

Emmaus in Europe



Dear all,

This month, we are travelling to Finland where Emmaus Åland has developed a system to measure and reduce its environmental impact: this could inspire ideas for a collective project in other groups!

There is also a great deal to report from the European Union in the run-up to the elections (6 to 9 June). We encourage you to look closely at the key issues at stake in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and join us in opposing the text. We also invite you to take part in a webinar on 30 April with Damien Carême, MEP. We are also working with RREUSE to protect the role of the social and solidarity economy in light of the revision of the Waste Framework Directive and the resulting challenges for textiles.

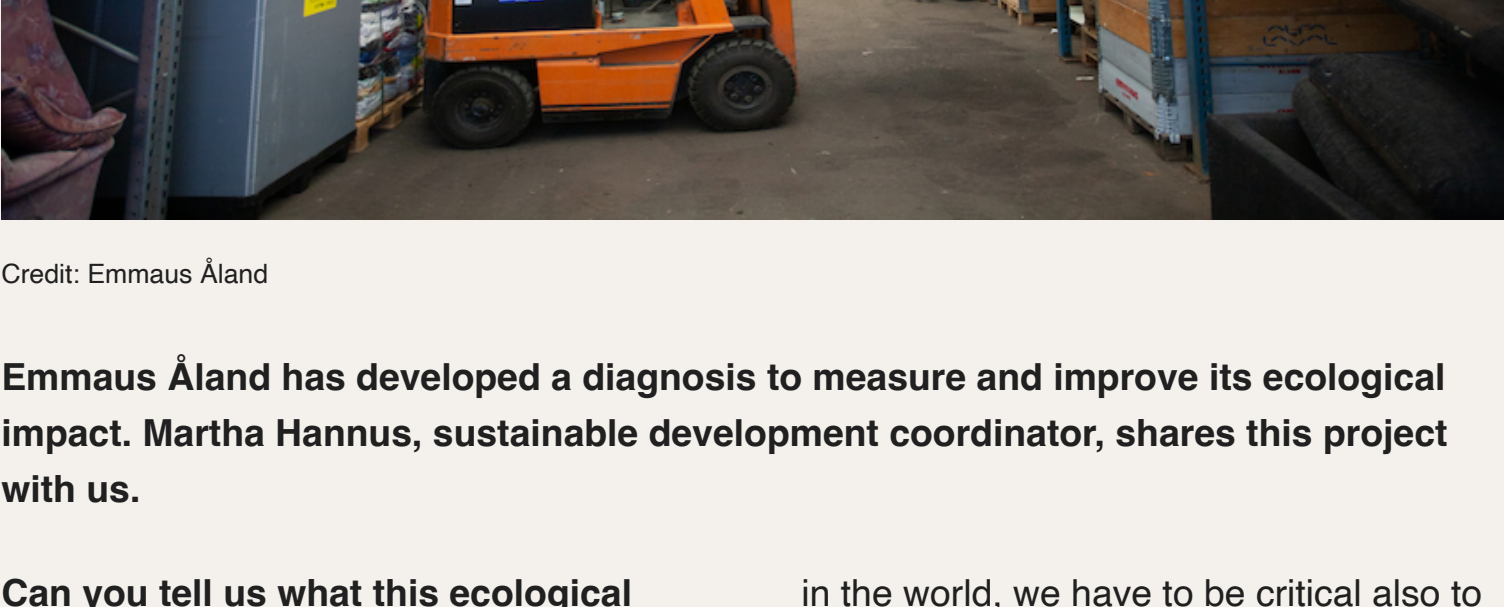
Last but not least, find out about upcoming solidarity events in the region with the 2024 collectives and salons!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter,

The Emmaus Europe team

Emmaus stories

Improving our ecological impact: Emmaus Åland's experience



Credit: Emmaus Åland

Emmaus Åland has developed a diagnosis to measure and improve its ecological impact. Martha Hannus, sustainable development coordinator, shares this project with us.

Can you tell us what this ecological diagnosis involves?
The ecological impact assessment is inspired by the principles of GRI, Global Reporting Index, that is an established standard for reporting carbon emissions. We have analysed the sources of emission that we have, identified ways to measure them and developed a plan for emission reduction. Included in the assessment are emissions from electricity and heat, our transports locally and abroad and travels. We have included a follow up in our yearly reporting every year.

in the world, we have to be critical also to our own operations and choices of economic activities. We decided that it is more environmentally efficient and cost effective to try to sell more goods locally and send more solidarity in the form of economic support to other groups to develop their activities.

