



# Minutes of the Regional Executive of Emmaüs Europe

## 10-11 June 2022 – Montreuil, France

emmaüs

EUROPE

### **PRESENT**

Carina Aaltonen (president), Aurore Querel (secretary), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Leïla Thouret and Sabina Arnaut-Jahic.

### **EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT**

Eve Poulteau (chief executive), Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator), Véronica Acevedo (admin and finance assistant).

### **APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Eduardo Sanchez and Marie Tixier.

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Carina opened the June 2022 executive by thanking Maryse, who no longer sits on the EI executive. Aurore, who is an EI vice-president and a member of the EE executive, will now act as a regular link between the two bodies. She also said that her thoughts went out to Eduardo, and hoped that he would get better soon.</p> <p>Carina reviewed EE's latest news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The World Assembly (WA) in Uruguay.</li> <li>- The migration campaign.</li> <li>- Several meetings with EI.</li> <li>- RCEE</li> <li>- In May, Eve and Carina travelled to the social economy summit in Strasbourg arranged by the French EU presidency, and EE held a roundtable on the key role of social economy stakeholders in the circular economy.</li> <li>- EE also held a meeting with the EU's commissioner for external partnerships following the EU-African Union Summit. Carina invited Patrick to speak at the meeting about the situation in Africa, and Antoine to make the connection with the French presidency of the EU.</li> <li>- On 8 June, Carina travelled to Brussels for a meeting with COMECE (organisation of the Catholic Church in Europe) and representatives of the European Commission on the social and circular economy. She had an interesting discussion with Estelle Baconnier, who worked with Commissioner Schmidt on drafting the social economy action plan. She is very keen to implement the plan and wanted to learn more about Emmaus. She is a good contact, and it would be a good idea to talk to her and this group. We need to attend this type of meeting. The Bishop of Lyon was a friend of Abbé Pierre.</li> </ul> <p>The war in Ukraine has now lasted over 100 days. The end is nowhere in sight.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS   DECISIONS
<b>1. Approval of the minutes from the last executive</b>		The minutes of the last Executive were unanimously approved.
<b>2. Feedback from the WA</b>	<p>What is the general feeling about the WA? 400 people met up in South America.</p> <p><b>Carina:</b> As a result of the pandemic, it was six years since our last WA in Jesolo. It was wonderful to meet up again. There were lots of young people and new groups in attendance. The meeting afforded an opportunity to review the last few years, but was sorry that it looked back rather than forward.</p> <p><b>Aurore:</b> My first WA. It is always awe-inspiring to see that we all belong to the same family. We have our differences, but we are part of the same family. I noted with regret the absence of certain groups because of visas not being received in time for people travelling from Africa.</p>	<p><b>Regarding the release of the strategic report prior to the RAEE:</b> <i>Necessary, in order to give a mandate on which the representatives can vote, make amendments, and so on. Their vote must be in keeping with the views of their group. Important to prepare them in advance and enable them to discuss matters with their group before the meeting.</i></p>

### **Positives**

A lot of time spent in workshops, meaningful discussions, well-chosen topics: self-sufficiency, belonging, recruiting new leaders, etc.

A final session on the Friday, discussions with the Uruguayan President, Pepe Mujica, at Montevideo City Hall. Tarcilla, a spokesperson for indigenous women, also attended.

Great welcome from the Uruguayan hosts. Cultures evening on Thursday night, costumes, etc. Jorgen was singing a cappella to the max.

→ Very hard-working but also very celebratory.

### **Negatives**

Distance, 17 hours of flying, difficult return journey. But it was worth it, we could see the strength of our movement.

The programme was really packed. It was lacking informal sessions. Very (maybe too) organised?

**Leila:** We were hoping that Aurore would do a routine, but we waited in vain. The programme was very good and very packed, although maybe too packed.

It made me think about the RAEE: we need to plan more “down time”, and more time for the meals.

Iasi picked up a doll and Leila showed it to us: the doll is from a boat, an artwork created by a Uruguayan artist to symbolise Abbé Pierre’s shipwreck, with the dolls representing the 47 Emmaus countries, as well as those who were on board the boat. *“Emile, our doll, is a pretext for us taking a photo of the news in our groups. Our doll is a really good idea and is very useful in this regard.”*

**Eve:** It was really amazing to meet up with groups from all the countries of the world. Many young people travelled from India. The WA enabled us to re-establish contact with Portugal!

**Inspiration for the RAEE** We need to list details of what could be useful to us.

- Have a raised stage.
- Be mindful about lighting the people on stage.

### **Regarding the workshops**

- Limit the numbers of people per workshop, restrict numbers, because there were sometimes 40 people in a workshop.
- ⇒ Arrange more facilitators, and have more space if we want to have more workshops.

### **Lessons learned from the WA for organising the RAEE:**

#### Positives

- Lots of time in workshops, vibrant discussions.
- Outside speakers on the Friday.
- Language-based workshops.
- Very celebratory

#### Negatives

- Lack of informal sessions
- Lack of time for meals.
- Lack of plenary time.

#### Ideas

- Have a raised stage.
- Have good lighting.
- Limit the number of people/workshop.
- More facilitators for more workshops.
- Reuse the Fish Bowl method.
- Organise speed dating-type workshops so that people can meet each other.
- Schedule more plenary time.
- An expert view during the plenary sessions.
- Specifically ask the groups to run the workshops.
- Have a blend of facilitation and technical skills.
- Plan workshops/activities for people who do not like speaking in front of others, but can find other ways to interact.
- Foresee facilitators needing to take time to organise their workshop, in addition to the lack of informal time.

- Be mindful about the size of the room(s) beforehand, if we want to run workshops.
- People were not asked to introduce themselves. This was a shame.
- Fish Bowl method: very good.

Question of what we want to achieve in the workshops: at the WA, the aim was to put forward final resolutions.

- Is this what we want to do, or would we prefer a strategic report before the meeting?

**Jean-Philippe:** Delighted that Aurore is becoming a vice-president. This could really help the two governing bodies to work more effectively together. However, VP is a tough role: Hans always felt attacked from both sides. Maryse's role was also complicated. What steps can be taken to make your role effective and comfortable? Please tell us if things do not go well...there is too big a gap, and we are making efforts to refocus.

**Carina:** We had a quick meeting with Adrien, the new EI DG. He invited himself to an EE meeting to discuss how to improve the situation. It will involve teamwork.

**Aurore:** Some things between EI, EE and EF have reached a standstill. We need to move on, and we have discussed the topic at length with Patrick.

Adrien will be a real asset: he has analysed the situation well. He sees the whole picture. He knows that relations need to move forward, and this also and primarily hinges on the chief exec, because the elected representatives are not always there. Even at EF level, things need improving, EI cannot act without EF. We need to talk to each other transparently.

I don't work in conflict situations and could not do so. Patrick agrees. Adrien has the same mindset. The will is there in EI, EE and EF: when Patrick spoke about me becoming VP, he spoke to Antoine (EF president) about it: knowing each other will undoubtedly help.

**Sabina:** I have thought about it...after each assembly, something bad happens. 2015 – the migrant crisis, 2019 – COVID, 2022 – Ukraine, so watch out for 2023... I would like to learn more about the conclusions on self-sufficiency. Congratulations to Aurore!

**Eve:** How can we transpose the resolutions into EE's policy report, we need to discuss this.

- Decision-making: vote on Europe-level priorities, and on what groups undertake to do at their level. Different levels.

**Carina:** Positives and negatives.

**Positives**

- Language-based workshops.
- Fish Bowl

**Negatives**

- Overly large workshops, made up of the same people: no way of meeting different people. More mixing would be good.
- More informal moments were needed, and more space. Too many people and too intense.

**Idea**

- Speed dating workshops: organise meetings between groups.
- Invite groups to facilitate workshops: E.g.: we discussed inclusion, and all those interested could take part.

**Questions to be asked**

- A lot of ideas emerged from the workshops, but not all were selected for the resolutions. What happened to these ideas? We only had three ideas really put forward, the other ideas were maybe side-lined too much. Steps must be taken to not waste these ideas.
- Should we send out a strategic report prior to Iasi? Yes, that's a good idea, have a paper, discuss it beforehand in the groups, with the option of submitting amendments and proposals for changes. Those unable to attend could get involved in this way.

In reality, we know that not many amendments were submitted. But there is scope for discussion beforehand.

**Aurore:**

**Negatives**

- DOWN time was sorely missed: the chance to relax and meet people. Anyone who did this missed plenary sessions.
- Schedule more time in plenary sessions: being all together is also beneficial. There were a lot of workshops. Workshops allow ideas to be delved into, but the plenary sessions also contribute a lot.
- Shortcoming: an expert view during the plenary sessions. Esther Duflot, for instance (French economist). Should we invite her to attend?

