

Emmaus in Europe



Dear all,

Summer is just around the corner and that means the start of the Emmaus summer camps! These historic events cannot be missed. We encourage you to discover the 2024 camps and take a look back at the history of these gatherings, which are so emblematic of our movement.

We are also entering the home stretch of the European election campaign and our efforts are crucial. Check out the latest tools available to raise awareness and make our voice heard, even before we vote between 6th and 9th June!

We also bring you the latest solidarity news from our region, with a spotlight on the housing project at Emmaus Oselya in Ukraine, and information about our next international meeting at the World Forum of Alternatives on 17th - 20th September in Poitiers, France.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

The Emmaus Europe team

Spotlight on...

Summer camps: committed youth and new vocations



International youth camp in Denmark, 1969. Photo from the Abbé Pierre and Emmaus International archives stored at the National Archives (ANMT) of the World of Work in Roubaix.

Summer camps have been at the heart of the Emmaus movement since the 1960s. These gatherings have shaped the movement as it is today and were the starting point for many "vocations" within Emmaus. Let us take a look at how these social and solidarity events work.

Before we delve into the history of the summer camps, what camps are available for young people in 2024?

This year once again, several groups in Europe and in France are opening their doors to young people who would like to get involved!

Emmaus Lisbon is one of them, offering a two-week immersion within the community, between 1st July and 1st September. This immersion will involve participating in community life with the Emmaus companions and getting involved in the organisation's business activities: collecting donations, sorting stock, shop management, upcycling and gardening. This year, Emmaus Lisbon is also organising a Solidarity Festival throughout the summer: each group of volunteers will be actively involved in highlighting forgotten causes! Every fortnight will end with a concert (DJ set, jam sessions, etc.). Getting involved in a solidarity project is above all meaningful, but it is also about sharing unforgettable moments!

Other Emmaus groups in Italy, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina and in France organise camps throughout the summer months.

How can I find out more and apply, or sign up for a camp?

For summer camps outside of France, all the groups' initiatives can be found on the Emmaus Europe web page devoted to this topic. For France, all the information can be found on this page on Emmaus France's website. And to find out more, you can also contact Emmanuel!

How did the summer camps begin?

It is impossible to dissociate the growth of the Emmaus movement around the world from the development of the summer camps. They started during the 1960s in Normandy to encourage young people to get involved and combat poverty.

During the summer, these "international work camps" operated like real Emmaus communities: door-to-door collections of donations, and sorting, repairing or reselling of second-hand goods. At the time, the summer camps were organised voluntarily by young people for other young people, "out of this air" (with no budget). They raised funds that were redistributed to benefit solidarity projects within the country and internationally, with a portion used to develop new Emmaus projects.

Read more...

DISCOVER THE 2024 SUMMER CAMPS

For more information, check out the page on summer camps on our website and/or contact Emmanuel.

European Elections

Let's keep going!

Let us continue our efforts right up to the elections taking place between 6th and 9th June!

Among the new tools available to Emmaus groups, we have drafted a press release template that you can send to your local/regional media, adapting it by adding what concerns your group the most.

PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

You can also find:

- An awareness-raising document to be handed out to as many people as possible, both internally and externally, about the issues at stake in the elections for Emmaus and the risks posed by the rise of the far right:
- Web format
- A4 format, double-sided, to be handed out
- 2 A3 posters to be displayed in your shops or other venues
- A version of the visuals with the empty speech bubbles is also available if you want to adapt these documents to the language of your country: visual\_1, visual\_2

AWARENESS-RAISING DOCUMENTS KIT

- A detailed list of Emmaus proposals for the next term of office
- A summarised list of Emmaus proposals for the next term of office