We started in 2018 by a materiality analysis followed by a strategy adopted by the board. From 2019 we have developed and refined our ways of measuring our emissions. The goal we have is to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

When and why did you start working on this project?
We took on this project because we believe that even though our activities such as second hand and gardening are ways to contribute to a more sustainable society, to be credible we must also report on the impact we have on the world around us while we carry out those activities. That is, to us, a way to act in solidarity with other parts of the world and future generations. If we demand change

What results have you achieved?
We have been able to diminish our emissions substantially in particular through changing to green electricity and oversee our transports. We also know what to do in order to continue our progress – we need to travel carbon neutral. For 2024, we are setting up a specific budget for travels that does not include money but climate impact, that we commit to follow.

[Read more...](#)

European Elections

30 April 2024 / 11am - 1pm (French time)
Webinar - Pact on Migration and Asylum & European elections

Join Emmaus Europe on 30 April at 11am for a webinar on the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. During the first hour, we will have a discussion with **Damien Carême**, MEP, who will explain the pact he tried to reform and answer all of your questions. This will be followed by a discussion about the upcoming European elections and how to take action at the European level.

Everyone is welcome to join this webinar, with interpretation available in French, English and Spanish. Please sign up by 23 April to help us organise the event.

SIGN UP HERE

New Pact on Migration Asylum

On 11 April, the European Parliament will vote on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

This pact contains eight texts, all aimed at tightening external border control and undermining freedom of movement and settlement.

Normalising the practice of refoulement

In practical terms, this legislation will allow people who do not apply for asylum to be returned directly to the border. Refugees will still be prevented from submitting their asylum applications in the country that they would like to go to, where it would be easier for them to rebuild their lives because they speak the language of that country or already know people there.

Widespread detention at borders

Those seeking asylum will be detained in "sorting centres" outside the territory or at the border while waiting for their applications to be examined. Sorting will be carried out mainly on the basis of the applicant's nationality, without really taking into account the individual nature of his or her situation. People will be held in these detention centres, and deprived of their freedom, for up to 12 weeks.

No real solidarity and the externalisation of borders

European Union member countries will be able to choose not to receive a person seeking asylum by opting for an alternative: they can pay €20,000, provide human resources to "protect" the EU's borders (such as sending national border officers to European sorting centres), or they can put in place national policies to externalise borders (e.g. create bilateral agreements to expel people to countries that are often perpetrators of human rights violations).

"Instrumentalisation", yet another concept for circumventing the right to asylum

This pact introduces a new concept known as the "instrumentalisation" of migration. As such, if the EU considers that a non-EU member is trying to put pressure on it by sending a large number of migrants to its borders, it could decide to suspend the processing of asylum applications altogether.

Identification and forced fingerprinting from the age of six

The Eurodac system (a European database that registers the fingerprints of migrants and asylum seekers in order to identify them) will from now on contain records (fingerprints and facial images) of all foreigners, including minors from the age of six, even if done so under duress.

Slight progress on employment of asylum seekers

Lastly, a directive on reception conditions shows marginal progress by giving asylum seekers the opportunity to work after six months in the country, instead of the current nine months. There are also improved guarantees on reception conditions. However, the downside to this is the widespread use of house arrest.

TAKING ACTION TOGETHER ON 10&11 APRIL

Emmaus Europe strongly opposes this text! We urge you to take action on 10&11 April by posting a message on social media to voice your opposition to this pact, using the hashtag **#NotThisPact**. Do not forget to tag @emmauseurope so that we can share your messages.

Once again, it is of vital importance to organise in the lead up to the European elections. Future Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will be responsible for future asylum and migration policies. Let us not leave it up to just anyone to decide whether or not to welcome people in need!

European elections and welcoming migrants and refugees

The European Parliament elections, being held between 6 and 9 June, are crucial for the Emmaus groups. European policies play a decisive role in the daily lives of each and every one of us.

One of the major responsibilities of the European Union (EU) relates to migration policies. The EU directly influences border management and the way that refugees and migrants are received, treated, and integrated into European societies.

Unfortunately, over the last few years, the EU has focused its policies on tightening the closure of its borders and refusing to welcome migrants. This disastrous policy approach has drastic consequences on the lives of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe. According to the UN, 2,500 men, women and children died or went missing in the Mediterranean in 2023. This situation is intolerable!

In our proposals to candidates standing for election to the European Parliament in June, we defend freedom of movement and our vision of unconditional welcome.