### **Ideas**

- Specifically ask the groups to run the workshops. Identify the group's specialism beforehand. Facilitators must know the subject, so we need to know what the groups do.

The unused ideas will not be wasted and will be examined by the EI Board. The resolutions summarize four days of work by 400 people.

The resolutions working group really tried to bring out the ideas, but it was not an easy task.

**Leila:** A big YES to groups running workshops!

At the San Sebastian RAEE, we ran the farming workshop, it was good but we lacked facilitation skills.

### **Ideas**

- Have a blend of facilitation and technical skills.
  - Foresee facilitators needing to take time to organise their workshop, in addition to the lack of informal time.
  - Lack of informal time: closely linked to the venue, with the meeting taking place across several buildings, we lost people who were moving around. Everything was shifting.
- Pay attention to the space and signage.

**Aurore:** It's difficult to lead a workshop, not everyone can facilitate. For the WA, a trainer training session was held beforehand. A Zoom session was arranged beforehand, and there was also training at the venue.

- We could also schedule meetings between the two facilitators.

**Eve:** I was a rapporteur for a workshop. EI gave us a little booklet for trainers, it was well put-together but a little too preordained. It contained some good methods.

At the RAEE, we made use of people who were skilled in the subject matter, but yes, we should take steps to be skilled in leading workshops.

**Carina:** The suitcase workshop enabled people to express themselves without speaking, and play a role to show their emotions. Great for people who don't like speaking. One of the best workshops at a previous GA. Find out more.

**Another idea:** Painting, creative workshop based on the topic's four words.

Regarding the policy report, would it be better to write it beforehand and rediscuss it during the meeting? Or would it be better to incorporate proposals from workshops, like at the WA?

**Aurore:** We need to transpose the WA resolutions in Europe. We need to put together proposals for the groups in order to say: we are proposing to adapt these resolutions to the European context, do you agree? We should not rediscuss the resolutions themselves with the groups, because they were adopted by the WA. We can make proposals beforehand on how to implement the resolutions.

**Eve:** OK, the policy report will aim to incorporate the resolutions, we need to see how to coordinate with EI, but also mention EE's other remits. We will not rediscuss the resolutions, but instead we will look at EE's other remits.

**Leila:** Why not combine the two? It should not be predetermined. Some parts need to be written beforehand, otherwise, copying out the findings of the workshops becomes too complicated.

Good idea to be reused: At the WA, we had to put a cross by the Movement's priorities, and we had to circle what we committed to doing. It was a good way of looking at what we want, and what is actually possible.

**Sabina:** I feel that we talk about a lot of conclusions at these meetings. The representatives of the small groups rediscussed their ideas in the plenary session. This is a good idea. Ultimately, this enables everyone to have ideas, and think about the objectives. It is important to prepare the documents and send them out in advance to gain a grasp of the agenda. This is particularly the case if the group is responsible for making decisions for the next four years. Do not have a limited/restricted agenda.

#### **Regarding workshop leaders**

- The groups must be asked to identify their best workshop facilitators. Sabina is trained to moderate and facilitate. We already have experience of organising workshops at the solidarity programmes, camps, etc.
- Limit the number of workshop participants to encourage shy people to speak up.

**Eve:** We did set a limit at San Sebastian; we had tickets for a set number of places per workshop. We reported back at the end of the day.

**Jean-Philippe:** Strategic policy areas need to be sent out in advance in order to give the representatives a mandate to vote on, amend, and so on. Their vote must be in keeping with their group's opinions, so it is right and important to prepare them in advance and enable them to discuss matters with their group prior to the meeting. I am interested in the conclusions from the debate on self-sufficiency.

**Aurore:** The founding texts are quite clear on self-sufficiency. But what is happening today, with the sheer diversity of member groups?

Group-to-group solidarity is very important. We are aware of this, but it also raises issues: EI and EE need to be in the loop, because some groups are favoured over others.

→ ***How can we have oversight of group-to-group solidarity without running it?***

### **Resolutions**

**Carina:** At the last WA, on the last day, there was a meeting to vote on the resolutions, then they were drafted in the three languages. This didn't happen at this assembly, so the resolutions drafting committee had to work in the morning and evening, the resolutions were put together at the last minute, in French, and were not translated. We did not have the opportunity to read and look at them before the vote. It was difficult.

First resolution: Economic self-sufficiency. Big debate. Consider at group or movement level? Particularly following the pandemic. Some groups were 0% self-sufficient or less. But as we rely on customer donations, we are 0% self-sufficient! We should discuss the political facet of self-sufficiency as part of these discussions. Regarding human resources, are we self-sufficient?

**Eve:** The resolution itself – no longer view self-sufficiency as being about groups, but instead at movement level, and question the language used. EI statutes quoted, we speak about economic, political and decision-making independence.

Economic independence: we can have funding and partnerships provided that they do not affect our political independence. Discussion of the language: for many groups “self-sufficiency” is virtually being “off-grid”, being economically self-sufficient? If that is the case, many groups were saying that they would have to leave the movement. This is why the resolution also stated that we needed to be mindful about the language used, and that it needs to be clear.



**Aurore:** this is not a new debate. Poor example used. SOS FE: they are self-sufficient because they are funded by the communities themselves.

Debate outcomes: this is an ideal. Do without local funding, have an ethical approach. We are Abbé Pierre's successors: he used to take funding wherever he could get it. We want to make a living from our work, and AP said that we simply need to do something good. Where should we draw the line? Not place each group at risk with public funding. What if public funding stops? Do not just have one source of funding. This is a debate but at the same time it is not: we have been operating like this for a long time.

The communities have a strong identity in the movement and want to safeguard their self-sufficiency. Issue of recruiting new leaders is interlinked → are our human resources self-sufficient? No.

**Sabina:** Have you mentioned the countries that are legally limited in terms of self-sufficiency?

**Aurore:** Yes, we talk about this matter all the time, but the question also keeps recurring. We need to set ourselves rules to ensure that we are not jeopardized via ethical funding. We will never all manage to be self-sufficient.

**Carina:** Emmaus does not really go for EU funding. When I had dinner with the representatives of the African groups, they told me that some forms of EU funding could benefit the African groups in terms of developing their projects and their long-term independence, including their independence from the Emmaus groups in the wealthier countries.

This new resolution will make this possible: training, education, transition towards energy systems. EU funding is our money and belongs to us. We are not selling our souls by applying for EU funding.

**Aurore:** Could we receive guidance from economists? Risks, advantages...get a real analysis of our systems and our groups, based on their local circumstances. It would be worthwhile finding out from each country what cannot be done without public funding. We need to raise awareness in the movement that things can be done – make a living from our work, but there are different ways of achieving it.

**Sabina:** Regarding EU funding, in some countries of the EU applicants must fulfil certain eligibility criteria. The EU gives Bosnia-Herzegovina funding for democracy, we have to have this funding in order to join the EU.

Second resolution: The WA reaffirms the need for direct group-to-group relations, and pooling resources in EI and the regions.

This is a real challenge: groups can now foster their own relationships.

**Eve**: It can be interpreted. The Emmaus groups like tangible projects. They are happy to fund them and meet up, and it's practical. This has been requested for a long time by many groups, and this is for the most part why a European programme has been continued (European Solidarity Programme): an opportunity to meet other groups through project work. I think the resolution has come from that to an extent.

How can these relationships be organised without excluding others? That's the challenge: maybe we should suggest discussion sessions? Maybe meetings between European and African groups about climate change issues, for instance? This matter was raised at the last RCEE with regard to the impact of the war in Ukraine on communities in Africa. Talking about shared issues could also prevent the "hand that gives" holding sway over the "hand that receives".

**Leila**: When people know each other, they know what they are giving/receiving. But things can quickly go wrong.

**Aurore**: Group-to-group contact does not necessarily facilitate relations; instead, *knowing people* does. Rubbish goods are sometimes shipped in containers, which makes the sending groups in France feel good, but sometimes one-third of the load has to be thrown away. If you know people, you give good-quality goods.

→ Maybe we could organise container meetings? Groups that want to send goods. Collective group-to-group undertaking.

Trust is important. It doesn't work if people don't know each other.

**Sabina**: Last year, a group wanted to send a container to Bosnia-Herzegovina (EMRA). It is hard to establish communication, but when EE is involved, it is easier, and people are introduced via EE. People need to share more information with the secretariat.

BiH and Burkina Faso project: one/two meetings a year. They are coming to BiH to inspect the contents of the container.

**Eve**: Enable the groups to meet up on a basis that is not charity, but with *exchange* of practices sessions. Not sure if it is a good idea to arrange "container" meetings. At the collectives, a whole range of subjects are discussed; when speaking in the region, we

talk about solidarity by explaining that it is an exchange, and that we can coordinate it at the European level. We link up different groups.

We could also arrange video calls before a load is shipped. We can develop this type of activity thanks to technology.

And how can we work more effectively with the other regions of the world? Organise meetings between European and African groups? Check with EI.

