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Emmaus in Europe

January 2026



Dear friends,

We are delighted to be back in touch with you in the first newsletter of 2026. We wish you all a great 2026! Indeed, with the Ukraine conference in February, the Elective General Assembly in April, the cross-collective meeting in June, and a new strategic plan to develop together, this year will be all about meeting up and working together.

In this issue of the newsletter, we go back over the first Women's Leadership Programme training course, four months on from the leadership training course delivered to some 20 women from the movement.

As for solidarity, although the year has just begun, a delegation has already travelled to visit Emmaus Oselya in Ukraine. Find out more in this issue. Finally, it's your turn: we invite you to learn about and sign a European Citizen Initiative on access to food.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

The Emmaus Europe team

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Top story

Better late than never - the 2024 activity report is ready!



Yes, the report has been rather delayed, but it is now available. The report offers you the chance to (re)discover everything that happened in 2024, and not miss out on any of our past initiatives.

Find all of our activity reports on our website: Members' area > General information > Democratic life > Activity reports

[ACTIVITY REPORT 2024](#)

Emmaus stories

Female leadership: feedback from the pilote programme

In September 2025, Emmaus Europe launched a brand-new initiative: the first edition of the Women's Leadership Programme.

The programme brought together 23 women from the Emmaus Movement and from nine European countries for two days of intensive training in Paris on 11-12 September.

Emmaus Europe wanted to undertake a small-scale trial of this programme in order to explore how to foster more inclusive governance, and consequently strengthen the role played by women in our movement's decision-making.

A training course focusing on female leadership

The course participants benefited from a multi-faceted programme focusing on the development of leadership skills. The course explored several areas, beginning with a look at the work of the Norwegian sociologist Berit Ås on domination techniques. Berit Ås identified seven mechanisms used to dominate in working environments: invisibility, ridicule, withholding information, double punishment, blame and shame, objectification, and threats of violence. These techniques are often subtle and unconscious. They particularly affect women in the workplace and hinder their working lives. We also reviewed the counter-strategies that can be implemented to reduce the impact of these techniques.

The programme enabled the key skills of female leaders in the Emmaus groups to be identified. Practical workshops enabled the participants to support their teams effectively and increase the impact of their communication.

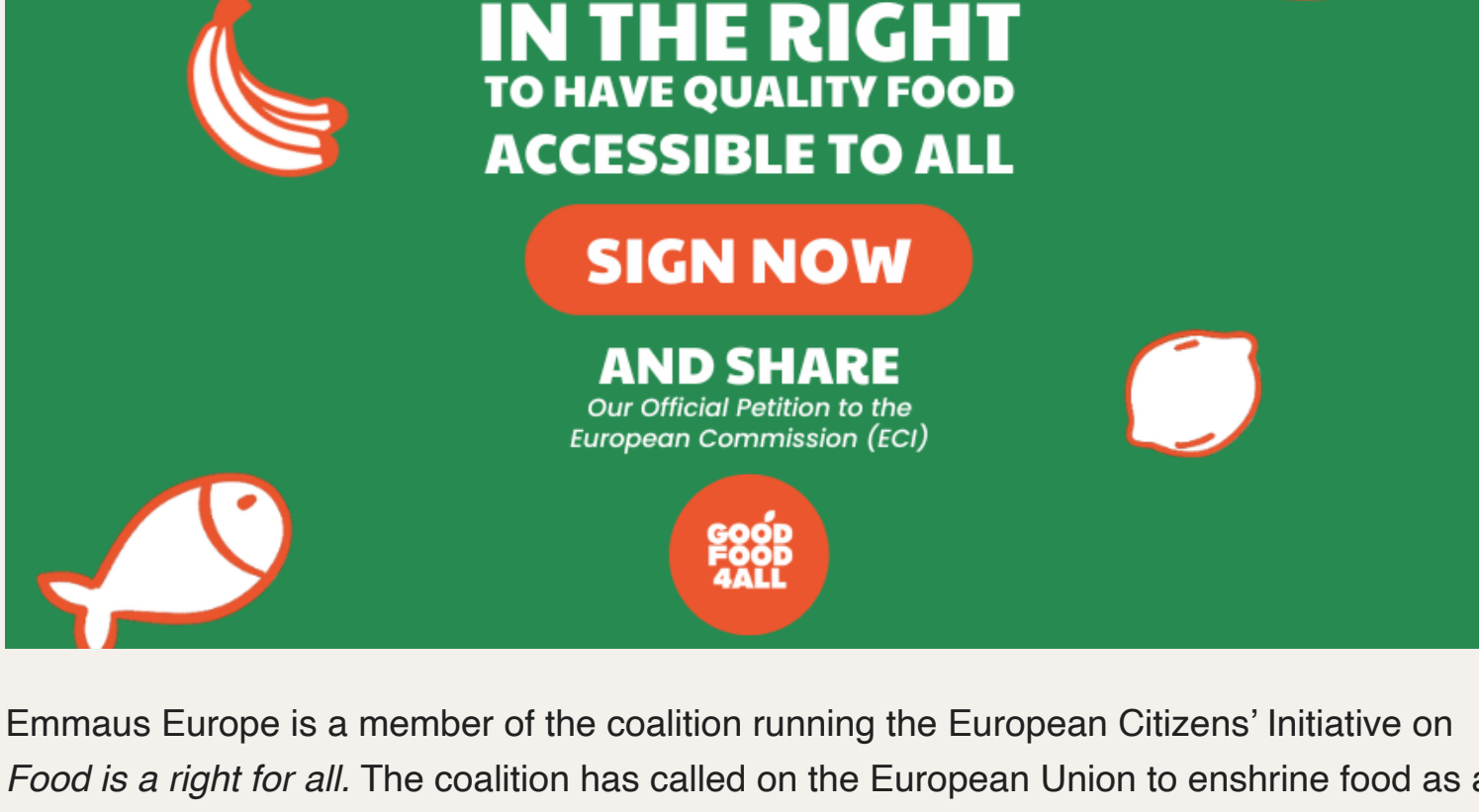
[Read more...](#)



