

For the attention of the members of Emmaus Europe

In preparation for **the Emmaus Europe General Assembly** on 24-7 October in Iasi in Romania, please find below the **proposed strategic plan** for Emmaus Europe for the 2023-2026 pe-riod. The proposal stems from discussions between the members of the Regional Executive and Regional Council, and consultation of Emmaus Europe's geographical collectives.

To ensure that these policy directions truly reflect the diverse range of groups and opinions in our movement, please tell us **by 20 August** if you agree with the observations and pro-posals contained in the plan, if there is something missing, and if some points are not a pri-ority for you or should be amended. You may send your proposals to [eve.poulteau@emmaus-europe.org](mailto:eve.poulteau@emmaus-europe.org).

The below document will be voted on at the assembly, and **any feedback you provide will also be voted on** in the form of amendments. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

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# Proposed 2023-2026 Emmaus Europe strategic plan

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Bolstered by the policy directions chosen at the World Assembly, the European Emmaus members are now applying these policies in their groups, at national and regional level, based on their specific circumstances, and in harmony with Emaus International's Programme of action.

The following strategic plan directs our joint actions in Europe over the next three years in order to achieve a greater impact by working in a coordinated fashion with the EU institutions and also with citizens to bring out the best in humanity.

With this strategic plan, EE commits to mainstreaming gender equality and diversity in all our actions in order to build inclusion and resilience both locally and regionally.

### 1. Act for peace

The war in Ukraine has been a terrible reminder of the fragile nature of peace on our continent, at the precise moment when we are seeing the devastating effect of war around the world.

We must take action to encourage peace in Europe over the coming years. In addition to Ukraine, peace is still under threat in the Balkans and, more generally, the rise of extreme Right in Europe is stirring up hatred and discrimination that are conducive to conflict.

A peaceful society involves everyone being able to participate in the democratic process and nobody being discriminated against because of their gender, ethnicity, religion, or on other grounds. The Emmaus Movement is going to continue to step up its work to bolster human rights, and develop a feeling of trust and human communities to achieve lasting peace.

We need to go back to basics – after World War II, Abbé Pierre invited young people from across Europe to stay in his house outside Paris. The aim was to build peace and prevent young people from aiming weapons at each other once again. Emmaus-ISF in Bosnia-Herzegovina has done the same thing in Srebrenica. We need to build on this legacy.

## 36 Aims

- 37 → Bolster democracy in the Emmaus groups and increase everyone's involvement
- 38 in the different levels of our movement. Build trust between people.
- 39 → Combat discrimination.
- 40 → Increase solidarity and understanding between people.
- 41 → Analyse the causes of war in order to address them.

## 42 Proposals

### 43 At European level

- 44 • Encourage the groups to arrange meetings, twinning arrangements and
- 45 exchanges at the national, regional and international levels, in coordination
- 46 with EI.
- 47 • Foster the development of European youth camps.
- 48 • Arrange "political literacy" sessions on the causes of war, and hold joint
- 49 discussions about action to take.
- 50 • In our practices and advocacy encourage ethical finance and refuse to use
- 51 carbon-emitting banks that are involved in the arms trade.
- 52 • Develop European partnerships with pacifist networks.

## 53 **2. Act for an eco-revolution**

54 Climate change is increasingly being felt in our lives, and always impacts the poorest  
55 people first. A simple transition is no longer enough, although the Emmaus groups' main  
56 income-generating activities are environmentally-friendly, we are aware that we now  
57 need to do more, we must act anywhere that Emmaus can have an impact.

58 Moreover, we are seeing that we ourselves, as well as the people that we support, are  
59 victims of the effects of climate change. We are also going to have to adapt our practices  
60 to reduce our expenditure and we must also support the most vulnerable people in this  
61 new context.

## 62 Aims

- 63 → Continue our involvement in reuse and recycling, always taking social and
- 64 environmental innovation further.
- 65 → Prioritise environment-related activities when seeking out new activities.
- 66 → Reaffirm the role of solidarity and social organisations in the circular
- 67 economy.
- 68 → Show that a green and social economy can and should become the main
- 69 economic model.
- 70 → Call for and implement a drop in overproduction and overconsumption.
- 71 → Call for and take action to protect the poorest people from climate change.
- 72 → Further improve our own practices to limit as much as possible Europe's
- 73 contribution to climate change: container loads, housing, income-generating
- 74 activities, solidarity, looking at how to save energy and decrease our
- 75 dependence on the most polluting forms of energy.

## 76 Proposals

- 77 • Green transition fund: a first fund was created to support the groups in Eastern
- 78 Europe in their energy transition process. The fund will be developed to cover

- 79 other areas of the green transition (farming, waste management), and could even  
80 become an international fund.
- 81 • Internal climate contribution: This type of tax could be created in Emmaus  
82 Europe to contribute on a voluntary base to the transition fund. The groups would  
83 be encouraged to pay to compensate their travelling.
  - 84 • Exchanges of practices: enable the Emmaus organisations to discover other  
85 European Emmaus organisations' good practice in areas of the green transition.
  - 86 • For European activities, find a good balance between online and physical  
87 meetings , and limit emissions when travelling.
  - 88 • Awareness raising: Implement awareness-raising initiatives aimed at the  
89 Emmaus groups themselves based on the areas in which they wish to improve  
90 their practices.
  - 91 • Pursue and develop general public awareness-raising initiatives by targeting  
92 Emmaus customers in order to put a stop to overproduction and  
93 overconsumption.
  - 94 • Advocacy: Continue with RREUSE + EAPN on the link between ecology and  
95 poverty + develop partnerships with local environmental activists.

