

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024



ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

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RECOGNISING OUR PAST, SHAPING OUR FUTURE

BY CARINA AALTONEN

My commitment to Emmaus began with a story of goodness. A story about people who stand up for the vulnerable, who build bridges between misery and compassion. About how, together with those most exposed, we could change the world and the causes of human suffering. For me, it was the values-driven mission and the dedicated, wonderful people that led me to join Emmaus as a volunteer thirty years ago.

For many others in our movement, it was abbé Pierre. He was a symbol of solidarity, of the fight against poverty, and human dignity. He stood for compassion and was a voice for the outcast, a tireless force in the struggle against injustice. Abbé Pierre's work with the Emmaus Movement has inspired thousands to believe that goodness can change the world.

But what happens when light reveals shadows? When someone we've looked up to is exposed as someone who has also caused suffering? It feels as if the ground crumbles beneath our feet. We don't just question the person—we doubt our ability to believe, to hope, to discern right from wrong. It's easy to lose trust. But perhaps it is precisely here, in this darkness, that we must turn inward. Because even when people fail us, even when icons fall, there is a strength within us that does not depend on anyone else. An inner compass. A hope not built on perfection, but on the will to do good—despite everything.

That's why it hurts so much now. To read the testimonies, to hear about the abuse, to face the darkness that was hidden behind a façade of goodness. It's not just a person who falls—it's a part of our belief in goodness that is shaken to its core.

Our movement's story changed on July 17, 2024, when we chose to speak out and share the darker sides of our founder. The images have been taken down, and the stories are now being reshaped. We will need to find and embrace our new identity. Who are we today and who do we want to be tomorrow? But remember, we are a resilient community, and we have the power to shape our future. I believe that hope does not lie in finding perfect role models. It lies in daring to believe in ourselves. In our own ability to do good, to stand up for others, to create meaning even when the world feels broken. We must dare to be the light—not because we are flawless, but because we try.

So even though abbé Pierre has betrayed us, I will not let his darkness extinguish the light that Emmaus has lit in the world.

I will continue to believe in compassion. But I will do so with open eyes—and with my heart anchored in my own inner compass.

This is a moment that reminds us that true hope has never rested on a single person. It has always lived within us—in our actions, in our care for one another, in our stubborn belief that the world can be better. Your actions, your care, and your belief are what make Emmaus what it is. We cannot change what has happened. But we can choose how we move forward. We can choose not to let betrayal define us. We can choose to stand up for what is good—not because we are blind to human flaws, but because we know that goodness is something we create together. Every day. In every encounter. In every act.

Let us be the ones who carry hope forward. Not as perfect people, but as honest, compassionate, and courageous ones. Because when we believe in ourselves—and in each other—we build something beautiful together.

Emmaus is not one person. It is all of us. It is the courage to speak truth. The strength to rebuild. The love that refuses to give up.

Together, we will continue. Not in spite of the shadows, but with the light we choose to bring.

Finally, on behalf of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe, I want to thank the exceptional staff at the Secretariat in Montreuil for their work during the last year. It is with both gratitude and sadness that we said farewell to Veronica Acevedo at the end of 2024, who worked with us for more than a decade. To Eve, Marie, Manon and Emmanuel – thank you for your engagement. With your dedication, experience and knowledge, Emmaus Europe has become a natural part of the groups in Europe and an interesting partner for our networks in Brussels. I would also like to give a warm thank you to my elected colleagues; it is like getting an energy boost every time we meet.

To you, who read this text, thank you for your commitment to Emmaus. We will continue. Together.

*Carina Aaltonen
Chair of Emmaus Europe*



REVELATIONS ABOUT ABBÉ PIERRE, FOUNDER OF EMMAUS

In 2024, revelations came to light concerning the acts of abuse committed by abbé Pierre, with the release of the first independent report commissioned by Emmaus to the Egaé firm.

Emmaus' decision-making bodies made the ethical choice to support thirty-four recognised victims and be completely transparent with the movement's members.

An independent committee of experts was appointed by Emmaus to assess the scale of the sexual abuse committed by abbé Pierre and analyse how he managed to avoid public scrutiny for over 70 years. This committee will deliver its report in 2027. In 2025, the Emmaus International Board also approved the principle of providing financial compensation to abbé Pierre's victims. Since then, Emmaus International and Emmaus France have been working together, in conjunction with the Conférence des Evêques de France (CEF) [French Conference of Bishops], to develop a compensation scheme.

STATEMENT BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAUS EUROPE IN OCTOBER 2024

"The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE) fully supports the approach taken to seek truth and transparency regarding the sexual abuse committed by abbé Pierre, along with the establishment of an independent expert committee and a future financial compensation scheme.

The RCEE is committed to working with Emmaus International so that the movement can reclaim its history without negating this part of it. From now onwards, standing in solidarity with all the victims of gender-based and sexual violence, Emmaus Europe will no longer use images or quotes from abbé Pierre in its communication materials.