Caption: Women's Leadership Programme participants in September 2025 in Paris. | © Emmaus Europe

European action

Food is a human right for all!



Emmaus Europe is a member of the coalition running the European Citizens' Initiative on *Food is a right for all*. The coalition has called on the European Union to enshrine food as a basic human right through legally-binding legislation. By signing this European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), all the signatory citizens are calling on the European Commission to:

- Enshrine food as a basic human right in EU policies and legislation.
- Move beyond aid-focused and emergency methods in order to guarantee access to food.
- Guarantee healthy, adequate and sustainable food for everyone living in the EU.
- Ensure greater coherence between the agricultural, social, health and environmental policies on the right to food.

Emmaus Europe is a member of this coalition which currently brings together over 240 farming, social, environmental and human rights organisations from all over Europe. Our commitment is based on our firm belief that everyone deserves to eat good-quality food.

In our communities and groups, we know that access to adequate food is important for guaranteeing a decent life. This ECI is a key step in the process of guaranteeing that everyone living in the EU has access to adequate, sustainable and healthy food.

We have a year to collect a million signatures and raise the awareness of the EU. As well as signing the petition yourself, you can also publicise it at the events that you hold. Please get in touch with us if you want your group to get more actively involved in the campaign.

Don't delay, each and every signature counts.

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

Solidarity

News from Ukraine

In mid-January, Carina Aaltonen (the EE president), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer) and Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator) travelled to Lviv in Ukraine to visit our friends at Emmaus Oselya. This was the third visit made by an EE delegation since early February 2022.

Oselya is facing some significant challenges in 2026: in addition to there being no prospect of peace and the trauma caused by the weekly bombing in the Lviv region, the community is having to fight so as not to lose its main income-generating activity.

The group is having to quickly increase its network of clothing donation containers in Lviv, with the aim being to go from having around 30 containers in 2025 to over 100 in 2026. In order to achieve this aim, the group needs to invest heavily in its clothing sorting centre (extend the buildings) and purchase a new collection truck. This growth will also result in new jobs being created. This much-needed development has been expressly requested by the city council in order to keep supporting the social economy in response to private-sector competition in Lviv.

Emmaus Europe's visit enabled us to reaffirm our support for the group, both in terms of funding and seeking expertise in the movement. The Ukraine Fund still contains €135,000, which could fund some of the investment needed. A European solidarity appeal will be sent to you once the needs have been identified.

That is the situation regarding the group's income-generating activity. The experienced Emmaus Oselya is ready to rise to this challenge.

Social and solidarity work still at the heart of the work despite the war

From a human standpoint, the group continues to push the boundaries of what is feasible, and to develop its social initiatives aimed at the most vulnerable people.

