



emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

Dear friends of Emmaus Europe,

This month we'll be taking you to Romania, Spain, Poland and to all the groups who organise summer camp events!

We will also be covering the terrible situation of exiled persons and of human rights activists in Tunisia which highlights the need for Europe to change its policy of externalising its borders and its notion of 'safe countries'.

Enjoy the rest of the month of May!

The team at Emmaus Europe

The Voices of Emmaus

A childhood in care and then living on the streets: observations by Emmaus Satu Mare

Of the people living on the streets in Europe many spent part of their childhood in care. This is also the case for many of Emmaus' companions.

In Romania an Emmaus community has been created specifically to help young people who are coming out of care institutions during the transition to adult life, ensuring that they don't end up on the streets during this period.

This month we'll be hearing about the initiatives led by Emmaus Satu Mare from the Chair of this group, Jean-Philippe. Their initiatives may inspire other Emmaus groups

based elsewhere in Europe...

Hi Jean-Philippe, could you tell us a little bit about how your community works?

Our group was born from a desire to offer an alternative to young people of legal age who had previously been cared for by social services but who, at the age of 18, suddenly have to fend for themselves without proper preparation for the adult world. We help them to rebuild after they have been through experiences which are often quite traumatic so that they can start to think about their futures. We do this by teaching them the basics they will need for daily life and for the working world. Our community is like a bridge between care institutions for minors and the open seas of independent adult life.



Credit : Emmanuel Rabourdin

Although there are similarities in the challenges faced by children in care in different countries there is a specific context behind these situations in Romania, could you tell us a bit about this?

Many of you will remember seeing the images of Romanian orphanages that shocked the world in the early 1990s. The terrible conditions in Romania under Ceausescu, the terrible vision of disability from the 1970s onwards (defining children as either 'recoverable' or 'unrecoverable'), the absurdity of the institutional care system (where children were seen as patients, students and apprentices but never as children who had needs of their own) and the negligence which has had dramatic consequences on many children, all of this transformed these huge orphanages (which housed hundreds of children) into places of terrible suffering.

When Romania joined the EU in 2007 the material situation for children in care institutions improved greatly. On the other hand, the level of training of care staff remains inadequate and mentalities have also been slow to change. In many situations, and despite the various forms of financial support available, young people

leave the protection system at the age of 18 having suffered several traumatic experiences and without proper preparation for independent adult life.

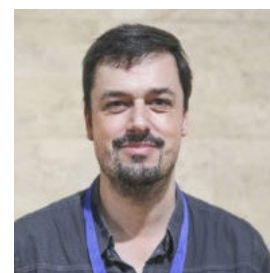
[To read more click here](#)

The Assembly of Emmaus Europe

And what if you were a candidate?

At the assembly of Emmaus Europe from 24-27 October 2023, the European groups will elect their representatives on the boards of Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.

We interviewed Eduardo Sanchez from the Emmaus Social Foundation group in Saint Sebastian, Spain, who has been a board member for the last few years. His term of office is coming to an end in October so hopefully his words will encourage you to take over the reins!



What did you enjoy the most during this term of office?

During this term of office I have really been able to experience the international dimension of our movement. I have met people from many different countries who all share Emmaus' values and I have learnt more about the realities of the different European groups and how they work alongside the most vulnerable to overcome the difficult situations they face.

During this mandate I have also appreciated the change I have seen in terms of achieving greater gender equality. We have made the first key steps in order to adopt a more gender-based approach in our movement.

Given your responsibilities as part of your group, how have you found the time to fulfil your duties as a board member?

Whenever you are considering taking on new responsibilities, you always fear that you may not have the time because you would have to subtract this time from the time you spend working as part of your group.

I would like to thank my group because they have understood that being part of the international bodies of our movement is part of our commitment to Emmaus, its values, its groups and its people.

Thanks to their support I have been able to find the time to contribute to the life of our international movement as I was able to spend less time working on my responsibilities within my group.

You can find information about how to put yourself forward as a candidate and/or about how to participate in the assembly on the member's area of our website: please click [here](#).

And don't forget that you need to register for the event by 30 June!

European Mobilisations

A lobbying campaign led alongside the European collective *"Justice is everybody's business"*.

Emmaus Europe has become one of the partners of this [campaign](#) which is aimed at improving the proposed European directive on due diligence. Whilst this directive represents progress, it remains incomplete as regards forcing companies to respect the environment, the climate and human rights.

Your group can take action by signing the call to action on the campaign's website: <https://justice-business.org/take-action/>.