**Aurore:** The groups want collective work camps, and exchanges of people. This goes above and beyond goods. The container programme takes charge of shipping goods. In Rédénee, for instance, following a visit to Satu Mare, they are in close contact with Romania, and came back full of enthusiasm, with fresh impetus. This should be encouraged. *Bilateral relationships are needed, but should be fostered at the overarching level.* Should meetings be organised via work camps? People always talk about Benin because of Nokoué. *We should involve the companions and do more tangible things.* Do not arrange meetings, but undertake outreach and directly help people. THINK ABOUT IT.

**Carina:** It is not difficult to organise video meetings so that we can meet each other. Containers: My group has this concern about change and is wondering about sustainability and strategy – sending containers such long distances is not the best solution for us. Big discussion with EI, which is wondering why. Reasons:

- We can no longer secure containers.
- If we manage to secure one, the price has increased by 150%. We have opted to transfer money (€5,000) rather than send a container.
- Is this good? Worthwhile? Are we not contributing to overconsumption, sending useless things to Africa?

My group prefers to reuse locally what is produced, and transfer money to groups. Help them to make this transition. However, we now have too much in stock. What should we do with it? We clearly have too many clothes in Europe...

### **Third resolution: Economic model**

**Eve:** Connected to the global report.

Our economic model is threatened by competition from private sector businesses.

Resolution 2.1 Include the global report in the next strategic action plan, and mention climate justice.

	<p><b>Leila:</b> We need to emphasize climate change and the need to meet up beyond the borders of the Europe Region, as raised at the WA.  → What would a new international work camp look like?</p> <p><b>Aurore:</b> We witnessed the reaffirmation of a real need: to connect with others. Not being all alone, joining forces, otherwise we will perish alone. This needs to be taken into consideration at the European level.</p>	
<p><b>3. RAEE + schedule for preparing the European policy directions &amp; work on transposing the WA motions</b></p>	<p><b>Eve:</b> How do you see the issues to keep in mind for the 2023-2026 period in Europe and in the Emmaus groups? Do we need a baseline and logo for the RAEE?</p> <p><b>Leila:</b> In my view, the main issues are:  → Drop in donation quality and quantity: direct impact in Western Europe, and indirect in Eastern Europe.  → Increased cost of shipping.  → Lack of goods.</p> <p><b>Carina:</b> Have a general view on the impact of climate change and climate justice, which affects health, migration, and so on. We really need to keep it in mind in order to carry out this transition. Migration and over-consumption. We need to ensure that people consume less and better. Second-hand needs to become more important.</p> <p><b>Aurore:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Migrant provision. Despite taking in more people, Alençon turns down three to five people a day. They submit CVs and cover letters. We do not select people based on CVs.</li> <li>→ Issue: set up reception groups? Identify new types of activity.</li> <li>- Donations are decreasing in quantity and quality.</li> <li>→ Less quality, but more people to support. Do we need to consider different economic models?</li> </ul> <p>Patrick spoke about farming: we can feed ourselves, but turning it into an income-generating activity is not that easy, it really is not a money spinner. Real questions need to be asked about these changes.</p> <p><b>Leila:</b> War in Ukraine is having a massive impact, shortages. More solidarity at the same time.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Main challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Donation quality and quantity.</li> <li>- Number of people wanting to join communities.</li> <li>- Shipping costs.</li> <li>- Migration</li> <li>- Overconsumption.</li> <li>- Transition and recruiting a new generation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Invite to the GA representatives from the world's other regions.</li> <li>3. The website address <a href="http://emmauseurope2023.org">emmauseurope2023.org</a> has been reserved to enable us to use it for RAEE registrations.</li> <li>4. We need to carry on discussing a slogan, from which the graphic identity will stem.</li> <li>5. Evaluate communications costs.</li> <li>6. Check with EI the cost of WA communications; this will give us an idea of what is possible, albeit on a smaller scale.</li> </ol>

**Aurore:** In France, the director of Emmaüs Solidarité told us that the Ukrainian refugees do not benefit from a particularly protective status: they are offered more protection than “failed” asylum seekers, but the support is time-limited. Locally, the State houses them, but makes no provision for food (no state funding). Regional government provides funding, but the State is once again wide of the mark. Ukrainian refugees directly receive universal health protection, which is unbelievable. They receive this protection and a permanent social security number, but only have temporary leave to remain.

**Jean-Philippe:** Issues:

→ Container loads, against a backdrop of sharply rising prices.

This is calling into question the economic model in Eastern Europe, and how the European groups help each other. The issue of a transition has been raised.

**Sabina:** Our movement moves slowly; we have long discussions. We talk about something, and then we talk about it again. We need to respond in the heat of the moment. We have already improved this. We need to think about how we worked during the pandemic. Think swiftly, discuss swiftly, and then act swiftly.

Issues:

→ Transition and recruiting a new generation.

→ Migration/refugees: an international and not just European issue.

We are looking at these problems, but there are other issues in other countries.

**Carina:** We need an international representative on the RAEE and the RCEE to highlight international issues. Our actions have consequences in other parts of the world.

Regarding famine, shortages of food and flour: Ukraine and Russia are wheat producers, the staples are not shared with the world, this is also a crisis of globalisation, and at the same time dependency on one country’s production, without food self-sufficiency.

**Eve:** Talk about international solidarity issues, overview of the issues, OK. We need to look at how to incorporate that into our policy directions. To date, we have never held a tripartite meeting at EU level to support connections between the regions of the world, so we need to think about next steps.

7. Decide on sessions at the GA, which could also be strategic plan policy areas.

- “War and Peace”
- “Global – local”
- “Environmental transition – green revolution”

→ **Quickly get down to writing the first lines of the policy report to have something to show at the RCEE.**

How should we proceed? First draft by Eve like last time, subsequently added to by the exec.

Or a working group? Not everything at the same time 😊

JP: OK to proofread the first draft, then submit to the exec.

...

The ideas expressed by the participants today can be categorised into topics in the strategic plan, and could also constitute sessions at the GA:

→ “War and Peace”

→ “Global and local” for poverty reduction, migrant reception: global vision and local impact.

→ “Environmental transition – green revolution”: How to undertake the transition, or rather the big change in our operating methods (containers, eco, climate and solidarity models). **OK to start like that.**

**Regarding the issue of a special logo for the RAEE:** we thought this could be difficult, but at the same time, we need something that makes people want to attend. **Think about a RAEE slogan.**

**Carina:** Something like “Be the change you want to see in the world”

Let’s be the transition?

“Transition” is too gentle and gradual, maybe? Too late. People sometimes say that we are at the tipping point.

*Tipping point: going in two different directions.*

This goes beyond the environment; we need to accept a new social order.

→ A new pathway, road to build.

Is “revolution” maybe too strong?

**Eve:** Is Emmaus going to be part of this change?

*RAEE slogan – to be continued.*

**Eve:** RAEE PowerPoint presentation.

What do you think of it?

**Aurore:** How much does a slogan/logo cost? Find out from EI?  
**Carina:** Find out about doing it, if it does not prove too difficult. Have a combined slogan and logo, something visual.  
 Overview of ideas and then decide.

Jean-Philippe: €6,000 spent on facilitation at the last RAEE. *Do we need to make a choice between graphic design and facilitation?* We do not need something as professional as EI, but the meeting needs a real visual identity.

**Aurore:** Something simple and costed. And then choose.

**Eve:** “hobo chic”. 😊 Work on EE RAEE signage.

**Leïla:** OK for meeting goodies, but posters are the best option, as the groups can reuse them afterwards.

**Eve:** Tote bags are good. Emmaus Satu Mare is starting to make them.  
 Regarding posters: a waste of money? Targeting Emmaus members, not really the general public.

**Aurore:** Posters are nice for the companions, and are like a souvenir of the WA.  
 We need to take a decision based on the costs involved.

**Carina:** I really liked the jingle that preceded each session. It enabled content to be shared on social media, and short videos on Instagram...  
 We should consider it; we do have ideas.

**Eve:** For online registration, it is difficult to do without a dedicated registration site.  
 We need to get organised; do you agree to us reserving the address emmauseurope2023.org?  
 Everyone agreed.

**Presentation delivered by Emmanuel of requests for support from the Ukraine Fund**

**Carina:** An additional request made by Emmaus Lublin: financially and practically support non-Emmaus associations working in Ukraine.

**1. Lublin’s funding application for May regarding supporting Ukrainian refugees was unanimously approved.**

4. Solidarity

We need to clarify this for the coming methods. Refugees are returning to Ukraine. We need to discuss the issue.

**Aurore:** This raises issues. Money being sent to other associations, what link, how would the funds be used? More intermediaries = more risks. In a way, we could not be against the proposal..

What I think: Jean-Philippe, Emmanuel, Eve and Carina are in contact with the groups; we know where the money goes. More of a risk involved if it goes through the groups to third parties.