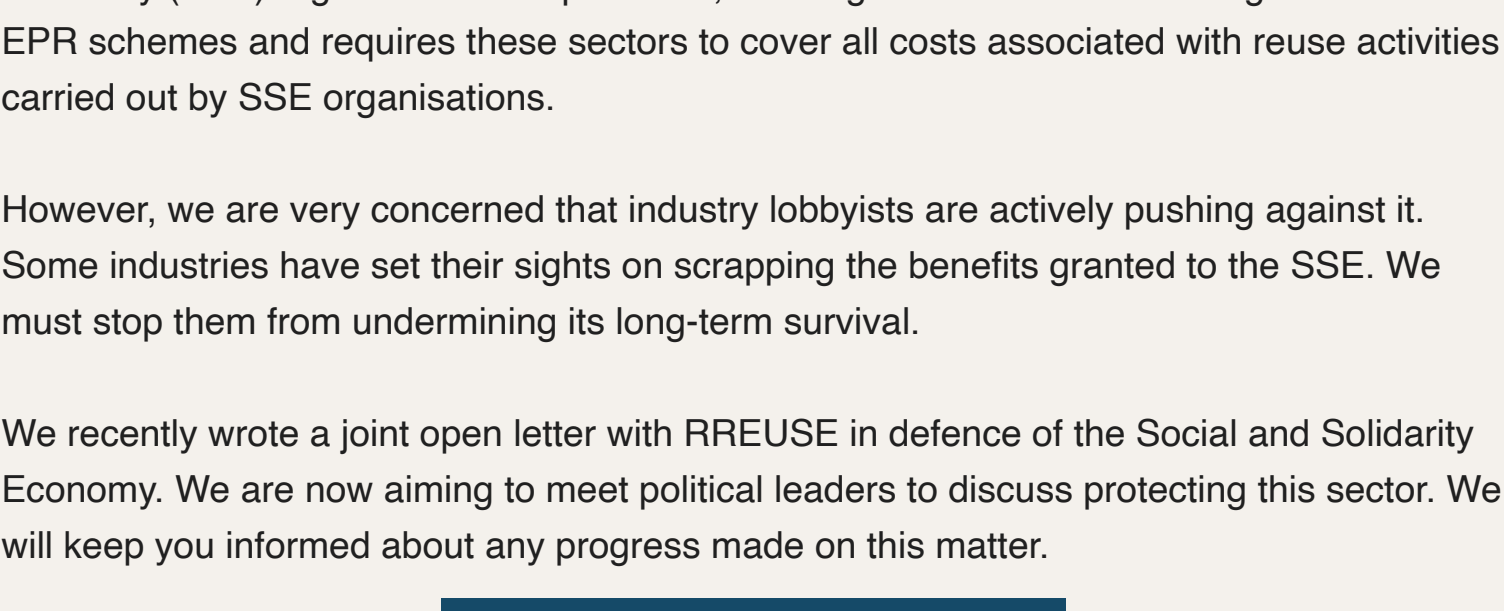
2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: OUR PROPOSALS

For more information about how to take action in the run up to the European elections, visit the [dedicated Emmaus Europe webpage](#).

For more information, please contact [Manon](#) and/or [Eve](#).

European action

Waste Framework Directive: Textiles and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)



Credit: Emmaus Navarre

In 2025, the separate collection of textiles will become compulsory in all European Union (EU) countries. As part of this change, the **Waste Framework Directive** is being revised. It establishes common rules known as **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** for textile manufacturers.

In practical terms, producers will bear financial responsibility for the management of textile waste, from production to end-of-life. This includes financing textile waste collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling systems.

A version of the text has been approved by the European Parliament. Although it is not perfect, it includes positive aspects by focusing specifically on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) organisations. In particular, it strengthens their roles in the governance of EPR schemes and requires these sectors to cover all costs associated with reuse activities carried out by SSE organisations.

However, we are very concerned that industry lobbyists are actively pushing against it. Some industries have set their sights on scrapping the benefits granted to the SSE. We must stop them from undermining its long-term survival.

