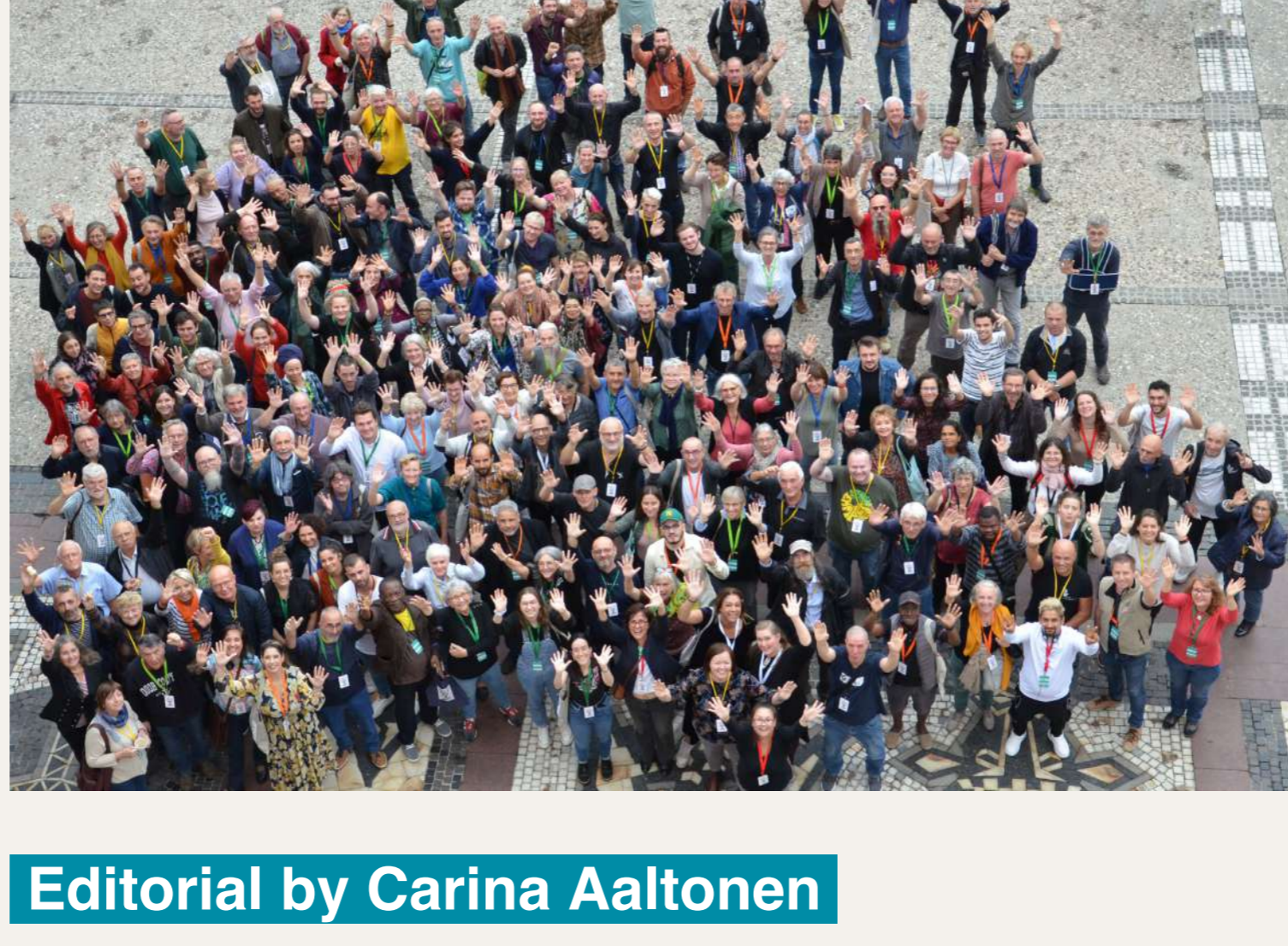


Emmaus in Europe



Editorial by Carina Aaltonen

Dear friends,

The Regional Assembly in Iasi, Romania, brought almost 300 people together from 17 countries for debates, round table discussions, workshops, study visits and a grand "Eurovision" karaoke evening full of glitter and joy. We had the possibility to meet, to get to know each other and to forge stronger bonds between each other in Europe. Thank you all for coming and for trusting in me and my newly elected colleagues. We are here to serve and represent you and are eager to listen to your proposals and ideas for the future. How can we work better together and how can we speak out louder? With the European Parliament elections coming up next year, we need to prepare to raise many important issues as we, as a grassroots movement, have the power to create changes in the political landscape. Through local action, community engagement, social media, and a commitment to democratic values, we can make a difference - and we will.

