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EUROPE

GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICES FOR OUTREACH IN SCHOOLS

#letsshareourgoodpractices

ITALY

The **Emmaus Italy federation** decided to create a dedicated role for outreach in schools and universities.

Nicola Teresi has therefore been travelling across Italy in this role for the past 10 years, conducting outreach on peace, nonviolent communication, overproduction, and other themes that interest students. Nicola offers a yearlong program for high school classes that consists of several 2-hr sessions; this gives the students time to learn and reflect.

These sessions are usually part of the school's broader civics education program. Through informal discussions, debates, and visits to Emmaus groups, the students learn about Emmaus groups' activities and the movement's values.

THE CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM

In Italy, each teacher must dedicate a few hours of their course to civics education. This can take various forms: visits, guest speakers from associations, workshops, etc.

This mandate is often the entry point for Nicola's work, and Italian schools are thrilled to have Emmaus Italy take care of this part of the curriculum. The agreement enables Nicola to visit the same class several times throughout the year in order to offer a comprehensive civics and political education program on the Emmaus values.

→ [Click here](#) for the video about Emmaus Italy's outreach.

FRANCE

Many Emmaus groups in France conduct activities in schools, and Emmaus France has a role dedicated to youth outreach. Within the context of this project, we present the example of Emmaus Mundo, a group that created an educational game that Emmaus France now uses.

At **Emmaus Mundo**, Marion is the Head of Communication and Outreach. She visits primary and secondary schools around greater Strasbourg to teach children about the Emmaus values.

She typically leads one-off sessions in the schools. Each class learns about the circular economy and solidarity through discussion and games. A significant part of the time is also dedicated to combating different types of discrimination.

But Marion also welcomes school groups to the Emmaus Mundo site. Here, students take a tour through the depot and different parts of the store and do a scavenger hunt to learn about the journey of items destined for reuse.

Marion uses slideshows, images, games, and other resources like comic strips to get children thinking.

EXAMPLE OF IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITY WITH MARION

2 hrs with students who are 9-10 years old

Introduction (10 minutes)

Discussion about Emmaus: its activities, how it works, its concept of solidarity (20 minutes)

Games (30 minutes)

Class separated into two groups (10-15 students). One stays in class with Marion and the other goes to a different room with their teacher. The two groups then switch so they can play both games.

→ Game 1: Story game

The students get a mixed-up set of cards. Each card represents one stage in the life of an item given to Emmaus: purchase of a new product, use, donation to Emmaus, sorting, then resale as a second-hand item. The goal is to get the students to work together in small groups and focus on putting the cards in the right order.

→ Game 2: Sorting game

An adult gathers the students around a game board. The board has different outcomes written on it: Give to Emmaus, Fix, Sort, and Throw Away. This game has cards with different items on them. For each one, the students think about what the next stage of life could be for the item.

Break (15 minutes)

Mini presentations (45 minutes)

All students return to the classroom and form small groups. Each group receives a comic strip focusing on different ideas that are part of the Emmaus movement's struggles: racism, refugees, discrimination, diversity, etc.

The students must study the comic strip and then present their takeaways to the class. Each presentation is followed by a short discussion in order to answer the children's questions and ensure that they have understood the ideas in the comic strips.

RESOURCES USED:

Illustrations by the artist Elise Gravel (in French and English): <https://elisegravel.com/>

Marion's games are available on Emmaus France's extranet under the tab *Jeunesse* (Young people) > *La mallette pédagogique* (Educational tools).

→ [Click here](#) for the video about Emmaus Mundo's outreach in Bishheim.

SPAIN

Public outreach is important to many Emmaus groups in Spain, and they conduct various activities to this effect. Within the context of this project, we focused on the Navarre groups and two southern Basque Country groups.

The **Emmaus group in Pamplona** has been working with the Community of the Navarre Region for several years to bring students to their site. Two outreach coordinators employed by the municipality welcome school groups three days per week throughout the year. The students have two-hour sessions at the centre for recycling and reuse.

The class is split into two groups to watch a video raising awareness about the exploitation of Earth's resources, play games about the life cycle of objects, and then visit the warehouse to see the sorting spaces and the store.

→ [Click here](#) for the video about Fundación Traperos de Emaús Navarra's outreach in Pamplona.

Emmaus Bilbao hosts student groups of all ages up to university upon schools' requests. Permanent staff welcome the students and play a video about the Emmaus group's activities. After a Q&A session, the groups visit the store and other spaces depending on their interests and what their teachers have requested. During these visits, students can also talk with Emmaus staff who are on workforce-reintegration contracts.

→ [Click here](#) for the video about Emaús Sociedad Cooperative de Iniciativa Social's outreach in Bilbao.

At the **Emmaus group in San Sebastian**, it's Aizpea, an employee, who welcomes school groups. Students visit as part of specific projects in partnership with public institutions. Each project is unique and can take different forms for the students. When touring the Emmaus site, the visit starts with discussion with the students about overconsumption and reuse. Then the students visit the sorting warehouse and learn about each sub-speciality from the employees.

→ [Click here](#) for the video about Batuz Gizarte Fundazioa's outreach in San Sebastian.

WHAT ARE THE GROUPS' TOP TIPS?

MAKE THE SESSION MEANINGFUL

- **Do hands-on work:** upcycling, crafts, etc. There are plenty of things to do with items donated to Emmaus in order to show what reuse is all about. **Emmaus Italy**
- **Start the session by getting to know each other a little:** setting aside time for discussion makes it possible to learn about students' expectations and create a connection in order to have fruitful discussions! **Emmaus Italy**
- **Use board games to raise awareness:** it's well known that we retain things better when we learn them through play. This is the best way to do outreach with the youngest groups, typically about objects' life cycle. **Emmaus Mundo and Navarre**

STRUCTURE YOUR SESSION

- **Show a video to introduce the group:** a video is the most efficient way to deliver a lot of information in a flash! Often, videos make it easier to communicate complex messages and information, especially for older children. Videos can be fun for

smaller children. They catch their attention and communicate abstract ideas in a more accessible way. **Bilbao and Navarre**

- **Have information about the group’s activities visible throughout the visit:** big posters and informational signs help introduce the activities taking place there. Since the information is continuously visible, the students can make their way through more independently and the visit goes more smoothly for the tour leader. **Navarre**
- **Alternate small-group activities with collective discussions and presentations** in order to keep the session flowing and keep students interested. **Emmaus Mundo**

INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO THE SOLIDARITY ASPECT OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- **Encourage students to bring an item to donate:** a book, a stuffed animal, a piece of clothing, a toy, or something else. All of these are good ideas for introducing the concept of donation at a young age. **Emmaus Mundo**
- **Let the students choose a donated item to take home:** allow the students to choose one of the items that has been donated en masse (books, CDs, clothing, etc.). This way, they can try out second-hand shopping. **San Sebastian**

SOME STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:

“I didn’t know what to do with my things to give them a second life, but now I know what I can do!”

Student, Spain

“Today I learned how second-hand stores work. Stuff is cleaned and prepared for sale. I saw the trucks come and go. It’s very interesting.”

15-year-old student, Spain

“I liked it a lot. I learned that no matter who you are or what you are like, everyone must respect each other.”

9-year-old student, France