



Dear friends from Emmaus Europe,

The return to work after the summer holidays provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the strength of our European movement and its ability to transform challenges into solidarity opportunities.

From the success of the Emmaus Europe football Cup in Dijon (bringing together 128 participants from 9 countries) to our campaign for an ambitious EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, we are taking concrete action in line with our values. This newsletter also reports on our solidarity work in action: support for the Romanian groups in crisis, the 2026 call for projects, and an invitation for groups to put themselves forward to host the 2027 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

The Emmaus Europe team

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Top story

Scoring Goals for Peace and Human Rights: 2nd edition!

Sport demonstrated its unique ability to bring people together beyond linguistic and cultural barriers. 128 European participants travelled to Dijon for the second Emmaus Europe Football Tournament for Peace and Human Rights on 22-23 July. They transformed their differences into collective strength. The event was co-organised with Emmaus Dijon-Norges, and brought together 21 groups from nine European countries, with 80% of participants being companions. Apart from the matches themselves, the workshops on combatting fake news and on non-violence definitely made an impression!

[Find out more...](#)



Caption: Participants in the Emmaus Europe Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights. © Emmanuel

Update on the Women's Leadership Programme

23 women from our movement representing nine European countries met in Paris on 11-12 September for the first-ever Women's Leadership Programme training course.

The course was delivered with Dale Carnegie France, and enabled the key skills of female leaders in the Emmaus groups to be identified and their communication skills and impact to be increased. The participants explored techniques for effectively leading their teams by sharing experiences and doing role-playing exercises.

Carina Aaltonen, the EE president, introduced the course by presenting the research undertaken by the Norwegian sociologist, Berit Ås, on male domination techniques. Companions, volunteers, board members and employees worked together to analyse these seven oppression techniques and practical counter-strategies.

This approach offers women a practical tool enabling them to understand why they are sometimes not listened to or ignored in some situations, and enabling them to neutralise the effects of oppression techniques. The initiative constitutes a promising turning point for developing a more inclusive European movement in which women's voices and leadership are truly represented.



Caption: Carina Aaltonen presenting Berit Ås's domination techniques. © Emmaus Europe

European action

"Eradicating poverty is a political choice"

Emmaus Europe is joining forces with a coalition of European organisations to demand an ambitious EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. Following the announcement of a first strategy to be presented in early 2026, we are calling on Europe's leaders to move beyond rhetoric. Against a backdrop of the rise of the far right and pressure on benefits systems, our coalition is calling for a robust approach with the aim of eradicating poverty. Security and competitiveness should not take precedence over social rights.

More information about our campaign and the aims of this ad-hoc coalition [here](#).

Migrations - our work with Migreurop

Emmaus Europe is a member of the [Migreurop](#) network, an umbrella organisation of European and African researchers and organisations that champions freedom of movement and migrant rights. This month we are highlighting two initiatives developed with this network.

An open letter signed with 200 organisations - Against the Return Regulation

On 11 March 2025, the European Commission presented a new proposal for a Return Regulation to replace the current Return Directive. Behind the euphemistic name, the proposal outlines coercive, traumatising, and fundamental rights-violating measures premised on an imperative of increasing deportation rates. Instead of focusing on protection, housing, healthcare and education, the Regulation is premised on punitive policies, detention centres, deportation and enforcement. The letter explains in detail the implications of this new regulation, [see here](#).

An audio recording of the Frontex: 20 years of war on migrants Conference

The conference proceedings have just been published and show how the billions invested in Europe's border control agency over the past 20 years have been spent. The proceedings also document all the human rights violations that we must continue to denounce. You can also listen to the [audio version of the conference](#).



© Migreurop

Solidarity

Tell us about your solidarity projects to be submitted for funding to the Emmaus Movement

If your group wants to make a solidarity project funding application to the Emmaus Movement in 2026, you can get in touch with [Emmanuel](#) (email or telephone) from now on.