**Leïla:** Raises the same issue as the container loads: funding recipients for some Emmaus groups, advise the donor groups that the funding is being channelled to other organisations.

**Jean-Philippe:** This is not the aim of the funds. Instead, the idea is to help *the Emmaus groups* to contend with the crisis and support refugees. Yes, to continuing to support Oselya and Nasha Khata.

It is right that we support the Polish groups who are hosting refugees. But the Ukraine Fund is not there to fund other unknown associations. We are not a funding body, in my view, that is not our role.

We will manage a year at a rate of €40K per month.

**Sabina:** At our previous meetings, we said that we needed to be mindful about expenditure, notably in order to prepare for the post-war period: money will become important. Should we travel to Ukraine and help directly? We have not yet organised something like this.

**Eve:** It could be worthwhile organising something between ISF and Ukraine because of your experience of conflict. Slightly later on? Travel with specialists, and arrange a conference with local NGOs to look at preparing for reconstruction?

**Carina:** Should EE be organising this type of meeting? Yes, so use the Ukraine Fund for the meeting, which could be held in the autumn? NO, not in the autumn, too difficult and schedule is too packed.

**We need an overview of everything that we have to plan/do.**

Zoom or in-person? In-person. Maybe a Zoom session to discuss the post-war issues, and then an in-person meeting?

**2. Lublin's request to support other Ukrainian associations was turned down by the exec.**

→ EE is not a funding body, and monitoring the use of funds would be difficult.

**3. Arrange a construction, peace and post-conflict trauma conference: YES, preferably in 2023, in Ukraine or Poland.**

**4. Regarding the €45K increase in EE's donation towards funding Oselya's Centre: an email will be sent to the Board to explain the situation and ask if there are any objections.**

**5. Regarding Lublin's request for an advance of €20K to fund the charity shop building work: the exec is unable to approve the request because it is outside of the project submission period and is not an emergency.**

→ Approach EI about the option of an EEF loan.

**Regarding container loads:**

- Let's discuss the matter in the collectives.
- Let's endeavour to organise a meeting for recipient groups in the autumn.
- Let's mobilise the European groups.

**Decision:** *the exec decided to allocate a budget of €2K/recipient group to anyone needing it, to help fund shipments until the end of the year. However, this funding*



**Eve:** Zoom meetings with foreign languages are difficult to organise. Skilled interpreters need to be found. I was thinking of an in-person meeting to involve other local stakeholders.

**Idea of arranging a construction, peace and post-conflict trauma conference: YES, in 2023.**

**Presentation of the Social Aid Centre by Emmanuel, and Oselya's responses to the RCEE's questions (plot of land, funding, lease, permits)**

Everything is progressing well.

**Eve:** Emmaus France is offering to allocate to Ukrainian projects a donation made by *Maisons du Monde*, a French furniture company, for which EF could issue a tax receipt (similar to Gift Aid). What do you think of using this sum of €45K directly for Oselya's centre?

**Jean-Philippe:** €45K is a big amount, and it would be sensible to send an email to the RCEE. Situation, smaller co-funding...and ask if there are any objections, without necessarily putting it to vote? This would be transparent.

Everyone agreed.

This sum of €45K could be used to fund/extend the donation with the aim of identifying energy-saving solutions or being less dependent on fossil fuels.

**Sabina:** In BiH, heat pumps are very popular. Used in Srebrenica in a rest home. Project underway in the Netherlands. Costs?

**Eve:** The use of heat pumps is growing in France. People are needed to install them in the country. Several techniques. Air source or geothermal.

**Emmanuel presented Emmaus Lublin's request for an advance of €20K to complete the building work on their new shop.**

Missed the deadline for solidarity applications.

Before, general solidarity was used to meet this sort of request. But it will be allocated to a fund for energy saving.

*comes with a request to start considering alternatives for the coming years to really limit dependence on containers from other countries.*

**EI vulnerable population fund:** *The exec unanimously decided to send back the funding (€12K) to EI for the other regions of the world.*

**Regarding Cluj:** *what lessons can be learned from the monitoring group? The situation was explained to the exec for information purposes. A meeting is being held on 16 June to decide on next steps. Be more careful when monitoring emerging groups.*

Other ideas for obtaining funding?

**Leïla:** EEF loan? Relevant.

**Jean-Philippe:** Check with EI.

**Carina:** I agree. Emmaus Lublin is able to pay back a loan taken out with EI.

Everyone agreed? YES

**Emmanuel presented the current European container load situation and challenges caused by rising prices, and a drop in donation quality and quantity... Option of allocating funds to a new “transport fund” to help groups to ship goods from time to time?**

Transport: If we use a “sticking plaster” fund, or help groups to cope with rising haulage costs, it must be temporary, and in return solutions need to be sought to address this issue, as it is becoming a deep-seated problem.

**Leïla:** Channel funds into the transport fund again? Funds taken from general solidarity, which has instead been rerouted to the energy transition fund. This reserve no longer exists, because the RCEE voted to use it for energy saving in the groups.

→ It would be done using cash funds.

**Jean-Philippe:** We need to consider the dozen or so groups that receive loads. What real difference is there between those who fully pay haulage costs, 50/50, and those who do not pay the haulage costs.

This situation needs to be taken into account.

**Carina:** Instead of keeping this fund and not having the right criteria, we could say: COVID is over, we no longer have this fund.

*The question is: should we create a new fund to help the groups during this transition phase? Help those that receive, but also consider a new economic model at the same time?*

Should we create this new fund: Yes/no? How much?

**Sabina:** We have the experience, we pay the costs of some loads, but not all. Our needs are as follows: one load per month or per 1.5 months. With the BBF network: we collect money in the group, and we ask EI to help. We could not pay all the costs. But it could work if we receive a small amount of help, and share the rest of the costs between the sending and receiving group.

**Eve:** We could do a mix of all these ideas.

- Ask the French regions to share the costs?
- Split the costs between sending/receiving groups? However, a handful of groups have partnerships and never pay, or vice-versa.

In any event, **set up a meeting between recipient groups to try to harmonize and formulate something fair.** Prices are undoubtedly not going to decrease. How can we change model, and how long must we continue receiving?

**Carina:** It is a transition period. Five years ago, the Ukrainian borders were closed. The groups had to do local collections. This would be more sustainable. **Transition: container loads + local collections.**

**Jean-Philippe:** quite right. A quick calculation: to maintain/earn as much with rising haulage costs, we would need 25% more loads. Is this a worthwhile way of achieving a balance?

Idea: we help the groups to cover the old price for a few months, while asking them to consider a transition process. → Boundaries so that we do not enter into a downward spiral.

**Eve:**

- Let's discuss the matter in the collectives.
- Let's endeavour to organise a meeting for recipient groups in the autumn.
- Let's mobilise the European groups.
- Financial support: yes, but with the same criteria on an occasional basis for container loads?

**Leïla:** Where would the money come from? Limit per group? Recipient group? It would come from cash funds.

**Jean-Philippe:** Difficult, because three out of four interested parties are exec members.

**Eve:** Should we maintain the same criteria?

**Jean-Philippe:** 50% of transport costs no longer justified. Fund the difference between the old and new costs. Easy to work out, limit of 1,000 max. 2,000 max per group until next January?

For example, 1/3 of lorry loads are paid for by La Chaux de Fonds. No point in them requesting support with shipping costs.

**Leïla:** Practically 100% of Iasi's lorry loads are covered.

**Eve:** Agreed that groups will have needs during this period. Our remit is to overhaul the criteria to adjust them to the situation in consultation with the concerned groups, and have a €10K fund dedicated to this.

### **EI vulnerable population fund**

*Emmanuel presented the EI vulnerable population fund, which is replacing the Food Aid Fund. EI has transferred the sum of €12K to EE to support food/health support projects. Will EE use this sum?*

**Jean-Philippe:** €12K would enable things to be done, but the other regions undoubtedly have a greater need in the current circumstances. He would prefer to return the sum to EI so that it can be reallocated to the regions who need it most. Everyone agreed to return the funding to EI.

***Jean-Philippe presented the situation of Tarra Social (Cluj), led by Paul D, a former companion. The group is not a trial member, but has been supported since October by several French groups and a monitoring group (groups + EE secretariat).***

Cluj: EE is supporting the setting-up of a new group.

Positive start in autumn 2021.

However, since January, the group has not kept to schedule, HR difficulties (a member left), difficult to obtain updates, no monitoring of accounts or stock, blamed on the person who left...

Jean-Philippe paid a visit in March, and asked the group to keep accurate accounts, etc. However, since the visit, accounts have not been kept, and not since March either. A meeting is scheduled for next week (16 June). The group does not have the resources to recover, wasting time, poorly organised, does not listen to advice...

