

Emmaus in Europe



Dear Emmaus Europe members,

In her editorial of our 2023 Activity Report, our Chair, Carina Aaltonen, wrote that we had lived through a year of darkness and light. It seems we are still in this period.

The revelations about the sexual abuse perpetrated by the founder of Emmaus have cast a long shadow over our movement and our spirits. It is still hard to get a clear picture of how we are going to be able to look back on our past to keep the best and reject the worst. It will take time, but the light comes from the fact that we have taken action. Emmaus can be proud that it has listened to the victims and has endeavoured to act with transparency. Above all, the light remains in your day-to-day work. The Emmaus movement is incredibly vibrant and is always finding new ways to combat poverty and promote solidarity. In our newsletter this month, we are moving towards this light by talking about young people, solidarity in Ukraine and European politics!

Kind regards,
Eve Poulteau
Chief Executive



Summary

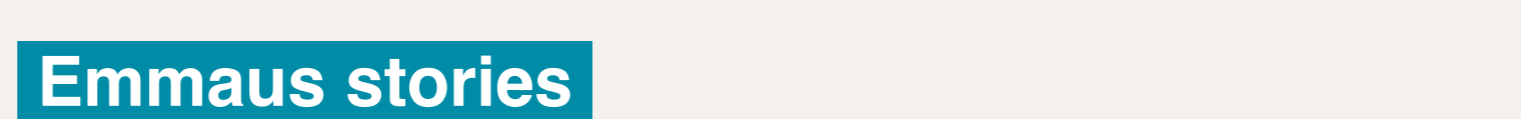
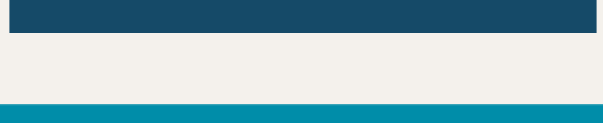


2023 Activity Report

You will soon be receiving the 2023 Activity Report in the post. In the meantime, the digital version is already available!

Please do browse through it and take a look back at a year packed full of collective projects and exchanges.

We hope you find it interesting!



Emmaus stories

Emmaus Campus: young people take centre stage!



Credit: Emmaus Campus

European young people are increasingly affected by precariousness and the Emmaus movement is seeking ways to meet their needs. This idea also involves reviewing our practices to allow young activists to join us. In Paris, the Emmaus Défi group is trying to meet this twofold challenge by creating Emmaus Campus, a young and inspiring integration project! We met Mederic, its director:

Can you tell us why Emmaus Défi came up with the idea of setting up Campus?

In 2020, Emmaus Défi made three observations:

1. We were at maximum capacity in our current premises, with 150 employees on work integration schemes... and yet, similarly to all the other Emmaus groups, a large number of people were still knocking on our door and we were unable to help them.
2. The precariousness of young people has doubled over the last twenty years and was further exacerbated in the wake of the COVID crisis. The Emmaus movement was only partially able to address this issue.
3. Young people are increasingly keen to get involved, but we have not geared our welcoming and volunteering methods to suit them.

Through the creation of Emmaus Campus, Emmaus Défi aimed to set up a scheme that would address these three issues.

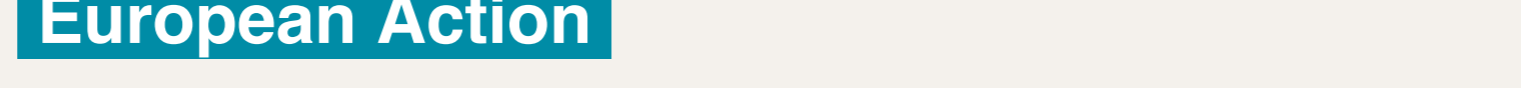
How does it work specifically?

Emmaus Campus carries out "classic" Emmaus group activities. It runs a work integration project that supports people experiencing job insecurity by offering solidarity-based work involving the collection, sorting and sale of second-hand items. We simply tried to add a

youth dimension to every aspect of our work:

- We welcome a higher proportion of young people among our employees, in order to meet our target of 3% under the age of 30.
- We set up our shops near universities or places where young people gather, such as the campus at the Sorbonne Nouvelle faculty, or Forum des Halles shopping centre.
- We regularly organise pop-up sales on campuses and at universities.
- We offer special sales and discounts in our shops to enable young people to buy articles at low prices (-30% for under 30s).
- We organise solidarity donations of clothes for students facing hardship.
- We welcome a lot of interns and have launched "Pass Campus", a voluntary scheme for young people.
- By the end of the year, we will initiate "inser-jeunes": a mobile team made up of 100% employees under 30 on integration schemes, who will receive appropriate support and carry out collection, sales, awareness-raising and distribution activities in student settings.

