ACTIVITY REPORT 2022



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ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

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Photo on cover: Emmaus Oselya, Ukraine, distribution of hot meals in Lviv, May 2022 / Photos on pages inside: Emmaus Europe (pp. 5, 8, 9, 19, 20, 22, 28, 31, 32, 35, 39, 40), Emmaus Oselya, Ukraine (p. 11), Emmaus Rzeszów, Poland (p. 25), IFS-Emmaus, Bosnia-Herzegovina (p. 29), Emmaus Mundo, France (p. 37) / Graphics: clairerobert.org

TOGETHER

BY CARINA AALTONEN

Dear friends,

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in the early morning of the 24th of February 2022 has affected Europe and the whole world. We, who believe in peace, democracy, and development instead of ruling the world with bombs and guns and restricting people's freedom and human rights, could not believe that this took place in Europe, and following the news of the 64 km convoy of Russian tanks heading towards Kyiv was both surrealistic and absurd. We could not imagine the pain and suffering the Ukrainian people have had to go through since then. Every family and every person in this region are affected, and the damage and wounds of the war will be present for many generations to come.

Over a few months, about 8 million people from Ukraine left their country; more than 5 million applied for temporary protection in Europe. During the European refugee crisis in 2015, less than one million people came from Syria and other countries. We could hear loud voices from the nationalists yelling that we were overcrowded and there was no more space in Europe

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to receive more migrants. This time, in 2022, we welcomed the Ukrainian refugees with open arms and dignity. Families in Poland and all over Europe and Emmaus groups opened their homes and communities to support the refugees like the most natural thing in the world. Let us adopt the same attitude and approach with people in need knocking on the doors of Europe. And there is no question of if there will be another refugee crisis in Europe; the question is when.

The consequences of the war in Ukraine have severe multidimensional effects on African development. These range from rising food and petrol prices to heightened security risks and macroeconomic instability, according to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report. The UNDP also emphasizes that even before the war in Ukraine and COVID-19, climate change had already caused a livelihood crisis and increased food insecurity. In other words, the current global crisis and the effects of the coronavirus pandemic have been superimposed on already very fragile societies.

COVID-19, the war, the economic situation with inflation, and the lack of political trust seriously threatens climate work and the transition to a fossil-free society.

Based on the sociological literature, two processes lead to large-scale change. The first one is a top-down process. We need one or more charismatic leaders to convince us that we must accept a change. The change will lead to something better later, even though it may be painful initially. The second is bottom-up, a form of a grassroots movement, as seen in major social transformations such as labor and women's activities, which sought trade union rights and gender equality.

As we see in many European countries, the green and environmentally friendly parties are losing while the populist parties are gaining power. It is difficult to win an election on issues that seem to restrict people or make life more complicated, even if it is the right thing to do. The top-down process is having significant difficulties now, especially regarding climate-related issues.

The bottom-up, grassroots movement-process could be working, even if the young activists on Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion are less active than before the pandemic. We need to support and stand with them in their fight for the future of coming generations. Change and transition always seem painful and scary at first. But afterwards, when the work is done, no one regrets it and wants to return to the way it was before.

Dear friends, thank you for your support and solidarity during 2022. It was a challenging year, but as you will read in this activity report, we also made beautiful things together to help people suffering from the war in Ukraine and climate change. We will continue together.

Always yours, Carina Aaltonen, Chair of Emmaus Europe



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2022: THE SHOCK OF WAR IN UKRAINE

LOOKING BACK TO THE START OF THE CONFLICT

On 24 February 2022 Ukraine woke to the sound of bombs overhead.

War had returned to Europe, a continent which had forgotten all about conflicts. A European country was the victim of unjustifiable aggression and the first victims of this conflict were civilians.

It was by coincidence that 24 February 2022 had been chosen as the date for a meeting of the regional board of Emmaus Europe. In shock, the European elected members who had travelled to this event listened to a speech given by Grigory, the national delegate for Ukraine, from Lviv. This "tragedy for Europe and for the world" has been ongoing since last February.

Taking emergency action

- On the morning when the invasion began the regional board decided to allocate 15,000 euros to the Ukrainian groups. The next day Emmaus Europe opened a special fund to support Ukraine in order to be able to manage the requests from several Emmaus groups who wanted to help.
- Shortly after, Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International published a joint press release where we congratulated the international community for its reaction, "the generosity of people is evident and we hope that this solidarity, expressed in the dark hours of this conflict, will continue in building a Europe of peace, justice and sharing." We called for, "open borders, full respect for the principle of non-refoulement and for a broad application of the refugee status. We condemn, in particular, the refoulement or differentiated treatment of people according to their nationality or origin."
- Emmaus Europe also wrote to the Presidents of the European Commission and Parliament to "ask them to kindly make available significant European resources in the coming months to support initiatives which could help to avoid armed conflicts in the future. Escalation of armament is always a dangerous game and we must do all we can to instead encourage dialogue, democracy and learning and understanding of others. Europe should, therefore, firmly condemn the rejection of other peoples and cultures as well as fake news."

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Cultural and culinary exchanges between the companions of the Brat Albert community (Poland) and Ukrainian refugees who have been hosted by the community for several months.

UNPRECEDENTED SOLIDARITY SHOWN BY THE EMMAUS MOVEMENT

All throughout 2022 this solidarity continued thanks to the extraordinary mobilisation of all of the stakeholders of our movement. This solidarity took on different forms as the year progressed. We will not go into detail here about all of the different initiatives that were supported by the Ukraine Fund but in all countries across Europe the Emmaus groups took action as a united front.

SOLIDARITY AND UNCONDITIONAL WELCOME

These two key Emmaus concepts once again showed how relevant they are in grass-roots situations. The momentum to come to the aid of the victims of the conflict has been unprecedented, there has been a desire amongst civilians in Poland, Romania and all across Europe to show defiance and to welcome people who are fleeing the conflict in our countries and regions.

In the Emmaus Groups in Ukraine

Since February 2022 the Emmaus Oselya and Nasha Khata groups in Ukraine have come to the aid of thousands of displaced persons: distributing hot meals, food supplies, medication, hygiene products, by providing legal or medical support, etc. They have also welcomed hundreds of people within their day centre just for a

shower, a bit of rest or for one or more nights. Around 30 people who were already in vulnerable situations in towns and cities which have now been destroyed were able to find, along the route to exile, a place for themselves within the communities. They have since become Emmaus companions.