The RCEE will continue its work to spread the movement's core values as put into practice by the hundreds of people who have shaped, are shaping and will continue to shape Emmaus. We reiterate our commitment to combatting all forms of discrimination and inequality, including gender inequality, sexual violence and tackling its source: the patriarchal system of domination."

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS AND GROUP ACTION



One of the defining events of 2024 was the European elections in June. In the 27 EU Member States, citizens took to the polls to elect their representatives in the European Parliament.

For Emmaus Europe, this was a crucial election. The composition of the European Parliament, and in turn the European Commission, has a direct impact on public policy in key areas for our movement:

- Recycling and the circular, social and solidarity economy
- Combatting poverty and its causes
- Reception and the rights of migrants

As such, these elections provided an opportunity to launch a large-scale campaign across Europe, reaching out not only to Emmaus groups but also to the general public. We highlighted the fundamental issues at stake in this vote and warned of the dangers of the rise of the far right in Europe.



ACTIVISM, PRACTICAL TOOLS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH GROUPS

As part of the electoral campaign, Emmaus Europe drafted a series of clear, specific proposals for a Europe offering renewed hope. These proposals were sent to candidates and European Parliament political groups so they could include them in their programmes.

We also took part in meetings in several countries to discuss these issues with Emmaus groups and present the campaign tools available to them.

Several groups took part in the campaign, in particular by welcoming and talking to candidates who visited their organisations in France and Finland.

2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: 6-9 JUNE (DEPENDING ON THE COUNTRY)

WHAT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS?

THEY ARE IMPORTANT FOR EMMAUS!

European legislation directly impacts Emmaus' three core work areas:

- International and local support for people needing help
- Employment and combating poverty
- Collection of second-hand goods and waste reduction

Over the past few years, we have been able to work with MEPs who are supportive of our values and the development of our movement. We hope that this will continue. We hope that even more MEPs with a similar ethos will be elected in June.

This is why we are asking all MEPs to work to combat poverty and gain full recognition for the role of social economy and solidarity economy in our societies. We will also be able to continue to take action in favour of a Europe that welcome refugees and asylum seekers from these countries in fear of their lives, as it did for the Ukrainians in 2022.

Did you know? Emmaus is present in 18 EU Member States and in 29 countries across the continent.

WE NEED MEPs WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK

- Our policy proposals
- An awareness-raising document to be shared internally and externally
- A template invitation to send to candidates to ask them to visit the groups
- A press release template to be sent to national and local media

EMMAUS EUROPE

A campaign tool kit was designed and shared with the whole movement. It comprised:

- Our policy proposals
- An awareness-raising document to be shared internally and externally
- A template invitation to send to candidates to ask them to visit the groups
- A press release template to be sent to national and local media



The Vice-President of the European Parliament inaugurates our event on 31 January 2024.

KEY EVENT: MARKING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1954 APPEAL AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 31 January 2024, Emmaus Europe commemorated the 70th anniversary of the 1954 appeal which called on politicians to take action and for citizen solidarity to refuse to allow people to live, and die, on the streets in the middle of winter.

We recreated an Emmaus salon in the heart of the European Parliament in Brussels with support from MEP David Cormand and his team. This also included an exhibition on the history of the movement and a recording area for "IndignAction" video stories.

The event was a huge success. Some twenty MEPs and many parliamentary advisors from different parties came to talk to us throughout the day. This enabled us to voice our demands for a more humane and solidarity-based Europe.

Following this event, a debate was held in the Parliament in Strasbourg to reflect on the persistence of poverty, homelessness and social exclusion seventy years after this historic appeal.

■ A CONCERNING RESULT, BUT HOPES RAISED BY A GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT

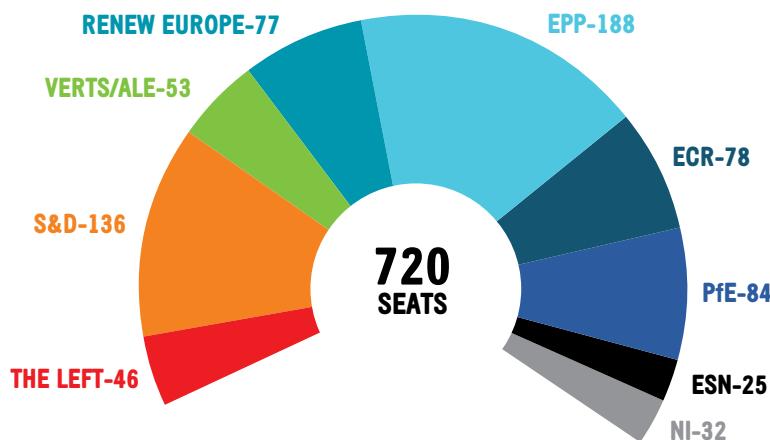
Despite the efforts made by Emmaus Europe and engaged groups, the election results confirmed a concerning swing to the conservative and far right parties, which gained ground in many countries. Yet, some countries like Finland, Sweden and Denmark, bucked this trend, offering us a glimmer of hope.

