

2025 ACTIVITY REPORT



emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

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MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

BY CARINA AALTONEN

Dear friends,

As we look back on the past year, 2025, I feel that it turned out to be a much better year than I ever could have imagined.

We focused on advocacy work at the European Parliament, where we dumped six tons of textiles outside the building. Through this powerful and symbolic action, we had the opportunity to meet both the former and the current Environment Commissioners, several Members of the European Parliament, and representatives from four different Directorates-General within the Commission. We aimed to clearly show policymakers the concrete consequences of global overproduction, the unethical trade in textile waste, and how a disproportionately large share of this waste ultimately ends up in the countries least responsible for the problem. Our protest was seen and heard, and it sparked conversations that will hopefully continue to influence European decisions on waste, circularity, and extended producer responsibility.

2025 was also a year of joy, of meeting outside conference rooms and on digital platforms. In Dijon, 128 people, most of them companions, from nine different countries, gathered for our second Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights. This friendly tournament once again demonstrated that sport is a powerful tool for inclusion, hope, and community. It is heartening that more people from various Emmaus groups are experiencing the strength of our European activities.

The year concluded with the Women Leadership Programme in Paris, where 23 women from Emmaus groups in nine European countries strengthened their skills, shared experiences, and built networks that will carry our movement forward. We have many women in the movement who are ready to take on responsibility and become tomorrow's leaders. They already have competence and experience. What they need now is encouragement and support to take the next step. Today, there are still far too few female role models within the social and solidarity economy. Almost all chairs and directors are men. This must change.

I also had the privilege of concluding my presidency of Emmaus Europe by hosting my final in-person Regional Council meeting on Åland, Finland.

It was with great pride that I showed my colleagues and friends Emmaus Åland and our work. And of course, the traditional wood-fired sauna was a success. Thank you for coming to the "Islands of Peace" in the Baltic Sea.

My deepest and warmest thanks to you who entrusted me with the role of Chair of Emmaus Europe. It has been the most meaningful, joyful, and important assignment I have ever had. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together over these years.

Thank you to all my colleagues at the Regional Council and to Eve and the team at the Secretariat in Montreuil. You are amazing. Together, we have made the world a little better.

*Carina Aaltonen,
Chair of Emmaus Europe*



2025 : A YEAR OF STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN



Carina Aaltonen introducing the seven domination techniques analysed by Berit Ås and the counter-strategies.

In September 2025, Emmaus Europe launched an unprecedented initiative by organising the first edition of the **Women's Leadership Programme**.

In order to bolster the role of women in decision-making within our Movement, Emmaus Europe wanted to test out this programme on a small scale to explore how we can promote more inclusive leadership.

Progress still needs to be made on the issue of gender equality in order to build the equitable and solidarity-based society that Emmaus aspires to.

23 women from the Emmaus Movement, from **9** European countries, attended **2** days of intensive training in Paris on 11 and 12 September 2025.

A TRAINING FOCUSING ON LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN

Participants benefited from a varied programme focussed on developing leadership skills. The training sessions covered many areas, beginning with a study of the work by Norwegian sociologist Berit Ås on domination techniques. Berit Ås identified seven mechanisms used to dominate in working environments: invisibility, ridicule, withholding information, double bind, 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 gave participants insight into how to support their teams effectively and increase the impact of their communication.

A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE WITH A SHARED NEED

The programme was attended by women from different backgrounds who hold positions of responsibility within their groups (on the Board or in teams). Despite their roles being very different, all of them shared a similar view: **they felt the need for leadership training in order to feel completely comfortable in their roles** and to continue developing their fields of expertise.

Leadership does not just boil down to holding a position of responsibility. Managers and leaders are often mistakenly considered to be one and the same, **yet they are two distinct roles**. Leadership is more about an attitude and the ability to unlock potential, motivate and inspire your team or organisation to achieve a common goal.

Four months after the training course, we organised an online catch-up meeting with the participants. This session focussed on assessing what had been achieved and identifying the challenges encountered in the groups.

Since the course in September, **all of the participants have noticed a shift in attitude**. They have more confidence, have gained the trust of peers, taken the initiative in their respective groups to promote gender-neutral practices, etc. "The training helped me gain confidence in my skills and in my position with my teams, the volunteers and local partners," says Lucie (France).

As part of its employment access, welcome and support work, the group works with a large number of women, both on the employment access scheme and Lucie's two co-managers. Lucie therefore wants to draw inspiration from the course dynamic so that her fellow workers also receive leadership training, and so that women-only spaces are developed. Her aim is to empower these women.

The programme also had a strong personal impact on the participants. "I'm not afraid anymore", reports Karen (United Kingdom). "I feel more authentic. This has had a very positive impact on my relationships with the companions in my group". Apart from the skills and knowledge acquired, the programme's strength lies in bringing these women together as a group and enabling them to share experiences.

This has resulted in a tangible commitment to the Movement's governing bodies. **Six of the 21 women who attended the training course in September are now standing for election.** They are applying to join different Boards: local groups, Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International. This ambition stems from a shared awareness: the Movement extends far beyond their own group. Each of these women has a role to play and can make a contribution to help it move forward.



TOWARDS MORE INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE: NEXT STEPS

These initial positive results have inspired us to go further and create a snowball effect throughout the Movement, to have an impact on all governing bodies, whether European, national or local.