At the Assembly, we voted on the new Strategic Plan for Emmaus Europe for the coming years. The four topics we will focus our activities on are: Act for Peace, Act for an Eco-revolution, Act for a Solidarity-based Society, and Make New from Old by renewing our movement members and activities to adapt to the new social and ecological context.

The first topic, acting for Peace, is needed more than ever. Abbé Pierre stated, "Any victory gained by a war is a failure and that the only true value is Peace. We should always stand against injustice, and we should disagree on a peace that is established after the weakest is eaten by his stronger neighbour (in the street or between nations)." The Hamas attack on Israel on the 7th of October, followed by Israel's attacks on civilians in Gaza, have not only deepened the conflict, but have also created a gaping divide between the people in Israel and Palestine. The war is now affecting the Muslim and Jewish populations in other parts of the world. It affects all of us.

We rapidly took a position, together with Emmaus International and other NGOs, calling for an immediate ceasefire. But as we started to reflect on the war in Europe, with Ukraine under attack from Russia, we believe we should find all possible ways to build sustainable peace by respecting human rights. At our local level, in our groups, we should continuously work for everyone's rights, life, freedom, and security. No matter where you come from or your beliefs and background. We must build trust and understanding between each other, combat discrimination and increase the solidarity between us. Be more human. As we say in Emmaus Europe, 'It feels good to be human.'

Take care and take action.

Warm regards,

Carina Aaltonen
Chair of Emmaus Europe

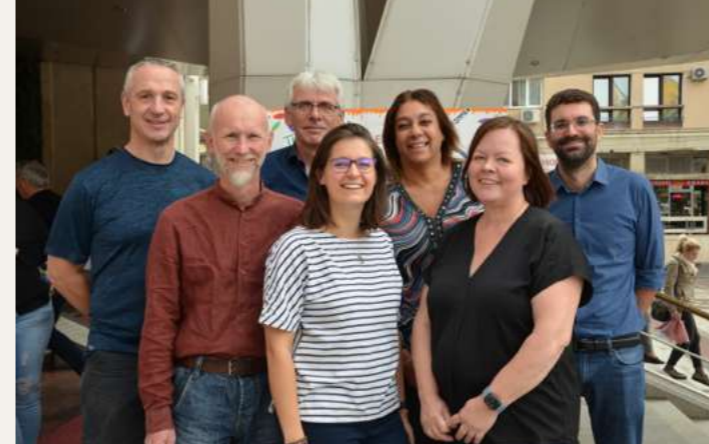


Our general assembly - what's next?

The Emmaus Europe General Assembly took place on 24 - 27 October in Romania. This meeting is a cornerstone of our movement's democratic fabric and provides a great opportunity for all the Emmaus Europe groups to meet each other. So, what were the key aspects for this major gathering?

A new team of European elected representatives

This assembly was the occasion to elect new representatives for the movement from the Europe region. These Emmaus International board members will form our Regional Council, (the equivalent to a board), alongside the National Delegates who represent each country.



Within this Council, a new regional executive committee was formed. It will be chaired by Carina Aaltonen from Emmaus Aland. Carina was re-elected Chair after her first 4-year term, and will pursue her commitment with this new, enthusiastic and energetic team!

Adoption of the 2023-2026 strategic plan
This strategic plan seeks to guide the actions taken by the Emmaus Europe elected team and staff members over the next three years. The aim is to implement the international guidelines, while addressing Europe's specific challenges. The plan, which was adopted unanimously, will guide our actions at the European level, although we also hope that national groups and organisations will join us in tackling these common issues so that we can make a greater impact.

Strategic plan

Statutory amendments

An extraordinary general assembly was convened to discuss the amendments to the Emmaus Europe statutes and internal rules. The main aim was to align these with the Emmaus International statutes and internal rules following amendments adopted during the last World Assembly in 2022.

At the extraordinary general assembly, we were also able to include the fight against gender-based discrimination among the list of forms of discrimination that Emmaus Europe is committed to combating, along with introducing commitments to strengthen the links between the different levels within the movement's structure.

2023 Statutes

2023 Internal Rules

Highlights



A picture is worth a thousand words

Discover or re-discover the assembly's highlights through our shared photo album! If you still have photos or videos to share, please feel free to add them.



Captivating speeches of the event

Find all the speeches that marked this assembly in the overall presentation.