The nomination of new commissioners once again reinforced the European Union's liberal direction: economic competitiveness, growth and security were made top priorities, relegating social, environmental and human issues to second place.

Despite this difficult context, Emmaus Europe welcomes the high level of engagement from its groups across the continent. The movement has fully embraced the issues at stake in the European elections.

We will continue to resolutely defend the policy proposals developed collectively during this campaign. They now constitute our roadmap for the next five years.

COMPOSITION OF THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



EUROPEAN ADVOCACY: CONTINUITY AND SHIFTS



MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: EUROPE CLOSES ITS BORDER, OUR ACTIVISM INTENSIFIES

Defending the rights of migrants confronted by an increasingly security-focused Europe. In 2024, the rights of migrants were constantly threatened by increasingly security-focused, restrictive and dehumanising European policies. In response to the politically constructed “Fortress Europe”, Emmaus Europe sprang into action at all levels to promote dignified and solidarity-based reception conditions.



■ STOP THE INHUMANITY AT THE BORDERS

Emmaus Europe joined the “Stop the inhumanity at Europe’s Borders!” campaign, to speak out against cruel and illegal treatment of migrants at the European Union’s borders. Together with a large number of partner organisations, we sent an open letter to all European governments to demand respect for human dignity – a principle that each state institution has a duty to guarantee.

■ PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM: DANGEROUS LAWS FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

This year was also marked by the adoption of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Since it was first presented in 2020, Emmaus Europe has been strongly opposed to this set of texts, condemned by all organisations committed to human rights and respect for the right of asylum.

As the final vote approached, we joined the #NotThisPact campaign on social media to call for MEPs to reject the pact. Several Emmaus groups also took action on this issue. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the text was adopted by the European Parliament.

To gain greater understanding of the consequences, we organised a webinar on 30 April, with the participation of MEP Damien Carême, who is committed to welcoming exiles. This discussion enabled us to analyse the dangers of this pact, its transposition into different national laws expected by 2026 and the dire consequences for the rights of migrants.



The Emmaus Europe Regional Council during the campaign against the new pact on migration and asylum.

■ A NEW PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN OUR ACTION

Given this backsliding, we are ramping up our efforts, more than ever, to stand up for a Europe based on solidarity.

In 2024, Emmaus Europe joined the ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles) network, an alliance of 127 NGOs present in 40 countries and active since 1974 in protecting the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

Thanks to its action on three fronts - European advocacy, legal support and litigation - ECRE is a strategic partner, bolstering our struggle for a dignified welcome for all in Europe.



SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND TEXTILE

Major progress on regulations

In 2024, we also engaged in intense advocacy work on the reform of the **Waste Framework Directive**, with the introduction of mandatory separate collection of textiles throughout Europe from January 2025. This reform calls for the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, requiring manufacturers to finance the management of their products at the end of their life cycle based on the polluter pays principle: sorting, reuse and recycling. Although the European Parliament adopted a text including specific support for Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors, nothing is set in stone: the Council has yet to make a decision.

Emmaus Europe remains very concerned about the increasing pressure from industrial lobbies seeking to weaken, or even eliminate, these SSE advances. Together with our partner RREUSE, we published an open letter to sound the alarm. At the same time, we launched advocacy initiatives and arranged meetings with European politicians for 2025.

Overproduction: an appeal for an urgent plan to save the textile reuse sector

At the end of 2024, the European textile reuse sector began to face an unprecedented crisis. The flood of cheap, low-quality clothing was saturating the second-hand textile distribution network.

In response, Emmaus Europe, alongside RREUSE, Zero Waste Europe and a network of cities, co-signed a letter to the European Commission. In this letter we called for:

- Increased support for the SSE
- Specific measures against textile overproduction
- Strict restrictions on marketing fast fashion products

Together with RREUSE, we also called on MEPs to ask the new Commissioner for the Circular Economy, during her hearing, to commit to making this transition a real lever for reducing production.



To prepare for the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, European groups are developing the traceability of donations.



COMBATTING POVERTY: A STRATEGY TO BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Our struggle continues together with EAPN

In November 2024, the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, announced the launch of a European Strategy for Combatting Poverty, entrusted to Commissioner Roxana Minzatu. This announcement marks an important step in the recognition of social issues at the heart of the European project.

Emmaus Europe, through the EAPN network, is committed to ensuring that this strategy is ambitious, participatory and genuinely focussed on eradicating poverty.

A roadmap was submitted to the European Commission, and an initial meeting between EAPN and the Commissioner took place on 13 December 2024.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY: CREATING CONNECTIONS FOR TOMORROW



At a clothing sorting depot in Lviv, Ukraine.

UKRAINE A YEAR OF STRATEGIC ADJUSTMENTS

No, the war is not over in Ukraine. No, the suffering of the Ukrainian people has not stopped. No, living conditions are not better than they were at the start of the conflict. Yes, the needs are still immense. Yes, the mental health of every Ukrainian is a matter of survival. Yes, Emmaus Oselya is tirelessly continuing its work with the most vulnerable. At the time we are writing these lines (July 2025), the high-intensity war unleashed by Russia has been ravaging eastern Ukraine for well over three years, killing innocent people and forcing families to flee their homes..