In the Emmaus Groups in Poland

Since February 2022 the Emmaus groups in Poland have welcomed several hundreds of refugees for short-term or long-term stays. Some of these people have since become fully-fledged members of the Polish groups.

Thousands of people have been able to benefit from the mobilisation of the Emmaus movement which has helped to supply the emergency housing centres with bedding and furniture.

In the Groups in Georgia (Emmaus Geo), Croatia (CNZD) and Romania (Emmaus Iasi)

Since February 2022 Emmaus Geo, CNZD and Emmaus Iasi have created welcome and guidance areas for refugees, they have distributed hundreds of meals and hygiene kits and they have supplied furniture and beds to the municipal housing centres. Several hundreds of people have been able to benefit from psychological/social support or educational support for their children. Furthermore, around 100 people have been provided with long-term treatment to help them deal with the trauma of war, thanks to the support of the CNZD group.

MATERIAL SOLIDARITY

The movement provided support with the sending of several dozens of lorries transporting humanitarian goods to the Emmaus Oselya and Nasha Khata groups in Ukraine as well as to other associations operating in Ukraine, Poland and Romania. In total several hundreds of tons of humanitarian goods have been sent to Ukraine and to its neighbouring countries to be redistributed there. These humanitarian convoys were only possible thanks to the mobilisation of the Emmaus groups all across Europe.





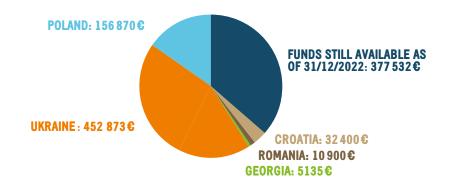
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FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY

The unprecedented mobilisation of the Emmaus movement in Europe and all across the globe has allowed us to meet the needs of the groups and to finance the initiatives outlined above. In 2022 over 150 Emmaus groups in Europe and beyond provided financial support to initiatives led by our groups in Eastern Europe, notably in Ukraine and Poland, for missions to support vulnerable populations affected by the conflict.

In 2022 the Ukraine Fund, which helped to manage the support for these missions, received €1,025,000 in funding. From February to December 2022 Emmaus Europe provided €658,178.08 in funding to initiatives led by the Emmaus groups.

THE DIVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT UNDER THE UKRAINE FUND IN 2022



Construction started on the new Emmaus Oselya social centre in August 2022 and the centre was opened on 6 January 2023. On behalf of the Emmaus movement Emmaus Europe attended this historic inauguration.



A DAY CENTRE BUILT WITHIN JUST 5 MONTHS IN LVIV, UKRAINE

Emmaus Europe and Emmaus
International have called for the creation
of a Europe of peace, justice and sharing.
The remarkable mobilisation of the
movement in 2022 has allowed us to lay
the foundations for this Europe of sharing
as seen through the example of the new day
centre for the Emmaus Oselya group which
was built in less than 5 months.

Emmaus Europe provided €240,000 in funding to Emmaus Oselya, based in Lviv, Ukraine, for the creation of this centre. The centre welcomes displaced and homeless persons in the Lviv region. In addition to this funding was another €45,000 provided by the French company Maisons du Monde, via Emmaus France, creating a total of €285,000 in support for the creation of this centre.

This centre can now host over 100 people per day in dignified conditions and can provide these people with all the care that they may need: medical tests, showers, hairdressing, hot meals, the possibility to find new clothing or to wash clothing as well as 10 places for emergency housing.

You can find out more about this new building, built in just 5 months (from August 2022 to January 2023), by flashing this QR code (the video was made in January 2023)!



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EMMAUS EUROPE'S ROLE AS AN INTERMEDIARY: COORDINATING THE NEEDS AND ORGANISING SUPPORT FOR THE GROUPS

Essential coordination work

The scale of this mobilisation, in accordance with the urgent needs of the refugees and of the Emmaus groups in Ukraine, meant that coordination by Emmaus Europe was essential.

- First of all, the regional board approved two amounts of €15,000 to be sent to the Emmaus Lublin and Rzeszów groups in Poland to help them to purchase essential products such as medication, blankets, hygiene goods, sleeping bags, etc. and to deliver these products to the Oselya and Nasha Khata groups in Ukraine.
- Then, thanks to the mobilisation of the Lublin and Rzeszów groups, two focal points were created in Poland to receive all the humanitarian aid sent in lorries by the Emmaus groups, and to transport this to Ukraine and to the Oselya and Nasha Khata groups. Material needs were coordinated on a daily basis, with Emmaus Europe remaining in constant contact with the groups.
- This coordination also had a financial dimension: every month Emmaus Europe responded to the financial needs of the three Polish groups and of the two Ukrainian groups. The executive committee of Emmaus Europe approved this support on a monthly basis. In total the regional executive committee approved almost €325,000 in financial aid to be sent to the Polish and Ukrainian groups.

Support for concrete initiatives

- During the first months of the conflict the financial support from the Ukraine Fund provided to Oselya and Nasha Khata also covered their operating costs given that the country's economy had come to a standstill. This support was reduced from October 2022 onwards for Oselya but it is ongoing for Nasha Khata given that their economic model has been more severely affected by the conflict.
- Furthermore, various requests for financial support from Emmaus Oselya and Emmaus Nasha Khata were approved by the regional executive committee: renovation work in the Oselya community's bathrooms in order to provide greater comfort with the arrival of new companions as well as the purchasing of a minivan (December 2022) and of new windows for the Nasha Khata group. These investments enabled the groups to welcome vulnerable people and to support them in more dignified conditions.
- For the Lublin and Brat Albert groups in Poland the financial support provided was in accordance with the number of refugees welcomed by the two groups. Costs per person welcomed per day were defined in accordance with these people's needs.
- This support allowed the Emmaus Rzeszów group to make materials and food available in a housing centre for refugees.

All of these needs were able to be met thanks to the exceptional mobilisation of all of the Emmaus groups.