A particularly encouraging initiative has already been launched in the United Kingdom. Stephanie and Rebecca, two participants on the course, have set up a mentoring programme. At the same time, Stephanie contacted Emmaus UK to suggest organising this type of training course and involving all new female leaders in a mentoring programme with more experienced female Emmaus leaders as their mentors. It has been welcomed by the national organisation's management and will now be discussed with the leaders of the UK groups with a view to rolling out the initiative nationwide. They are also planning a call for projects to support women-led initiatives within the Emmaus groups.

We encourage the National Organisations to get involved in this initiative, as it is the most effective way of restoring a balance of power. The issue goes far beyond that of women currently in leadership or management roles. Training the groups on these issues, to identify domination mechanisms, and deconstruct stereotypes and gender-based discrimination in particular, is just as important. Expanding these types of training courses, such as the Women's Leadership Programme, will enable as many women as possible to benefit. That is how real change will happen at all levels of the Movement.

A YEAR OF POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN EUROPE

Our demonstration in front of the European Parliament (Brussels) to raise the alarm about the textile crisis helped to galvanise the support of many Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).



REUSE: A YEAR MARKED BY THE TEXTILE CRISIS

In 2025, the European textile recycling sector faced an unprecedented crisis. The entire second-hand textile distribution network had reached saturation point. The main cause was the constant mass influx of new, low-quality clothing.

However, second-hand outlets were also reaching saturation point, and there was a lack of recycling solutions.

Since the autumn of 2024, Emmaus Europe has been raising the alarm about several points of concern:

- An explosion in the volumes of fast fashion articles, which are tricky to resell;
- Obligatory textile collection throughout Europe since 1 January 2025, without suitable facilities for treating textile waste in many countries;
- The lack of effective Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for textiles in most European countries;
- A worrying delay on the revision of the waste framework directive.

The result is that even our social and solidarity economy organisations – the most resilient pioneers in the reuse and recycling sector – are facing challenges.

As a result, we have ramped up our warnings to the European institutions.

As a member of RREUSE – the European reuse network – we have:

- Sent several joint letters alerting the European Commission to this issue;
- Obtained meetings with the Directorates-General for the Environment (ENV), Employment (EMPL), Regional Policy (REGIO), Growth (GROW), and the offices of the Commissioners for Employment;
- Sent a clear message: support the SSE organisations and combat overproduction in the textile industry.

On 30 January, we organised a high-profile demonstration outside the European Parliament with our colleagues from the Belgian Federation of Social and Circular Entreprises (Ressource), with support from RREUSE: several tonnes of textiles were dumped to highlight the reality on the ground, and many MEPs came to speak to us.

Gains have been achieved (such as specific storage areas in Belgium and a slight increase in the budget allocated per tonne in France), however we still have a long way to go to achieve a truly viable model for our organisations - one which covers our real costs and enables us to sustain our activities over the long term.



In May 2025, Emmaus Europe representatives met the Commissioner responsible for the Circular Economy.

Following our activities in January, we arranged a bilateral meeting in May 2025 with the European Commissioner spearheading the circular economy plan. A key meeting that enabled us to make our Movement’s demands heard ahead of the vote on this plan in 2026.

KEEPING GROUPS INFORMED AND PEER DISCUSSIONS

On 5 February 2025, Emmaus Europe organised a webinar about the European textile sector.

This meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the latest developments in European legislation on textiles and the implementation of mandatory separate collection of textiles in different countries where the Movement is active. Participants shared their experiences of strategies to

adopt in light of the creation of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for textiles across the European Union.

This was a great opportunity to talk about the textile crisis and textile recycling issues arising from reuse practices in our groups.

A GLIMMER OF HOPE: TAX ON SMALL PARCELS AIMS TO LIMIT TEXTILE DELIVERIES FROM CHINA!

On Thursday 13 November 2025, the Ministers of the EU Members States approved the end of customs duty exemption for small parcels sent to the Member States with a value of under e150. This demand had been raised by Emmaus Europe since autumn 2024. It was initially due to come into force in 2028, but is now going to be implemented from the first quarter of 2026!

However, more needs to be done. Discussions have now begun on additional tax on these parcels to fund customs checks. We must also challenge the environmental absurdity of chartering cargo planes solely to deliver ultra-fast fashion clothing. Is it not high time we taxed kerosene at its fair climate price and banned air transport for non-perishable goods?

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: A YEAR OF TACKLING THE BACKSLIDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS

■ FEWER MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ACCEPTED, RISING EXTERNALISATION

In 2025 the European Union and its Member States redoubled their efforts to fast-track the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum adopted in 2024 and tighten European legislation.

As part of this, the European Commission has proposed several worrying measures:

- **Redefining the concept of “country of return”:** to date, an individual could only be returned to the country of origin, a transit country that has a readmission agreement, or any other country to which he or she agreed. **Consent was central.** The new proposal would allow migrants to be sent to countries where they have never set foot, where they know nobody, and all this without their consent, under the pretext that these countries would assess their asylum applications and offer them “protection”.
- **Establishing a European list of “safe third countries” to examine asylum applications:** this concept enables the transfer of asylum seekers to third countries considered to be “safe”, instead of processing their application in the country where it was submitted.



■ For more information, see our article: [Policy of non-welcome: Fortress Europe continues to put up more walls](#), available on the [Emmaus Europe website](#).

- The European Union plans to draw up a common list of countries to which asylum seekers could be transferred so that their applications can be examined.
- **Alignment of lists of “safe countries of origin”:** up until now, each Member State has had its own national list, allowing for expedited processing of applications on the questionable assumption that nationals of these countries do not require international protection. Going forward, a single, binding list will be imposed on all Member States to ensure greater harmonisation. Currently, this list comprises: Kosovo, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Morocco, Tunisia, along with EU applicant countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. However, many of these countries are regularly accused of serious human rights violations - which would, on the contrary, justify international protection. This arbitrary designation will prevent many vulnerable people from having access to any protection.
- **Early implementation of key measures under the Pact:** henceforth, Member States will be able to implement fast-track procedures for anyone who comes from a country where the average rate of protection granted by the EU is below or equal to 20%. These fast-track procedures are based on a cursory examination of asylum applications, which in the vast majority of cases result in rejection followed by deportation.