Against this backdrop, it is hard to focus solely on 2024 in the following report, as many developments also took place in the early months of 2025. We encourage you to read our newsletters from January to June 2025 for a more up-to-date overview of the situation.

■ IN 2024, CLOSER TIES AND MONTHLY SUPPORT

Seeing each other

2023 began with an Emmaus Europe delegation visiting Lviv in Ukraine in January to inaugurate a new social centre.

That year concluded with our Emmaus Europe General Assembly, marked in particular by a powerful speech by Natalya Sanotska, director of Emmaus Oselya in Lviv, on the living conditions of Ukrainians since the start of the conflict.

In July 2023, the issues of peace and remembrance raised during the football cup organised by Emmaus Europe in Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina) became very tangible due to the participation of four people from the Oselya group.

In 2024, it became even more difficult to see each other: conditions on leaving the country tightened, particularly preventing Grigory Semenchuk from attending Regional Council meetings as a National Delegate for Emmaus Ukraine. However, we managed to arrange for him and Natalya to take part in the geographical collective for groups from Poland, Ukraine, Latvia and Georgia, which took place in Annemasse (France) in March 2024. Their first-hand accounts enabled the attendees to gain insight into the situation on the ground and the risks to their lives that they face as prominent members of Lviv's civil society. The support and trust received in return are something they hold dear, which they can pass on to everyone in the community. Seeing each other as much as possible is demonstrating that the movement supports every individual in the group.

In July 2024, Herbert Bitter (Vice-Chair of Emmaus Europe) and Emmanuel (Emmaus Europe Secretariat) travelled to Lviv to discuss the projects underway with the group (see below) financed by the Ukraine Fund. During this visit, they noted the fatigue, weariness and anxiety caused by the air raid sirens that sound day and night – even in Lviv – among the community and civil society as a whole; but also, the courage, self-sacrifice, hope and confidence in a better future shown by each and every individual. This hope stems particularly from belonging to the Emmaus Movement.

Supporting each other

Thanks to the action taken by all the European groups, the Ukraine Fund continues to provide monthly financial support to Oselya, of around €4,000. This support makes it possible for the group to cover some of the operating costs of the social support centre built in 2023, and provide hot meals, every Thursday, to over 100 people. In 2024, the total amount of monthly support for Oselya was €51,247.32.

Since the start of the conflict, Emmaus Oselya has been working with several of the most vulnerable groups in society. This includes homeless people, who have increased in number since 2022, and the arrival of people from the east of Ukraine, displaced persons, and families from the conflict zones.



FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS BY EMMAUS LEADERS IN UKRAINE

■ Excerpt from an interview with Natalya and Grigory, February 2024:

"At the start of the war, many emergency shelters were set up to take in everyone [in Lviv]. These temporary shelters were quickly shut down, forcing people to find accommodation and go back to work. This has created significant pressure on the rental market, and rents have risen sharply. (...) We have seen a new status appear "poor workers", i.e., people who have very little income, who can no longer afford to pay rent or bills. The war has pushed large swathes of society into poverty. Many displaced persons are now sleeping in huts, without electricity or water, or in plastic shacks in Lviv or on the outskirts. Oselya and civil society are stepping in to do the work of government social institutions and are trying to find solutions while the state focuses primarily on the war effort."

... And preparing for the future

Emmaus Europe's financial support for Oselya also takes the form of long-term investments, to lay the groundwork for the future and ensure the organisation's stability.

In 2024, the Ukraine fund made it possible to fund two large renovation projects, to be able to offer better accommodation conditions and improve support and working conditions for companions.

A dignified welcome

Work to extend the community house began in 2023, co-funded by the Foundation for Housing (€36,006) and Ukraine fund (€33,993) and was completed in March 2024. The work made it possible to convert the old furniture repair workshop into a residential house, thereby creating six new bedrooms that can accommodate an additional nine people.

Since the start of the conflict, the community house had been overcrowded, due to welcoming new companions. This work meant it was possible to offer everyone dignified accommodation and living conditions.

■ The Ukraine Fund provides Emmaus Oselya with approximately €4,000 each month.

■ In 2024, the total amount of monthly support for Oselya amounted to €51,247.32.