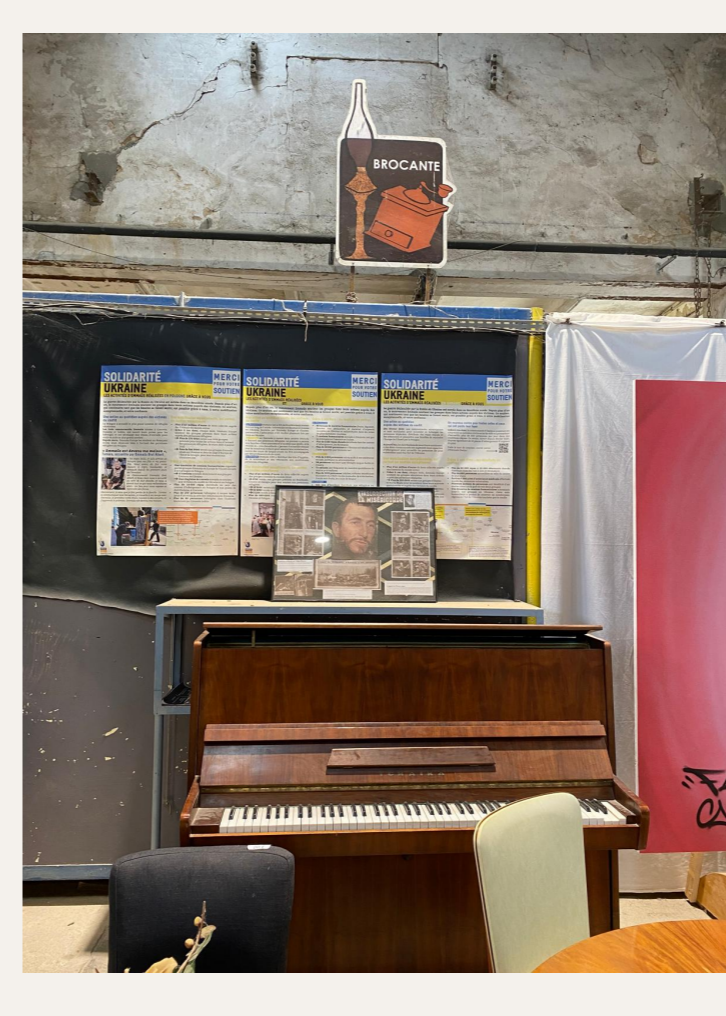
You can also get involved by sharing the messages that we post on Instagram and Facebook.

As a reminder, European legislation has an impact on core areas of Emmaus' work and our values:

- Unconditional welcome through laws on migration at the European borders
- Collection, sorting, reuse and recycling of waste through legislation on the particular sectors
- Combatting poverty and its causes via several laws relating to the economy

Over the last few months, Emmaus Europe has worked to raise awareness and mobilise on European election issues. You can find a detailed update on the EU's impact on each area of our work in our last three newsletters, available in our member's area, under "general information" by clicking here.

You can find all the documents about the European elections and the tools available on our specific website page.



Community action ahead of the European Elections, in Angoulême, France. Credit: Emmaus Europe.

Do you need anything else? We are happy to help you with your plans to raise awareness and are available to answer all your questions! You can contact Manon by email or at +33 6 67 22 87 64.

Emmaus Movement Solidarity

Emmaus Oselya: decent living conditions thanks to Emmaus solidarity!

