Group	Transports Received		Sender Groups	
		Groups	Countries	Groups	Countries
<b>BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA</b>	<b>IFS-Emmaus</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</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>Amis 3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Emmaus Smiltene</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>MPFSC</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>Emmaus Brat Albert</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Emmaus Lublin</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>5</b>	
	<b>Emmaus Rzeszow</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>Emmaus Iasi</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Amicii Emmaus</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>5</b>	
	<b>Emmaus Satu Mare</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>5</b>	
	<b>TARRA SOCIAL</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>Total for 2021</b>		<b>90</b>		<b>21</b>	

The table for the transport pooling programme is regularly updated and is available (alongside further information) on the member's area of [emmaus-europe.org](http://emmaus-europe.org)

---

## ■ THE FUND TO SUPPORT OUR TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

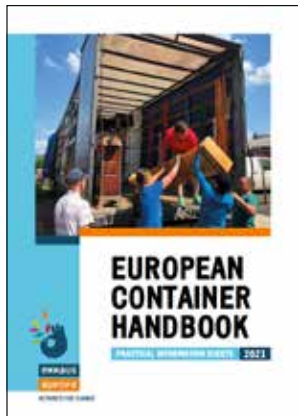
In summer 2020, as you may well know, Emmaus Europe created a fund to support the sender and receiver groups of our transport programme. In 2021 the Tarra Social group in Cluj, which is trying to launch Emmaus activities in the city, was able to benefit from this fund.

If your group wants more information about the transport/donation pooling programme, or if you wish to contribute to the sending of lorries, then get in touch with Emmanuel from the secretariat of Emmaus Europe. This programme is about much more than material support to the receiver groups, amongst other things it helps forge ties between the groups.

---

## ■ THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Announced in the 2020 annual report as an investigation to be launched in 2021, the European Transport Guide was published in early 2021. It contains information on how to facilitate the sending and receiving of lorries of merchandise, as well as data on the positive impact of our transport solidarity on both the groups and the environment. This guide is a great tool for those who are interested in getting involved in the transport pooling scheme!



■ The transport guide is available in the member's area of [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)



The Poland-Ukraine collective in October 2021. The participants from Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, Sweden and France stand in front of the sales area of the Amis 3 group in Latvia.

## THE JOY OF MEETING IN PERSON AGAIN THE COLLECTIVES

In 2020 things felt a little unfinished as the meetings of the geographical collectives scheduled to be held in Mitriena (Latvia), Osijek (Croatia) and Chalon-sur-Saône (France) were cancelled at the last minute. In 2021, we were once again able to meet up in person and honour our commitment to visiting the Osijek and Mitriena groups as the south-east Europe collective and the Poland-Ukraine collective were held in these towns respectively. The Romania collective was held in Targu Jiu.

In addition to our joy at once again being able to spend time together in person, the return of on-site meetings of the collectives also represented an opportunity to visit the host groups and to see how their work has progressed during the many months of lockdown. Generally speaking, lockdown did not have affect the creativity and willpower of the Emmaus groups! These meetings were also an opportunity to talk about the challenges we will face in the years ahead: migration, supporting new groups and how to manage our income-generating activities faced with increased competition and new European regulation. Furthermore, with three established groups and two emerging groups, Romania also started the process to create a national organisation.

We hope to once again be able to organise on-site meetings of the collectives in 2022 (in September/October).

**As regards migration**, the discussions identified the political inaction of certain governments in terms of welcome for exiled persons (Bosnia-Herzegovina) as well as violent, repressive action taken by the police, the army or militia beyond the legal framework of the EU (Croatia and Poland). IFS (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and MPFSC (Lithuania) have mobilised to ensure dignified welcome and to meet the needs of migrant persons.

**Each group was invited to tell the assembly about the activities they led during the pandemic.** With economic recovery, partial lockdowns, national legislation in its infancy and the need to respect hygiene rules, the groups showed resilience and had to adapt to maintain their activities and to continue providing unconditional welcome to vulnerable groups.

**Adapting to new economic challenges was something the European groups achieved by launching new income-generating activities** such as catering, carpentry and providing a new offer of services. Our groups had sufficient resources and ideas to carry on with their missions.

**As regards support for new groups**, there were many challenges for proper integration in our movement. More visits and more exchanges of know-how with the groups could help to increase the understanding of the great diversity of our movement. Emmaus Europe, in close collaboration with the mentor groups, could take a greater role in this support work, by investing more human and financial resources. The meetings of the collectives have given us some initial milestones for this work in 2022.