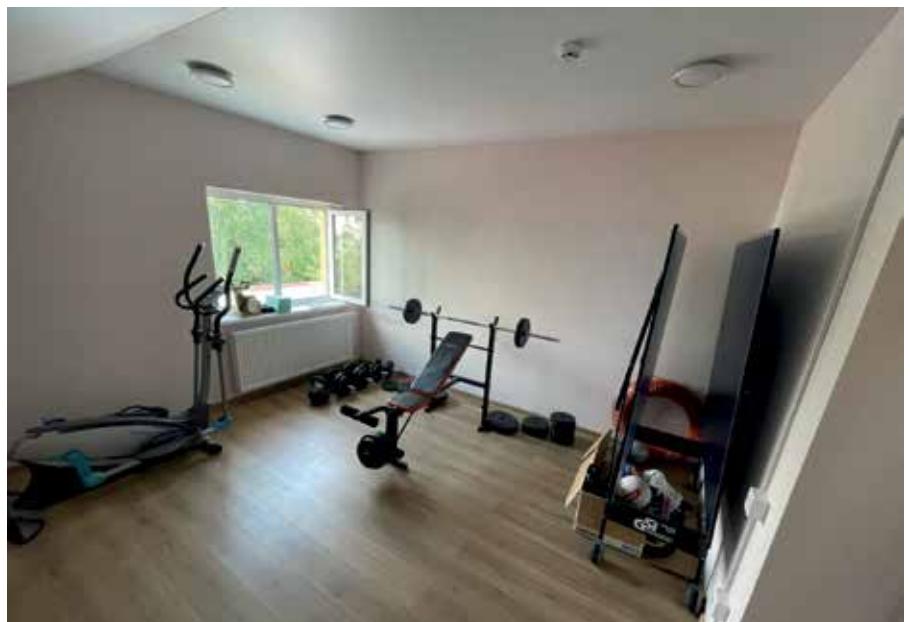
■ The Ukraine Fund has enabled the financing of two major projects: the extension of the community house and the renovation of the basement workshop.
■ In 2024, the Emmaus groups contributed €29,135 to the Ukraine Fund.



Oleksandr and Serhiy,
Emmaus Oselya companions.



Extension work on the community house.
Renovations to the house to make it possible to welcome 9 additional companions.



Dignified support

As a result of this work, the former furniture workshop was relocated to the basement of a building where Oselya manages three floors. A few months after moving, Emmaus Europe provided €16,543.36 in funding to **renovate the basement** and offer better working conditions to companions, enabling the workshop to be more profitable.

This work went hand in hand with the **overall renovation of the shop**, located on the ground floor, for which Emmaus Longjumeau provided €10,000 in support. In 2025, the social apartments – located on the first floor – will be renovated to ensure better support for companions ready to return to a stable living situation.



Furniture workshop, located in the basement of a building in Lviv, before and after the renovation work.

UKRAINE FUND

■ SUPPORT COMING TO AN END

In Poland

Since 2022, Emmaus Europe has also been supporting groups taking in refugees in Poland, Romania, Georgia and Croatia. This financial support was particularly important in Poland, where the three groups have welcomed and housed Ukrainian families for several months or years.

In 2024, only the Brat Albert group (Krakow and Nowy Sącz) was still welcoming families. The Ukraine Fund supported this initiative until June 2024, amounting to a total sum of € 14,496.97 over the year (€ 8 per day and per person welcomed).

In Ukraine

Furthermore, as mentioned in the previous activity report, support for the trial member organisation Nasha Khata (Drohobytch, Ukraine) stopped completely in March 2024, with a gradual reduction in financial support from October 2023. In 2024, the group received € 5,184.54 in financial support from the Ukraine Fund. The Emmaus Movement terminated Nasha Khata's trial membership in November 2023.

No other groups in the movement requested support from the Ukraine Fund in 2024.

USE OF THE UKRAINE FUND IN 2024

Country	Project	Total
UKRAINE	Renovation of the furniture workshop (Oselya)	16 543,36 €
	Community house (Oselya)	3 993 €
	Operating expenses Oselya & Nasha Khata (NK)	56 431,86 €
POLAND	Welcoming displaced persons from Ukraine	14 496,97 €
		91 465,19 €



SOLIDARITY WITHIN EMMAUS

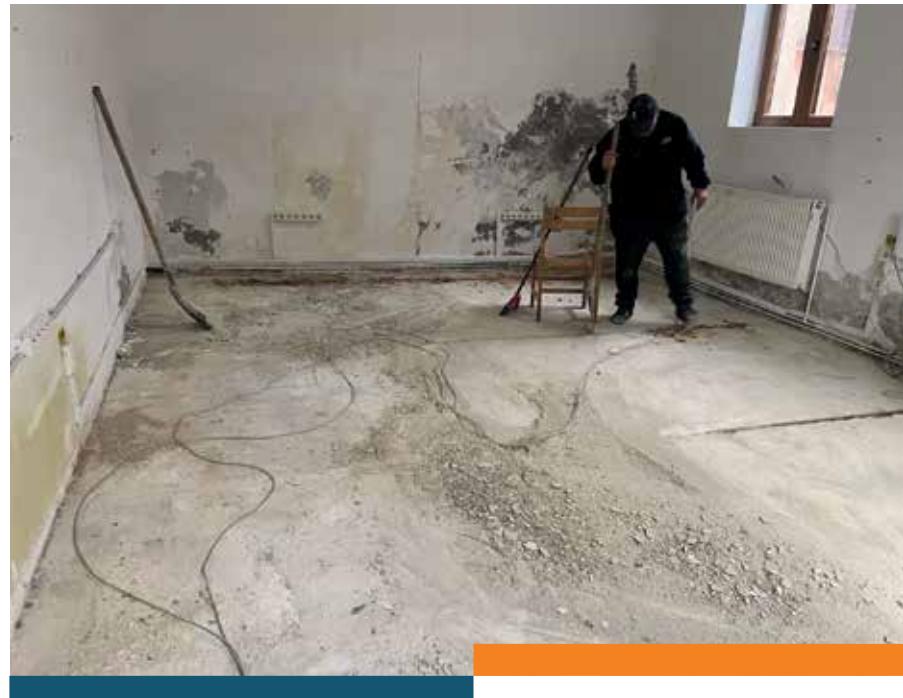
IN IASI, AN URGENT NEED TO MAINTAIN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

