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Emmaus in Europe

October 2025



Dear friends from Emmaus Europe,

Our October newsletter reflects the vitality of our Movement, combining hands-on initiatives and our shared commitment.

In response to overproduction and a drop in the quality of textile donations, we present an overview of initiatives carried out by groups across Europe. We hope they will inspire you in the lead up to Black Friday!

As regards our solidarity programmes, we're now accepting applications for financial support for 2026! We would also like to remind you that the European Solidarity Appeal Booklet is available, so make the most of the remaining months of this year to encourage and support projects. Solidarity is also reflected in our support for peace movements – a key commitment to building the Europe of tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Romania and Poland-Ukraine Collectives are resuming and Emmaus France and Emmaus International have organised a webinar focussing on the impact of the far right on non-profit movements - these are great opportunities to strengthen ties within the Movement.

Our Movement's future will also be shaped by its governance: we've now launched the call for candidates for the next term of office. Whether you're considering the role of President of Emmaus Europe or would like to join the Emmaus International Board, your voice is needed to guide our European actions.

Enjoy the newsletter,

The Emmaus Europe team

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Top Story

Fewer goods do us good: how can we tackle overproduction?

Overproduction has been a crucial issue for Emmaus groups in Europe for several years. Donation points are overflowing, while textile quality, in particular, has dropped drastically, jeopardising the solidarity-based reuse model that we promote and having a devastating effect on the environment and human rights. In addition to Emmaus' advocacy work at the European level (see [our article](#) about the six tonnes of textiles that we dumped in front of the European Parliament), we wanted to highlight actions taken by European groups. Several European groups have taken up this issue through local initiatives or campaigns. With Black Friday week and its excessive consumerism fast approaching, we thought this might inspire you to organise initiatives within your groups!

In Finland, Emmaus groups have launched an awareness-raising campaign with the slogan "All you need is less"! This campaign aims to remind the public that overproduction, in addition to being an environmental and social disaster, is not good for our wellbeing. In fact, the Finnish groups are not immune to the consequences of the textile crisis and are becoming overwhelmed by poor-quality clothing. Since early summer, staff members and volunteers from the shops have been wearing (second-hand) t-shirts printed with the slogan "All you need is less" and posters with the campaign's messages cover their shop walls



Caption: Emmaus Aland volunteers wearing their 'All you need is less' t-shirts | © Emmaus Aland

"The slogan 'All you need is less' is a warning about the consequences of our consumer habits. They cost us money, time, energy and the planet's resources and increase the risks of exploitation of people who work for the fast-fashion industry", explains Satu Dolk of Emmaus Helsinki, the group behind the campaign. The campaign has received positive coverage in the local press and is set to continue through to the end of the year!

[Read more...](#)

European action

Acting for a peaceful Europe

Since its inception in the aftermath of the Second World War, Emmaus has been committed to promoting peace.

We believe that by fostering exchanges, mutual understanding and equal rights, and by combating discrimination on a daily basis, our Movement can best contribute to maintaining peace in Europe.

But in recent years, it has become clear that democracy must also be defended with weapons. We support the Ukrainian people's resistance against the violence of Vladimir Putin's imperialist government.

Our support does not come in the form of weapons, but through our solidarity. However, we recognise that there is a need for a European defence system.

On the other hand, the decisions taken in recent months, committing European countries and the European Union to an excessive arms race, worry us, especially as this is being done at the expense of social and environmental policies to combat inequality and promote dialogue between peoples, which should be priorities in the construction of a peaceful Europe.

Emmaus Europe Regional Council has therefore decided to join the Stop Rearm Europe movement, following a proposal from Emmaus Italy. Our intention is to support European peace movements so that they continue to have a voice, and to call on the EU not to give in to an endless arms race at the expense of peace policies.

Furthermore, we believe that Emmaus groups can be safe spaces for peace activists to continue to make their voices heard. We invite you to organise discussions on these issues within your groups, not only to cushion the blows to come through networks of solidarity and resistance, but also to build future peace.

Find out more about the actions of the Stop Rearm Europe coalition: <https://istoprearm.org/>



Caption: Procession during the Peace March from Perugia to Assisi | © Emmaus Eba, Piacenza, and Asolozia

Solidarity

Submit your solidarity applications by 26 November 2025

If you'd like to benefit from the Emmaus Movement financial solidarity mechanisms, below you will find all the documents you need to complete in order to submit your application to Emmaus Europe! Your application will be examined by [Emmanuel](#) - feel free to reach out to him if you have any questions.

⚠ Make sure you plan ahead: a project submitted in November 2025 might be financed at the earliest in May 2026. Don't wait until the start of 2026 to submit your application for support!