These legislative changes, which appear technical in nature, mark a significant turning point: they signal the gradual rejection of the very spirit of asylum law in Europe. As a reminder, the Geneva Convention stipulates that any individual has the right to seek asylum if they are persecuted on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or due to their political beliefs. It requires signatory States to protect refugees and not to return them to a country where their life or freedom would be at risk. All these reforms currently underway in 2025 could be completed by 2026. Emmaus Europe has been closely

monitoring these developments, in collaboration with its fellow members of the Migreurop and ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles) networks, in order to lobby European decision-makers.

■ RAISING THE ALARM ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE RETURN REGULATION

On 11 March 2025, the European Commission presented a new Return Regulation proposal, intended to replace the current Return Directive. This prosaic term actually conceals coercive, traumatic measures that violate fundamental rights, with the aim of increasing the number of expulsion orders. Rather than highlighting protection, housing, health care and education, the Regulation is based on repressive policies, focused on detention, forced removals and coercion.

Emmaus Europe signed an open letter denouncing and explaining in detail the implications of this new Regulation. If it is approved, the Regulation could be applied as early as 2026.

■ ERADICATING POVERTY IS A POLITICAL CHOICE

In early 2025, the new European Commission announced that it would propose an Anti-Poverty Strategy. The first European strategy on this issue is scheduled for early 2026.

Emmaus Europe has been active with the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) to rally a coalition of European organisations that can contribute to this proposal. Against the backdrop of the rise of the far right and pressure on social welfare systems, our coalition advocated a far-reaching approach aimed at eradicating poverty, with the inclusion of people experiencing poverty in the drafting of this policy. Security and competitiveness must not take precedence over social rights. We'll keep you posted on this in 2026!



STRIVING FOR A PEACEFUL EUROPE

Emmaus is a Movement that has worked for peace since it was founded in the wake of Second World War. We believe that it is by fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and equal rights, and combating discrimination in our daily lives, that our Movement is most effective in promoting a peaceful Europe. However, over the last few years, it has become clear that democracy must also be defended with weapons. We support the Ukrainian resistance against the violence of Vladimir Putin's imperialist government.

Our support does not take the form of weapons, but rather acts of solidarity. Despite the fact that we recognise that there is a need for European defence, we are concerned by the decisions taken in recent months, which have drawn European countries and the European Union (EU) into a reckless arms race. All the more so as this is being done at the expense of social and environmental policies aimed at tackling inequality and fostering dialogue between peoples – policies which should be a priority in building a peaceful Europe.

Therefore, the Emmaus Europe Regional Council decided to join the **Stop Rearm Europe** movement, as proposed by Emmaus Italy. Our intention is to support European peace movements so that their voices are still heard, 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 serve as safe spaces for peace activists to continue making their voices heard. We encourage you to organise discussions on these issues in your groups, so that we not only cushion the blows that lie ahead by building networks of solidarity and resistance, but also lay the foundations for future peace.

■ Find out more about the actions of the Stop Rearm Europe coalition: stoprearm.org



Aerial view of the European Parliament parliamentary chamber.

TAKING ACTION TO CURB SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEREGULATION

On 13 November 2025, the European Parliament voted in favour of the **Omnibus Directive**, which entails several major setbacks to social and environmental regulations. These were gains achieved during the previous term of office under the “European Green Deal”, which have been practically dismantled before they were even implemented.

One of the most important gains in our view was the due diligence directive, passed in 2024. It required companies with over 1,000 employees to guarantee respect for human rights and the environment throughout their entire production chain, including their subcontractors. This measure would have prevented new tragedies, such as the Rana Plaza tragedy when a building collapsed in Bangladesh in 2013 killing over 1,100 textile workers who were subject to appalling working conditions. Today, this directive has been rendered meaningless: the threshold has been raised to 5,000 employees, effectively exempting most companies. To make matters worse, European civil liability has been abolished. This was supposed to enable victims to take legal action against companies responsible for human rights or environmental violations. Raising the thresholds also applies to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which requires companies to publish annual reports on their social and environmental impact. As a result, fewer companies will be held accountable. Lastly, the obligation for companies to implement a climate transition plan in line with the Paris Agreement has also been removed. And all of this happened at the same time as COP30...

Emmaus Europe joined forces with over 250 European organisations, companies and researchers to address European Member States and try to save the gains of the “European Green Deal” during the trilogue when Member States, the Commission and the Parliament will make the final decision on the Omnibus Directive.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY: STANDING SIDE BY SIDE



The Ukrainian resistance also depends on mutual support and solidarity among the people of Ukraine and Europe.

UKRAINE: WAR CONTINUES AND SOLIDARITY REMAINS STRONG

For Emmaus in Ukraine, 2025 really began on 24 February, the date that marked the start of the country's fourth year of the full-scale war unleashed by Russia.

Following this momentous month, the Ukraine Fund enabled Emmaus Oselya to renovate its social housing flats, which offer transitional accommodation to companions before they reintegrate into society. Throughout the year, monthly support has continued, sustaining Oselya's work with the most vulnerable people. Let's take a look back at another year of solidarity, even in the face of war.

