



Dear friends from Emmaus,

After two months without a proper newsletter, we are finally back and we have plenty of news and lots of events to share with you...

This month, we have been focusing on the European Commission's launch of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. On the solidarity front, there are two major developments to highlight. We will share the 2026 Solidarity Booklet with you, and outline the impact and future of the Green Transition Fund.

Finally, you can (re)discover the videos filmed in Spain, France and Italy, focusing on the groups' efforts to raise awareness among young people, and the accompanying best practices guide!

Happy reading, all!

The Emmaus Europe Team

Table of Contents
- Green Transition Fund: Year 4: Sustainability at the heart of Emmaus Europe's work
- Raising awareness among young people about our values and our causes
- Europe's first anti-poverty strategy!
- Three Emmaus group projects to support financially in 2026
- Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights: Last chance to register!
- Meeting on the Italian - French border: Towards a world without borders

Top Story

Green Transition Fund, Year 4: Sustainability at the heart of Emmaus Europe's work



Caption: The IF-S-Emmaus project - Solar Energy for a Green Future - which, in 2022, saw the installation of solar panels generating over 25,000 kWh of electricity per year | © IF-S-EMMAUS

There we have it - the Emmaus Europe Green Transition Fund (GTF) celebrated its fourth anniversary in April 2026! Set up in 2022 with an initial budget of €200,000, the GTF has already supported twelve projects submitted by nine Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe. Emmaus groups can contribute to this fund to improve the support provided to companions.

A total of €230,000 has already been invested to help these groups reduce their energy costs. In terms of funding, Emmaus Europe has received €32,000 from Emmaus groups over the past four years: three donations from Emmaus communities, and a donation of €22,000 from the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, raised through their solidarity sales.

The impact of the investments made is truly tangible! Here are a few examples: Continue reading...

Emmaus stories

Raising awareness among young people about our values and our causes

Many Emmaus groups across Europe work with schools to raise students' awareness of overconsumption, solidarity and environmental issues. As well as promoting these values, these initiatives help to introduce the next generation of citizens to the Emmaus movement. We went to meet some of them.

There is no shortage of ideas for engaging in - and raising awareness about - the Emmaus movement among students of all ages! Many groups do, in fact, work with primary schools, secondary schools, sixth-form colleges and universities on a regular or ad hoc basis. Identified at the 2024 Forum of Alternatives as a key driver for promoting solidarity-based reuse, raising awareness is now a fully-fledged activity within the movement.

To move towards this goal, we decided to document the practices of several experienced European groups working in this field through videos and a best practices guide. We set off at the end of 2025 for Spain, France and Italy, where we were welcomed by five different groups. Continue reading...



European action

Europe's first anti-poverty strategy!

On 6 May 2026, the European Commission published EU's first-ever anti-poverty strategy. This marks a significant and long-awaited step forward in the fight against social exclusion.

Together with our partners in the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and the coalition of NGOs to which we have contributed, Emmaus Europe welcomes the progress and commitments set out in this strategy. We do, however, have serious concerns. The lack of a comprehensive long-term vision and adequate resources undermines the Commission's stated objective - to eradicate poverty by 2050.

Recognition of the role of social economy, a focus on children, progress in tackling homelessness and the fight against discrimination.

Among the principles for effective anti-poverty policies (to be implemented at national level), it is proposed to support employment and social inclusion services provided by social enterprises, and to develop practical skills related to employability. This approach is directly in line with the work of the Emmaus groups. Our members can use it to strengthen their influence on public policy - particularly as national anti-poverty coordinators are set to be appointed at the highest political level in every European country.

The strategy also reveals ambitious targets regarding child poverty, with the aim of breaking the cycle of exclusion from a very young age. In practical terms, it plans to strengthen the European Child Guarantee (by improving access to healthcare and social support), to broaden access to public services for all children, and to extend support during their transition to adulthood.

Another positive aspect is the recognition of the need to combat discrimination and stigmatisation, which both contribute to exacerbating poverty. It identifies the groups most at risk of social exclusion - women, racialised communities and ethnic minorities (including the Roma people), LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities and children.

It is also worth noting that new avenues are opening up to better tackle homelessness and housing exclusion. A recommendation from the Council on housing exclusion is being proposed, and the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness is being maintained. Read more...



© European Union, 2026, licensed under CC BY 4.0

Solidarity

Three Emmaus group projects to support financially in 2026



Does your group wish to provide financial support for practical projects that have a tangible impact, and directly benefit our members and those in our care? It's possible! All these projects are presented in detail in the Appeal for European Solidarity Booklet!

Download the 2026 Booklet

In 2026, you can support three wonderful projects run by the Emmaus groups in Lithuania, Portugal and Bosnia and Herzegovina. From improving support for victims of human trafficking in Lithuania to ensuring children's safety on their way to school in Bosnia and Herzegovina, your groups' donations will make a real difference to those they help! Only donations from Emmaus groups can fund these projects.