Country	UKRAINE		POLAND			
Group	OSELYA	NASHA KHATA	LUBLIN	BRAT ALBERT	RZESZÓW	
2022/02					€15,000	€15,000
2022/03			€15,585	€5,504	€5,179.28	€26,268.28
2022/04	€14,900	€9,312	€2,506.64	€7,385	€8,203.05	€42,306.69
2022/05	€15,000	€5,393.95	€6,059.55	€6,180	€4,239.87	€36,873.37
2022/06	€17,800	€5,393.95	€2,587.23	€4,050	€4,577.76	€34,408.94
2022/07	€14,955	€2,793.95	€1,744.68	€4,500	€3,980.31	€27,973.94
2022/08	€14,955	€2,700	€970.21	€4,500	€6,335.27	€29,460.48
2022/09	€14,955	€3,000	€1,531.91	€4,500	€6,216.20	€30,203.11
2022/10	€5,670	€5,980	€1,251.06	€4,185	€3,511.19	€20,597.25
2022/11	€5,670	€2,800	€1,251.06	€4,050	€3,257.99	€17,029.05
2022/12	€8,194	€18,400	€8,182.98	€4,185	€5,659.99	€44,621.97
Total	€112,099	€55,773.85	€41,670.32	€49,039	€66,160.91	€324,743.08

This table takes into consideration amounts committed during 2022, some of which will only appear in our accounts for 2023. Thus there are certain differences between the figures here and the figures in the financial report which will be presented later on.

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INFORMATION IS AT THE HEART OF OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The frequent contact with the groups closest to the conflict has allowed us to regularly send out information to all of the European groups, keeping them informed of the situation, of how the groups are doing and how their needs are evolving over time. It was essential to provide the groups with what they needed whilst avoiding overwhelming them with messages.

Special newsletters were sent out to all of the European groups, on a weekly basis at the beginning and then once every two weeks before returning to our regular monthly routine when the situation had stabilised a little. A special area was created on our website so that people could find all relevant information about the impact of the war in Ukraine in one place.

Several groups also organised special sales to support Ukraine. Many of the regional salon events in France decided to allocate part of their profits to the Ukraine Fund. In order to support this mobilisation we produced posters to present the groups which are closest to the conflict and to outline their initiatives in order to be transparent about how the funds would be used.

These different media solutions have helped us to remain as close as possible to the groups and to maintain a strong relationship whilst also sharing verified, recent information during these difficult times.



also contributed by forwarding the publications of our groups and by providing greater visibility to the support shown by the Emmaus groups across the globe to the groups closest to the conflict.

A YEAR OF EUROPEAN MOBILISATION

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MIGRATION: FRESH EUROPEAN MOMENTUM TO PUT HUMANKIND ON AN UPWARD TRAJECTORY!

AN EMMAUS CAMPAIGN LED ALL ACROSS EUROPE FOR MORE DIGNIFIED WELCOME FOR EXILED PERSONS

In March 2022 Emmaus Europe launched a campaign to stick up posters in all the public areas of the European Emmaus groups. For the first time a European campaign was translated into all of the national languages of the member countries.

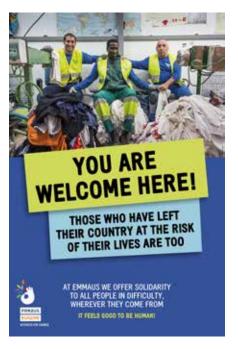
The objective of this awareness-raising campaign was to deconstruct any fears people may have about welcoming exiled persons in their local areas.

We believe, despite what others often say to us, that the example represented by Emmaus can encourage our customers to overcome their fears of people who are different to them. Discourses which encourage such fears often tend to dehumanise exiled persons in order to make it easier for people to accept the idea of denying them their human rights. Such discourses also dehumanise the citizens of the countries of welcome, leading them to accepting things which are simply unacceptable. To raise everyone's human spirits, each European Emmaus group received a series of four posters in their local language for each of their shops or public reception areas. This poster campaign was not very "political" in that it did not directly outline our demands for a change of migration policies, it was an awareness-raising campaign in order to make people more open to discussion and it also included several positive messages in order to promote dialogue.

The groups were encouraged to use the posters as a starting point which would lead to more in-depth discussion, to invite their customers to debates with members of the group or with external speakers and to lobby their local political representatives. This campaign will be adapted in 2023 in order to use it to help prepare for the upcoming European elections.

■ To get a copy of these posters

please head over to the member's area of our website: **emmaus-europe.org**









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AN EMMAUS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS FOR A MORE DIGNIFIED WELCOME FOR EXILED PERSONS

The Emmaus groups working along different migration routes

From 7-8 December 2022 around 50 Emmaus representatives from 12 countries across Europe met in Brussels to learn about the best practices of other groups and the challenges they face in terms of welcome for exiled persons in Europe.

Travelling along Europe's migration routes we saw how the Emmaus groups take action in different ways from Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Netherlands: by welcoming and supporting the victims of violent refoulements, by providing psychological support, by integrating people in our communities (in France over half of the companions are waiting to receive a residency permit) and by leading awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns.

A meeting with 3 MEPs at the European Parliament

On 8 December we met with 3 MEPs from the French and Dutch Green Parties and from the Italian Democratic Party. These people were defending ideas similar to those upheld by Emmaus during the negotiations on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. They notably defend the idea that exiled persons should be able to choose the country in which they wish to seek asylum. These negotiations have come to a standstill because of the widely different stances of the different Member States and there are no plans for any decisions to be made on the Pact before the latter half of 2023.

These MEPs reminded us how important it is for them in their negotiations to have organisations like Emmaus working alongside them, organisations which do not just take action in the field but which also raise awareness so that the general public begins to change their perspective on welcome for exiled persons.

The dominant discourse at the moment is that of the far right and we must, therefore, remain united in order to ensure that another voice is heard, providing people with accurate figures and showing the terrible reality of current policies.

The intra-Emmaus workshops organised during this meeting in Brussels also helped us to come up with ideas for collective initiatives which will be used as a basis for our action in 2023 and 2024.



Carina Aaltonen, Chair of Emmaus Europe and Eve Poulteau, Chief Executive, sat alongside MEPs (from left to right) Pietro Bartolo. Tineke Strik and Damien Carême.

ACTIONS LED AS PART OF OUR PARTNER NETWORKS



Migreurop

In 2022 Emmaus Europe continued to mobilise as part of Migreurop. On the website of this network, of which Emmaus Europe is a member, you can find their various press releases as well as recordings of webinars on Europe's migration policy.