■ 24 FEBRUARY 2025: A MEETING WITH THE EMMAUS MOVEMENT

To mark the date, Emmaus Europe organised an online meeting between representatives of Emmaus Oselya (Lviv, Ukraine) and members of the Emmaus Movement in Europe who wanted to hear the group's news and gain a better understanding of everyday life in Ukraine.

65 people **55** groups **11** European countries

How do they cope emotionally and physically when air raid sirens are wailing every night? How do they manage to keep going when a loved one is fighting at the front?

And for Oselya, how can they welcome and support companions with dignity? How can they respond to the needs of vulnerable people, the first victims of war? Where can they find the strength and resources they need to make things better?

"The people give us strength", explained Natalia Sanotska, Director of Emmaus Oselya. "We have a responsibility to the citizens and the country where we were born. We are united. And then we have your help. When we renovated the centre (editor's note: social support centre, financed by Emmaus Europe), nobody thought it would be possible to build a building like that in wartime. And yet we managed it together, with your help."

During the meeting, Natalia and Konstantyn, companions at Emmaus Oselya, shared their stories of exile, caught between being torn away from their homes and families (like some 6 million Ukrainians since 2022), and gratitude that they have found a community that offers mutual support and solidarity.

Natalia Sanotska reminded us that Ukraine's attitude has always been peaceful, from the Orange Revolution in 2004 to the Revolution of Dignity (in 2014). Ukrainian society believed in peace right up until the eve of the conflict. And nowadays, "Putin is killing us, and we don't see any other solutions than to take up arms and resist."

Resisting is what the community has been doing for many years, with the support of the Emmaus Movement.



Social support centre

- Built between July 2022 and January 2023;
- Financed via the Ukraine Fund, totalling €285,000;
- Welcoming approximately 100 homeless people per day;
- Since February 2023, it has supplied thousands of services (see photo for 2025).



Statistics from the social support centre (in 2025) and clothing collection work by Emmaus Oselya (in 2025).

Text:

- In 2025, Oselya provided 12,716 meals at its social support centre and provided 1,166 free consultations to homeless people;

- In 2025, Oselya collected 1,183 tonnes of clothing thanks to its 40 containers located in Lviv. 107 tonnes were sold in the shop and 111 tonnes turned into waste.



In the new furniture restoration workshop at Emmaus Oselya.

STILL RESISTING

Between 2024 and 2025, Emmaus Europe and Emmaus Longjumeau funded the renovation of three floors owned by Oselya. This work cost approximately €57,000 (€10,000 from Emmaus Longjumeau, €47,000 from Emmaus Europe). Three floors were refurbished, for three different activities:

- **Renovation of the furniture workshop** in the basement (2024, €16,500 from Emmaus Europe): more space and better working conditions for the three male and female companions that reupholster and repair sofas, chairs and armchairs, etc.
- **Renovation of the shop**, on the ground floor (2024, €10,000 from Emmaus Longjumeau) to increase the retail space and create two rooms set aside for therapy sessions for children and parents (see box by Natalia).
- **The renovation of social housing flats** (2025, €30,100 from Emmaus Europe): in poor condition, these flats did not allow companions ready to leave the community to prepare for their departure with peace of mind. The support from the Ukraine Fund enabled a complete refurbishment of the communal and private areas.

In 2025, the Ukraine Fund provided €43,641 to cover Oselya's monthly costs (an average of €3,630 per month) to enable it to continue serving 150 hot meals a week, as well as covering the community's fuel costs, medicines, hygiene products and some administrative expenses.

In total, e93,408 was transferred to Oselya in 2025, with e43,367 raised through the Ukraine Fund.



Every afternoon since the start of the war in Ukraine, a demonstration has been held outside the Russian Consulate in Mariehamn (Åland, Finland) to protest against the war and the Russian invasion. The Regional Council attended one of the demonstrations during its visit to Mariehamn in October 2025.

■ Natalia Sanotska's testimonial

"There are children who have never seen what a country at peace looks like; they have always gone to school in a bunker or underground. They have only ever seen their parents stressed out, or they don't know their parents at all as they are fighting at the front. In Oselya (Lviv), we created a club for children: they come here after school to do their homework, paint on clothes or get involved in other manual activities and write."

■ Konstantyn's testimonial

"When the war broke out, we were not affected immediately, but from 3 March 2022 onwards the situation got worse. My wife and daughter left for Russia. I couldn't go because men were banned from leaving. Here at the community, I've learned a great deal. I've met people who have helped me, given me clothes, housing, a job. [...] War is a scourge and I hope no one ever finds themselves with nothing but the clothes on their back."

IN SHORT

- **Between 2020 and 2024**, the number of people taken in by the community more than doubled – from 15 to 36 – due to the war and the pandemic.
- **In 2024**, a project co-funded by Emmaus Europe and the Foundation for Housing [Fondation pour le Logement – FPL] made it possible for the community to increase the number of reception and accommodation spaces, providing more dignified conditions for its companions.
- **Since 2020**, Emmaus Oselya has distributed 600 meals per month to people living on the streets of Lviv and served over 1000 meals per month at its social centre.
- **Between September 2022 and January 2023**, the group built and opened a reception centre "for people who have lost their homes" (thanks to support from the Emmaus Ukraine Fund). The centre takes in around one hundred homeless people a day, mostly because they have had to flee war zones.
- **Since the start of the conflict**, the group has been running therapy sessions for children and adults traumatised by war (50 people per week).
- **Between 2024 and 2025**, the group renovated its shops and furniture workshop and a social housing apartment that can accommodate 11 people, to improve the reception, living and working conditions for companions.

