

RIGHTS FOR US ALL

How Emmaus groups are putting the movement's priorities into action - together

Lake people central to Nokoué project



Since 2008, the people of Lake Nokoué have been running an organisation, with the aim of preparing themselves to manage the water and sanitation service on their own.

Over 250 people came to the organisation's general assembly on 11 December. The first two water supply networks have been up and running for a year now and the financial outlook is encouraging. The

organisation's executive committee has been elected, meeting with the statutory requirements on equality.

The Nokoué dwellers demonstrated their growing involvement in the programme by asking questions and taking part in discussions about finances, governance and problem-solving. Their involvement is now well and truly at the core of the project.

Migration on the big screen

Emmaus International is working with other organisations to promote a film, *Ceuta, Prison by the Sea*, released in France on 29 January 2014.

It tells the story of five migrants who gave up everything, and end up imprisoned on the outer edges of Europe. It explores their uncertainties, hopes and feelings about life in an open-air prison. The film yet again lays bare the need for migration policies to be reviewed, so they're based on equal rights and the right to global free movement and settlement.

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POINT OF VIEW → Valentina Ceol, Chair of Nuevo París, Uruguay

The young people we welcome at our community have left the standard education system. We offer them two to three-year training courses in hairdressing, cookery and computing, and workshops on body and artistic expression. We try to pass our values on to them – values based on solidarity, sharing and tolerance – so they grow up to be socially responsible men and women.



GO FOR IT!

Emmaus in Lampedusa

→ From 4 – 5 April, Emmaus groups in Italy are running an event, 'Lampedusa, city of Europe', alongside the Emmaus Europe board meeting. The idea behind it is to debate the issues of asylum and migration policy with representatives of Emmaus International.

The passport cover designed by Oliviero Toscani for the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC) is now available. For 2 euros, stand up for freedom of movement and support the OUC! To order a passport cover: contact@o-c-u.org

Make a splash

→ Since 1993, 22nd March has marked "World Water Day". It gives groups a chance to campaign for access to water for the world's poorest people and reiterate that public, community-based management of water is possible, as illustrated by the Nokoué programme. Let's keep up the fight in 2014!

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International training to take off

→ From 16 – 22 June, a training course in Montreuil, France will bring together Emmaus activists from the four corners of the world. They'll be equipped to lead workshops in their regions on three themes: techniques for mobilising Emmaus groups, leading an organisation and how Emmaus International works.

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Appeal marked across the globe

The four Emmaus regions have marked the 60th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's 1954 appeal to help the homeless. In France, supporters knocked down a cardboard "wall of poverty", whilst the UK communities put beds outdoors to encourage people to consider what it's like sleeping rough. In India, Tara Projects invited students, thinkers and NGOs over for a cup of "solidarity tea", to discuss Emmaus's philosophy. In Burkina Faso, Emmaus Solidarité Ouagadougou held a public debate about Abbé Pierre's legacy, whilst Emmaus Igualdade in Brazil discussed the significance the 1954 appeal has today.



Emmaus Björkå's appeal

Scores of Palestinian refugees have been forced to flee to Lebanon because of the crisis in Syria. In response to their suffering, Emmaus Björkå in Sweden made an emergency appeal to the movement in 2013. As a result, 26 groups came forward to back the appeal.

The 23,500 euros raised has clothed and fed 820 people (including 770 children), provided medical treatment, helped put on summer activities for them and has encouraged "self-sufficiency and solidarity between individuals", says Louise Thorn from Emmaus Björkå.

Emmaus Oselya, Ukraine



Olesia Sanotska and Maryana Sokha were involved from the start at Emmaus Oselya, in Ukraine. They reveal the challenges they faced when setting up the group...

In 2001, we found out there was an Emmaus group in Poland. We supported the movement's ideas and wanted to develop the same activity in Ukraine", says Olesia, Community Leader. "When we started out, the Ukrainian government didn't recognise the existence of homelessness or poverty. There weren't any institutions working on those problems."

The group was set up in 2002. Maryana joined as student social worker. Despite the difficulties the organisation faced, there was a great deal of optimism. The idea of Emmaus was very innovative in post-Soviet Ukraine, but Oselya rose to the challenge. To support itself financially, the organisation collects clothing, furniture and second-hand goods in and around Lviv, a first for an organisation in Ukraine. Gradually, new solidarity projects are springing up: emergency shelters, homeless outreach initiatives, day centres, a street magazine, and a training and furniture repair workshop.

The next step is to further develop Emmaus in Ukraine. Olesia would like to share her experiences so the Emmaus values are embraced by other groups. "These values of solidarity, sharing and respect shouldn't only be shown by organisations that help people, but should spread to every sphere of life and relations between people", she says. Emmaus Oselya is proud to have hosted the Emmaus Europe board meeting in October 2013. It enabled the representatives of 15 countries to discover its dynamism, and boosted the group's feeling of belonging to a global movement, which it joined in 2010.

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ A book of secrets

Former General Secretary of Emmaus International, Jean-Marie Viennet, and René Pujol are signing a new book about Abbé Pierre. Jean-Marie Viennet was a confidant of Abbé Pierre.

Le secret spirituel de l'abbé Pierre (Abbé Pierre's spiritual secret) pulls together their ideas about what drove Abbé Pierre's action throughout his life: faith and prayer.

→ America regional board meeting

From 8 – 11 January, 8 national delegates, the regional executive committee, Emmaus America secretariat and 3 representatives of the Emmaus International secretariat met for the America region's board meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay. Discussions centred on the groups' involvement in the priority areas, possibilities for regional training and preparations for the 2016 world assembly.

→ Nokoué café

Emmaus Chambéry in France has opened a café in its shop to support the Nokoué programme in Benin. Manned by volunteers four afternoons a month, the bar offers inexpensive drinks and provides an opportunity to chat to customers and tell them about the programme while they help finance it.

SAVE THE DATE

18 – 24 March

Meeting of the regional secretariats, Montreuil, France

20 – 21 March

Poland/Ukraine Collective, Lublin, Poland

3 and 6 April

Europe regional board meeting, Lampedusa, Italy

4 – 5 April

'Lampedusa, city of Europe' event

24 – 30 April

Emmaus International board meeting, Tohoué, Benin

Nathalie Péré-Marzano, former Chief Executive of the Research and Information Centre for Development (CRID) will become Emmaus International's new Chief Executive on 3rd March.

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members are signed up to the Asia healthcare scheme.

An Emmaus International publication – 2014
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Publication director: Jean Rousseau and the communication steering committee
Text and layout: Marie Flourens, Marie-Anne Dubosc.

Graphic design: Nicolas Pruvost
Photo credits: Emmaüs International
Translated by: Laura Sharpe

Solidarity Sales

→ WHAT?

Every year, the solidarity sales help raise enough funds for the world's Emmaus groups to launch or boost their activities, and solidarity funds for the movement (for emergencies, the container programme, regional funds and road shows). It also gives Emmaus groups the chance to make the international movement known and promote their international work.

→ WHO?

All the groups in the movement are concerned. Sharing resources within the movement is a collective commitment so disadvantaged member groups can develop their activities. That's why every group must contribute by holding a solidarity sale. Groups that don't have an income-generating activity can replace the sale with any other kind of fundraising event.

→ WHEN?

The solidarity sale is held by groups once a year, in June. The period is flexible though, so groups in each region can hold their sales at a suitable time.

→ HOW?

The sale comes in a variety of shapes and sizes, depending on the groups running them: some hold special events, others allocate the proceeds of one day's sales to international solidarity.

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