

Emmaus in Europe



Dear friends at Emmaus Europe,

This December, we bring you an Emmaus story from Romania worthy of a Christmas tale or at least a Capra film, which shows that rallying for justice and human rights can win the day in the end!

And there's something else to cheer you up at a time when the news in Europe is less than joyful: a recipe for a delicious vegetable pasta dish shared by Massimo, a companion in Italy! This recipe is the first in our new feature dedicated to sharing recipes from European groups, which we hope you will enjoy.

The whole team at Emmaus Europe wishes you a very happy festive period!

Summary

Spotlight on...

Fighting against modern slavery: victory at last!



Mariana and her son are back with the young people of Satu Mare! September 2023. - Credit: Emmanuel Rabourdin

In Emmaus groups, we are familiar with migration journeys of companions who have come from afar, enduring violence and exploitation at different stages along the way. These journeys are sometimes within the European continent, particularly for young Romanians welcomed by Emmaus Satu Mare, who were in care as children. This is Mariana's story, told to us by Jean-Philippe, president of Emmaus Satu Mare.

June 2009, Satu Mare. Mariana is about to finish secondary school. She's 19 and has lived in an orphanage with her twin sister Tunde since they were children. Tunde has had to repeat a year and can stay for another year at the children's home. But for Mariana, finishing her studies means that she will no longer be looked after. A teacher introduces her to "Doamna Irina" (Mrs Irina), who is also Romanian, and she offers to take her to Italy. She will earn money and will be part of the family until she has earned enough to live her own life. A job, money and a family? This is everything that Mariana has never had. She happily accepts.

August 2009, Rome. Once in Italy, Mariana quickly becomes disillusioned. "Doamna Irina" took her passport from her as soon as they left Romania. In terms of family life, she is forced to eat and wash herself on the balcony with two other young girls, who also come from Satu Mare orphanages. She works hard, from 4am every morning until late at night, doing cleaning jobs in residential homes, pharmacies and notary's offices; all appear to be oblivious to her plight. No weekends or Sundays off nor public holidays. In return, she is on the receiving end of insults on a daily basis (gypsy, darkie, dirty, etc.) And is threatened every day that she will be put out on the street if she makes even the slightest wrong move.

End of 2012, Satu Mare. Tunde, Mariana's twin sister, has been wandering from place to place and has finally come to Emmaus. One day, she tells us her sister's story, as she hardly ever hears from her. We ask social services, who offer a reassuring answer. And we tell Tunde: "Mariana should go to the police if she is the victim of an offense". Ten years on, we have to admit that it was easier said than done... And that in terms of access to rights, theory alone is no guarantee that anything will be done in practice, but that's no reason to give up.

Read more...

European Action

New European legislation on textiles and EPR schemes: Sign up for our webinar! 5 February 2025, 2pm-3:30pm (time in France)

As we have mentioned previously, from 2025 it will be compulsory for all countries in the European Union to collect used textiles separately. Specifically, each country will have to organise a system for collecting and sorting used textiles. Although some countries, such as France, already do so, this is not yet the case everywhere.

To help the Member States adapt, the EU is currently revising its rules and encouraging the creation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles in each country - a system with which you may already be familiar thanks to the WEEE schemes set up in several European countries. For Emmaus groups, this represents a real opportunity to access textile resources, but it also means getting in touch with the relevant authorities now.

Emmaus Europe is inviting you to a webinar on 5 February 2025, from 2pm - 3.30pm for an update on the situation and to share key information related to separate collections and the introduction of textile EPR schemes in your countries. Experts will be with us to share crucial information, discuss the best strategies and answer all your questions. This will be a great opportunity to talk about textile recycling issues arising from reuse practices in our groups. Make sure you sign up by 2 February 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Manon.

WEBINAR REGISTRATION

European strategy to combat poverty

Is Europe really prepared to effectively combat poverty and its causes? When announcing her priorities for the 2024-2029 term of office, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, unveiled the creation of a "European strategy to combat poverty", entrusted to the Commissioner for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, Roxana Minzatu.

Together with EAPN (the European Anti-Poverty Network), we intend to make every effort to ensure that this strategy becomes a reality and that its objective is the total eradication of poverty. EAPN has already published a road map aimed at guiding the European Commission in creating this strategy, to ensure that it is tangible and includes the people directly affected in the decision-making process. We'll be sure to keep you informed of progress on this issue and will work actively to ensure that this strategy is not just window dressing. A meeting with the Commissioner has already been scheduled for 13 December.

READ EAPN'S ROADMAP

To find out more information about European advocacy and awareness-raising, please contact Manon.

Emmaus Movement Solidarity

Solidarity fairs and sales – European groups are joining forces!