- What will become of the group? What will they decide?
- How should we warn the groups so that they are aware of the monitoring group's concerns?
- What lessons can we learn from the experience?

**Aurore:** How is Paul doing? This should not end in a disaster. We tend to give wings to the companions, and therefore place them in situations of vulnerability. We need to

	<p>immediately consider the next steps. Be mindful about personal failure. My group would be delighted to welcome Paul if he needs to pick himself up around here.</p> <p><b>Jean-Philippe:</b> He is spending time helping Ukraine, etc, and is less and less involved in the Emmaus aspect, but has found his place in the third sector in his town. He will find a solution.</p> <p><b>Sabina:</b> The main problem? It reminds me of Nova Generacija's early days. <i>Who can set up a group, with what skills, how do the groups make decisions on who to support? What is the process for forming a new group?</i> It goes back to the issue of a group's personal contacts: a movement, and some people's desire to support?</p> <p><b>Emmanuel:</b> We may need to differentiate between an emerging group with a third-sector organisational structure already in place, and a group with no track record of being a third-sector organisation?</p> <p><b>Carina:</b> It goes to show that setting up an Emmaus group is not easy if the founder is all alone with their idea. The collective structure was missing, even when receiving outside help.</p>	
<p><b>5. Migration conference and European campaigns/news</b></p>	<p><i>Eve went back over progress to date: the idea is to hold a conference on migration/reception in Europe in the autumn. Do it with EI under the auspices of the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OCU), a conference was scheduled to take place in Strasbourg, and could fit with our idea: OCU one day, and us one day. We waited to hear back about the venue and dates from the OCU, but it proved impossible to hold the conference in Strasbourg. They are now looking to switch to Spain or Portugal, so we must again wait for news. However, we cannot wait for too long if we want to hold a conference before January.</i></p> <p>So, there are two options on the table:</p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> Small format, looking at the issues being faced in each country. Overview of Emmaus' struggles. As per Eduardo's proposal: one-day event, and attach it to the RCEE.</p> <p>However, we had the feeling at the last RCEE, that there was a real desire to resume links with European politicians, for an advocacy initiative, and quickly:</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First day together as per Option 1.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Migration Conference</b>  <i>Hold a 1.5 day conference, with day one devoted to the issues experienced by our Emmaus groups in Europe, following the migration routes through the Balkans, Italy, Spain, going up to the reception countries. Part two with the MEPs about the Migration-Asylum Pact. The MEPs can be invited to attend Day 1.</i></p> <p><b>Migration campaign</b>  <i>Await the publication of the European Asylum Pact to launch a communications campaign on migration at the EE level, taking the form of posters (early 2023?)</i></p>

- Day 2: MEPs, issues involved in the migration pact, how we can get involved, get them to listen to a summary of our discussions about the issues that we face. Jean-Philippe and Carina thought that it was a good idea.

**Aurore:** There are a lot of meetings planned for the end of the year. EI Board, RCEE, collectives....

However, we really need to find a day when we can meet, it is very important: we need to share our assessment of the situation with the MEPs. However, I am concerned about not having the time to analyse our discussion work if it is immediately followed (on day two) by a meeting with the MEPs.

**Eve:** The MEPs would share our ideas. E.g., Damien Carême, who knows about Emmaus' stance.

Eduardo's proposal was: *learn about the different situations in Europe in order to have them in mind. Travel around several countries, with people from our groups, and the country's elected representatives.*

→ **Idea is not necessarily to make assertions to the MEPs, but that the MEPs talk to us about their efforts in the European Parliament and enable us to gain a good understanding of what national policies will be subsequently put in place.**

**Aurore:** It would be better to do both days with them in that case.

**Carina:** The asylum package will be adopted in either the autumn or July 2023. If we hold a meeting with the MEPs, it would be better to arrange it for before Christmas, we already know which ones to invite.

**They need to be invited in August/September for a December meeting.**

**Sabina:** It would be good if we could follow the Balkans route when the groups meet: Bosnia, Croatia, etc, Italy, France, UK.

We need to pool information, our activity reports, and find out where the migrants are coming from. The situation is evolving. The EP may not have access to all the information. Information about Emmaus' situation outside France. Each group in each country knows about the needs of migrants in their country.

The borders are more open than before, 70% increase in migrants travelling through Croatia. We don't know why/how they are getting through now.

Bosnia: They sometimes come from Africa, which was not the case previously, and the situation is evolving rapidly.

**Carina:** Three to four requests a day made to the Emmaus communities in Alençon.

**Aurore:** We are in a rural area, so there are undoubtedly fewer than in urban areas. 95% of requests come from undocumented migrants. *Their only problem is usually a lack of papers. They have no addictions or behavioural problems.*

**Leila:** Run at the same time as the exec? October is chock-a-block. We will collapse.

**Eve:** Would it be good if the RCEE took part in this meeting over 1.5 days?

- An intense day focusing on our situations, following the different routes taken by migrants. And Bosnian migration to Western Europe. This is rising.
- A half-day on advocacy, what is being done at the EP in this regard?
- And then stick on a 1.5 day exec?

**Sabina:** Bosnian migration revolves around work-related migration, and ministries in the reception countries.

Migration campaign

**Sabina:** Used to communicate about migrants. TOMS uses it for Ukrainian refugees.

**Carina:** Aland, yes to posters, but do volunteers and staff really understand? We would need to run sessions on the topic.

It would be worthwhile running a social media campaign using these posters. Should we do it ourselves, or outsource it?

**Eve:** We can do it ourselves. But how to publicize it effectively? Should we ape EI with its global report and run a proper communications campaign? Broad-based option: coordinate with different countries? During the Asylum-Migration Pact, prior to its release? **Keep it in mind for something media-friendly and prepare more.**

Or before the conference?

Some more European news: Green Friday with RREUSE.

Shared Emmaus groups' campaign? France, UK, Finland? Mobilize other European groups?

**Green Friday:** frenzy of consumerism of Black Friday for a few years. **Polar opposite:** Green Friday – shop sustainably.

The executive agrees.

## 6. What criteria for the climate fund and the energy saving solidarity fund?

Emmanuel presented ideas for criteria covering the creation of a new energy transition/going green fund.

As a reminder, the April 2022 RCEE took two important decisions:

- Create an energy transition fund using €200K of allocated funds from general solidarity.
- Create a climate fund.

What about connecting them?

- Financing the fund: €200K for transition.
- Put in place an internal carbon tax, which would be paid into this fund, and enable European **and** international projects to be supported?

Responding to a call for projects via this fund does not stop applicants from applying for other forms of funding.

Above the €200K, the fund, which will be paid into, could help fund other projects outside of Europe.

Idea of the carbon footprint assessment: look at priorities and impact of more insulation.

Should the groups look into the cost?

**Aurore:** Aimed at groups in Eastern Europe. In France, a carbon footprint assessment can be obtained by asking for quotes for the refurbishment of a section of a building (“you will save X amount of energy”). Quotes are free.

**Carina:** The first thing to do is to save energy. That’s a start. Training, surveys on how much energy the groups use.

**Leïla:** Should it have a solidarity fund format, or be based on needs?

**Eve:** We need to keep in mind how this would be connected with EI. Why not also fund projects around the world?

**Carina:** This fits very well with climate justice, we should take responsibility. Not in order to reduce our emissions, but to have a positive impact. It’s a good start. We need to do work internally in this area. It will need to be done in an educational way.

**Leïla:** As the EI Board is taking place before the RCEE, we could kick off this discussion on the Board, we need to be mindful about not doing everything alone, it affects everyone, so it would be worthwhile working with EI.

### Regarding the energy transition fund:

The exec agreed to all the presented criteria, and to moving forward with the implementation of an internal carbon tax, which would be paid into the energy transition fund. To be submitted to the RCEE and see how to coordinate with EI once the €200K allocated to Europe has been used.

Criteria:

- Put in place a carbon tax.
- Propose a voluntary charter of commitments for groups wishing to go further.
- Replace the ESP with an energy transition call for projects.
- Keep EI’s budget to fund non-ecological transition projects.

Work needs to be done on this before the next RCEE.

This fund has two parts: the €200K and the carbon tax, which can wait until the RCEE to be approved.

- We could work on a call for projects in September: classic Emmaus call for projects (ESP) and energy saving fund call for projects, with new criteria to be approved by the exec.
- This involves working on the criteria for this energy saving fund between now and September.



**Eve:** Idea of working with EI, we need to be aware that the first €200K in the fund must be used in Europe (as the money is from general solidarity given by the groups for projects in Europe).

**Jean-Philippe:** I really like the coherence of merging the two funds, it is a real step forward. Regarding the idea of a charter of commitments, I was initially sceptical, but why not, it could be a motivational tool. Regarding the European Solidarity Programme (ESP) being replaced by an energy transition projects call for projects, yes, that seems like a good idea. Internal carbon tax: yes. Very coherent. It provides a coherent vision of these issues.