Despite the sacrifices, sleepless nights and the bombing of Lviv, and despite seeing close friends and family leaving for the frontline, the community is improving the lives of its companions, hands out 150 hot meals a week in central Lviv, and tirelessly supports over 70 vulnerable people every day in its day centre.

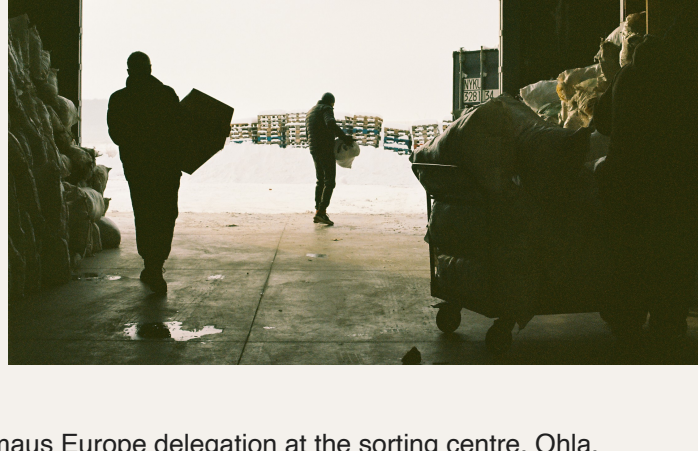
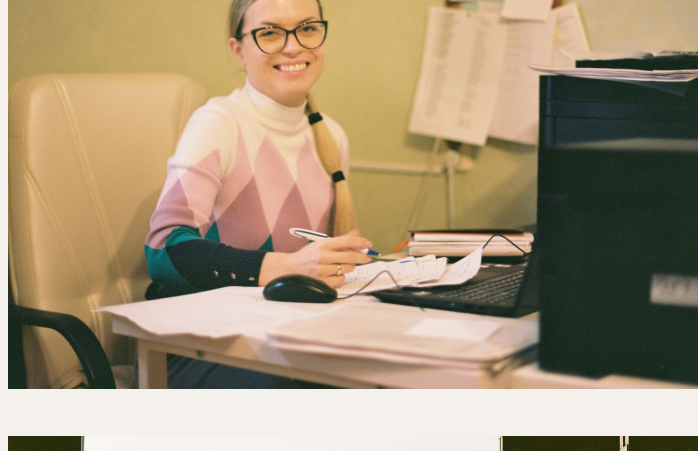
Emmaus Oselya has never given up, and has never felt that things are too hard. Yet...

Some 29 companions are currently fighting on the frontline, wherever Russia is trying to take Ukrainian territory. Two Oselya companions, Nazar and Oleksii, have been officially confirmed dead on the frontline. A third companion, Pavel, has been missing for months.

Some 30 older companions are now running the community. They help the most vulnerable people, collect and sort clothing from the clothing donation containers in the city, and stock the two shops.

They are the heart and soul of the Emmaus Movement in Eastern Europe.

As 2026 gets underway, the war goes on, and Emmaus Oselya needs the movement's support.



Caption: Photos taken during the visit to Lviv in January 2026 (Emmaus Europe delegation at the sorting centre, Ohta, Volodymyr and Sorting centre) | © Emmanuel Rabourdin

Agenda

Upcoming Ukraine conference - join us on 24 February!

There will be an online meeting from 15:00 to 17:00 (French time) on 24 February so that participants can meet Natalia (the director) and members of Emmaus Oselya (Lviv, Ukraine). That date is the fourth anniversary of the start of the war caused by Russia's large-scale invasion.

Together, we will take a look at their daily lives, their needs over the coming months, and their plans. We will go back over how the Ukraine Fund has been used. The Emmaus groups have contributed to the fund since the start of the conflict.

The meeting is open to all, so you are welcome to join us. There will be interpreting in French, English and Spanish (if required).

[SIGN UP](#)

Last chance to register for the 2026 World Assembly

As you know, Emmaus International is holding the World Assembly (WA) on 13-17 April 2026 in Someren in the Netherlands.

Emmaus Europe is also holding its Elective General Assembly on the morning of 13 April (10:00 - 12:30) before the official start of the WA. Both meetings will be held at the same venue: if you register for the WA, you will be automatically registered for the EE Elective Assembly.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA				
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