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September 2022

Emmaus in Europe



emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

Dear all,

We hope that you have had a good summer and are delighted to be back in touch with you after the summer break!

In this month's issue, we bring you news of the situation in Ukraine and its repercussions with Zbigniew from the Polish group Emmaus Lublin. We also review the latest European action and solidarity initiatives, while looking forward to the upcoming collective meetings and the launch of the 2023 European Solidarity Programme. We are also giving you the chance to read the 2021 activity report to look back over that slightly different year.

Please feel free to pass on the newsletter to other members of your group and in the movement in general, in order to invite them to [register](#) and share in our region's life.

Enjoy the newsletter and see you soon,

The Emmaus Europe team

Emmaus stories

Emmaus Lublin: solidarity continues at the border with Ukraine



Ukrainian families hosted by Emmaus Lublin, © Emmaus Lublin

In Poland, this group located close to the Ukrainian border has been rallying round since the start of the conflict. Zbigniew, the founder of Emmaus Lublin, explains to us how the situation is developing as the conflict is becoming entrenched.

Hi, Zbigniew. Can you give us news about the current situation? How are things in Lublin and at the Ukrainian border at the present time?

The war goes on. Fighting continues and is concentrated in the East and South of Ukraine, but missiles are also hitting Kyiv, the country's capital. Nobody can feel safe in Ukraine.

In Poland, things have changed since the start of the conflict, and initiatives to help refugees are no longer off the cuff. This stems from improved organisation with the public services. At the start of the war, we witnessed an extraordinary wave of solidarity from Polish society: spontaneous, massive support from citizens and NGOs, the value of which was estimated at over €10 billion. Thanks to this movement, over 5.5 million people from Ukraine were housed by close to 500,000 Polish people, without any government aid. Our community welcomed its first refugees on 26 February, two days after the start of the conflict.

Thanks to the efforts of the authorities, the situation stabilised after six weeks. Nowadays, the Ukrainian refugees living in Poland can access employment, healthcare and education, and receive a €100 support payment per month per person. Over half of the refugees are in work. Host families have been entitled

to roughly €8 per day per person from the government. This aid – which will be stopped soon – enabled refugees to be housed during the first months of the war.

Nowadays, reception hubs managed by local councils have taken over from host families. Moreover, since May and fighting becoming concentrated in Eastern Ukraine, a number of refugees have been returning to Ukraine.

On 29 August, 30,000 people left Poland for Ukraine, and 25,000 crossed the border in the opposite direction. The flow of refugees is now controlled, and the border with Ukraine is no longer overstretched.

What is the general feeling in Poland about a war that is dragging on? And within Emmaus? Do you think that feelings have changed compared with the early days?

The only change is that provision is better organised. Support for refugees has not dropped, whether among the

political class or civil society. There is no nationalist rhetoric and nobody is taking a separatist stance, even after six months of war. Full employment in Poland may be helping the situation, but this form of national unity should be applauded. Shelter and support are unconditional, just like in Emmaus!

[Read more...](#)

2021 activity report

You will soon be receiving through the post the 2021 activity report. In the meantime, the electronic version is already available!

We invite you to take the time to read the report and take a look back at this slightly different year; a year nevertheless packed with shared projects and exchanges.

Enjoy the report!



2021 activit report

European action

Several meetings about migration issues are scheduled in the near future. Dates for your diaries...

26 eptember - 1 October

March to Brussels with organisations campaigning for freedom of movement

Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe are taking part in an initiative launched by a Basque Country partner of Emmaus Bilbao, alongside other Spanish, French and Belgian organisations. The organisation regularly organises "open borders campaign convoys", for more information click [here](#).

The convoy will leave Bilbao on 26 September, will be in Paris on 27 September, and Calais on 28 September, for a day of remembrance for migrants who have perished crossing the Channel. Several meetings will be held with third-sector organisations from 29 September, before a joint protest action in front of the European Parliament in Brussels on 1 October.

Several Emmaus groups are planning to join the convoy en route. If your group wants to take part, please contact a.gournay@emmaus-international.org or eve.poulteau@emmaus-europe.org by 22 September.

7-9 December

Conference on provision for migrants in Brussels

Emmaus Europe will arrange a gathering of Emmaus representatives from each European country. The meeting will focus on migrant reception issues. A meeting with MEPs working on the new migration and asylum pact will also be arranged. More information soon.