**Sabina:** It would be worthwhile monitoring the repercussions of Åland's decision to donate money rather than send containers: see if it works well, and check the impact on the recipient group. It would be a good way of analysing this issue: how the recipient group uses the funding that replaces the container, a multi-year process, discuss the impact on the group.

**This document must be translated**

**Carina:** With regard to the carbon tax, we could say that when a container is shipped, a sum must also be paid into this fund as a form of taxation.

**Eve:** Are we focusing on flying? Or also on container loads, collections... It would be really complicated.

**Eve:** Regarding links with EI: if we decide to discontinue the ESP, and for this to be funded by international solidarity, but then we make a call for projects for the energy transition fund...we will still be making a call for projects alongside EI...

**Carina:** We have different levels of strategies. At Åland, by 2030, our goal is to be carbon neutral. This covers our trucks, heating systems... All of our activities. Would we need a charter of commitments/contract at different levels for each group? Specify the levels...

- For some groups: make an effort with travel.
- For others: efforts related to heating.

It would be incredible if 250 people travelling to Iasi could offset their travel.

*"We do pollute, but we are reducing and offsetting".*

## Check the feasibility of this process prior to the RCEE

### **Aurore:**

Optional charter of commitments: some groups would like to take part, that's good.  
Carbon tax: For each trip, say, this is costing the planet X, it's worthwhile. It makes it tangible.

**Leïla:** We are being very tangible with the carbon tax. €15/tonne of CO2 is not massive.  
Regarding the charter of commitments: could be positive if the group wants to get more involved.

Closure of the ESP; instead projects that meet the Fund criteria: yes to that.  
However, do we need to look into links with EI?

**Jean-Philippe:** That means that we are stopping funding big projects, and we would have a small budget for non-environmental transition projects.

**Carina:** Is it a problem if we stop funding big projects?

**Jean-Philippe:** No, because big funding applications are inherently quite problematic because of fairness. This may simplify things.

We could also carry out this change over 3-5 years and see if it works? Nothing is set in stone.

Regarding carbon footprint assessments: having an assessment should not be compulsory. Some official documents have zero practical value. *More worthwhile knowing that our work is going to have an impact.*

Measuring impact: a visible and measured impact would be enough.

**Eve:** Or should we approach associations that could help us to conduct a real carbon footprint assessment?

**Jean-Philippe:** I have a question about the schedule for this energy saving fund: will it be up and running by next winter?

**Eve:** Do we want the RCEE to approve it? We would launch the fund in November in that scenario. Or would we get the September exec to approve it?

**Jean-Philippe:** It would be worth setting it up before next winter.

This fund has two parts: the €200K and the carbon tax, which can wait until the RCEE to be approved. We could work on a call for projects in September: classic Emmaus call for projects (ESP) and energy saving fund call for projects, implementing the new

criteria. Be ready for the RCEE. OK to get the exec to approve the criteria and launch it soon.

**Carina:** We should also use this “carbon tax” to reduce our consumption.

**Eve:** There is an educational component to be able to benefit from the fund. We need to be ready for this when communicating with our groups in September.

Review of the RCEE’s ideas on advocacy. Displayed on the wall.

Eve – summary: We have picked the right topics (migration, reception, social economy, climate change, etc.) We need to continue along these lines.

The issues surrounding poverty have not really been highlighted, but at the same time migration brings us to the question of poverty.

Evaluate what we are currently doing: what resources, time spent and evaluation of our partnerships: positive, further develop?

Expand our team?

This “team” vision should involve us drawing more on the elected representatives.

Policy directions and working methods: strong proposal to work on advocacy training for groups: political literacy.

Have a grasp of the fundamentals of the world’s major issues. TRAINING has been brought up again in the English-speaking groups, how to use the global report...

Training: internal or external?

→ François Gemenne, migration and climate – was it good?

→ José Maria : Very good vision too, he could be a speaker.

Positive feedback about the migration/asylum campaign, run further similar campaigns that can be championed by all the groups.

→ Ask the groups which topics that they would like to be highlighted.

→ Tools for the groups.

→ Develop social media.

Monitor the 2022-2023 migration-asylum pact, make the link with the economic model.

**Regarding the evaluation of EE’s work and the recruitment of a fifth member of staff to develop advocacy:**

This currently takes at least one-third of Eve’s time and a lot of Carina’s time.

We need to involve other elected representatives but it also takes time to encourage groups and share out jobs.

The exec is in favour of recruiting someone to focus on advocacy/awareness in order to do more in this area than we currently do.

Budget €33-35,000 per annum with payroll taxes.

**In time for the next executive:** Adjust the job description based on this exec’s proposals.

Publish the ad in early October if the RCEE agrees, or await the Lublin RCEE.

## 7. Advocacy

Incorporating EI's proposals: see working group on links with EI and sending out volunteers who will ask groups about their advocacy practices.

**Leila:** We need tools. Would be good to have an *advocacy, awareness and communications* officer, tools need to be sent out.

**Aurore:** We share the same concerns as EI, so we could pool tools for the groups. Present our structures, global report: the same tool can be of use to all. Global Report: we have no resources that we could use to present it. No PowerPoint to help us. If we conceive something with EI, it needs to be useable by the groups.

**Jean-Philippe:** Two good ideas, involve the Board members more extensively and pool with EI. There are things to be done. But working with EI also takes up working time. I believe that a fifth member of staff is needed. If we want someone competent, we would need a permanent full-time member of staff. We would need to recruit someone who works independently and will not take up too much of Eve's time. We are doing a lot more than in the past, how long are we going to cope with four members of staff? We are not doing anything grand. Marie is tasked with communication, unlike awareness raising.

**Eve:** Marie primarily focuses on internal communications, and already has a significant workload – newsletter, website, Instagram, and any transpositions of communications tools (reports and so on in different languages). It would be a plus to have someone with social media experience with the aim of undertaking awareness raising/advocacy, and who could contribute their expertise, in addition to working with me on advocacy issues. I am the only employee working in this area, so I am limited in what I can do.

**Tools:** For the groups, a PowerPoint presenting the Global Report could be created by EI and sent out by us.

**Europe-specific issues:** How to support the groups so that they contact their MEPs, etc.

**Evaluation of our working time at the Secretariat:** difficult to say, because it depends on other activities. 1/3 of my time in all is spent on advocacy (Eve) but more needs to be done (networking, supporting the groups in Europe, and so on).

**Carina:** We could spend all week attending European meetings. We could work more with these networks located in Brussels.

It could be said that we do not have enough resources in this specific area.

Eve, the new exec and board of EE share the same ambitions: a desire to do more. We are in demand and well-regarded, and the groups do not have the time to do more at their end, they are happy that someone else organises this type of content for them.

- We need a new team member.
- We need to harmonise what we can with EI.
- We need to more extensively involve the members of the Board, which takes time in practice.

Do not water down our ambitions, but how can we find someone to supplement our team and meet our wants/needs? What type of person?

Not necessarily someone who specialises in lobbying in Brussels.

**We need someone who is able to train/support the groups from an advocacy/awareness standpoint.**

Topics:

- Migration
- Climate change
- Circular economy

**Aurore:** EI is going to send volunteers around the world to visit the groups. Could we recruit one of these volunteers? The person needs to know the Emmaus groups in Europe. Recruit in September, five months of visits. It would be worthwhile obtaining this overview of the groups, but might prove difficult.

It's a bit late in the day.

**Jean-Philippe:** I think we should instead use the findings of this world tour in the induction training for the person that we are going to hire. Hence the interest of having someone in the long term.

**Sabina:** If we hire someone, it should be someone with prior experience in this area, not too junior.

**Carina:** Yes. We need to find someone with campaigns and advocacy experience. A lot of candidates applied when I looked to recruit this type of person at Aland.

**Aurore:** Won't it be expensive?

**Eve:** €33-35,000 per annum with payroll taxes.

The exec members agreed to this as a basis for recruitment. The new staff member would enable EE to develop its advocacy ambitions listed at the start of the session.

Prepare a job description for the next exec and submit it to the RCEE.

Check if it needs to be discussed again by the RCEE or if exec approval + email to RCEE is enough. Publish the job advertisement at the latest in November so the new recruit starts work in January or February. Ideally, publish the ad in early October if the RCEE is OK with it, so that the new employee can attend the migration conference.

Job description basics:

- Work with European partners.
- Develop other partnerships to have a greater impact on European law and its transposition in each country.
- Monitor European partnerships: migration and reuse/social economy/environment.
- Devise and run awareness-raising campaigns.
- Train and support the Emmaus groups in advocacy/awareness raising.

Candidate profile

- Experience of awareness-raising/mobilisation campaigns and advocacy initiatives.
- Political communication
- An ability to take on board the needs of the Emmaus groups.
- Social media experience would be a plus.