■ THE UKRAINE FUND EXPLORED

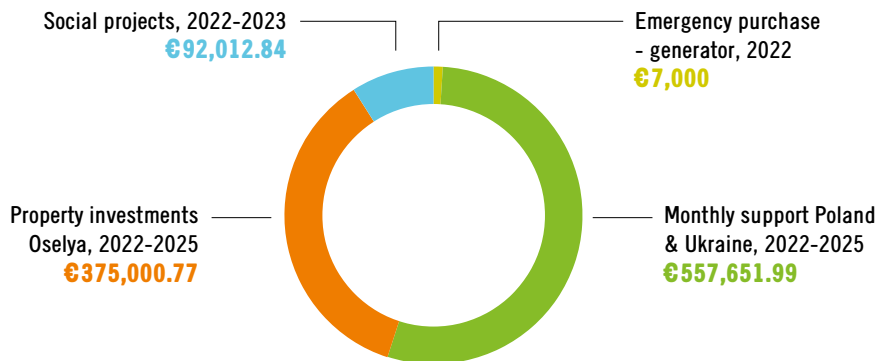
Since February 2022, the Ukraine Fund has enabled the Emmaus Movement to support Oselya, along with other Eastern European groups that support refugees.

Without this financial support, which was made possible by the generous donations from the Emmaus groups between February 2022 and the present day, it would not have been possible to support Oselya, and its activities would have been at risk. For over six months at the beginning of the conflict, when all of the group's income-generating activities had come to a complete standstill, the Ukraine Fund made it possible to cover all of the group's operating costs, continue to provide accommodation for companions, and pay the team's salaries.

Moreover, this support, now provided on a monthly basis, makes it possible to carry out social initiatives (such as distributing hot meals on the streets of Lviv) while also covering some of the social support centre's running costs.

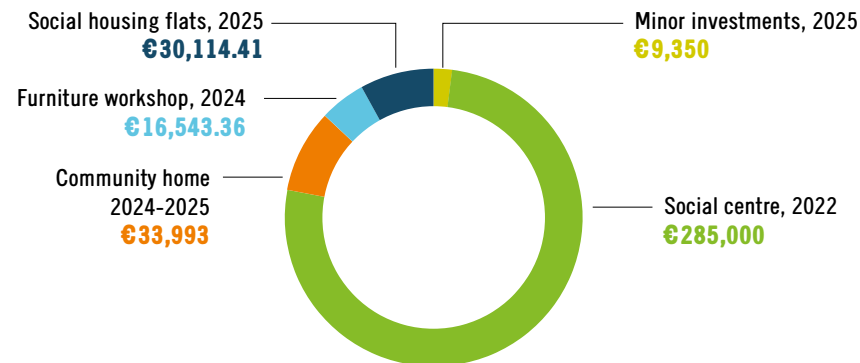
Below is a breakdown of Ukraine Fund-related expenditure since 2022. In total, over 1.19 million euros were raised between 2022 and 2025 with €1.03 million spent to date. At the end of December 2025, the remaining funds amounted to €146,000.

TYPES OF EXPENDITURE SINCE 2022 - TOTAL €1,031,665



*Social projects: support for groups in Iași (Romania) and CNZD (Croatia) to welcome and accommodate refugees, for periods ranging from six months to one year.

PROPERTY INVESTMENTS - OSELYA - TOTAL €375,000



*"Minor investments": repairs needed in the community or at the social support centre.

GREEN TRANSITION FUND, YEAR 3: INVESTMENTS AND IMPACT

Now in its third year, the Green Transition Fund (GTF) has really come into its own! In 2025 alone, no fewer than five projects were supported by this fund, with €89,471 invested over the course of the year. Set up in 2022 with an initial budget of €200,000, the GTF supported eleven projects between 2022 and 2025 (submitted by nine groups in Eastern Europe) and invested nearly €209,000 to support these groups in their green transition. Over the past three years, Emmaus Europe has received €32,000 from various groups: three donations from Emmaus communities, and a donation from the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region in France (€22,000, 50% of the proceeds from their charity shop). In each case, the savings generated by the supported projects enable the groups to launch new social initiatives or improve the living or working conditions of the people they support (see below for the impact of the projects supported).

Looking ahead, the need remains as pressing as ever, and issues of energy independence are at the forefront of discussions, particularly in the context of the war in Ukraine and the daily bombardment of the country's energy infrastructure, as well as the widespread rise in all energy-related costs.

Since its launch, the GTF has supported two types of projects that reflect our groups' need to reduce costs and increase energy independence:

- Nine projects with the installation of solar panels as a key investment; three of them also included insulation of one of their buildings (shop or community home) in their project;
- A project in Lublin made it possible to fully insulate one of the community homes.



Emmaus-IFS Project – Solar Energy for a Green Future which led to the installation, in 2022, of solar panels generating over 25,000 kW of electricity per year.

The impact of these investments is significant. Without going into too much detail on each individual project, here are some highlights:

- In 2024, the Satu Mare (Romania) group saved over €2000 on its gas and electricity consumption thanks to insulation work and the installation of solar panels. Insulation enabled them to cut their gas consumption by 20%, while solar panels cover almost 95% of the shop's electricity needs.
- In Lublin (Poland), insulation of the community home led to cuts of over 29% in their energy consumption between 2023 and 2024.
- In Krakow (Poland), the community saved almost €1500 on its energy bills in 2024 thanks to electricity generated by solar panels.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Emmaus-ISF reduced the energy costs of their rehabilitation centre in Duje by €3000/year. This centre accommodates some 450 extremely vulnerable people (with mental and physical health issues).