Statement Made by Migreurop

In light of the aggression shown towards black people and foreigners in Tunisia, Europe must change its agreements

For more than a decade, the EU and its member states have been politically supporting, funding, and equipping the Tunisian state in controlling its borders and containing migration towards Europe. In this way, the EU is supporting a Tunisian actor whose human rights violations against people on the move are well documented: the Tunisian Coast Guard. The number of interceptions and pullbacks by the Tunisian Coast Guard to Tunisia has increased enormously in recent years. In the first quarter of 2023 alone, 14,963 people were prevented from leaving Tunisia by sea and were violently towed back against their will on behalf of the EU. Such attacks against migrant persons, both Tunisians and foreign nationals, have been on the rise in recent months.

In the past months, the crackdown against perceived political opponents, civil society, and minoritised populations in Tunisia has also intensified. In parallel, the already existing anti-Black racism in Tunisia has escalated, catalysed by the racist and discriminatory speech against migrants from sub-Saharan Africa by the Tunisian President Kais Saied on 21 February 2023. This speech led to a worsened situation, especially for those coming from Central and West African countries. A large number of people of the African diaspora in Sfax, in Sousse and in the capital, Tunis, were subjected to acts of violence, found themselves without shelter and food, and were deprived of their right to health and transportation.

We thus ask that the EU and its members stop considering Tunisia as a "safe country" to which they can return asylum seekers and that they modify their cooperation agreements with this country accordingly.

You can read the full statement here: https://migreurop.org/article3164.html?lang_article=en&lang_nav=en

Exchange and discovery

Emmaus' summer camp events in Europe: it's launch time!

Like every year, several of the groups in Europe will be organising camp events this summer in order to share Emmaus' values, to allow people to experience life within an Emmaus group and to inspire the next generation to commit to our movement!



A picture from the summer camp event held by Emmaus Villafranca in 2022! Credit – Emmaus Villafranca

[Emmaus Italy](#) organises an impressive six summer camp events with the objective of “working together to build a more inclusive model for society!” Some of the Italian groups ([Catanzaro](#), [Padova](#) and [Villafranca](#)) open their doors for a long period in the summer and encourage people to come and join them whenever suits! On the other hand, other groups ([Arezzo](#), [Palermo](#) and [Fiesso](#)) organise regular camp events which bring together many people for a set period of time, normally between 1 and 2 weeks. All of these groups offer people a great experience: experiencing life in the communities for yourself or attending workshop events on topics such as the environment, migration and nonviolent struggles against all forms of poverty. For more information about these events head over to Emmaus Italy's [page](#) about its summer camps!

In Belgium the La Poudrière group offers a great experience within the community during its 2-week camp event (from 30 July-12 August). On the agenda is maintaining the community's buildings, collection and recycling work, gardening within the community and cultural visits! To register for this event please head over to Emmaus Europe's [page on summer camps](#).

In France around 10 groups will be organising summer camp events this year, hosting young people aged 18 and above from June to September. To find out more about these events head over to Emmaus France's [page on summer camps](#)! To register for these events or for more information get in touch with Emmaus France [by email](#).

Lastly the IFS Emmaus group in Bosnia-Herzegovina will once again be organising its summer camp in Srebrenica this year from 16-26 July. The registration system is a bit different this year but all people from within the Emmaus movement are welcome to attend! For more information get in touch with Haris at: haris.okanovic@mfs-emmaus.ba

Krakow 14–16 June 2023: Exchange of best practices on working with wood

ONE LAST CALL to sign up for the next event that is being organised by Emmaus Europe! This exchange will be held in Poland, in the beautiful city of Krakow, and more specifically, in the just-as-beautiful Brat Albert group.



Workshop on painting wood, Emmaus Krakow, Credit – Emmaus Europe

This exchange of best practices will help people to learn techniques for renovating old pieces of furniture (sanding, polishing and varnishing) and for reusing such pieces (painting on wood, design with wood, etc.). These techniques are a great way of ensuring that Emmaus' furniture does not end up in landfill!

Furthermore, a workshop on making hazelwood fences will be led by Taras, a staff member from the Nasha

Khata group in Ukraine! The end product is always impressive at these sessions.

To register for this event please get in touch with [Emmanuel Rabourdin](#) by **1 June 2023**.

Please note that there are only 15 spaces available for this even



Copyright © 2022 Emmaus Europe, All rights reserved.

Emmaus Europe
47 avenue de la Résistance
93100 Montreuil
contact@emmaus-europe.org
[Website](#)

[Unsubscribe from this list.](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Emmaus Europe · 47 avenue de la résistance · Montreuil 93100 · France