**Jean-Philippe:**

Apart from the "running campaigns" aspect, the person needs to really nourish the groups' experience.

Not necessarily a migration/environmental expert, but someone with experience of awareness/mobilisation campaigns.

Potentially social media expertise.

Prioritize political communication know-how. Someone who understands the issues and presents them in a way that raises people's awareness.

**Sabina:** We introduced the last RCEE with this idea. Yes and no, it was introduced with “**what we need or need to do more?**” and the RCEE replied “we are committed”. We do not need to hire an expert, but someone who will adapt to the requested topics.

Group survey on basic data + reuse:  
Next RCEE: approve the criteria, launch the survey, and obtain preliminary findings for early 2023. YES, from everyone.

Group monitoring: still to be done in 2022-2023:

Albania: Trial member visit to Vlorë scheduled for July.  
Trial visit by Carina, Eve and Maria Luisa + group.

Italy: plan to visit three Italian groups when visiting Albania.

Germany in September: Aurore and Eve.

Ukraine: Visit NK if possible before the GA.

Check if it is possible to visit the Ukrainian groups at the RCEE with Patrick and a handful of elected representatives.

Support for new groups

Three planned work areas:

- Better welcome the groups: we have not really progressed, but we have started:
- Handbook for supporting groups
- Training for new groups

**Sabina:** We need to really overhaul these resources in order not to make the same mistakes. We are wasting time and money. Important to set criteria: who can join and how to set up a new group.

**Leila:** We are going to have to quickly assess how the Cluj group was supported.

**Group survey on** basic data + reuse  
Next RCEE: *Get the criteria approved, launch the groups’ survey, and obtain preliminary findings/feedback for early 2023, be able to use the information in the communications brochure.*

**Ukraine:** *The exec agreed to organise a visit to Ukraine following the October RCEE, with a small delegation of RCEE members and Patrick, if it seems like a good idea to the Ukrainian groups.*

**Addition to the action plan:** *Have a shared schedule with EI, so that we know about planned meetings.*

Support for new groups

- Highlight the work already done, incorporate the Cluj experience, and submit in time for the next RCEE.
- Check with EI if work is planned with the trial member groups.
- Emmaus UK: lots of resources for supporting all groups, take a look in order to see how to share them.
- Discussion with the other regions of the world?

**Trial member visits scheduled or to be scheduled in 2022-23:**

**8. Action plan**

**Jean-Philippe:** Focus on the groups prior to becoming trial members? Creating a supporting group handbook is maybe for EI to do, it's also their responsibility. There is a "grey area": before starting trial membership, a process of reflection is needed which maybe needs to be done by each region, because it stems from the contacts made by groups on the ground in the region: who we invite to collectives, the prospects provided.  
Example of Cluj: does not belong to the movement, has support from movement groups, but no real obligations.

**Carina:** An issue that we can feed back to EI? Also a problem in Africa and Asia... Last year, they discussed a new groups development strategy. Criteria, support handbook. We are going to spend a lot of time and energy.

**Eve:** Some of the work has been done in the working group with Simon, Théo and JP. We listed some proposals in order to look ahead. Resend the proposals made at the time, which are practically ready-to-go.

First test: Cluj. Two questions:

- Issue of funding: needed quickly. Not sufficiently foreseen when reflecting theoretically.
- Mentor group: what support links?

Cluj: The lesson that I have learned is that before providing funding, volunteers and a proper team are needed.

### **Work on the development of the movement: policy on new groups**

What type of group status:

- If trial membership ends (Baltic nations): creation of "friends of Emmaus" – involved partner groups, but not really involved in the movement's future...

This idea has been abandoned, what are we doing?

France is admitting lots of new groups, such as the *100 pour 1* groups in which 100 people join forces to pay one person's rent, with the recipient often being a homeless undocumented migrant. A close fit with Emmaus' values, but very small organisations not really able to take part in the life of the movement.

The volunteers in these groups find it hard to develop a feeling of belonging to Emmaus.

Their Emmaus status protects them from the Prefecture.

2022: Albania and Germany

Emmaus GEO will be visited in early 2023 so that they can attend the EE GA as full members if possible.

Nova Generacija and Nasha Khata too if possible.

**Regarding the creation of a special status for Emmaus partner associations:** *inform EI about the situation, which falls under the topic of "belonging".*

### **Youth involvement:**

- Make progress on the issue of European volunteering with EF (Anaïs and Natalia).

### Possible solutions

- Each country has a media ambassador who is tasked with the role and communicates on social media?
- Ask Emmaus Palermo for advice.
- Convey the content produced by Emmaus groups who are good communicators?
- Send Manu to the ISF-Emmaus summer camp.

**Regarding companion involvement:** *focus on topics that could make for an interesting digital meeting.*

- ➔ Discuss at the French College of Companions and suggest something to the RAEE.



They are also members of EI.

**Carina:** As we have been discussing this issue for two years and nothing has happened, maybe it is time for EE to put it on the agenda, and **create a special status**, take the initiative so that EI and EF discuss it too. There are no good solutions. Travel to the WA was expensive. These 100/1 groups were unable to cover the cost. Their limited resources make it difficult for them to attend meetings and assemblies. A special status is needed, and there needs to be diversification in the movement. If they are never able to travel to meetings, in the long term there will be an issue with the quorum that needs to be achieved.

**Jean-Philippe:** A statutes' issue. If we undertake a reform, we should take advantage in order to add it. Talk about it at the next RCEE?

Special status is a good idea, it could help clarify some issues. Would they be able to benefit from solidarity?

**Eve:** There is an issue with using the term "friends of Emmaus": this was an Emmaus trademark that was released into the wild.

In France, there is a debate about the Emmaus "label", which sells online for Emmaus and other recycling centres, which have the "Emmaus label" on their website. An issue for EI.

**Discuss with EI, do you think that we should delve deeper into the issue?** Belonging to the movement is a question for EI, and it affects us in Europe. If you think so, we could discuss it further at the October RCEE.

→ **Submit to EI.**

National delegates: We have made good progress; proposals were voted on at the WA. We now need to look at how to transpose that into our regional statutes.

Young people EE has linked up EF with the Spanish groups.

An area that we have not really developed: the rollout of European volunteering. We need to make progress in this area.

The plan was to communicate more with young people, create youth ambassadors, set up Emmaus meetings, would this be possible by 2023?

**Carina:** At the WA, there were interns working on social media...it is very time-consuming for the team to have interns, but if we do not take the time, how can we involve young people in the movement?

**Carina:** We could cooperate with platforms (Emmaus Connect) to pay someone in-house to raise the profile of Emmaus in Europe. It would not necessarily be someone from the Secretariat, but a secondment?

→ Encourage interaction between the companions, via personal stories: newsletter, videos, make companions want to interact.

**Climate change:** *to be done*

→ More online resources  
→ Continue European advocacy  
→ Planned: European campaign on overproduction/consumption, and "**Why donate to Emmaus? Social and environmental impact.**"  
Pool what the countries are doing in this respect. Work out how to use the EF campaign in other countries.

**Combat rejection of others in order to build lasting peace**

*The planned exchange of practices will be organised in 2023.*

**Re:** *How to support people who have suffered deep trauma.*

→ Issue: in-person, or make first meeting online? The exec did not take a decision.

→ Ideas: ISF/CNZD/CALAIS

**Communication:** Make a generic Emmaus in Europe presentation brochure in 2023, at the latest for the RAEE. Include some of the facts and figures from the groups' survey.

**Eve:** We need to find a way to have youth ambassadors who are already part of Emmaus and develop EE's image via social media? It is challenging, because we want to convey our message, and they need to know our message.

Another solution: each country has a media ambassador who is tasked with the role and communicates on social media?

**Sabina:** At ISF, we always have young people who are attracted by our association and we train them up. They have fresh ideas but not the experience. It is always time-consuming to support them, but it is worth it. Volunteers and interns (paid by the local council). If they enjoy their experience, they stay with us and get involved. In BiH, we also have the issue of migration to Western Europe, so we are always on the lookout for HR.

**Eve:** Some groups in Europe are good at communications (Palermo). We could convey what they are doing on social media, and turn to those with expertise in this area.

**Carina:** We could send Manu to the ISF Summer Camp as a special envoy.

**Sabina:** A good idea, few people from the Emmaus groups come to the camp. We need an intermediary in Emmaus to link up with EE and EF to attract the Emmaus groups. Eddie used to undertake this role. It was really an Emmaus camp in the past, but not really now.

**Eve:** We could talk about the summer camps with the UK companions.

→ **Submit proposals to the RCEE.**

Regarding companion involvement: At the RCEE, we decided to forget the idea of a European companions' meeting, and of working on a European charter.

**Instead, we decided to target topics that could make for interesting digital meetings.**

- Discuss at the French College of Companions and suggest something to the RAEE.
- Encourage interaction between the companions, via personal stories: newsletter, videos, make companions want to interact.