To find out more head over to migreurop.org



Anafé (Association nationale d'assistance aux frontières pour les étrangers [The French national association for border assistance for foreign nationals]) We also participated in a campaign with Anafé to demand the closing of all waiting zones and detention areas along borders. Anafé is an association which has been working for 30 years in areas where exiled persons without residency permits are detained in France's airports and along its land borders. Based on their experience Anafé has produced an analysis which highlights the lack of humanity and the sheer uselessness of these zones. Given that the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum plans to make detention at borders the rule, we thought it was important to support the publication of this analysis. To find out more about this campaign please visit: anafe.org

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THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: PROGRESS MADE AS REGARDS RECOGNITION FOR STAKEHOLDERS OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO KEY ACTION PLANS FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

Over the last two years we have seen the publication of two action plans which promote the social stakeholders of the circular economy (and the circular stakeholders of the social economy!) and now the time has come for these action plans to be implemented. Under the French Presidency of the EU, the Commission presented the European Action Plan for the Social Economy, which first came to light in late 2021, at a summit organised in Strasbourg on 5-6 May 2022. Emmaus Europe organised a roundtable session at this summit with our circular economy partners in order to look at the overlap between these two action plans.

Alongside the European Reuse Network (RREUSE), Emmaus France, Fédération ENVIE, Ville de Paris and les Canaux, Emmaus Europe reminded the participants of the key role of stakeholders of the social and solidarity economy in the circular economy. As pioneers in reuse work, our organisations create more employment than all other stakeholders in the same sectors of reuse (according to a study by the French Environmental and Energy Management Agency, the ADEME).

But now our organisations must compete with the second-hand market, partly thanks to Europe making it compulsory to sort waste but above all because of continued excessive global production and the end of import quotas (a decision taken in the early 2000s). We outlined the importance of changing Europe's rules in order to limit excessive production and consumption, notably by working upstream on the repairability of products. We also proposed creating a larger role for stakeholders of the social economy and to bring an end to the idea of making such stakeholders compete with non-social enterprises.

A roundtable session organised by Emmaus Europe at the Social Economy Summit in Strasbourg, France.

Furthermore, the French participants outlined that their experience with the implementation of extended producer responsibility via eco-organisms has led them to call for a reform of the governance of these organisms. These structures are led by the producers at the moment and they should afford more space to stakeholders of the social economy and to the public authorities in order to ensure that the funds are divided up in a more social and ecological manner.

The participants at the roundtable session all welcomed the progress made with the action plan. This plan is the first of its kind. On the other hand, they outlined that we must go further in the different countries to ensure that the plan is properly implemented, notably by interlinking the various rulings on environmental matters with those on the circular economy and by finding state funding or funding from the producers so that the burden is not entirely on the shoulders of the local authorities.

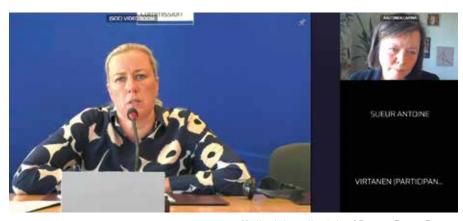
ACTIONS LED AS PART OF OUR PARTNER NETWORK



■ European reuse network RREUSE

This year we have continued to act as much as possible on reuse legislation as a member of the European reuse network RREUSE. You can read about the contributions made in 2022 in the 'projects' section of <u>rreuse.org</u>

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Meeting between the chairs of Emmaus Europe, Emmaus International and Emmaus France and European Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen.

AFRICA-EUROPE: A MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE THAT EMMAUS' VOICE IS HEARD

To discuss the next steps following the summit between the EU and the African Union, which took place in February, we met with the commissioner who is responsible for this partnership on 17 May 2022. Carina Aaltonen invited Patrick Atohoun, the chair of Emmaus International, to participate in this meeting, as well as Antoine Sueur, the chair of Emmaus France. The meeting was held during the French Presidency of the EU.

The impact of the Ukrainian crisis

- The chairs of Emmaus Europe, International and France shared their concerns that the Ukrainian crisis would worsen the already difficult situation on the ground in Africa. Several countries, including Burkina Faso where Emmaus has a strong presence, must deal with the danger of terrorist groups in addition to the very real impact of climate change.
- Whilst all countries have been impacted by price rises for oil and for wheat, Northern African countries are dramatically dependent on Ukrainian and Russian wheat. This approach allows them to avoid using up too much of their scarce water resources on producing their own wheat.
- Patrick Atohoun explained that the Emmaus groups in Africa are increasingly seeing people turning to them for food supplies because they can no longer feed their families. He outlined that this crisis should be used as an opportunity to strengthen efforts to help Africa to reach food sovereignty.

Helping to improve freedom of movement and cooperation

- Carina Aaltonen also suggested that Europe should use the current situation of welcome for Ukrainian refugees as an example given that it shows that Europe has the means to welcome people in a dignified manner. This example should help us to improve the welcome for exiled persons from Africa and elsewhere in the future, notably for climate refugees. Carina also asked for more visas to be granted to people from Africa. In recent years it has become almost impossible to get a visa as we saw when organising the world assembly in Uruguay recently our African representatives were unfortunately unable to participate in this event.
- Although Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen said that they would be making progress in this regard, encouraging more visas for legal immigration, we disagreed on what "legal immigration" means and what are its causes. On the other hand, we welcomed her proposals to invest 35% of the budget for cooperation between the EU and the African Union over the next 7 years on the impact of climate change and to make youth a priority. The Commissioner also outlined her desire to focus more on food sovereignty. Last of all she proposed that the Emmaus groups in Africa organise meetings with the EU delegations in their countries given that this 7-year programme must be adapted to the needs of each individual country. This will be the next step for the programme!

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SOLIDARITY STRENGTHENING OUR TIES ALL ACROSS EUROPE



The companions from Emmaus Rzeszów unloading a lorry full of humanitarian goods to be sent to the Nasha Khata group and to the people of the region of Dnipro, Ukraine.

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THE TRANSPORT PROGRAMME: ITS RETURN HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BUT IT HAS BEEN IMPACTED BY THE WAR IN UKRAINE

How should we analyse the increased volume of the transport pooling scheme in 2022?

On the upside there has been a significant increase in volume compared with 2021: just under 120 lorries were sent to our groups in Poland, Romania and to other groups in Eastern Europe (90 were sent in 2021). The solidarity amongst members of Emmaus, as seen in the example of Ukraine, is something we can rely on in our movement. Thank you to all of the groups for your involvement in this programme. We have also seen an increase in the number of sender groups involved in this programme (from 21 up to 32 this year). The war in Ukraine motivated new groups to send a solidarity or a humanitarian transport for the first time.