At the end of March 2024, Emmaus Iași found out, following an inspection, that the community home was no longer compliant with the new standards for facilities accommodating the public, which came into force in... early March 2024. This decision meant a temporary closure of the home with the companions “put out on the street”.

As it never rains but it pours, the cost of the work required to bring it up to standard was around €90,000.

Thanks to the efforts of Emmaus Europe’s National Delegates, Emmaus International Board members and a network of groups that are “friends” of the Iași community, Emmaus Europe was able to raise €85,387.41 to carry out the work. This sum was sent to the group in several instalments, and the group submitted a number of interim reports and a final report.

Throughout the year, the group carried out mandatory building repairs so they could reopen the community home in Iași.



They replaced the electrical wiring, flooring, doors and windows; added a fire detection system, insulation (walls and roof) and an air conditioning unit; installed a new kitchen that complies with current standards and a laundry room; repainted the entire house; and demolished and rebuilt the two staircases (interior and exterior) and emergency exits.

At the same time, companions living in the community in Iași were able to find other accommodation, thanks to the efforts of the entire Emmaus Iași team. Some spent a few months in Emmaus communities abroad (Switzerland, France), while others rented apartments in the city of Iași using community funds.

Furthermore, thanks to the funds raised, the group also renovated part of the community home in Popești, in anticipation of upcoming regulatory requirements: installation of insulation materials (walls, roof), replacement of doors and windows, reinforcement of the roof structure.

This work provides better accommodation for companions and better working conditions for the whole team.

The Emmaus Iași team office, in Casa Horia (Iași), during and after completion of the work.



■ HOUSING PROGRAMME: TWO GROUPS SUPPORTED IN EUROPE

Jointly run by Emmaus International and the Foundation for Housing (Foundation pour le Logement – FLD, previously the Abbé Pierre Foundation – FAP), this programme enables Emmaus groups outside of France to benefit from funding for the construction or renovation of housing for people welcomed by the groups. The Emmaus Europe secretariat supports projects submitted by European groups and assists them in project planning and the subsequent analysis by the Emmaus International elected representatives.

In 2024, two European projects were financed by the Housing Programme, totalling €57,616 (from a budget of around €250,000 made available by FLD).

• **Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney (United Kingdom)**

€37,073 for Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney to fund part of the renovation of two houses for women who have experienced violence.

• **Emmaus Lublin (Pologne)**

€20,543 for Emmaus Lublin, to renovate their community home and improve living conditions for companions.

Inside one of the houses to provide accommodation to women who have experienced violence, which was partly funded by the Emmaus International Housing Programme.



GEOGRAPHICAL COLLECTIVES: A SHIFT TOWARDS A NEW MEETING FORMAT

■ In 2023, the geographical collectives were not held because of the Regional Assembly which took place in October in Iași (Romania). Therefore, expectations were high for participants in 2024, and the joy of meeting each other again after eighteen months was tremendous! This was why the collectives were held in springtime (rather than in the autumn) between March and June 2024.

■ In total, three geographical collectives took place (Poland-Ukraine, Romania, and Southeast Europe) with some sixty participants from a dozen different countries in the Emmaus Movement!

■ During the Poland-Ukraine-Latvia-Georgia collective (in Annemasse, France) and the Romania collective (Satu Mare, Romania), we addressed the issues of financial independence of Eastern European groups, most of which developed thanks to material support from Western European groups, among other types of support. Against a backdrop where the number of solidarity goods transported is decreasing sharply (see our “Transport Programme”),

the business model of these groups is severely impacted. Both collectives offered a chance to initiate discussions about the sustainability of their business model. Furthermore, we used this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the European Parliament elections and discuss the main advocacy initiatives carried out by the movement in Europe to voice the demands of groups on the ground.

As they were less focused on financial solidarity and mutual support between Emmaus groups, these two collectives provided an opportunity to address fundamental issues in order to prepare for the future. This trend should continue in 2025.

■ The South-East Europe Collective, which comprises groups from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia was hosted by the TOMS group in Trogir (Croatia). This meeting helped to formalise this collective's future direction, which could take the form of an exchange of practices on a theme shared by the groups within the collective.