**You can find the summary reports of these meetings as well as further information on the collectives in the member's area of [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)**

Collective	Dates and location	Participants	Groups Represented	Countries Represented
<b>SOUTH-EAST EUROPE</b>	30 October 2021 (Osijek)	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>POLAND-UKRAINE</b>	6-7 October 2021 (Madona)	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	9 October 2021 (Targu Jiu)	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>



Bosnia-Herzegovina – Like every year around 100 young people participated in the 2021 summer camp event organised by IFS-Emmaus.

## SUMMER CAMPS: DISCOVERING THE WEALTH OF DIVERSITY IN OUR MOVEMENT

**In 2021 two 2-week summer camp events were organised. The La Poudrière group in Belgium** hosted 12 young people aged between 18-29 come from 5 different countries. These young people were able to discover the daily lives and work carried out by the group's companions. These camp events, held every year since 2008, are a key event at the community in the summer and create a unique atmosphere at La Poudrière.

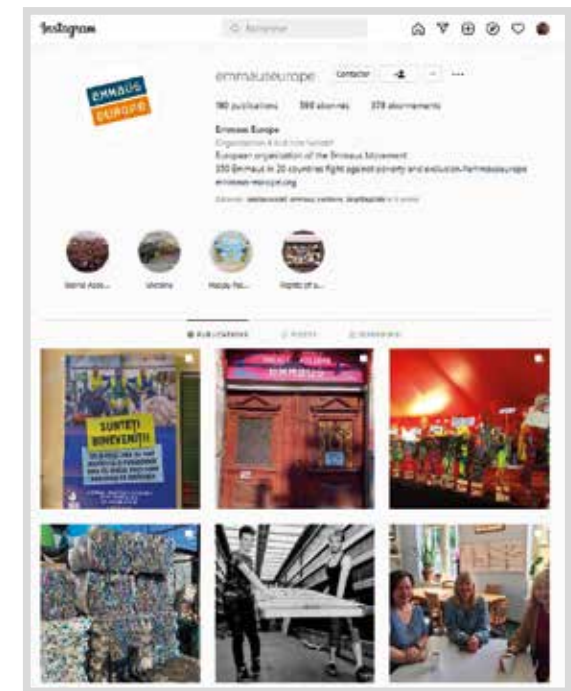
**In Bosnia-Herzegovina the IFS-Emmaus group** hosted around 90 young people come from 7 different countries. The participants got involved in several activities led by the group and helped support the families of the victims of the Srebrenica massacre. Some European groups also hosted scouts (in Romania, Germany and the Netherlands) for a period of either two weeks or a month. The summer camps gradually returned in 2021, a symbol of hope for a return to normal life.

**In France**, around 100 young people were hosted by the Emmaus groups in 2021. Although the number of participants was lower than in previous years, two new trends emerged this year. Firstly, more and more young people decided to commit to solidarity projects within the groups as part of their studies and, secondly, the profiles of these young people became more varied (foreign students, young people from other parts of France as well as young people from the local area).

**You can find more information under the heading 'Taking Action with Emmaus' on [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)**



# COMMUNICATION TO HELP THE GROUPS TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER



Our Instagram page helps people to find out more about the European Emmaus groups.

**In 2021 we continued with the dynamic launched in 2020 for our communication.** In accordance with the guidance report for 2020-2024, our communication focused on the life of the groups in order to get to know one another better and to make a stronger, more united movement. Strengthening bonds and sharing experiences is at the heart of this communication strategy to help increase our knowledge of the other groups. Our communication is, therefore, another means of exchanging best practices, getting inspired and learning from one another, thanks to the various tools we use.

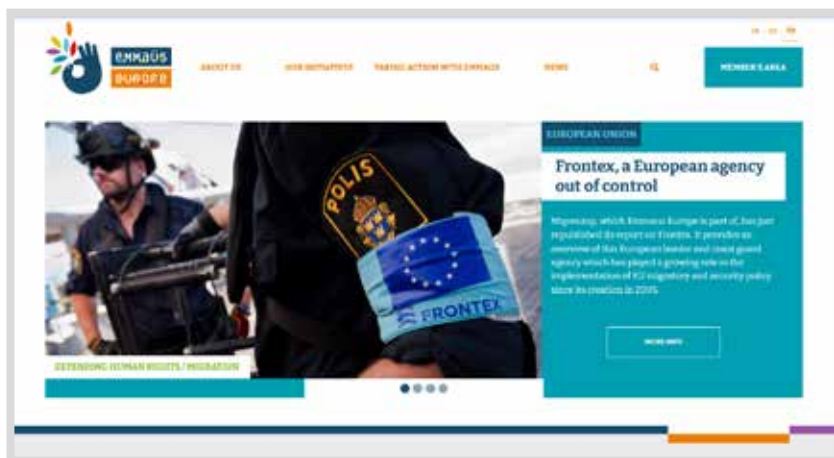
## LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE

### 2021 saw the launch of Emmaus Europe's new website!

We decided to go ahead with this overhaul in order to better meet the needs of the groups and of our association as a whole.

The debate phase and the development work allowed us to design a website which is coherent with our new communication strategy. The new member's area allows us to keep all useful information and documents in one place for the groups.

The objective with our new website was also to improve the links with Emmaus International's websites and with our movement's social media pages.



- The new website is now online, and we would like your feedback on how we can continue to improve it!  
The address has not changed from the old version, it is still [emmaus-europe.org](http://emmaus-europe.org)

## OUR NEWSLETTER AT THE HEART OF THE LIFE OF OUR REGION

### Every month a newsletter is sent out to all the Emmaus groups in Europe.

Called, 'Emmaus in Europe', the newsletter shares ideas and examples of inspiring initiatives led by the groups. It also discusses the region's news in terms of solidarity, mobilisation, the life of the region and European political campaigns.

In 2021 the newsletter went on a tour of Europe of the countries where Emmaus has a presence. Every month a national delegate, also a board member, gave an interview to tell us all about Emmaus in their country.

In accordance with the new communication strategy launched in 2020, this newsletter is aimed at getting to know one another better and to get inspiration from the other groups as well as sharing about our activities, exchanging good ideas and skills in order to make our movement stronger and more united. You can sign up for the newsletter on our website.

## OUR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT, A MOSAIC OF EMMAUS

**Our @emmauseurope Instagram account is a space where we can show off the diversity of the Emmaus groups in Europe.** On the account we share photos of life within the groups and of the activities we lead as well as photos of our solidarity and campaigning initiatives.

The idea is to show what Emmaus is in Europe - to show a wide scale of work done by the movement in the region. All contributions are welcome to help enrich this European Emmaus mosaic!

- Our account belongs to the European Emmaus groups. We thus encourage you to contribute to the account by tagging [@emmauseurope](https://www.instagram.com/emmauseurope) and by using the hashtag [#emmauseurope](https://www.instagram.com/emmauseurope) in your posts.

# EMMAÜS IN EUROPE IN 2021

## ■ New trial members

- Boa Vida (Spain)
- Agame (France)
- Vivre-au-Peux (France)
- 100 pour 1 Vendée Ouest (France)

## ■ New full members

- Emaús San Coop (Spain)
- Emaús Huelva (Spain)
- Emmaüs Connect (France)
- Emmaüs Grand Sud (France)
- Emmaüs Allier (France)
- Evira (France)
- Emmaus Preston (UK)

■ You can find the map of the Emmaus groups in Europe on our website: [emmaus-europe.org](https://emmaus-europe.org)

Monitoring visit of the Nova Generacija trial member group, Bosnia-Herzegovina.



## ■ OUR MOVEMENT IS GETTING BIGGER

We welcomed 4 new trial member groups and 7 full member groups in 2021 whilst two groups brought an end to their activities.

**At the end of 2021 we thus totalled 320 full member groups and 34 trial member groups in Europe, spread out across 20 countries.**

## ■ RETURN OF THE VISITS OF TRIAL MEMBER GROUPS

In 2021, we were able to start up the visits of the trial member groups once again in Latvia, Lithuania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Georgia. Visiting the groups really allows you to see the progress they have made!

In 2022, the Croatian groups TOMS and CNZD should become full members of the movement. Nova Generacija (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Emmaus Geo (Georgia) should also be able to join the movement quite soon. Just to remind you that Emmaus Europe carries out the monitoring work for groups in countries where there is no national organisation. An Emmaus International board member helps us with this work.

# STATUTORY MATTERS IN EUROPE



The regional executive committee met in Montreuil on 17-18 September 2021.

## ■ THE VARIOUS BODIES HAVE HELD MEETINGS

**The regional board (the board of Emmaus Europe) met four times in 2021.** The meetings were held via videoconference in February, April, July and October. In normal circumstances the board should meet in person twice per year but due to the health crisis the board met more regularly, but remotely.