On the downside the rise of the cost of fuel and the drop of the quality and quantity of donations received in the sender countries could have an impact on this programme in the long term. This would also affect the economic model of the Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe - these groups in this region are moving towards greater economic self-sufficiency but they do still rely on the pooling of donations received in other countries as things stand.

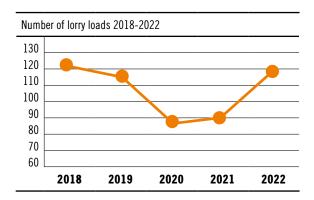
For certain receiver groups their commitment to supporting Ukraine has had an impact on the amount of goods available in their own shops as they mainly received solidarity transports for the Ukrainian groups this year.

In conclusion, the difficulties that the Emmaus groups have had to deal with to send Emmaus goods or humanitarian aid to the groups in Eastern Europe have made this solidarity even more precious this year!



■ Guide to our European Transport Scheme

If your group would like to get involved in this solidarity programme then take a look at the Guide to our European Transport Scheme. It contains all the relevant information about sending and receiving merchandise as well as environmental information and data about the positive impact of our solidarity transports for the groups. You can find this guide in the member's area of our website, emmaus-europe.org



The details: 119 solidarity transports were sent to Eastern Europe in 2022, including 14 humanitarian transports for Ukraine. These transports were sent by 32 sender groups from 6 different countries.

Carretor	Crown	Transports received		Sender groups	
Country	Group	Groups	Country	Groups	Country
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA IFS-Emmaus		2	2	1	1
GEORGIA	Emmaus Geo	1	1	1	1
LATVIA	Amis 3	4	6	3	3
LATVIA	Emmaus Smiltene	2	0	1	
	Emmaus Brat Albert	t 17		5	
POLAND	Emmaus Lublin	31	58	11	5
	Emmaus Rzeszów	10		8	
	Amicii Emmaus	21		9	3
ROMANIA	Emmaus lasi	17	52	5	
	Emmaus Satu Marei	11		5	
Total	119		32		

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BEYOND UKRAINE, OTHER EUROPEAN PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The war in Ukraine has required great contributions from both the groups and from the secretariat and this has had an impact on the schedule for Emmaus Europe's solidarity programmes. The elected representatives of Emmaus Europe decided, on an exceptional basis, to not ask for the annual contributions from the European groups for the projects approved by the regional executive committee in late 2021 given that the groups had already made great efforts to support Ukraine. The three projects approved by Emmaus Europe were thus financed by Emmaus International's solidarity programme. The total amount provided was €45,000.

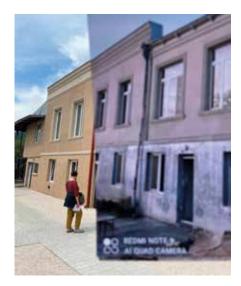
Emmaus Iasi, Romania: The group benefited from €20,000 in support to finalise the construction work at the Belvedere farm: equipping the building with a supply of water and electricity thanks to the digging of a wall and the installation of solar panels.

Emmaus Geo, Georgia: This trial group received €20,000 to finish off the renovation work on their holiday rental building in the wine region of Kvareli which will be run by the companions in order to make the group more self-sufficient. The work is expected to be completed in August 2023!

Nova Generacija, Bosnia-Herzegovina: This trial group received €5,000 to develop, over a period of 7 months, an outreach programme for families who are at risk of exclusion, ensuring that they have access to social support and advice about parenthood. This project was able to be launched thanks to our financial support before local funding intervened to ensure the more long-term future of the initiative.

■ More information

in Emmaus International's report on its 2022 solidarity programme.



At Emmaus GEO, in Georgia, the renovation work on the social house has been going well. The house will host 10 companions and will develop holiday rental activities to host tourists visiting the wine region of Kvareli

A NEW FUND TO HELP GROUPS DURING THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION



The Duje centre (IFS-Emmaus, Bosnia-Herzegovina) provides welcome for over 430 vulnerable people. It will soon have access to solar energy, reducing its energy costs and its environmental impact in the years ahead.

Getting involved in saving our planet

The Environmental Transition Fund was born in April 2022 from a desire amongst the regional board members to see our movement being more involved in the efforts to save our planet. The Fund was then launched between April and September 2022 and was allocated an initial budget of €200,000. This amount was made up of unearmarked funds sent to Emmaus Europe by the European groups over the years. For the time being the objective of this fund is to boost and support the energy transitions of our member groups in Eastern Europe, notably work that will bring about energy savings or the installation of renewable solutions on site: insulation work, solar panels, thermal heating systems, etc. The member groups are allocated a "boost" of around €20,000 if their requests are granted.

And the Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe have quickly got on board!

In the first 5 months, 5 groups have made requests to the fund in order to launch their environmental transitions and €99,799.30 has been allocated as support for these projects. The fund has thus helped install solar panels in 4 groups, better insulation

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in the sales and accommodation areas in 2 groups and 1 system to collect rainfall. When the groups launch such renovation work they also lead awareness-raising campaigns targeting the general public, the teams and the companions to ensure that everyone is personally committed to energy savings.

This work has already had a significant impact in terms of reducing the monthly energy bills the groups have to pay. Next year we will know more about the exact amounts saved!

WHY EASTERN EUROPE?

- In 2022 these countries had to deal with increases of their energy bills that were completely disproportionate to their income (almost +400% for Romania, for example).
- These groups cannot or can only rarely get access to public or European funds to support the launch of their energy transitions. Furthermore, countries such as Poland and Romania have implemented maximum prices for households but associations do
- not benefit from this system and the groups are subject to the same rules as businesses.
- This fund will change over time!
 The criteria for selecting projects may be changed to include other parts of Europe depending on the needs and the level of urgency identified within the Emmaus groups. These criteria will always be linked to the overall situation in each country.



More than 30 people participated in the meeting of the Poland-Ukraine collective at Emmaus Lublin in October 2022.

THE COLLECTIVES: THEIR RETURN HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BUT THERE ARE CHALLENGES AHEAD

The collectives have rediscovered their pre-pandemic momentum and are once again helping us to strengthen ties, to find out more about how other people live and work as part of Emmaus and to reinforce the solidarity between our member groups.