Lucie Coutaz Prize

This prize was created in 2015 to reward a woman who keeps Emmaus running on a daily basis through her commitment, by putting good ideas into practice and keeping the movement's message and values alive. The statue of Lucie, created by a Dutch artist, is awarded at the assemblies. Maria Luisa Testori, a former prize-winner, presented the prize this year to Rosa Gil Elorduy, from Emmaus Bilbao in Spain.



In the words of a participant

Aurélie, delegate for the Emmaus Central Loire Valley region in France, shares her experience of attending the 2023 assembly.



What does taking part in this general assembly mean to you? For me, it's a chance to get to know and take on board the European dimension of Emmaus in a tangible way. Sometimes this feels too distant and abstract to our groups. It's also the task that I was given by the five groups from the Central Loire Valley region that I represent: to report back in detail on what was discussed at this assembly, including my own point of view.

How would you describe the atmosphere of this assembly to those who were not able to attend? The atmosphere is international and very friendly, and it makes you feel welcome as part of Emmaus Europe. On a more general note, you get a sense that everyone is happy to be here, to make contact or strengthen links with others, to listen to other people and share experiences from their country or group. On top of that, the location is ideal: both the hotel and the city centre are very nice, and it's easy and safe to get around.

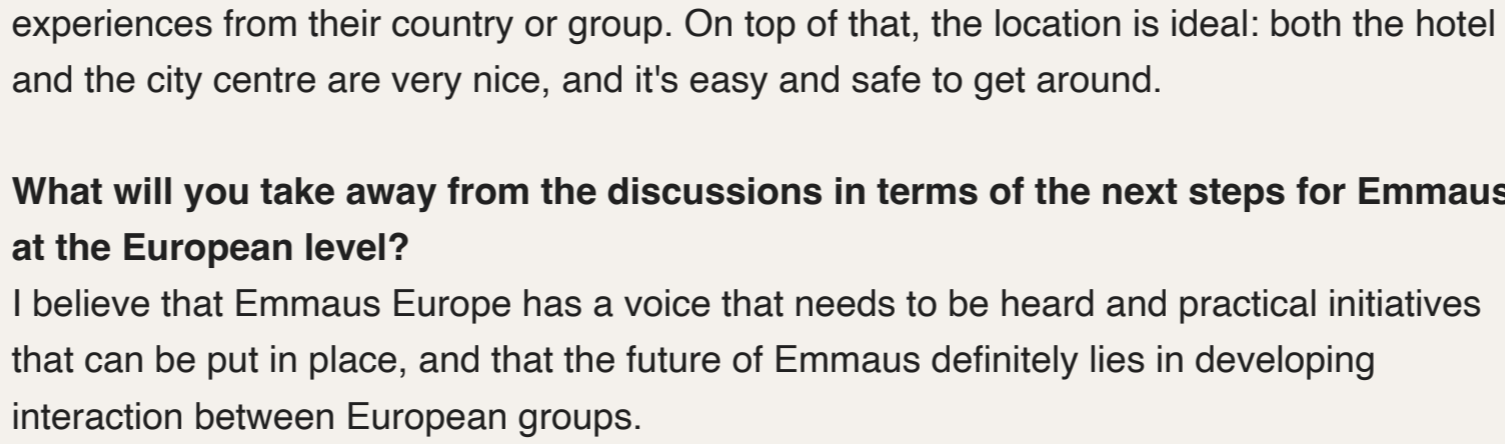
What will you take away from the discussions in terms of the next steps for Emmaus at the European level? I believe that Emmaus Europe has a voice that needs to be heard and practical initiatives that can be put in place, and that the future of Emmaus definitely lies in developing interaction between European groups.

What did you like best about the last few days? The organisation was PERFECT, and that meant we were able to exchange ideas and share our experiences with groups from different countries in workshops. I also really enjoyed the many informal moments, which are just as important. I'm going away with the firm intention of getting more involved at the European level both personally and with my group and region.

Read Aurélie's report (in French)

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all those who participated in this exceptional gathering! A special mention goes to Emmaus Iasi for their warm welcome and incredible efforts, along with the team of volunteer interpreters who made it possible for us to understand each other. The enthusiasm and energy of this gathering will continue to inspire us as we embark on the next few years of action and commitment!



Member's area

If you are looking for documents, please visit the member's area of our website (accessible without a code). You can find all the documents there, including, for example, the transport guide and the posters from the campaign for a dignified welcome of migrants, which we can also send you by post on request.

Member's area