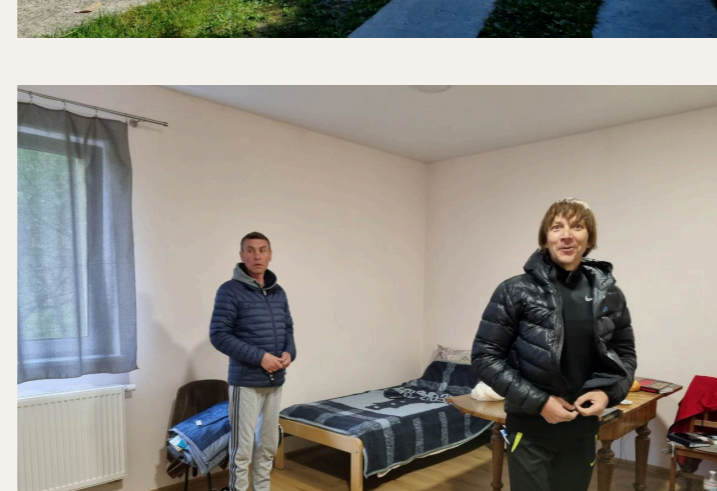
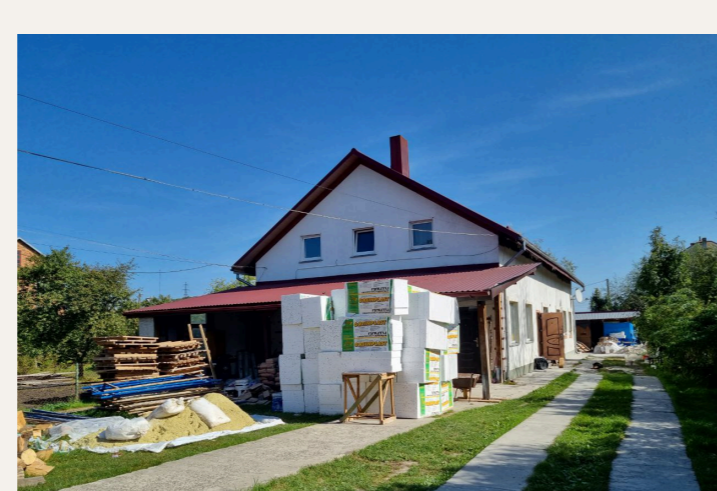


Photo 1: furniture workshop, before renovation. Photos 2, 3, 4: furniture workshop, after renovation. Credit: Emmaus Oselya.

In Ukraine, the Oselya group has improved its companions' living conditions.

At the end of April, the Oselya community, in Lviv, completed the renovation of its old furniture repair workshop. They converted it into a residential building, with six new bedrooms built to create nine additional accommodation places along with the required number of sanitary facilities.

As part of the Housing Programme (run by Emmaus International and the Abbé Pierre Foundation, FAP), the project was financed by Emmaus Europe, the Abbé Pierre Foundation and Emmaus International.

Increasing the group's accommodation capacity was essential, to meet the community's growing needs. In 2020, before Covid, Oselya only had around fifteen companions. Since 2022, around thirty companions have been welcomed

by the community, due to the pandemic and the large-scale war started by Russia in 2022. In order to take people in at the time, the group had to shift walls, convert communal spaces into bedrooms, and the whole community had to adapt.

The renovation work, which took just under eight months, cost approximately €80,000. Emmaus Europe contributed €33,993 through the Ukraine Fund, and the Housing Programme (FAP and EI) provided €36,006. The Longjumeau group organised a solidarity sale to support this project, raising a total of €4,962.

Thanks to this renovation, companions now have more decent living and communal spaces, enabling them to live together as a community.

For more information, contact Emmanuel.

World Forum of Alternatives

Final deadline for registration!



The 2nd World Forum of Alternatives will be held in France on 17th - 20th September, at the Palais des Congrès de la Futuroscope, a few kilometres from Poitiers. Make sure you register by 30th June!

REGISTRATION

This forum is a unique opportunity to jointly build specific actions that we can take as a movement, with contributions from partners and international experts. This key event in the history of the movement is open to all groups worldwide, including trial member groups.

The programme is starting to take shape with four rich days of discussion and exchanges in workshops, plenary sessions, training groups with partners and experts from around the world, along with many cultural and sociable moments and a mobilising event. Find the latest information about this major event in the most recent email sent by Emmaus International and on the dedicated website.

MAILING EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

WFA WEBSITE

If you have any questions about the forum, please contact the Emmaus International secretariat by email or at +33 6 82 37 18 13.