**The regional executive committee also held four meetings in 2021.** Given that the committee is made up of a limited number of people, we were able to hold two on-site meetings in Montreuil in September and December and we were delighted to be able to see one another in person once again. The other two meetings held via videoconference, in March and June 2021. The Chair, Treasurer and Chief Executive have been holding meetings via videoconference on a weekly basis.

■ You can find more information about the different bodies of **Emmaus Europe** on our website under the 'introduction' section: [emmaus-europe.org/language/en/introduction](https://emmaus-europe.org/language/en/introduction)

## ■ CHANGES OF BOARD MEMBERS

- **Sabina Arnaut-Jahic**, national delegate for Bosnia-Herzegovina, has joined the regional executive committee.
- **Rosa Gil Elorduy** had to resign her role as a member of the regional executive committee in order to be able to deal with the workload she faces in her group. She regrets being unable to fulfil her commitment, but she is continuing with her role as an Emmaus International board member and she is, therefore, still a member of the regional board.
- **Maryse Faure et Marie-France Bedleem** were elected as members of the regional board (as Emmaus International board members) in order to replace **Simon Grainge et Paul Darouèche**. Simon has moved on to new career challenges whilst Paul left his original group with the intention of launching a new Emmaus group in Cluj-Napoca.
- **Tony Ferrier** replaced **Sue Taylor** as national delegate for the UK.
- **Robert Opoka** replaced **Grzegorz Hajduk** as national delegate for Poland.
- **Pierre-Yves Lenglard** replaced **Annick Berthier** as national delegate for France.

## ■ A NEW SOLIDARITY COORDINATOR

After four years of working in the role of solidarity coordinator Theo left us in early November 2021. We want to thank him for his commitment to Emmaus over the years!

Emmanuel has taken over on this mission. He already has quite a lot of knowledge of the movement and believes in its values after having spent 18 months with the Satu Mare group in Romania.



Emmanuel Rabourdin,  
Solidarity Coordinator

### ■ Emmanuel Rabourdin

+33 6 52 30 67 65

+33 1 41 58 25 73

[emmanuel.rabourdin@emmaus-europe.org](mailto:emmanuel.rabourdin@emmaus-europe.org)



Marie-France Bedleem,  
Emmaus International Councillor



Pierre-Yves Lenglard,  
National delegate for France



Sabina Arnaut-Jahic,  
Regional executive committee



Maryse Faure,  
Emmaus International Councillor



Tony Ferrier,  
National delegate for the UK

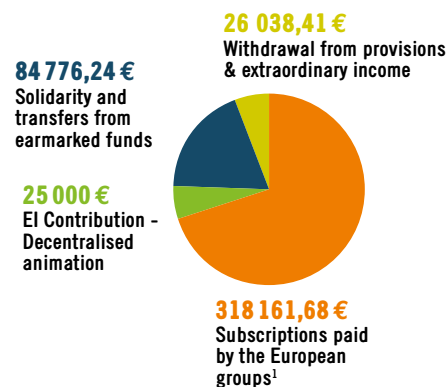


Robert Opoka,  
National delegate for Poland

# FINANCE

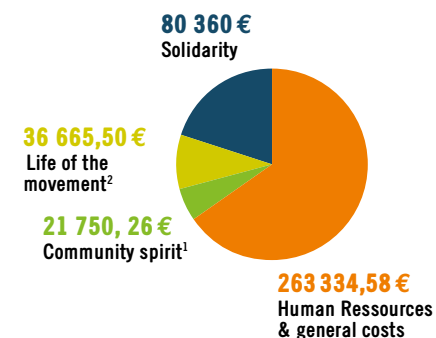
In 2021 our total expenditure reached €402,110.34 and our income €453,976.33, meaning we had a surplus of €51,865.99 which we allocated to our association reserves. This surplus, in part due to a lower level of spending during the COVID crisis, can also be explained by a withdrawal of provisions for costs (€24,000) which we had to make due to a change in French accounting rules. The full Financial Report, the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report are all available on our website and you can also request a copy of these from the Secretariat of Emmaus Europe.

## INCOME



EXPLANATIONS:  
Contains subscriptions fees for 2021 and from previous years.

## EXPENDITURE



EXPLANATIONS:  
1. Costs of organising regional executive committee and board meetings.  
2. Strengthening our internal communication.



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