



Dear friends,

We were last in contact in late June, and somehow it is now the end of September! So, what has been going on over the past three months in the Emmaus Movement and our European groups?

Summer 2026 has been marked by extreme weather-related disasters and phenomena across Europe. Repeated heatwaves, uncontrollable wildfires, waterways, rivers and groundwater sources running dry; these weather events have affected our minds and bodies, and the living creatures that surround us. How can the Emmaus Movement continue to take action in the light of the climate challenges of today and the future? How can we protect the people that we support at a time when these effects are all too real? We know that you have all started to address these issues, and we are keen to discuss the topic with you at our General Assembly in April 2027 in order to develop a shared response.

In the meantime, in this newsletter you will find out how Emmaus Netherlands has managed to top the bill at the year's biggest concerts. We also take a look at the EU budget in order to make it into an instrument for combating poverty.

As for solidarity work, September is the month when our 2027 call for projects is made. So now is the time to submit your projects for funding and/or support this year's projects if you have not already done so.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

The Emmaus Europe team

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Top Story

Emmaus Netherlands hits the right note with youth!

Since spring 2025, the Dutch Emmaus groups have been making the most of the country's most popular music events to collect items and raise awareness. Emmaus Netherlands has also recruited a large number of young volunteers by partnering with key actors. Interview with Yvette Gumbs, the Netherlands National Delegate, who reveals the recipe for this success.

How did this project start?

Yvette : It all started with a call from Billie Eilish's manager in early 2025.

The US singer-songwriter already knew about Emmaus International's work and is a very committed environmentalist. Her manager got in touch with me before the start of the Dutch tour in order to get advice about reducing the environmental impact of the five tour dates scheduled for May 2025 in Amsterdam.

I then contacted Mojo, the main ticketing platform in the country (for concerts, festivals and so on, to suggest a partnership with them. The conversation focused on a simple observation: increasing numbers of concertgoers camp for several days outside venues, leaving all their camping equipment behind the minute the doors of the venue open. So, the idea this time round was for Emmaus to collect these discarded items instead of the local council picking them up and throwing them away!

A large number of volunteers and employees of Emmaus Bilthoven helped out during the event. It proved to be a very rewarding and powerful experience. We were able to wander among the 17,000 Billie Eilish fans who came each evening and raise their awareness about over-consumption, fast fashion and the Emmaus values, and collect their camping equipment.

Since then, we have attended over 25 concerts and festivals, including Bruno Mars, Harry Styles and The Weeknd. This has opened new doors for us, not only in Amsterdam. We tend to prioritise events that will attract lots of young people.

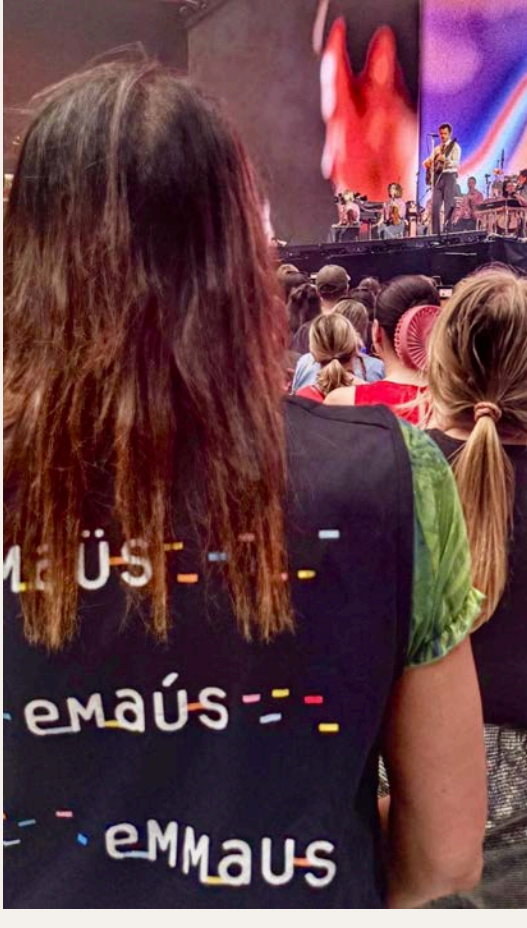


Photo taken during Harry Styles' concert | © Emmaus Netherlands

We also attended the Lowlands Festival at the end of August and collected the items left at the campsite once the festivalgoers had left. After a big sorting operation, we redistributed them to homeless people and shelters for undocumented migrants. We also sent some of the goods to Ukraine.

