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April 2022

Emmaus in Europe



Dear friends,

This month marks the start of an awareness-raising campaign about offering a proper welcome for refugees. The idea is to deconstruct the fear of foreigners, and open up a dialogue in all languages, so we hope that the campaign will be meaningful to you.

In this issue, we are also sharing news from our groups on the front line of the conflict in Ukraine, and are letting you know about the latest initiatives being run thanks to you, as part of the solidarity coordinated at the European level of the Emmaus Movement.

Unfortunately, this conflict is having wider repercussions across our continent, and you are contending with them on a daily basis. We visit CNZD in Croatia in this issue. This group is helping Ukrainian children traumatized by this conflict seemingly from a bygone age.

And it is also time to get together, in-person this time! We will be in Piriápolis in less than a month's time for our World Assembly. This key moment in the life of our movement will set the tempo for our work over the coming years. In keeping with this, and to lay the foundations for the future, we recently travelled to Iasi in Romania to visit the venue for our next Regional Assembly. Our Regional Council has taken the decision to hold the EE assembly in Iasi in autumn 2023. We will be telling you more next month, but in the meantime, we can't wait to meet up with you in Uruguay for the World Assembly!

Enjoy the newsletter and see you soon,

The Emmaus Europe team

European action

Deconstructing fear of foreigners:
The Emmaus campaign for a proper welcome for refugees



**YOU ARE
WELCOME HERE!**

**THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT
THEIR COUNTRY AT THE RISK
OF THEIR LIVES ARE TOO**

AT EMMAUS WE OFFER SOLIDARITY
TO ALL PEOPLE IN DIFFICULTY,
WHEREVER THEY COME FROM

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE HUMAN!

emmaus
EUROPE
ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE



**LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY
IS OFTEN PAINFUL**

**TO WELCOME
PEOPLE WITH
DIGNITY IS OUR JOY!**

AT EMMAUS WE OFFER SOLIDARITY
TO ALL PEOPLE IN DIFFICULTY,
WHEREVER THEY COME FROM

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE HUMAN!

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**INSECURITY IS WHAT EXILED
PEOPLE ARE FLEEING FROM**

**SAFETY IS
WHAT WE BUILD
TOGETHER!**

AT EMMAUS WE OFFER SOLIDARITY
TO ALL PEOPLE IN DIFFICULTY,
WHEREVER THEY COME FROM

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE HUMAN!

emmaus
EUROPE
ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE



**THANK YOU
FOR BUILDING
A MORE HUMANE
WORLD WITH US!**

**AT EMMAUS WE WELCOME
ALL PEOPLE IN DIFFICULTY,
WHEREVER THEY HAVE COME
FROM: TOGETHER WE BUILD
A BETTER TOMORROW**

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE HUMAN!

emmaus
EUROPE
ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

The warm welcome shown by Europeans to the Ukrainian refugees is also for us all at Emmaus an

opportunity to reiterate that the Ukrainians are not the only people fleeing war and poverty.

As it happens, we have been working for a few months with each European country to set up an awareness-raising campaign in our public premises with the aim of **deconstructing fears about welcoming refugees**.

As a matter of fact, we feel that Emmaus' example may make our customers want to leave behind a fear of "others", which is the message most often served up to us. This discourse aims to dehumanize not only the refugees, so as to facilitate acceptance of the fact that they are being denied their most basic human rights, but also seeks to dehumanize the citizens of reception countries so that they end up accepting the unacceptable.

Each European Emmaus group has received or will soon receive a series of four posters in their local language for their shops and public premises.

This poster campaign is not very "political" in the sense that it does not directly convey our assertions about reorienting migration policy; instead, it is an awareness-raising campaign to open people's minds to discussion and positive messages to accompany the process of dialogue.

Groups are invited to use the posters as a **gateway to more in-depth discussions with interested customers**, sessions with members of the group or outside speakers, and also as a **resource for challenging politicians**.

Our team is available if you want to undertake advocacy work, linking the issue with European migration policy, or arrange a meeting with your customers. Please contact Eve, Chief Executive: eve.poulteau@emmaus-europe.org

If your shops or public premises outnumber the posters that you received, please feel free to contact us for more!