Official schedule

- The official launch of the call for projects will take place in early October, and applications must be submitted by the **end of November 2025**.
- **Mid-December 2025** will see the Emmaus Europe Regional Executive take a first look at the submitted projects.
- **In March 2026** the projects will then be submitted for approval to the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe, and to the Emmaus International Board, where appropriate.
- If your project is selected for funding by the movement, funds may be transferred in **May 2026** at the earliest, and at the latest in **December 2026**.

The political instability in Romania is having a serious impact on the country's Emmaus groups

Emmaus Satu Mare and Emmaus Iasi in Romania alerted us this summer about the budgetary and political crisis in the country. The crisis is directly affecting their social model and income-generating activities.

The groups have reiterated the vital importance of the solidarity container loads in coping with this crisis. The container loads provide a minimum level of turnover and secure the long-term future of their social activities. The Romanian Emmaus groups are being impacted in the following ways:

- Sharp drop or indefinite delays in the payment of Romanian State grants.
- VAT increase – an additional deduction from our shops' takings.
- End of the property and council tax exemption for third-sector associations.
- Delay in refunding the cost of the building work to bring the communities into line with standards, despite an undertaking made by the State (potential shortfall of €60,000 for Satu Mare).

All support – both practical and financial – is important. The solidarity container loads make it easier for the groups to overcome these difficulties (find the guide [here](#)).

Please contact [Emmanuel](#) for more information.



Caption: Satu Mare area, May 2025. The May 2025 presidential elections, although won by the pro-European candidate, plunged the country into a serious political and budgetary crisis. © Emmanuel Rabourdin

[Emmaus International] Container and transport guides, to understand all the stakes of international solidarity

Emmaus International offers a comprehensive educational booklet in the Container Programme, which enables the sharing of material donations within the Movement by sending solidarity containers between Emmaus groups. This booklet presents how the programme works and its impact, as well as best practices for optimising its potential. It also offers reflections on future challenges, with possible solutions to be developed collectively within the Movement.

In the meantime, this booklet is [now available online](#), and we will soon send you a hard-copy version.

The European Container Handbook ([available here](#)) provides information about this European donation pooling programme. Like containers, this programme is still vital to the survival of the economic model of Eastern European groups!

We hope you enjoy reading it, and thank you for your commitment!

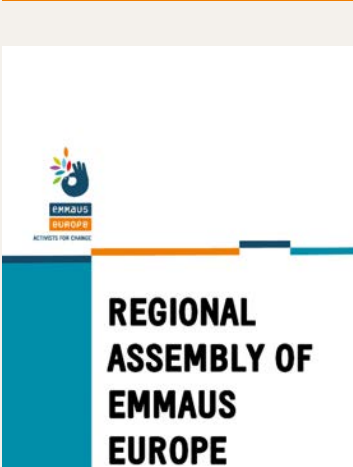
Caption: container programme poster

© Emmaus International



Agenda

Host the 2027 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe



The process of organising the Emmaus Europe 2027 Regional Assembly is getting underway and we need your help! Scheduled to take place in spring 2027 (April or May), this major gathering of our movement is seeking a venue. The venue will be selected collectively on the basis of the potential host's willingness to hold this big event.

We are asking the European national organisations and European groups to apply to host the meeting. The application must contain three parts: the completed questionnaire ([download it here](#)), a projected budget, and information about your local support capacity.

Applications must be submitted by **1 December 2025** to [Yelena](#). The Regional Executive will scrutinise the applications on 15 December, and a final decision will be taken at the March 2026 Regional Council.

Fondation pour le Logement and FEANTSA are launching the 10th Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe

A decade on from the launch of their first report, and in a particularly fast-moving context on housing issues at the European level, with the appointment of a European housing commissioner, and the launch of an ambitious European Affordable Housing Plan by the European Commission in spring 2026, the Foundation and FEANTSA will analyse the political issues underpinning the concept of "affordable housing".

A report launch webinar will be held on Thursday 9 October from 14:00 to 16:00 (Paris-Brussels time) on Zoom. [Register now!](#) (English interpreting provided).