The environmental and economic impact of the projects supported in 2025 will be known by 2027. Performance indicators are more accurate after two years due to fluctuating temperatures.



Tbilisi, Georgia - Displaced people are living in these types of makeshift shelters in disaster-stricken areas on the outskirts of Tbilisi. This brick house is one of the best-equipped on the site. A few households are connected to the water and electricity supply, enabling the rest of the community to benefit from these services.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY IS WELL RECEIVED IN GEORGIA

Emmaus Geo is the movement's most easterly group and is certainly the smallest community in Europe as well (outside of France)!

Although home to only six companions who run a guesthouse in Kvareli, Emmaus Geo is nonetheless one of the most active communities in terms of solidarity. Thanks to its network of highly active volunteers, the community has been working for over seven years with displaced people from Abkhazia and South Ossetia, two regions annexed by Russia in 2008: in total, more than 1,200 people receive weekly distributions of clothing and non-perishable food items.

WHAT IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FUND

- A fund set up for Eastern European groups to help them cope with rising energy prices;
- A fund that enables these groups to invest in insulation materials or renewable energy to reduce their energy consumption;
- A fund that enables them to free up more resources to continue their social initiatives or launch new ones;
- A fund designed to improve the living, accommodation and working conditions of those welcomed by the group;
- A fund that can be supported by Emmaus groups that have made environmental issues one of their priorities.



- More information on the projects supported in 2025 can be found on page 6 of the 2025 European Solidarity Booklet available in the Member's Area of our website: [Solidarity > The European Solidarity Programme > Programme > Related documents.](#)

In 2025, the group appealed to European solidarity to buy a refrigerated truck, enabling it to distribute better quality fresh products (fruit, vegetables, etc.) to these vulnerable groups.

Thanks to financial contributions from the Emmaus groups across Europe, €40,000 was donated to the European solidarity fund for this project, via the European solidarity appeal.

In November 2025, Emmaus Europe therefore transferred €24,000 to Emmaus Geo (at their request), which was enough to purchase the van, cover the vehicle's insurance for the first year, and begin distributing fruit and vegetables!

The remaining funds (€16,000) will be transferred to our general solidarity fund, to respond to any emergencies or needs the European groups may have.

Emmaus Geo has a long-standing agreement with a major retail chain, which supplies the group with fresh produce. The group has built a relationship of trust with the people who receive the distributions. They have refrigerators so they can store these products.

WHAT IS THE APPEAL FOR EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY?

- An opportunity to financially support projects run by Emmaus groups and approved by the Emmaus Europe Regional Council;
- Financial support specifically for projects identified in advance;
- The opportunity for everyone to find out which projects are supported by your donations, and what tangible impact your daily commitment has.



The German groups coordinated their efforts to send a lorry to Emmaus Iași in Romania. Emmaus Köln loaded the lorry in November 2025.

TRANSPORT PROGRAMME - FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

As has been pointed out for some years now, the number of solidarity consignments has fallen sharply since 2023. This is the reality and for the second consecutive year, fewer than 80 lorries were sent to the Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe.

This observation is concerning, but it doesn't tell the whole story. Up until 2019 (116 lorries), the last year before a structural decline in the number of consignments, 12 groups regularly received goods from groups in Western Europe. After Covid-19 (2021), the number dropped to eight recipient groups of transported goods in Europe: three groups in Poland, three groups in Romania, one group in Georgia and one group in Latvia.

With 72 lorries transporting goods in 2024 and 75 in 2025, the programme has stabilised, enabling it to meet some of the needs of groups in Eastern Europe.

However, we must be clear: 75 lorries were barely enough to meet our groups' needs in 2025. In Poland, Brat Albert and Rzeszów are facing a tough financial situation, and at the same time have seen the number of lorries received by their community fall year on year; this is no coincidence.

Material solidarity between European groups is still needed to enable groups to continue their activities. A huge thank you to the groups that participate in this programme!

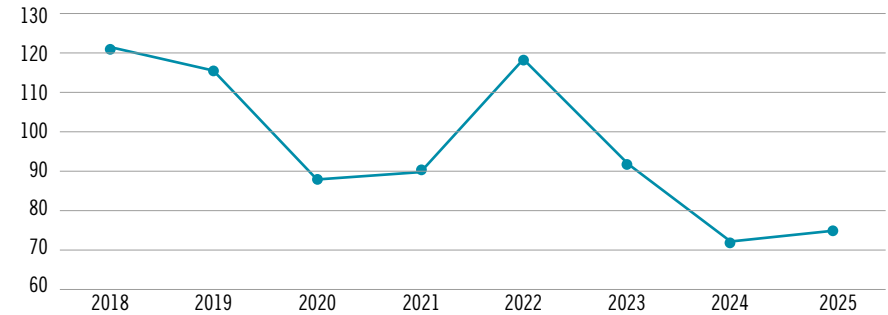
WHAT IS THE TRANSPORT PROGRAMME?

- Cooperation between the groups that receive lots of donations (often in Western Europe) and communities where local collections of donations are too low to sustain their activities (often in Eastern Europe);
- Material, tangible solidarity between Emmaus groups is an act of solidarity that creates strong bonds between the groups involved;
- It involves sending Emmaus goods (furniture, crockery, games, trinkets, etc.) via a road haulage company;
- The opportunity to give a new lease of life to items and furniture that do not sell in Emmaus shops across Western Europe: do not underestimate the value of a wooden and marble sideboard, or a three-tiered china cabinet; they will be very popular in Romania!