The South-East Europe Collective

The meeting was held in Doboj Istok, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in September 2022. With only a small number of participants present, we were able to focus on what makes the groups' activities unique in this region and on providing an update on the political situation and the current context regarding migration in the Balkans.

The Poland-Ukraine collective

The meeting was held in Lublin from 18-19 October 2022. We were able to see some of our friends from the Oselya and Nasha Khata groups once again, 8 months after the war began. The discussions were largely focused on the war in Ukraine and on the groups' urgent needs for the winter months. This meeting helped to strengthen the friendships between the groups and to find out more about the challenges the groups in Latvia and Lithuania are also facing, they too are on the frontline in terms of providing welcome and support for Ukrainian refugees.

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The Romania Collective

The meeting was held in Chalon-sur-Saône in November 2022. The debate focused on the topics of inflation and rising energy prices as well as the social and economic impacts that the war in Ukraine has had on the Romanian groups. The participants also discussed get-back-to-work schemes and Emmaus' specific know-how on this topic, hearing from former staff of get-back-to-work schemes run by Emmaus Chalon.

At the meetings of the Poland-Ukraine and the Romania collectives we also discussed our transport programme which has been significantly affected by rising fuel prices and the drop in the quantity and quality of donations received. The participants agreed that we must be more precise in terms of meeting the specific needs of the receiver groups whilst also working to improve the quality of the materials sent across. In order to deal with the high costs of transporting goods we could look into the possibility of splitting the costs amongst several sender groups by pooling the donations provided.

Volunteers at IFS-Emmaus' summer camp event in 2022 (Bosnia-Herzegovina).





THE SUMMER CAMPS: BEING PART OF THE FUTURE OF EMMAUS

After a quite timid return in 2021, the summer camps got back underway properly in 2022! 7 camp events were organised in various European countries, not including the many French groups who welcomed people during the summer months.

- In Belgium the La Poudrière group opened its doors to young people from Taiwan and France.
- In Italy 3 groups organised camp events this year. Emmaus Palermo hosted 27 volunteers for a period of 3 weeks, 30 young people shared the daily life of the companions of Emmaus Catanzaro across a period lasting for 6 weeks whilst 4 volunteers were hosted for a week by the Emmaus Padua group.
- In Bosnia-Herzegovina the IFS-Emmaus group organised its summer camp event for the 17th consecutive year! 70 young people from 8 different countries discussed topics such as solidarity and the promotion of peace for a period of 2 weeks. In Srebrenica and in the surrounding area the visitors mixed with local young people, helping with the construction work on a new IFS centre and supporting families who were victims of the Srebrenica genocide.
- In France 14 groups hosted 115 young people between the months of June and September. These young people were welcomed by the groups for a period of one or several weeks.

Overall the groups have noticed that the number of volunteers participating in these summer camps has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. We hope that in 2023, with the pandemic now behind us, we will have more people getting involved in these events!



■ IFS-Emmaus' summer camp

To take a look at the video made during IFS' summer camp, scan this QR code using your phone's camera!

EXCHANGES OF BEST PRACTICES: SHARING OUR SKILLS

SO THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER



The participants of the exchange of best practices in farming alongside the members of the lasi community (Romania).

Emmaus is full of skills, best practices and initiatives of different kinds. Our movement is a laboratory of ideas that is always evolving! Since our general assembly in 2019 Emmaus Europe has organised several exchanges of best practices so that we can learn from one another and talk about what works or does not work for our different groups all across Europe. The idea of these meetings is to share skills, to think as a team and to gain inspiration from other members of our movement.

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THE LAYOUT AND SET-UP OF OUR SHOPS

HOW CAN WE SHOW PEOPLE THAT EMMAUS IS UNIQUE?

47 participants from 9 European countries attended this video conference

At Emmaus we have second-hand shops but we are much more than just that! How can we make our customers and the general public understand that they are in an Emmaus shop and that this shop is different from other second-hand shops? This question was at the heart of this exchange.

- The layout and set-up of our shops is a vast topic. During this first meeting on this topic we suggested spending time discussing awareness raising in our shops about our values and struggles and how to teach people about what it means to buy something in an Emmaus group. Nowadays second-hand goods have become a key part of daily life and we are no longer solely dealing with the challenge of the impact of fast fashion! Why should our customers continue to buy from Emmaus when they now have more options for purchasing second-hand goods? How can we stand out, how can we create interest in Emmaus and how can we attract new customers?
- This exchange represented an opportunity to share our experiences and best practices in terms of passing along the spirit of our movement in our sales areas. Despite the meeting being held by video conference we were able to visit the Emmaus Åland group in Finland by video and to discuss the initiatives that the group has implemented.
- We were also able to benefit from the experience of two staff members from the national organisations: Amandine, who is in charge of the Coordination and Development of sales areas for Emmaus France and Mark, Sales Area Support Manager for Emmaus UK. They came to this meeting to share their knowledge about how to structure our sales areas. Following their comments we had a discussion about the successes and difficulties faced by the groups in attendance in order to learn from one another as much as possible!

WHAT WE NOTED DURING THESE EXCHANGES

- We should display information about our values and actions in our shops at eye-level
- We should be transparent on how we use the money received from selling donations and on what we recycle. This helps us to establish a relationship of trust with our customers
- We can display posters with quotes about what Emmaus means to the companions and to the people welcomed by Emmaus. This is something that Emmaus UK does
- Our shop window should be welcoming and activism-focused (displaying activism messages, street art, etc.)
- We should ensure that everyone can access our sales areas (access for persons with disabilities, prams, etc.)
- We should have attractive shops in terms of lighting, cleanliness, the presentation of our objects and we should have different sections for different themes as well as regularly changing our displays
- We should provide information in our sales areas about current or trendy initiatives that are linked to our struggles (for example an urban gardening stand or the radio programme supporting Ukraine launched by the Åland group)

- We should have dedicated spaces for meeting people, chatting and socialising (lobbying areas, a café/restaurant, etc.)
- We can organise events to talk about our political actions, as well as special sales to support certain initiatives, (and communicate about them) and sales in pop-up stores outside of our groups
- We should organise free, participatory workshops that are consistent with our commitments such as upcycling sewing workshops, repair cafés, etc.
- We should always preserve the social role of Emmaus and create a pleasant environment that makes people want to spend time within our groups and stay to chat
- We should preserve the idea of feeling useful by consuming differently when buying something from Emmaus
- We should use local communication means and digital tools to attract new customers
- We should rethink the practice of having tickets to pay before collecting the objects, notably in France
- We should implement initiatives to thank our customers for coming to Emmaus and to make them want to come back (such as one-off reductions, sales, etc.)