Spotlight on...

Croatia - welcoming Ukrainian refugees

CNZD (Centre for Missing and Exploited Children) is helping over 350 people who have fled Ukraine to Croatia. In a short space of time, this trial member group of the Emmaus Movement has opened a centre for children traumatised by the conflict, and an information centre for refugees.



© CNZD

The Children's Corner – a safe space to rest and integrate

CNZD specialises in supporting child and teenage victims of trauma, and right from the start of the conflict in Ukraine the organisation opened a Children's Corner (children's centre), and is hoping to be able to open two others in the near future. The facility is managed by a teacher, psychologist and an interpreter, and enables 15 children, who are traumatised by the war, to be given support every day (70 children have registered to date). The centre's aim is to provide counselling for these children, and lay the foundations enabling them to integrate into Croatian society and the local education system.

Accompanied by their parents, the children spend a few hours a day at the centre, and can have a rest, enjoy a hot meal, and speak to the association's psychologist. They can also follow online lessons in Ukrainian. The parents remain at the centre while their children are being supported by the team in order not to reproduce separation trauma. A few weeks on, progress is already being made, and the children no longer feel the need to return to their parents as often as before.

The Information Centre – playing a crucial role in integrating Ukrainian refugees

This centre is unique in Croatia and is managed by CNZD. It offers refugees all the information needed to integrate: asylum applications, entering the

labour market, registering for Croatian language lessons, administrative formalities advice, applying for benefits and to join the health insurance scheme... In the space of three weeks, close to 400 people have passed through the centre, which is managed by a lawyer and an interpreter employed full time by CNZD. Open from Monday to Friday, the centre also relies on volunteers, who work shifts to provide this service for refugees. Many regions in Croatia are drawing inspiration from the model created by CNZD and are opening similar centres.

A couple and their five children arrived at Osijek in the first days of the conflict. The parents speak fluent Croat because they lived in Bosnia-Herzegovina for many years, and have been hired by CNZD as interpreters. The team has nicknamed them the "stars of CNZD" because of the many media interviews they have done.

Ukrainian refugees in Croatia

Croatia has taken in over 13,000 people from Ukraine, and some 300-500 people arrive every day. Close to 95% of them are women and children. Housed in hotels, youth hostels or flats, they are given three meals a day and the toiletries that they need.

Ukraine and Croatia have strong links because of their shared history (Ukraine was one of the first countries to recognise Croatian independence in 1991) and their very similar languages.

[Read more...](#)

This project is supported by the Emergency Fund Ukraine, thanks to donations from European Emmaus groups.



Emmaus Movement Solidarity

Ukraine Fund: financial update and initiatives supported

As of mid-April, the Ukraine Emergency Fund has received over €661,000 in donations, thanks to the amazing solidarity demonstrated by you all, both in Europe and across the world. Over 50 solidarity sales have been held across the continent to meet the needs of our groups located in Eastern and South-East Europe and affected by the Ukraine war.

At the present time, the Ukraine Fund is meeting the needs of our Ukrainian communities who have had to halt most of their income-generating activities. We have pledged to support them, if at all possible, as long as the war prevents them from resuming their normal work.

They are also our main intermediaries on the ground for war victim and displaced person assistance. Our groups are active in the Lviv region where most of the displaced people from the conflict zones are located, but they are also channelling the aid received from the European Emmaus groups to hospitals and partners in other cities, closer to the conflict zones.

The emergency fund is also financially helping our groups in Poland and Romania to host and support Ukrainian refugees. The fund is also supporting the work of CNZD (Croatia), described in the article below, and Emmaus Geo (Georgia), which is helping over 500 refugees by handing out clothes, food, crockery and toys for children. Funding will enable the group to distribute over 500 hygiene kits. The fund aims to support the Emmaus groups in their work coping with the consequences of the war.

News from the groups on the front line

Ukraine



© Emmaus Oselya

Emmaus Oselya and Nasha Khata are continuing to hand out hot meals to over 200 people every day in Lviv and Drohobych. Their day-to-day work with their companions and their refugee work are being funded by the emergency fund coordinated by Emmaus Europe, notably thanks to the solidarity loads sent by Emmaus Lublin and Emmaus Rzeszow in Poland.