### 96 **3. Act for a solidarity-based society**

97 In response to the challenges of changing lifestyles and global tensions that may  
98 increase over the next decade, it is vital that a solidarity-based and hospitable society is  
99 built, and is able to respond by limiting violence, and enabling a collective response. This  
100 society must be able to deal with the population movements which are going to increase  
101 with the effect of climate change.

102 In terms of combating poverty and migrant reception, Emmaus has a part to play, not  
103 just by continuing with and further developing its initiatives welcoming migrants and  
104 speaking out against the policy of border closures, but also by sharing its experience of  
105 being a welcoming "micro-society".

106 Finally, since the early days of globalisation, we have been aware that the root causes of  
107 poverty are not only local, but most often global. We want to better organise our work at  
108 the different levels.

#### 109 **Aims**

- 110 → Reaffirm and corroborate our stance on freedom of movement and in favour of  
111 migration policies that respect human rights
- 112 → Further improve the quality of our shelter and support.
- 113 → Get ready to welcome a greater number of climate refugees.
- 114 → Prepare European citizens to live in harmony with the migrants who will need to  
115 be welcomed.
- 116 → Address the international causes of poverty with Emmaus International.
- 117 → Bolster European and international solidarity.

## 118 Proposals

### 119 Humane provision and housing

- 120 • Develop exchanges of practices on these issues to improve the quality of our  
121 shelter and support in general (involvement of companions, living conditions,  
122 adapting to new needs).

#### 123 *Advocacy*

- 124 • Get more involved in a partnership with EAPN to join forces for the fight against  
125 poverty.

### 126 Migration and migrant provision

- 127 ▪ Develop our partnerships with collectives that work to ensure that migrants no  
128 longer end up on the streets.

#### 129 *Awareness raising*

- 130 • Develop our awareness-raising initiatives to share the Emmaus experience of a  
131 simple, multicultural and solidarity-based life.
- 132 • Make use of the migrant reception poster campaign in Emmaus public spaces  
133 undertaken in 2022 along with other tools and through discussions with citizens.
- 134 • Place the emphasis on communications tools to change the image of migrants  
135 and share life stories.
- 136 • Get involved in an international initiative with the other Emmaus International  
137 regions.

#### 138 *Advocacy*

- 139 • Join a European lobbying network to have more influence on migration policies  
140 that guarantee safe migration routes and respect human rights.

### 141 Solidarity between the Emmaus groups

- 142 ▪ Work on merging our solidarity programmes with EI.
- 143 ▪ Actively participate in the 2024 Forum of Alternatives.
- 144 ▪ Develop solidarity projects focused on the green transition.
- 145 ▪ Container loads in Europe:  
146 Emmaus Europe will support the continuation of these vital partnerships over the  
147 coming years, while encouraging the development of relations between groups  
148 around other projects, and a shared discussion about the development of each  
149 group's economic activities to achieve greater economic self-sufficiency and have  
150 locally-based income-generating green activities.

## 151 **4. Make new from old**

### 152 **New target groups, new economic contexts, handing over: will we be the** 153 **future?**

#### 154 **Adapting to new target groups**

155 Those who suffer most have changed over the years and depending on the country:  
156 women (particularly single mothers), undocumented migrants (including families),  
157 young people, have come to swell the ranks of the people who knock on Emmaus' door,  
158 and for whom we do not always manage to offer a suitable response.

## 159 Proposals

- 160 • Arrange a meeting about new target groups and Emmaus' initiatives in order to  
161 adapt to them.
- 162 • Arrange exchanges of practices about qualification-based training for  
163 companions and beneficiaries.

## 164 Handing over and adapting the Emmaus groups to new contexts

165 In some countries, there are virtually no free spaces in the Emmaus communities.  
166 However, in other countries, some groups no longer have enough companions.

## 167 Aims

- 168 → Recruit and train the activists of the future (volunteers and leaders).
- 169 → Add to EI's work on conveying the Emmaus values to the new members and new  
170 generations.
- 171 → Help tailor these values to the new generations.
- 172 → Give more room to the new generations so that they contribute their ideas.
- 173 → Develop links between the movement's groups.

## 174 Proposals

- 175 • Organise training courses with outside speakers and long-standing Emmaus  
176 activists so that new members improve their "political literacy" in harmony with  
177 the EI action plan.
- 178 • Put in place modern, youthful and attractive communications tools that motivate  
179 people to get involved.
- 180 • Continue with exchanges of practices and training in these areas: volunteer  
181 recruitment, the role and responsibilities given to new arrivals.
- 182 • Suggest twinning arrangements to support transition between groups that have  
183 developed their practices in order to continue helping those who suffer most, and  
184 those that are struggling to find enough companions, volunteers or paid  
185 employees.

## 186 Development of our income-generating activity and economic 187 models

188 Reuse has become a market, and the Emmaus groups are facing competition from large  
189 private groups.

190 The drop in donation quantity and quality is having a direct impact on our groups'  
191 funding and our solidarity initiatives in Western Europe, and indirectly in Eastern  
192 Europe and around the rest of the world

193 Challenge of finding new income-generating activities for the groups (also see the green  
194 transition).

## 195 Proposals

- 196 • Pool countries' initiatives to enable Emmaus to remain a key reuse stakeholder.
- 197 • Organise a communications campaign on donating to Emmaus, with the twin-  
198 pronged aim of also raising awareness of Emmaus' social, environmental and  
199 solidarity work.

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- Arrange exchanges of practices to provide ideas for developing new sources of income (green space maintenance, catering, third spaces, public services in disaster-hit rural areas etc).