Container solidarity: big job, handbook. Questions are being raised, but the work continues.

Climate change

- More resources online in the members' area.
- Continue European advocacy

→ In the pipeline: European campaign on textile issues and “why donate to Emmaus?”

**Before the RAEE: as a minimum, inform those interested about what other countries are doing in the “Why donate to Emmaus?” area. YES OK**

Link up with the EF campaign in preparation for working on this topic.  
Commit to Green Friday with RREUSE.

**Adjust our practices in order to be more coherent:** we had planned a charter of practices but the April RCEE did not feel it was a priority.  
However, we have made progress on the internal carbon tax and energy saving fund.

**Idea for an internal campaign on developing practices: aim the campaign about waste sorting at companions and** volunteers in the groups. This would be something for 2023, the whole exec is in agreement.

Even if in the groups’ questionnaire there is a section put together with Martha which enables people to develop their group’s practices if they so wish.

**Jean-Philippe:** there are two things:

- For the time being: energy saving
- More abstract/long term: waste sorting, worthwhile initiating a more global dynamic in 2023.

Rising to the challenges of reuse/recycling: There was the idea of asking the NDs if they felt the need for support in their countries with regard to transposing EU laws. We did not really receive any response, apart from Finland, which did not need help, as local government is responsible for transposing legislation.

**Carina:** We are discussing how to *consume better* in Finland.

**Eve:** The next donations campaign could be linked to overconsumption.

Combat rejection of others in order to build lasting peace

What has been done, or is planned, but was not mentioned in the action plan: poster campaign and arrange a European conference.

We were supposed to set up an exchange of practices on the issue of migrant reception, but we have not had the time. It would be difficult to arrange before early 2023, given that an exchange of practices on farming is planned for the autumn.

	<p>Idea for this exchange of practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to support people who have suffered deep trauma.</li> <li>- Other ideas?</li> </ul> <p><b>Jean-Philippe:</b> A very interesting subject, which would require a proper visit, with experts (ISF, Calais, CNZD are all possibilities).</p> <p><b>Eve:</b> We could also approach Christian at Montauban, maybe? Maybe hold a first meeting online? If there is too much travelling, it is going to be a lot. Let's retain the possibility.</p> <p><b>Jean-Philippe:</b> Not necessarily the same people as the conference, so would an in-person meeting be feasible?</p> <p><b>Eve:</b> We also wanted to meet with the European commissioner for migration, but it is very difficult to obtain a meeting, as they are ministers. 30 minutes is a lot.</p>	
<p>9. Collectives and information about exchange practices of the</p>	<p><i>Eve and Leila presented the Iasi exchange of practices:</i> 16-18 September, nobody has registered yet.</p> <p><u>First morning focusing on evaluation</u> What is happening in Europe in the groups, and then a presentation of Iasi's work.</p> <p><u>Late morning</u> Tour of the fields, practical group workshops. Arboriculture, building a greenhouse, henhouse, bottling, etc.</p> <p><u>Day two</u> Discussion session about <i>How farming can improve the health of group members</i>. Meeting with the association that prepares the Emmaus Iasi outreach meals.</p> <p>Emmanuel listed the collectives planned for autumn 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South-East Europe: Dobož Istok, BiH, 23-25 September 2022</li> <li>- Poland-Ukraine: Lublin, Poland, 17-19 October 2022</li> <li>- Romania: Date TBA but venue will be Chalon-sur-Saône.</li> </ul> <p><u>Romania Collective</u> Early November is fine. Be careful to avoid the half-term holiday in France, opt for the week of 7 November.</p> <p><u>Agenda for the collectives</u> Strategic plan, policy areas and issues.</p> <p><b>Leila:</b> Would next year's collectives be arranged for June 2023?</p> <p><b>Jean-Philippe:</b> Could we wait and see how successful the upcoming collectives are before taking a decision? If they are well attended and there is a lot of enthusiasm, it</p>	<p><b>Debate about the format that the collectives should take:</b> <i>Exec expressed a desire to include more people, and create a format enabling solidarity to be discussed, while learning from the groups visited.</i></p>

would be a shame not to hold collectives next year, despite the RAEE. We can adjust things if they do not bring in the crowds.

**Carina:** Maybe we could capitalise on the RAEE to talk about the sub-regional collectives? This could help us to include the groups more.

**Sabina:** The main question raised by the debate is the aim of the collectives. Discussion between the groups, presenting their work...OK, but they are first and foremost opportunities to talk about tangible shared initiatives...what we can exchange...

Previously: There were 40 people per collective, twice a year. Now, only one a year, but it's enough. However, the content has changed: we meet up, we go on visits, but there is nothing tangible. It is a shame.

Maybe we could try changing format, and restore the previous system? The companions also used to attend; it was good.

**Eve:** Could you further explain what type of shared action there was in the previous collectives? In my eyes, the collectives enabled participants to exchange news about what was happening in the sub-region, understand the challenges, discuss shared issues, talk about solidarity projects, and so on. They are opportunities to discover in depth and get to know each other...this can lead to shared projects. I haven't really seen any projects take shape at the collectives.

**Sabina:** The French groups used to organise convoys at the meetings. They would ask us what we needed. Proposal and needs. Exchanges of practices. We can undertake tangible initiatives, plan a construction camp in Ukraine, for instance, and we also need to see each other more between the collectives.

**Carina:** 20 years ago, for the Poland Collective, in the pre-internet days, we used to meet up so that the groups could coordinate. For groups in Northern Europe, it was a way of finding new partners: NG, CNZD... a chance to discover initiatives and support them. Nowadays, we need to do more to develop and improve the collectives.

**Eve:** It would be good to avoid the *solidarity marketplace* aspect, which underlines the differences between groups needing support and donor groups. We want collectives in which everyone is on the same level in discussions.

However, it remains an important forum for solidarity.

**Carina:** What I like, during exchanges of practices, is that people are invited to Iasi to talk about farming. This is a change of attitude; we have things to learn from Iasi. We are going to Romania to learn. Go to Osijek and learn things. And go to Bosnia to learn. It's great.  
 We should have collectives at which we talk about these groups' needs, but also to learn things.  
 It is better to focus on what we can teach people. In both directions!

*Jean-Phillippe presented the projected and actual budget for 2022*  
 First five months of the year.  
 Staff costs: €84K, slightly under the 5/12 that we were forecast to spend. Notably due to Véronica's maternity leave. Her replacement did not work the same number of hours.  
  
 RCEE: €11,000 budgeted, not a lot, but sums have been paid out beforehand.  
  
 Advocacy: €10,000 = migration poster campaign  
  
 Meeting provision: €10,000. Budget for organising world/international meetings maintained in order to fund a conference.  
  
 RAEE: €40,000 forward-looking provision.  
  
Resources for a fifth member of staff?  
 Yes, €600,000 in cash reserves. We maybe need to think about increasing membership dues over the next few years to pay for this fifth person, in order not to run down our cash reserves.  
 Decision to increase collection rather than the amount at present. If necessary, we will look at the dues scale at the RAEE.  
 It is better to call the groups to remind them to pay their dues. They need to be up to date with their dues to take part in the RAEE.  
**Jean-Philippe:** The new staff member will be in direct contact with the groups. It is logical that an increase in EE's work will go hand-in-hand with a desire to pay dues. We must remind the groups.  
**Carina:** When we send a reminder letter to groups that have not paid their dues, tell them to register for the newsletter. The best means of communication.

- More dues reminders rather than trying to increase the scale.
- Ask groups to sign up to receive the newsletter when sending out dues reminders.

10. Budget

	<p>General solidarity: €202,000 remaining, so we will take €200,000 for the energy saving fund, meaning that €2,000 remains in general solidarity, or start the container fund and top up with cash funds.</p> <p>Funding request:  <b>Eve:</b> We have been contacted by an association in Greece that works with migrants on their rights. The association wants to know if EE could fund their work. We no longer have significant reserves for this sort of initiative. The exec is particularly mindful about Greece, but this is not an Emmaus association.  <b>Carina:</b> Our group supports a mobile library in Athens, which travels to the refugee camps, creates meeting spaces, and loans books. We help them by sending them our Friday sales income.  However, funding requests need to be in some way connected to EE. This enables us to know where the money is going.  <b>Jean-Philippe:</b> If it was a French association, EF does have a solidarity committee, but EF has refused to support them. It is not for us to do so.</p>	
<p><b>11. Conclusion</b></p>	<p>We are really progressing in these meetings. We have received news from Eduardo, he thanked us for the photo, and we are missing him.  A big thank-you to the interpreters!  We will meet again on 22 September for a Zoom meeting. We have a packed schedule this autumn.  Our thoughts also go out to Marie, the meeting was not the same without her.</p>	

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

**Carina Aaltonen**  
President of Emmaus Europe

**Aurore Querel**  
Secretary of Emmaus Europe