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The new, more open-plan and environment-focused pluri-activity sales area in the Emmaus Mundo group (France).

FARMING AND FOOD

OUR PRACTICES IN EUROPE

11 participants from 5 European countries and 1 African country

On 17-18 September 2022 the participants from Emmaus groups in Romania, Finland, Sweden, France, the UK and even Togo came together for this meeting in Iaşi, Romania!

When discussing farming it is best to be hands-on, so this was the first of our best practice exchanges that was held on-site rather than via video conference. We decided to organise this meeting in Iaşi as this group was one of the first to launch farming initiatives. The lucerne and the grains produced by the group are largely sold on to local producers. Their vegetable farming activity is mainly for consumption on site and the group also raises animals for livestock and produces eggs. An orchard has also been planted by Emmaus Iasi. We also met with the group's outreach partner during this exchange - a restaurant which focuses on reducing food waste. The participants realised that they were all striving for independence through peasant farming (which they believe will be the future of agriculture). A series of workshops allowed the participants to learn from one another whilst helping the host group by building a greenhouse out of plastic bottles and by planting a row of raspberry bushes.

We then held debates on 2 essential topics:

- Nutrition within the Emmaus groups: In the Emmaus communities and welcome centres the quality of the food provided is important but perspectives on what quality means can vary! What is actually good for our health? What tastes nice? What is too much and what is not enough? It is definitely easier to manage such nutrition issues in groups that produce their own food but producing food is not enough on its own. To make progress on these topics in our groups we heard about the experience of the French group Emmaus Pamiers which has been focusing on this topic, as well as hearing from several other participants.
- **Soil amendment in organic farming:** The most important thing to know about the fertility of the soil is how to provide food to the soil and how to create a safe environment for our produce. To grow vegetables we must ensure that the soil is well nourished.

NUTRITION WITHIN THE EMMAUS GROUPS

We should seek support from local certain groups out

WHAT WE NOTED DURING THESE EXCHANGES

- We should seek support from local organic farmers and visit their farms
- We can create food committees to discuss these topics within our groups
- Involving the chef is essential in order to ensure that there is communication with the companions. We must establish a relationship of trust and hold workshop sessions with the companions
- we should train the chef on how to use our produce, such as making mayonnaise using our own eggs, and on how to ensure that we do not cook too much food and on how to reuse leftovers the following day
- We should seek advice on how to make preserves so that we can use our produce all year round
- We can plan for meals which focus on cuisine from different cultures. Doing this also helps provide fresh ideas for how to use our produce
- In terms of our budget and our environmental footprint it is interesting to have a vegetarian day once per week. It is also important that we explain to people the importance of consuming plant-based proteins and where these proteins can be found
- Reducing our food waste
- Planning for who will be involved in the meals. E.g. Emmaus Brighton in the UK which organises discussion groups with the companions in order to come up with ideas for their meal plan. The plan is then put together in order to ensure things are well balanced from one day to the next. The group knows in advance who will be eating what from the various options available
- Donations from food banks can help

certain groups out but the food banks often send us too much, leading to food waste. In France, for example, donations of unused food are not subject to tax. This creates a system which encourages excessive consumption but it is difficult to refuse - some of the communities fear that the food banks will not offer donations to them again in the future if ever they refuse a donation. The topic of food support is something Emmaus could focus on in order to demand that the most vulnerable can also have access to high-quality food and that they do not only receive the leftovers of the agro-industry funded by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Emmaus could help to change the situation regarding food aid and supermarket leftovers - We should lobby our elected officials

- we should lobby our elected officials on these topics. For example Emmaus Gloucester (UK) organised an event with MPs, inviting them to visit the community and serving them canned soup. They then explained that this is what current policies offer vulnerable people in terms of nutrition. This initiative had a significant impact on these MPs
- Having pigs and hens helps us to limit our food waste but we need to be careful nonetheless



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The participants of the best practice exchange building a greenhouse out of plastic bottles.

WHAT WE NOTED DURING THESE EXCHANGES SOIL AMENDMENT IN ORGANIC FARMING

Using plant-based covers

- We should never leave uncultivated land without a cover, especially during rainy periods as this can lead to run-off
- After the harvest we can plant species such as mustard in between crop rotations and then leave it in the soil after cutting it so that it can create mulch. This will allow us to create humus, a reserve of mineral elements that will remain for the long term
- Legumes (lucerne, beans, lentils) also serve as great covers when they are destroyed in the fields

Using good compost

- The secret to a good compost is finding the balance between carbon and nitrogen. We need 30 times more carbon (which should be old, yellow and dry, such as straw) than we have nitrogen (which should be young, green, organic material) and the compost should be regularly turned over
- For green waste and food waste you should aerate by creating large piles with pipes with holes in them. These piles need to be regularly watered in order to prevent fires
- You should wait for the compost to turn a dark black colour before using it or else it may have a negative impact on your soil
- You can separate the compost into wooden cases, separating it into different layers
- Mixing the compost with animal-based soil amendment such as manure is a best practice but we should always be careful as regards the amounts of nitrogen used
- We should use compost before planting vegetables that have high nitrogen needs, such as tomatoes or aubergines.

The following year you should rotate and use a crop that has lower nitrogen needs, such as lettuce. The year after that you should use plants that have deeper roots in order to dig deeper before using a plant-based cover if possible or using soil amendment with compost

- Another type of compost can also be used: Bokashi. The Åland group in Finland uses this technique that allows us to use all leftover food, including cooked food and meat. However, we need an activator to use this technique
- It is important that we work together with local networks of peasant farmers and that we keep the dialogue open as much as possible

Reducing our water use

- Using straw can help to prevent evaporation, as does the presence of trees. Soil which is full of life, and which notably contains worms, requires less watering
- Perennial species are also useful and allow us to harvest earlier

Observation of the soil and planting of raspberry bushes during the best practice exchange meeting



THE LIFE OF OUR MOVEMENT ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

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OUR MOVEMENT IS GROWING

In 2022 10 trial groups and 13 new full members joined our movement. 1 group stopped their activities and 5 trial groups decided not to become full members of our movement. Thus, at the end of the year we had 328 full member groups and 29 trial member groups in 20 different European countries.