Poland



© Emmaus Rzeszow

Poland is the European country that has taken in the most refugees, over 2 million: the Ukrainians want to stay close to home.

Our three groups are hosting some 40 refugees in their communities, as well as supporting the emergency shelters by providing bedding, and by distributing food and hygiene kits. Each group is also in contact with a large number of third-sector organisations in Poland and Ukraine to coordinate the shipment of emergency supplies and meet specific needs. The groups are being financially supported by Emmaus Europe, via the Ukraine Emergency Fund, for all their work connected with Ukrainian refugees.

The income-generating activities of our Polish groups are still running. It is important to be mindful of the fact that the shipment of loads containing “classic” Emmaus goods is very important, as it enables them to continue their work with the most vulnerable people.

Romania



© Emmaus Iasi

The Iasi group is arranging a large number of truckloads of emergency supplies to Cernauti and Ismail, close to the border with Ukraine. After a first wave of refugees at the start of the conflict, the situation has stabilised, but the group has experienced a 50% drop in sales since the start of the conflict.

For all the Romanian groups, container loads of classic Emmaus goods remain important.

Ukraine solidarity shipments

A dozen Emmaus trucks have travelled from Western Europe, mainly from France, to our groups in Poland and Romania. Other loads are being put together. From there, the emergency supplies are transported to Ukraine, or redistributed to the emergency shelters in the two countries. In this way, this invaluable aid is coordinated with the Emmaus groups in the border countries who are better placed to forward supplies in line with needs.

Poland

Romania



© Emmaus Rzeszow



© Emmaus Europe

Emmaus Lublin has received eight truck and van loads from Western Europe. Lublin has been able to send two 90m3 trucks to Emmaus Oselya, two 3.5-tonne vans to an association located in Kowel (Let's Work Together mutual aid organisation, Ukraine), two 6-tonne trucks to a shelter in Lublin, and an 8-tonne truck to the Polish Red Cross.

Emmaus Rzeszow has received five solidarity loads, and has sent on two 90m3 trucks to Emmaus Nasha Khata in Ukraine, and a load to Jawja, an association in Ukraine. The group has also donated supplies to accommodation centres in Rzeszow.

Emmaus Iasi is also in contact with two Ukrainian towns and local associations. The members of Emmaus Iasi shipped a total of 5 tonnes of emergency supplies (bedding, foodstuffs, blankets, etc) to Ismail, and two other convoys went to Cernauti (3 tonnes). Two further vans are leaving for Cernauti on Friday 15 April.

Emmaus Targu Jiu is also in contact with local districts in Ukraine. With the help of Emmaus Forbach (France) and groups from Eastern France, the group has sent two 15-tonne trucks to Ukraine, and a third load is being prepared. This load will be shipped on Friday 15 April.

Launch of the 2022 summer camps in France and Europe

Emmaus France has opened registrations for taking part in its groups' solidarity work. The summer camps are the opportunity to share the lives of the Emmaus groups who are opening their doors. The minimum stay is a week, and the scheme runs from 1 June to 15 September. Please visit the [Emmaüs Expérience](#) website for more information. The summer camps are a great way to combine meeting new people, volunteering, and getting to know new Emmaus groups!

In Europe, Emmaus La Poudrière in Belgium has also opened registration to take part in its summer camp to be held from 31 July to 13 August 2022. The camp is an opportunity to share the life of the community's companions!

You will be able to sign up for other camps in the next month, specifically in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Emmaus-ISF). We will provide more information in May, and you can also visit the summer work camp page on Emmaus Europe's [website](#).

Contact details and information about Ukraine solidarity

Following the initial emergency situation, solidarity for Ukraine is up and running! If you want more detailed information about solidarity convoys or the situation in the various countries, please contact Emmanuel, the solidarity coordinator: emmanuel.rabourdin@emmaus-europe.org

Updates and a list of needs are regularly provided on the [Ukraine page in our members' area](#)



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