Does Emmaus Bilthoven run the project by itself, or have you received support from other groups?

Initially, Emmaus Bilthoven met the demand for the Billie Eilish concert, but we grasped that this was too big a project for the group to run without support. [Read more...](#)

European action

Play a part in the 2028-2034 EU budget negotiations in order to combat poverty



© European Union, 2026

For several weeks the various players from the EU institutions have been negotiating the **EU budget for the next seven years**. The Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) has a direct impact on our anti-poverty efforts and the initiatives run by the Emmaus groups.

For the time being, the proposed budget is in draft form, with the MEPs, national ministers and Heads of State having to take a decision on it.

We already know that there will be a complete overhaul of the EU's funding structure. For instance, the Commission has suggested combining a large number of programmes, including the European Social Fund (ESF), into a single budget. **In this draft version, a single budget would fund the defence industry, reception policies, the Common Agricultural Policy, and anti-poverty policies, among other areas.** Funding would not be earmarked for specific areas.

Given the balance of European and national political power in the EU, we fear that the budget that could be allocated to supporting social inclusion or improving migrant reception provision could in fact be used to fund security or ecological policies.

However, the European Commission has pledged to actively combat poverty in its Anti-Poverty Strategy published in May.

We are therefore **calling on you to take action** and ask the MEPs, ministers and Heads of State to champion during the budget talks a fair budget that provides protection for people living in poverty and/or migrants. The Emmaus Europe Chair has already begun this advocacy work by flagging up the issue to the budget rapporteur at the start of the month.

We have a few months to make our voice heard in the talks. The budget is scheduled to be adopted in September 2027.

We have produced **email templates** so that you can play an active part in Emmaus' advocacy on this subject. The templates include an invitation to MEPs to visit your groups to gain a greater understanding of their reality. All these resources are available on our website.

Please contact [Lily Mardique](#) at your convenience about getting involved in this key moment in the EU's lifecycle.

[Download the email templates](#)

Solidarity

Support the renovation of the community house in Lisbon



Your group can make a difference by improving the living conditions of the Emmaus Canecas companions | © Claire Robert

Every year, Emmaus Europe approves the projects submitted by Emmaus groups, and then makes an appeal to the movement to fund them. Your donation therefore provides an Emmaus group in Europe with practical help. This year, Emmaus Europe approved three projects, and they were presented in the 2026 European Solidarity Appeal booklet. This month, we are taking a look at the project run by Emmaus Canecas in Lisbon in Portugal

We already featured Emmaus Canecas in the [June newsletter](#), focusing on their cultural impact in the Amóios neighbourhood of Lisbon, their creativity, and their ability to include volunteers in their everyday work. However, Emmaus Canecas is also a residential community that runs two second-hand stores, and houses 15 companions in their Canecas community house.

Humberto took over the leadership in 2023, assisted by Ophélie, and the community needs a large-scale renovation to improve companion living conditions. The roof and the façade, which most definitely needed repairing to prevent leaks and damp, were further damaged last February as a result of two storms that hit Lisbon. The group had already got in touch with Emmaus Europe about renovating the roof before the storms hit the Portuguese capital.

Emmaus Europe therefore rubberstamped the funding application made by the group (€12,000) to renovate the community's roof and consequently provide decent living conditions for all of its occupants. This work is planned in partnership with Emmaus International via their Emergency Fund (€12,000) and the Foundation for Housing (€42,000).

The amount to be raised from the European Emmaus groups is €12,000. Your support will make a positive difference to the lives of the Emmaus Canecas companions.

If you wish to support the project, please send your donation by cheque or bank transfer to Emmaus Europe, marked **"Lisbonne – Toiture"** or contact [Emmanuel](#) for any additional information.

Please take a look at the European Solidarity Appeal Booklet if you require more information.