■ TRANSPORT PROGRAMME: CONFIRMATION OF A STRUCTURAL REDUCTION

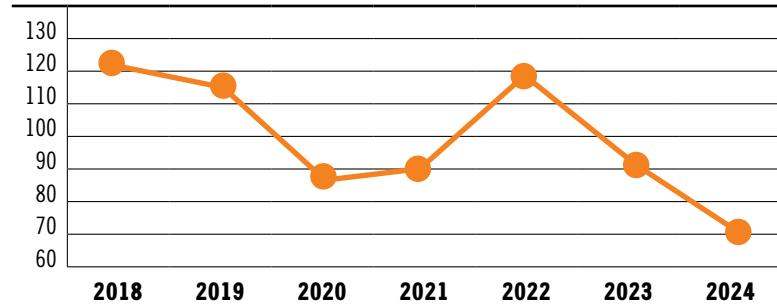
In 2023, we wrote the title: "Transport programme: a structural or short-term reduction?". A trend emerged in 2024: the number of solidarity lorries sent to Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe fell rapidly, faster than the needs of these groups.

In 2024, 72 solidarity lorries were organised and transported by lorry by groups in France, Switzerland, England, Germany and Finland, primarily to Emmaus groups in Poland and Romania.

Several factors might explain this trend:

- **Lower quality and quantity of donations received** by all groups, including those that send solidarity goods by lorry to Eastern Europe. This trend also has an impact on European and international solidarity;
- **Financial difficulties and the rise in costs for transporting goods;**
- **Needs are decreasing in Eastern Europe:** for a number of years, some groups in Romania and Poland have been developing new income-generating activities and are less dependent on solidarity lorries. However, needs still remain considerable to maintain a balance during this transition phase!

Number of solidarity lorries, 2018-2024



Solutions exist to mitigate these difficulties:

- **Coordinating the transport of solidarity goods between several groups**, thereby reducing the costs (financial and material) of this form of solidarity. There's strength in numbers!
- **Increasing the ways we meet and locations of meetings between the groups**, to better understand the needs and put faces to the names behind this material support: video conference calls, group visits, welcoming companions - this all helps to forge the ties that make us a movement!



■ Appeal to European groups:

if you usually throw away chests of drawers, sideboards, tables and small items of furniture in good condition for storage reasons, you should know that these items are very popular in Romania and Poland! There these pieces of furniture could find their third (or fourth?) home and save you the costs related to their disposal.

An updated list of items required by Eastern European groups is now available. Please contact Emmaus Europe.

THE 2024 EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

■ The 2024 European Solidarity Programme was back on track with various projects supported by Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe over the year.

To find out more, flash the QR code below or find all the information on the Emmaus Europe intranet:

[Member's Area > Solidarity > European Solidarity Programme > Programme.](#)



Every year, Emmaus Europe launches a call for projects that the Emmaus groups who send a lorry to Eastern Europe can submit. These projects must be related to the group's mission of social integration, social inclusion, and environmental responsibility or put forward in the Programme's action plan, which makes use of them to support. The call for projects is open from January to June 2024, and these already being supported by international solidarity.

EUROPEAN LIFE OF THE MOVEMENT



FIRST NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS' MEETING

■ In Europe, there are eight National Organisations (NOs) which bring together the groups in their countries to find solutions to common problems. They speak with one voice in dealings with national authorities where necessary and support groups in their development from the moment they begin their trial period. Depending on the number of groups in the country, these National Organisations or National Federations have varying resources available to the country's groups and different numbers of established common frameworks.

■ After (online) meetings with the boards of NOs during the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear to us that despite their differences in size and resources, NOs faced many common challenges and it would be beneficial for them to interact with each other independently of their individual connections with Emmaus Europe.

■ In 2024 we organised the first meeting of NOs at a time when the conditions for welcoming companions were raising questions in several countries.

■ At the end of June 2024, the Chair and National Delegates of six National Organisations, along with the Chief Executives of Emmaus France and Emmaus UK, were invited to meet in London by Emmaus Europe. Over two days, they found out more about how Emmaus UK works and were able to discuss the different measures implemented in their countries to guarantee dignified welcoming conditions for companions and prevent gender-based and sexual violence.

One of the issues that arose was how challenging it is for NOs to intervene quickly when there's a problem in a group. Our movement is organised in such a way that member groups have a high degree of autonomy, and this has its limitations when problems arise. Each NO seeks to find the means to intervene before it has to expel a group, while preserving the groups' autonomy. The NOs agreed to keep in touch about this issue and many others.

■ Another meeting is scheduled for 2025, online, and then in person in 2026 to spend more time together.

EXCHANGE OF PRACTICES

FOOD AND CULINARY DELIGHTS

On 19 November 2024, the exchange of practices baptised 'Dinner's ready!' involved 20 participants from seven European countries who met to discuss the issues of food in their groups. This mainly involved communities but also volunteer groups where meals are eaten together.