Loading and unloading goods from lorries are often sociable occasions and contribute to creating a positive atmosphere in both the sending and recipient communities. Here Emmaus la i companions are unloading a lorry sent by Emmaus Köln in December 2025.

TREND IN THE NUMBER OF SOLIDARITY CONSIGNMENTS DISPATCHED SINCE 2018



Changes in the number of solidarity lorries since 2018. 2022 was notable for the dispatch of humanitarian convoys to Ukraine. A drop in the number of lorries transporting goods has been observed since 2020 (Covid-19).

NUMBER OF SOLIDARITY CONSIGNMENTS RECEIVED BY EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUPS IN 2025

Country	Group	Total groups	Total countries
GEORGIA	Geo	1	1
LATVIA	Amis3	7	7
LITHUANIA	MPFSC	0	0
POLAND	Brat Albert	4	28
	Lublin	18	
	Rzeszów	6	
ROMANIA	la i	12	39
	Satu Mare	18	
	Targu Jiu	9	
TOTAL		75	



■ Find the Container Handbook in the members' area of the website: emmaus-europe.org

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: SUPPORTING EUROPEAN GROUPS

Solidarity within the movement extends beyond the European level! In 2025, two European groups benefitted from international solidarity via the Annual Solidarity Programme (ASP).

In the United Kingdom, Emmaus Brighton & Hove received €14,941 to partially fund the installation of solar panels on their shop roof. The overall project, which cost €29,941 in total, will help the group to meet 42% of the community's electricity needs (the shop is on the community premises). These energy and cost savings will allow the community to secure the necessary financing to renovate the companions' bedrooms, particularly by replacing the windows.

In Croatia, Emmaus International provided €25,000 in financial support to the TOMS group, which is a key player in inclusion and recognition of the rights of people with physical or mental disabilities in the Split region. This sum enabled the group to purchase a specially adapted van for transporting people with reduced mobility, thereby improving their access to public services.



Our Eastern European representatives in front of the Emmaus Satu Mare shop.

WELCOME TO TRANSCOLLECTIVE!

As we announced in our last activity report, it has finally been launched! In 2025, the Romanian and Poland-Ukraine collectives were merged, leading to an exclusive and historic gathering of all the groups from Eastern Europe known as the "Transcollective". **This initiative comprises our groups from Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Poland.** These groups met each other (some for the first time) driven by a shared desire to discuss their common challenges, potential solutions and best practices.

Following an introduction by each group and a presentation of the political and social contexts in which they work in their respective countries, the discussion turned to their business models and the impact of European regulations on Poland and Romania. The presence of seven of the eight groups allowed us to discuss the "core principles" that should underpin a dignified welcome at Emmaus across Europe.

This meeting was held in Satu Mare (Romania), a strategic meeting point at the crossroads of Poland, Ukraine and Romania.

The next Transcollective will take place in Paris in June 2026 and will be open to all the members of the Movement engaged in solidarity work!

WHAT IS THE ASP

- One of the main ways of financially supporting projects at the international level, available for groups from the Movement's four regions (Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe);
- A programme which helps to strengthen the economic and social activities of groups facing complex situations;
- A programme run by Emmaus International funded by the annual solidarity sales held by Emmaus groups worldwide;
- A programme that boosts the international solidarity of the Emmaus Movement.

EUROPEAN LIFE OF THE MOVEMENT

SECOND MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Since 2024, Emmaus Europe has organised an annual meeting of the chairs and chief executives of the seven national Emmaus organisations (or federations) on our continent. These meetings give us the chance to hold peer discussions about common challenges at the national level of our Movement and find solutions that may inspire others.

These meetings alternate each year between being held in person or online. The meeting in June 2025 was held online and was shorter than usual.

Nevertheless, we were able to address the ability to take action at the national level in the event of problems within groups, notably through amendments to the statutes. We also shared progress made in the various countries with regard to charters and common standards that guarantee a dignified welcome. Lastly, representatives from the National Organisations shared their concerns about the rise of the far right.



The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe met in October 2025 in Mariehamn (Åland archipelago, Finland).

WORLD FORUM OF ALTERNATIVES: NEXT STEPS

Emmaus International has funded the recruitment of one person on a one-year contract in each region to help the regions implement the decisions adopted at the World Forum of Alternatives.

In Europe, Lisa Ladenburger has joined us on a part-time basis from April 2025 to April 2026. Lisa has worked to pool the practices of European groups in the area of public awareness-raising, particularly among schoolchildren.

The aim is to raise awareness of the Movement's environmental and social initiatives and the issues it addresses. Articles, videos and a collection of best practices will be published in 2026. This has also enabled us to contribute to the development of a global campaign against overproduction, due to launch in 2027, and has fed into our campaign on the importance of good quality donations, scheduled for 2026.



Party on the football pitch in Dijon.

PLAYING FOR PEACE: SECOND EDITION!

128 people attended the second edition of Emmaus Europe's Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights. 80% were companions from 21 Emmaus groups and nine European countries. Hosted by the Emmaus Dijon-Norges community, the event once again demonstrated that football is a powerful tool for breaking down linguistic and cultural barriers and uniting people from very different backgrounds.

In addition to the football matches, two days of workshops provided an opportunity to address important issues: combating fake news, led by Emmaus Connect, followed by a session on the mechanisms of violence and tools for non-violence in everyday life, with support from IFMAN. Workshops on racism and life experiences, run by Emmaus International, also provided a space for participants to express themselves and share their thoughts, which was greatly appreciated.