[Download the 2026 solidarity booklet](#)



Call for projects: benefit from the Emmaus Movement's solidarity!

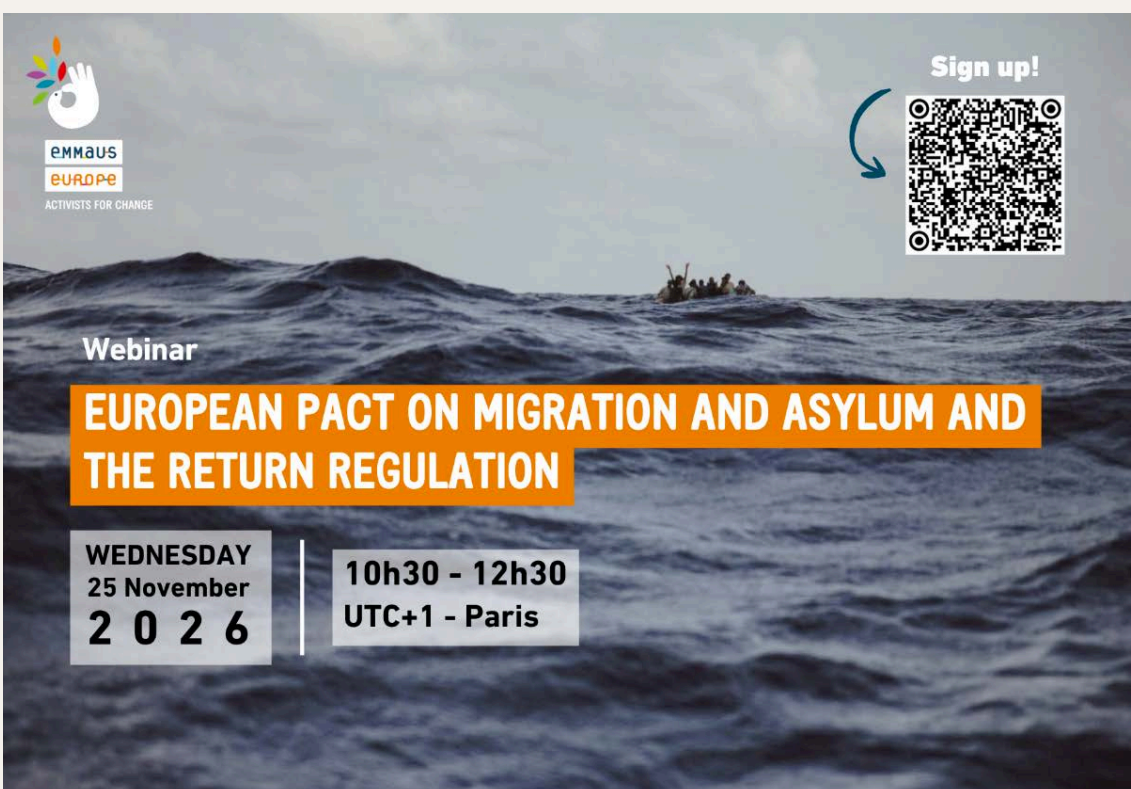
Just like Emmaus Canecas (Lisbon), you can submit a solidarity project funding application to Emmaus Europe. If your group is planning to develop a new solidarity initiative, replace or acquire new work equipment (such as a truck or sander), renovate a building (community house or shop), and wants to benefit from movement funding, you can download the documents found below.

NB: Your group must be up-to-date with its obligations to Emmaus Europe (membership dues) and Emmaus International (membership dues and annual solidarity sales).

- Download the [information document](#) (criteria and explanations)
- Download the [application form](#)
- Download the [projected schedule](#)
- Download the [projected budget](#)

Agenda

Webinar on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum and the Return Regulation



Emmaus Europe is putting on a webinar on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum and the Return Regulation. French, English, Spanish, and Italian interpreting will be provided.

Date and time: **25 November from 10:30 to 12:30** (UTC+1 - Paris).

Let's figure out together these new European laws that are devastating for human rights. And let's organise ourselves to limit the damage caused by their implementation and take action to maintain proper provision for migrants in Europe.

[Please register here for the webinar](#)



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