The discussions highlighted that tensions that can arise around mealtimes. The challenge is to listen and create a friendly atmosphere while adopting a more environmentally-friendly approach to meals. One of the recurring issues is the obsession with eating a lot of meat among some companions who burn off a lot of energy doing their jobs. However, as this can become a health problem over time, communities have managed to initiate joint work to reduce the amount of meat eaten by improving quality and discovering the pleasure of vegetarian meals.

Lastly, we addressed the matter of food banks, as some donations to Emmaus can prove to be a poisoned chalice when they are overly processed or perishable products in excessive quantities. Just because we are poor, doesn't mean we should just accept anything. We have the right to choose and our partners must also understand this!

The Tero Loko Emmaus group, engaged in organic farming, places great importance on the quality of meals prepared!



The following emerged from our discussions on how to improve mealtimes in the Emmaus groups

- **Invite people who eat together** to regular discussions about food-related matters and make joint decisions, as this has an impact on the health and cohesion of the group;
- **Earmark a decent budget**, taking into consideration aspects of health/well-being associated with this budget item;
- **Train cooks** to make healthy and tasty food;
- **Take these four areas into account:**
 - Good products (organic, local, healthy);
 - Well prepared/careful cooking/cooking skills (taste, right amount, colourful, attractive, filling, homemade);
 - Variety/balance: between vegetable/animal protein, likewise for texture, it's very important to have diversity (raw, cooked, soft, crunchy);
 - Meaning attributed to food/mealtime conditions: friendly atmosphere, sharing cultures, joy.
- **Make sure that kitchen and serving duties are not assigned based on gender**, strike a balance in sharing tasks;
- **Reduce our waste** in this area as well, by limiting packaging and starting a compost heap if you have a garden.

OUR MOVEMENT HAS GROWN

In 2024, Emmaus Europe welcomed several new groups.

■ Trial members

- Atelier R-are (France)
- Terre de Milpa (France)
- Emmaus Suffolk (United Kingdom)
- 100 pour 1 Saintes (France)

■ Full members

- Emmaüs de l'Aube (France)
- SOS Famille Égletons (France)
- Vivre au Peux (France)
- La Ferme de Baudonne (France)
- Pages Solidaires (France)

The following three groups received a favourable opinion from the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe to join in 2024, but were only approved in 2025 by the Emmaus International Board:

- Nova Generacija (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Source d'envol-Ferme Ker Madeleine (France)
- SOS Famille Forbach (France) on the condition that they settle their subscriptions

EMMAUS IS PRESENT IN 20 COUNTRIES IN EUROPE

- Find a map of Emmaus groups in Europe on the website emmaus-europe.org/language/en/



GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS

• **The Regional Council met twice in 2024.** The first time in Paris, France, and the second in Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

• **Meetings of the Executive Committee took place four times during the year**, including three in-person meetings in Montreuil at the Emmaus Europe Secretariat head office in January, July, December and once online.

■ The summary of the decisions made at these meetings are available on the Emmaus Europe website: emmaus-europe.org/language/en/

TEAM UPDATES

After eleven years of excellent, loyal services, Veronica Acevedo left her role as an administrative assistant to work closer to home and nearer her young children. We greatly appreciated her excellent knowledge of the movement, her deep commitment to Emmaus' values which she put into practice every day through her kindness and joy.

We wish her all the best and are delighted to welcome Raïssa Gnankou from December 2024. Raïssa first gained experience as an accounting assistant in Ivory Coast and came to France to complete her training with a specialised degree in administration for international development organisations. She is highly motivated by her new role at Emmaus Europe and we know that you will all make her feel welcome!

Raïssa Gnankou

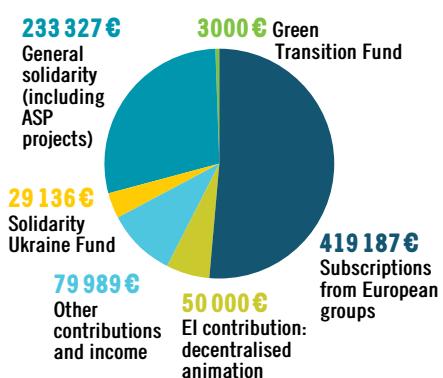


FINANCIAL REPORT

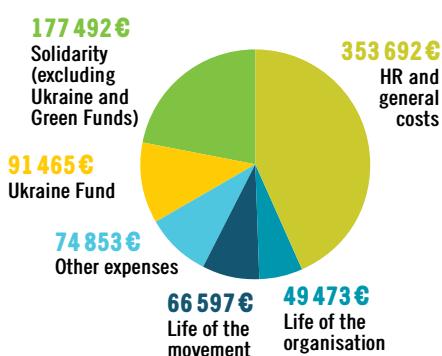
Our total expenditure was € 813,572 and our income was € 814,639, resulting in a surplus of € 1,067.

The complete financial statement and the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports are available on our website or on request from the Emmaus Europe Secretariat.

INCOME 2024



EXPENDITURES 2024





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ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

Emmaus Europe is the decentralised organisation of Emmaus International in Europe