The feedback was very positive, welcoming, in particular, the diversity of participants — including female and male companions and managers — and the quality of the intercultural exchanges. Next time, participants would like to focus on mental health and intercultural issues. We'll see you in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the start of July 2026 for the third edition!

OUR MOVEMENT IS GROWING

In 2025, we welcomed many new groups and among them we would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm of the French groups!

■ Trial memberships

- OTHARIN (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- SOS Famille LAVAL (France)
- Ateliers de l'audace (France)
- La Maison Sésame (France)
- ARES (France)
- Cayenne (France)
- CAE Montagne limousine (France)

■ Full memberships

- Tero Loko (France)
- Terra Alter Est (France)
- Emmaüs Maisoncelle (France)
- Emmaüs Environnement 43 (France)
- SOS Famille Pays de Vanne (France)
- Emmaüs TERRE (France)
- Terre de Milpa (France)
- Nova Generacija (Bosnie)
- SOS Familles Forbach (France)
- Ferme de Ker Madeleine - Sources d'envol (France)

■ Simplified membership

(groups that are already members at the national level, but whose membership had not been finalised at the international level)

- Relais Est (France)
- Relais Val de Seine (France)

■ One group ceased its activities

- SOS Famille Chalon sur Saône (France)

■ Two exclusion proceedings were

initiated by Emmaus France and Emmaus International against Emmaus Dunkerque and Emmaus Wambrechie.

MEETINGS OF OUR GOVERNING BODIES

The Regional Council met twice. The first time in Paris, France, and the second in Åland, Finland, where our Chair Carina Aaltonen hails from.

The Executive Committee met on three occasions: in January, July and December 2025.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT



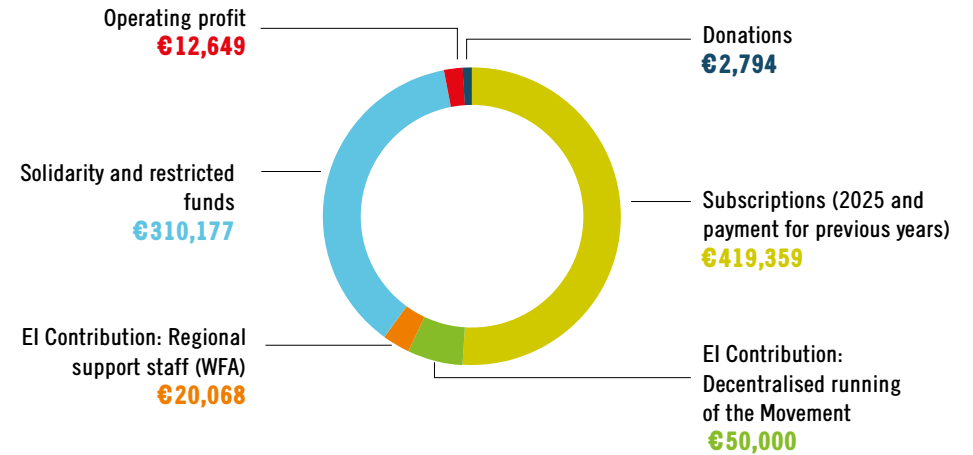
2025 was notable for:

- major events involving European groups, such as the Transcollective (Poland-Ukraine-Romania-Georgia) and the second Emmaus Europe Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights, held this year in Dijon;
- The first session of the Women's Leadership Programme;
- Continued involvement of the European groups to support Oselya in Ukraine;
- Funding of projects run by Emmaus GEO in Georgia and Emmaus Piadena in Italy under the European Solidarity Programme (ESP);
- The roll-out of the Green Transition Fund, with a total of five projects funded.

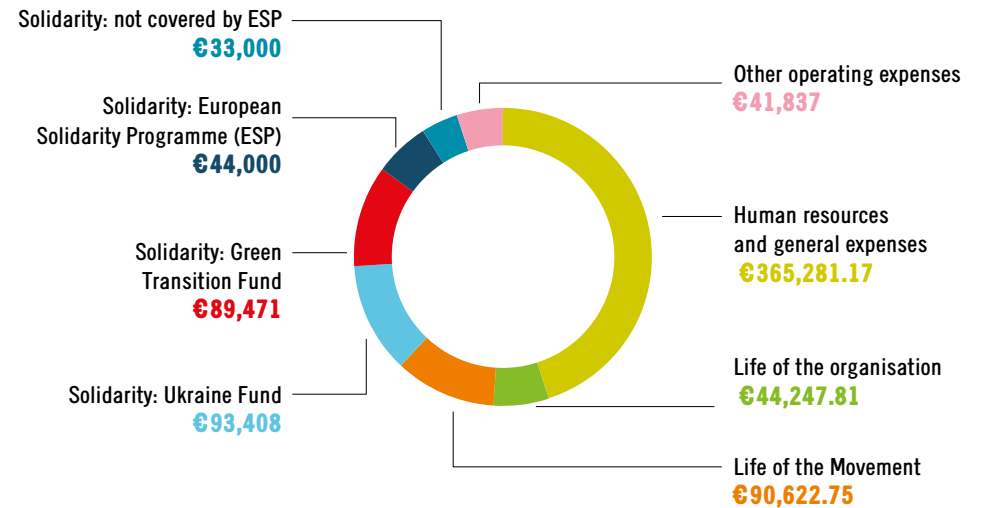
Our total expenditure amounted to €801,868 and our revenue to €815,047, resulting in a surplus of €13,179, which, as is customary, has been transferred to the organisation's reserve fund.

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

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE





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emmaus

EUROPE

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

Emmaus Europe is the decentralised organisation of Emmaus International in Europe.