[Read more...](#)



European Action

The European institutions are back at work in Brussels

Following the European elections, the European Parliament has started its parliamentary work by electing presidents, vice-presidents and members of the parliamentary committees. At Emmaus Europe, the composition of three of these committees is of particular interest:

- ➔ The LIBE committee (European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs)
- ➔ The ENVI committee (European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety)
- ➔ The EMPL committee (European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs).

Although the far right has gained ground, we are happy to note that these committees are not led by members of those parties. MEPs will shortly be forming parliamentary intergroups focussed on specific themes. We will pay close attention to the composition of the intergroup on the social economy, along with the committee on combating poverty. At the European Commission, the previous president, Ursula Von der Leyen, was re-elected to spearhead this institution. She is currently appointing commissioners in charge of different thematic portfolios. Emmaus Europe will be watching the appointment closely of commissioners responsible for the following areas: environment, home affairs (migration policies), employment and social rights.

Once the commissioners have been appointed, we will have to wait until the end of 2024 for a clearer view of the European Union's overall legislative agenda: the major directives and projects for the new term of office and the introduction of legislation for 2025. Similarly, we will keep monitoring the revision work on the directive on waste treatment for textiles. We will remain vigilant on the potential reopening of some texts in the European Pact on Asylum and Migration, along with the potential reform of the WEEE directive.

We will be sure to keep you informed. If you have any questions, please contact [Meric](#).



Emmaus Movement Solidarity

2024 solidarity booklet: Request the programme!

Emmaus Europe is publishing its [European Solidarity Programme](#) for 2024! In it you will find two European initiatives that are seeking funding:

- **Emmaus Piadena (Italy)** needs €20 000 to complete the renovation work on its sales room, which was severely damaged by a storm in 2023. The group has already invested over €70 000 to reinforce the metal structure and replace the roof, which contained asbestos, but they need your help to be able to complete the work!

- **Green transition fund:** this fund, set up in 2022, has already made it possible to finance renovation work (insulation) and install photovoltaic panels for six Eastern European groups. However, the needs are immense, and you can top up this fund to help them continue their green transition!



2024 EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

To support this work, you can make a transfer or send a cheque to Emmaus Europe, clearly stating that it is for "Emmaus Piadena" or the "Green transition fund". Thank you so much for your support!



Emmaus Oselya (Ukraine) A visit to reaffirm our support



The Oselya community pictured in front of the community house extension, renovated in 2024 thanks to the Abbé Pierre Foundation and Emmaus Europe - Credit: Emmaus Oselya, July 2024.

The close cooperation between Emmaus Europe and Emmaus Oselya (Ukraine) will be a long-term commitment! The will to support the group with its investment projects, unconditional welcome and development of the organisation's activities was reiterated at the last Emmaus Europe executive committee meeting on 10 July.

Following the meeting, Herbert (Vice-Chair of Emmaus Europe) and Emmanuel (EE solidarity manager) visited the group to discuss the projects underway with Natalia (group manager) and Grigory (national delegate for Ukraine). This visit allowed them, once again, to express the

support of the Emmaus movement to the whole team.

Despite the war and bombings that have resumed across the whole of Ukraine, including Lviv, Emmaus Oselya's motivation to help the most vulnerable is not waning. Several projects are being run for this purpose, which will be partly financed by Emmaus Europe: development of psychological support for children and vulnerable families, renovation of living spaces and expansion of the sales area. If you would like more information on these projects, please contact Emmanuel!

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



Sharing practices: let's talk food!

19 November 2024 3pm-5pm (French time) - online meeting

Food and culinary delights

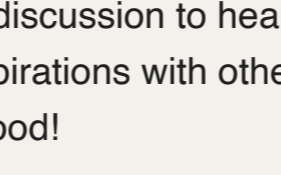


Credit: Julie Roquefort.

We all have stories from Emmaus communities where those cooking say that they are always stressed before serving meals as the companions are so demanding... We also know that it's often the quantity that is important, particularly in communities. However, eating well is important for each and every one of us. It's also often very important to eat meals together!

So, how can we eat well in our groups? What does eating WELL mean to all of us? What is the environmental, social and health impact of our food? What would we like to do better in our groups to ensure our meals are a shared pleasure and that they do us good at all levels?

We would like to invite you to a joint discussion to hear ideas from other European groups and exchange your practices and aspirations with other employees, companions, chefs, volunteers and managers: let's talk food!



This exchange of practices is open to all members of the movement. Interpretation will be provided in French and English.