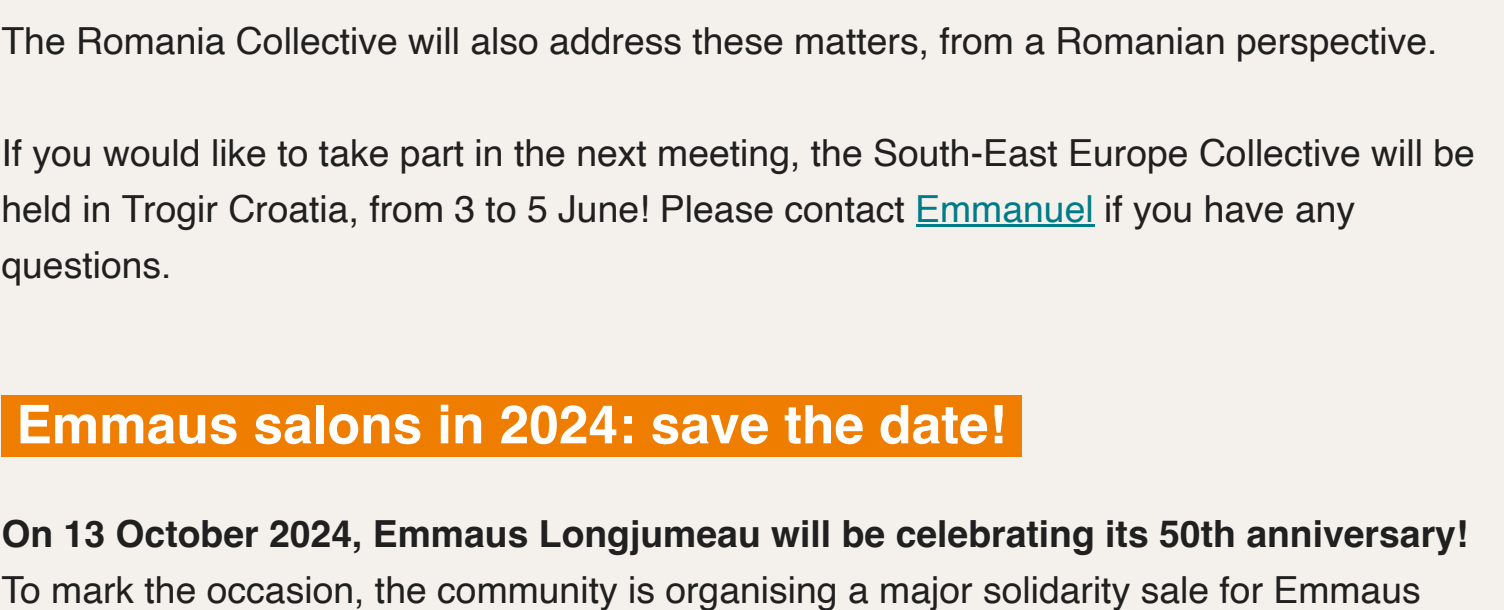
We recently wrote a joint open letter with RREUSE in defence of the Social and Solidarity Economy. We are now aiming to meet political leaders to discuss protecting this sector. We will keep you informed about any progress made on this matter.

READ THE OPEN LETTER

Find out more about the agreement reached by the relevant European Parliament committee by clicking [here](#).

Emmaus Movement Solidarity

Collectives: one success and two more to come!



We have just come back from the Poland-Ukraine Collective in Annemasse, France, and this week we are in Satu Mare, Romania, for the Romania Collective (25-28 March).

The Poland-Ukraine Collective was attended by almost 40 participants from 9 different countries. We discussed important matters related to the European elections in June, along with the economic future and autonomy of the Eastern European groups. An opportunity for all groups is the entry into force of the Waste Framework Directive. It creates new sectors where Emmaus has a role to play, particularly in the separate collection of textiles, which will be compulsory in all countries by 2025. The war in Ukraine was also one of the major subjects addressed during this collective. A debate was held on Emmaus' position, giving participants the chance to move forward on issues of pacifism in times of war.

The Romania Collective will also address these matters, from a Romanian perspective.

If you would like to take part in the next meeting, the South-East Europe Collective will be held in Trogir Croatia, from 3 to 5 June! Please contact [Emmanuel](#) if you have any questions.

Emmaus salons in 2024: save the date!

On 13 October 2024, Emmaus Longjumeau will be celebrating its 50th anniversary! To mark the occasion, the community is organising a major solidarity sale for Emmaus Europe and solidarity projects. Groups from the whole of Europe are invited to take part in this sale! Please contact the community by email communaute.emmaus91@orange.fr for more information. If you would like to lend a hand, you can sign up by 15 May 2024.

INVITATION

On 27 October, it is Emmaus Mondo's turn to organise a salon in Strasbourg during the international book festival! If you are a French or European Emmaus group, you are warmly invited to take part in this large solidarity sale. You can find all the information in the invitation below.

INVITATION

For more information, please contact [Emmanuel](#).