How does it work?

Every year, Emmaus groups across Europe can submit 'solidarity projects' to the Emmaus Europe secretariat. These projects are funding applications aimed at making tangible improvements to the living, working and welcome conditions of our companions, or at enabling these groups to develop a new economic and/or social activity.

Following a support process led by the Emmaus Europe secretariat, these projects are approved by the elected representatives of the Emmaus Europe Regional Council and presented in the above booklet. Once these projects have been funded, the secretariat then monitors their implementation.

Agenda

Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights: Last chance to register!

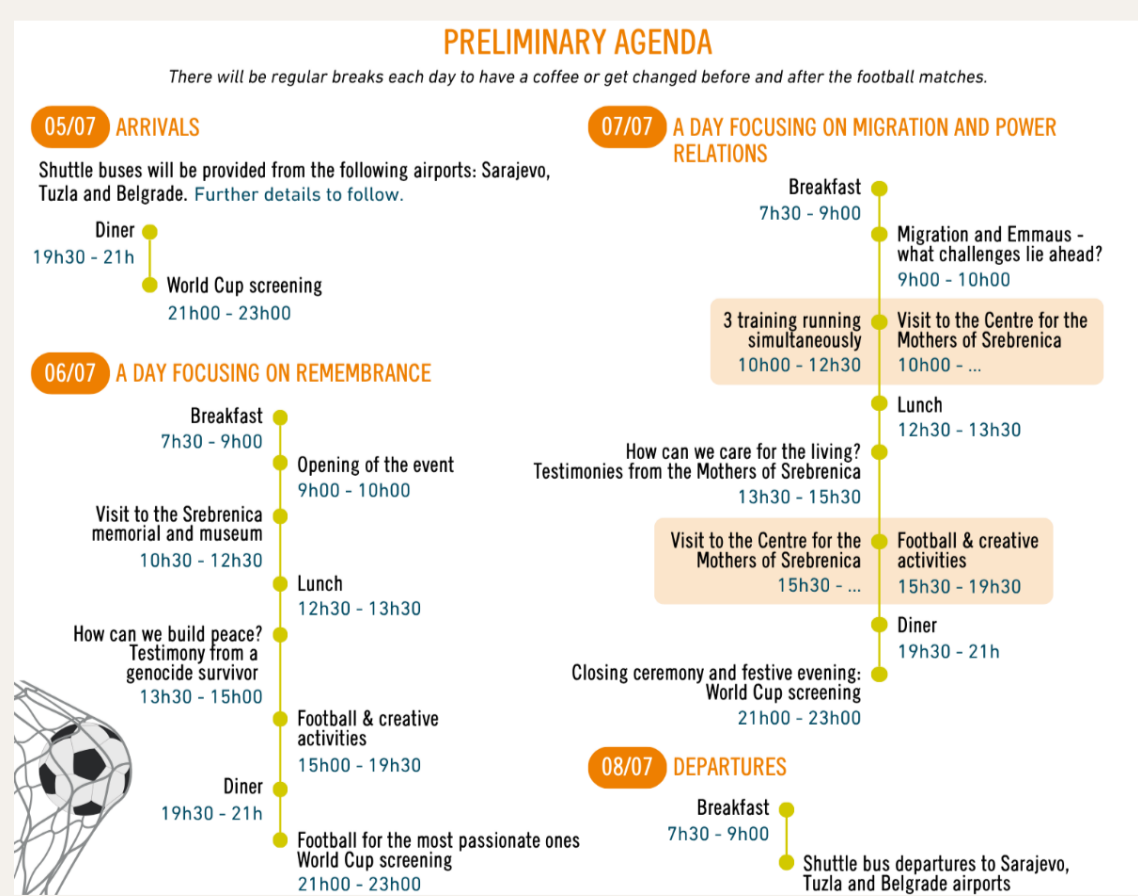
Join us in Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from 5 to 8 July 2026 for the 3rd edition of the Emmaus Europe Football Cup for Peace and Human Rights!

By taking part, you'll get to experience the Emmaus movement in Europe in a whole new light: workshops, training sessions and testimonies, as well as sports and creative activities (football, volleyball, drawing and painting workshops, and more). Check out the programme below. Interpretation will be provided in French, English and Spanish!

We look forward to welcoming many of you to join our team of champions. Sign up now!

Registration deadline: 15 June 2026.

Sign up!



Meeting on the Italian - French border: Towards a world without borders

On 12 and 13 June, the Emmaus community in Cuneo, in the Italian region of Piedmont, is organising a solidarity conference at the border to welcome exiled persons.



Representatives from Emmaus groups in France and Italy, as well as from Emmaus Europe, will be speaking alongside other partners. The aim is not only to analyse policies and share best practices, but also to build towards future joint campaigns. A special sale will be held to raise funds for these solidarity initiatives. You are very welcome to join! More information here.