Emmaus Movement solidarity

Collective dates for your diaries



Last meeting of the Poland-Ukraine Collective in Latvia, © Emmaus Europe

We are finally there! The three EE collectives (South-East Europe, Poland-Ukraine, and Romania) are back on track! So, don't hesitate, come and chat to colleagues from Romania, Poland, the Baltic countries, Ukraine and South-East Europe!

You are all warmly invited to take part in these collectives: they offer an opportunity to meet new people, discover new ways of "bringing Emmaus alive", and discuss both shared and new issues.

23-25 September - Doboј Istok (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Emmaus-ISF will host the South-East Europe Collective participants from all over Europe (open to all) at its centre in Duje. For those who are really keen, there is the option of extending your stay in order to visit the Srebrenica genocide memorial, and all of Emmaus-ISF's new facilities in this scarred region.

Collective programme: news and issues facing the groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, European and international solidarity, exchanges between Emmaus groups in Europe. Registration has finished, but do contact [Emmanuel](#) if you are still interested in attending. We can always try to make space for you!

18-19 October - Lublin (Poland)

You can already take a look at the [provisional agenda](#).

If you are interested in attending, please contact [Emmanuel](#) by 30 September.

15-16 November - Chalon-sur-Saône (France)

The Romania Collective will be held this year at the Chalon-sur-Saône Committee of Friends. More information in the next issue of the newsletter.

Ukraine: update on how the Ukraine Fund is helping our groups



The Emmaus Oselya team handing out food on the streets of Lviv, April 2022, © Emmaus Oselya.

We are already in September, and the war has been going on for over six months. But we have not forgotten that it is happening at the gates of Europe. Our Emmaus groups in Ukraine, Poland and Romania, in Europe, are helping refugees on the ground on a daily basis.

As is often the case, the whole movement rose to the occasion and rallied round to help deal with the emergency situation. Your donations give us peace of mind, as we will be able to support our two Ukrainian groups over the coming year. They are also being used to support the Polish Emmaus groups, whose work with refugees remains vital.

A total of €894,900 has been donated to the Ukraine Fund since the start of the conflict.

Close to €210,000 has been used to fund our five groups in Ukraine (two groups) and Poland (three groups) in their efforts to support and house refugees.

Specifically, our two groups in Ukraine were given €121,158 between March and September 2022. This funding enables them to run their communities, covering all their daily and monthly costs (wages, rent, expenses, food for the community) and all their work with displaced people (outreach, food handouts, fuel, and so on).

Our groups in Poland have been transferred €88,025 to cover the cost of supporting and housing refugees.

Emmaus Europe has also supported Iasi (Romania - €10,900), CNZD (Croatia - €22,400) and Emmaus GEO (Georgia - €5,135) with their refugee work, and the humanitarian convoys to Ukraine.

In total, thanks to your donations, Emmaus Europe's support to the groups amounted to €285,007 from late February to mid-September 2022.

Furthermore, €90,000 was transferred to Emmaus Oselya in late July to enable them to start work on building the new Emmaus social assistance centre for displaced and homeless people. A more in-depth feature in the October 2022 newsletter will look at this large-scale project.

Therefore, the Ukraine Fund has enabled over €375,000 of funding to be donated to help the work done by our groups with refugees in Europe, displaced people in Ukraine, and to send humanitarian aid to the area.

Launch of the 2023 European Solidarity Programme

Emmaus Europe has just launched its European Solidarity Programme for 2023! Interested groups may submit their funding applications to solidarite@emmaus-europe.org by the 18 November deadline. All the necessary information and documents are available in the [Emmaus Europe website's members' area](#).

Sarrebrücken Sale

A cross-border sale in aid of European and international solidarity and a new group

Emmaüs Action Est and Emmaus Forbach are holding a European cross-border sale on 8-9 October in Saarbrücken. The sale will offer a chance to celebrate the group's 40th anniversary and launch the Emmaus Sarre project along with the German Emmaus groups. On the Saturday, a meeting will bring together French and German elected representatives, and the chairs of Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe, and will focus on ways of going "beyond borders".

A significant number of European Emmaus groups are going to attend. It is not too late to take part. Please contact Jean-Luc Ferstler, Emmaus Forbach coordinator, for more information: jean-luc.ferstler@orange.fr, +33 (0)6 87 08 33 66



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