■ New full members

- Emmaüs Défi (France)
- Emmaüs Vertex (France)
- 100 pour 1 Tours (France)
- Espaces (France)
- Atelier Emmaüs (France)
- 100 pour 1 Rochefortais (France)
- Emmaüs Lespinassière (France)
- Emmaüs Pontivy (France)
- Emmaüs Primelin (France)
- Emmaüs Roya (France)
- Label Emmaüs (France)
- Sos familles Emmaüs Millau (France)
- Sos familles Emmaüs Montauban (France)

■ New trial members

- AMIS 3 (Latvia)
- MPFSC Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (Lithuania)
- Comité d'Amis de Moutiers Tarentaise (France)
- Emmaüs Collecte (France)
- Emmaüs de l'Aube (France)
- Emmaüs Le Maquis (France)
- Emmaüs Nord du Lot (France)
- Pages Solidaires (France)
- Sos Familles Emmaüs Egletons (France)
- Sources d'Envol (France)



THE VISITS TO THE GROUPS ARE ONGOING!

In 2022 we continued with our visits to the full member and trial member groups in countries such as Belgium, Poland, Italy, Albania and the UK. Visiting the groups on site allows us to really see whether or not they have made progress. Just a reminder that Emmaus Europe is in charge of monitoring the trial membership period for groups in countries where there is no national organisation. An Emmaus International board member helps us with this monitoring work.

MEETINGS OF OUR EUROPEAN BODIES

- The regional board (the board of Emmaus Europe) met three times in 2022. The first meeting took place in February by video conference. The board then met face-to-face in April in Paris, France, and in October in Lublin, Poland. We held the board meeting in Lublin as a symbol of our support to Ukraine, being hosted by our friends who are closest to the conflict led by Russia.
- The regional executive committee held 4 meetings in 2022 in February, June, September and December. The Chair, the Treasurer and our Chief Executive also met once per week by video conference.
- Our meetings are now either held face-to-face or by video conference. We started to hold meetings remotely during the Covid pandemic and they allow us to meet more regularly whilst limiting the environmental impact of travelling to meetings. People have now got used to this new way of holding meetings.
- on our website in the 'Introduction' section:
 emmaus-europe.org/language/en/introduction

THE NEWS IN OUR REGION



- Don't miss anything about our initiatives! To keep track of our news in Europe and to share your news you should keep an eye on:
- Our monthly newsletter, 'Emmaus in Europe' (to sign up for the newsletter head over the member's area of our website)
- Our Instagram account @emmauseurope
- Our website emmaus-europe.org

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THE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THINGS HAVE BEEN GETTING UNDERWAY IN 2022!

Emmaus Europe's next general assembly is scheduled for 2023!

This key event when our member groups can gather and meet is held every four years in different cities across the European continent. It represents a key event in the democratic life of our association as the member groups come together to define the direction of our future work and to elect our representatives for the years ahead.

Groups offering to host this event

In 2022 we started our preparation work for this major European event. This process was started when we asked the groups who could host this key event in the life of our movement. Interested groups were asked to step forward and to present their proposals to the regional board. At its meeting in February 2022 the regional board unanimously approved the candidacy of the Romanian group Emmaus Iaşi.

Initial Ideas

At our various meetings and events this year we have come up with initial ideas on the joint creation of a strategic plan for 2023-2026 and on the topics that we wish to discuss during this assembly, in both the plenary and the workshop sessions. Work has also begun on adapting our statutes in accordance with the new statutes of Emmaus International - these changes will lead to a proposal for modifying our statutes to be voted upon during an extraordinary assembly session. In addition to planning our meetings we have also been thinking about moments for relaxing, enjoying ourselves and learning more about our hosts, Emmaus Iaşi and the city of Iaşi. What a lovely schedule for us to look forward to!





To find out more information and to register for this event head over to the general assembly section of our website: https://emmaus-europe.org/language/en/ag2023-en



LET'S MEET AT THE UNIREA HOTEL!

■ A unique location in the heart of the city
We were then able to start looking at

potential locations to host our meetings. With the help of the Emmaus laşi group we were able to put the entire city under the microscope and find the ideal location to host this event! We found the location during visits carried out in April 2022 and we were then able to set the dates for this event.

Our assembly will be held from 24-27 October 2023 in the Unirea Hotel, laşi.

This historical hotel is located in the old town and offers several advantages: it is capable of hosting all of the participants of our meetings, it can be reached using public transport and it is located next to the shops and other places of interest in the city centre. The conditions will be great in this hotel and will hopefully ensure that we can work constructively during the assembly.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

2022 was a year marked by significant commitment by the European groups to support the Emmaus groups in Ukraine as well as the groups in the neighbouring countries who have been welcoming Ukrainian refugees.

The Ukraine Fund was created on 25 February 2022 and it has allowed us to fund:

- -The day-to-day operations of the Ukrainian groups (the life of the communities and the solidarity they show to displaced persons)
- -The welcoming of refugees in countries bordering Ukraine, notably Poland
- -The building of the Emmaus Oselya social centre in Lviv

This fund was financed thanks to contributions from:

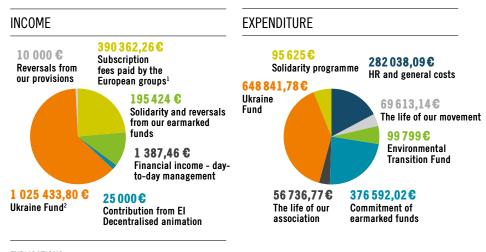
- -The European groups and from Emmaus groups in other regions
- -Private individuals
- -Maisons du Monde (a French distribution, furniture and decoration company) in partnership with Emmaus France

Some of these funds (€376,592.02) remain available to cover future needs but also to finance projects for peace once the conflict comes to an end (as the movement did in the past in Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Our expenditure totalled €1,629,245.80 and our income €1,647,607.52,

meaning that we had a surplus of €18,361.72 this year. These funds were sent to our reserves.

The full Financial Report as well as the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report are available on our website or upon request from the secretariat of Emmaus Europe.



EXPLICATIONS:

- 1. Includes payments for 2022 and for previous years
- 2. Includes donations from the groups, from individuals and sponsorships

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EMMAUS EUROPE 47, av. de la Résistance 93 100 Montreuil France 33 (0)1 41 58 25 70 emmaus-europe.org



Emmaus Europe is the decentralised organisation of Emmaus International in Europe.