Official opening of the Strasbourg Salon, organised by Emmaus Mundo! Credit: Emmaus International

Solidarity also comes to life through the salons organised by the Emmaus groups. The months leading up to it have also been full of festive events, where people have been able to meet each other and finance international solidarity!

group from Pamplona gave the salon on 26 October a cross-border flavour. Last but not least, Emmaus Longjumeau organised a special sale on 8 December with proceeds going to support the Oselya group, in Ukraine, via Emmaus Europe.

In Strasbourg, designated the world book capital, several European groups from Germany, Italy and Romania came to the salon organised by Emmaus Mundo on 27 October. They met up with some 20 French groups to sell their best items. Many European and international groups also took part in "Emmaus' Ideal Library", by sending a particularly inspiring book.

In addition to these events, there will be a number of solidarity fairs and sales in France in aid of Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe, which will help to fund the solidarity projects of the Emmaus Movement as a whole. Altogether, these events have attracted almost 25,000 people and raised over €100,000. This solidarity keeps Emmaus alive. Many thanks to all!

In Biarritz, the presence of the Spanish

For more information about European solidarity, please contact Emmanuelle.

Psychologues du Monde

Following the revelations about Abbé Pierre, Emmaus International has set up a scheme with the non-profit organisation Psychologues du Monde to offer counselling to individuals or groups who would like it.

A video presentation took place in each country in November and early December. If you were unable to attend, you can make a request to Psychologues du Monde by filling in the form below or by contacting them by email before 20 December: emmaus.pdm@psychologuesdumonde.org

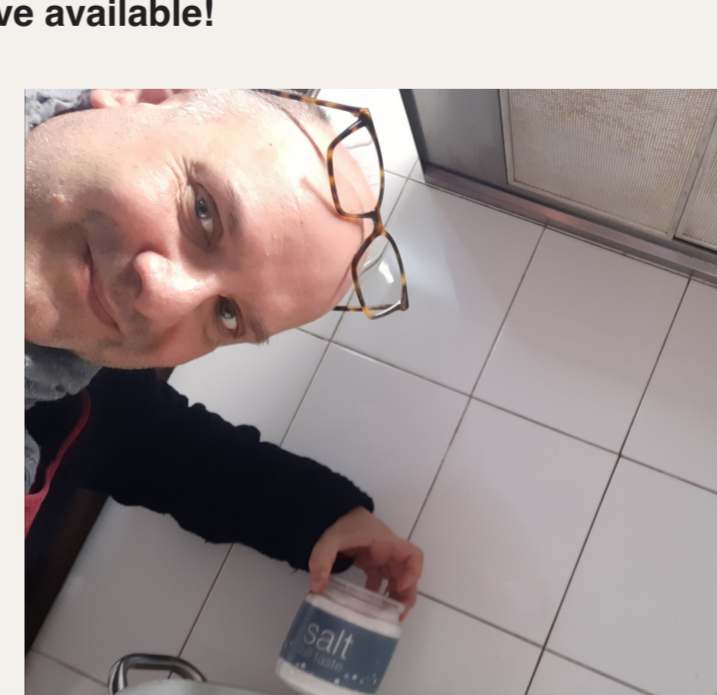
PSYCHOLOGUES DU MONDE FORM

Let's eat!

Emmaus' most scrumptious recipes!

This month, Massimo from Emmaus Fiesco in his community to love vegetables - his recipe for getting the other companions in his community to love vegetables - his vegetable pasta!

Courgettes, peppers, aubergines during the summer, leeks, cauliflower, lentils in winter - you can use any vegetables you have available!



- Wash the vegetables in cold water, then roughly chop them into 1/2 cm pieces. If you are adding diced aubergine, remember to place the diced pieces in a colander with a good spoonful of fine salt for 30 minutes, pressing them several times to remove the bitter taste, then carefully rinse them again to remove the salt!
Fill a saucepan with water and a spoonful of salt and bring it to the boil.
Add the chopped vegetables to the boiling water, leaving them to soak for 10/15 minutes depending on the vegetables, then drain. If you are using lentils, you have to allow for roughly 25 minutes.
In the meantime, place some chopped garlic and onions in a saucepan with olive oil, adding some tomato sauce and sauté for 5 minutes. If you are using cauliflower, do not add tomato sauce, simply use olive oil, garlic and onions.
Add the vegetables to the saucepan and simmer over a low heat for 20 minutes.
Add a knob of butter.
In another saucepan, cook the pasta, such as macaroni, but only until it is al dente!
Drain the pasta but keep a cup of the cooking water.
Add the pasta to another saucepan, along with the vegetables and the cup of cooking water and cook over a high heat for 5 minutes. Lastly, add a good sprinkle of parmesan cheese!