Deadline for submitting your application: 26 November 2025

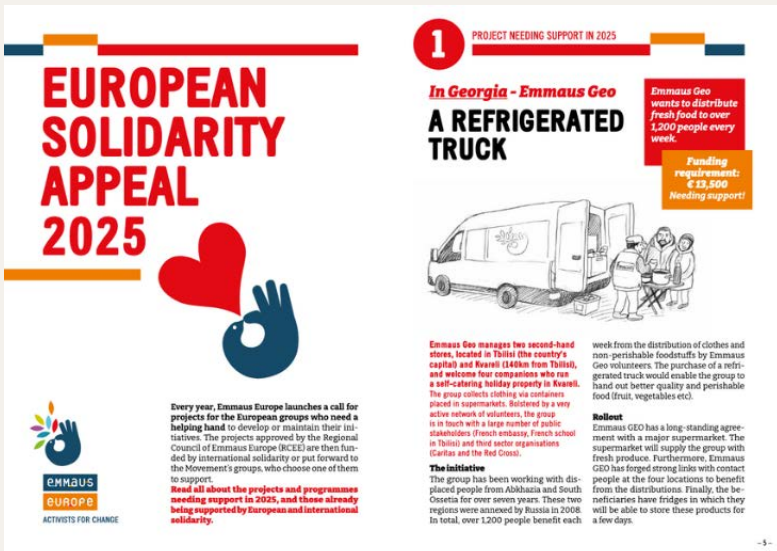
- Download the [support application form](#)
- Download the [provisional timetable](#)
- Download the [provisional budget](#)
- Download the [introduction note on European solidarity](#)

The 2025 European solidarity appeal booklet is available and it's looking great!

If you'd like to find out more about what is happening at Emmaus Europe on the solidarity front, [this booklet](#) is for you.

And if your group would like to invest in European solidarity initiatives, the booklet details two programmes that require ongoing funding and the Emmaus Geo (Georgia) project for which Emmaus Europe is fundraising.

- In **Ukraine**, the Oselya group's needs are still enormous to continue combatting poverty in times of war;
- In **Eastern Europe**, the green transition is central to the groups' needs, to strengthen their autonomy and lower energy costs;
- In **Georgia**, purchasing a refrigerated truck would enable them to distribute fresh food to over 1,200 people every week!



Caption: excerpt from the European Solidarity Appeal Booklet | © Emmaus Europe

Agenda

Call for candidates for Emmaus Europe Presidency and CEI positions!

Our Movement needs your voice and your commitment! We're launching the call for candidates for the Emmaus Europe Regional Council elections and representatives of the Europe region on the Emmaus International Board.

We're looking for:

- President of Emmaus Europe
- 12 Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI)

Your grassroots experience and knowledge of local realities are crucial to steering Emmaus policies at European and international level. You don't need to be able to speak every language or be an expert on all topics - what counts is your commitment to tackling the causes of poverty, promoting gender equality and working for climate justice.

The elections will be held in April 2026 during the World Assembly. All the application documents are available in our candidates' kits below, including detailed descriptions of the roles, eligibility criteria and application procedures.

Please email your completed application by **5 January 2026** to the following address: elections2026@emmaus-europe.org

[Download the candidate's kit - CEI](#)

[Download the candidate's kit - President](#)

Online Collectives are back

The Romania and Poland-Ukraine collectives will meet online in mid-November 2025. These two meetings will allow you to discover (or catch up with) our Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe. Please register by 5 November 2025. Request the programme now! .

- **ROMANIA Collective: 12 November from 2pm to 4pm (UTC +1)**

We will discuss the overall situation in the country and hear updates from all three Romanian groups (Satu Mare, Iasi and Targu Jiu). As Romania has been in the throes of a political and budgetary crisis for almost a year, this meeting will help us understand the needs of our groups. *French and English interpretation will be available for this meeting.*

- **POLAND-UKRAINE Collective: 18 November from 1.30pm to 5pm (UTC +1)**

An opportunity to hear updates from groups in Poland, Ukraine, Georgia and Latvia, and find out more about the social and economic context in which they work. *French and English interpretation will be available for this meeting.*

[Sign up here!](#)

Emmaus Webinar: resisting the far right and authoritarianism!

Tomorrow, 28 October, Emmaus France and Emmaus International are holding a webinar to discuss the impact of the far right and authoritarian regimes on the freedom of non-profit organisations and vulnerable population groups.

This meeting will be held from 6pm to 8pm (UTC +1) and will start with Emmaus groups sharing how they are facing these challenges in different regions around the world. For Europe, groups from France and Poland will share their experiences and we strongly encourage you to take part in the discussions and speak up about the issues you are facing in your countries. Together, participants will explore the very real consequences of public policies on society and people in vulnerable situations, along with their impact on the daily work of grassroots organisations.

Ideas developed by civil society organisations in France will also be shared. The aim of this meeting is to identify the risks and ways to protect ourselves: anticipating, adapting our organisations' practices and pushing for a stronger legislative framework.

[Access the webinar](#)



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