

RIGHTS FOR US ALL

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

Healthcare evaluation



Members of the mutual health insurance scheme in Asia met in late 2013 to evaluate its second year of running at Tara Projects in India and Thanapara Swallows in Bangladesh.

With 1700 members and many service users (10 570 consultations at Tara Project's health centre, 1494 distributions of medicines and medical analyses at Thanapara Swallows in

2013) the scheme is meeting its aim of enabling the most disadvantaged people to work together to secure access to healthcare.

The next challenge in India is to improve governance by electing an executive, while in Bangladesh it is to increase the number of members to improve services, especially for serious risks.

Members of the African and Asian schemes will meet in Montreuil to discuss their experiences at the end of the year.

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World Water Day 2014

On 22 March, groups around the world campaigned for access to water, one of Emmaus International's six priority areas. In Benin, 150 people showed their support while sailing across Lake Nokoué, whilst in India and Bangladesh, Florence Home Foundation and Thanapara organised awareness-raising meetings.

A number of European groups held special sales, the proceeds of which will go towards Emmaus International's Nokoué programme.

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POINT OF VIEW → Kamal Zamroud, beneficiary of microcredit loans from AEP (Lebanon)

Since 2000, Emmaus AEP has granted me five microcredit loans which have helped me set up my plant nursery. The loans are reimbursable over two years, with lower interest rates than bank loans. In 2006, during the conflict between my country and Israel, five bombs exploded in my plant nursery. I had to start all over again, but luckily AEP was there to help.



GO FOR IT!

Nokoué work camp

→ From 17 – 30 the fourth work camp on Lake Nokoué in Benin brought 25 participants together, including two from South America and Asia. The first week was spent at the Lake planting trees for the future wastewater treatment plant. The group then went to visit the Beninese organisations, Pahou, Tohouè, AFA and Metokan to help out with their activities.

Paris Salon

→ The fifteenth Paris Salon for international solidarity will bring together 160 groups on 22 June at the exhibition centre at Porte de Versailles. The proceeds of the salon will help finance Emmaus groups' projects promoting ethical finance and a solidarity-based economy, including microcredit lending in Africa and Asia, a social enterprise in Europe and pilot projects in North and South America.

Appeal to EU candidates

→ With the EU elections coming up on 22 – 25 May, Emmaus Europe has called candidates' attention to migrants' lack of rights and to the need for the most disadvantaged people's rights to be respected. Emmaus Europe has invited candidates to visit Emmaus groups to get a feel for their daily lives, and take part on 6 May in a debate at the Poudrière community in Belgium on 'humanist utopias in Europe'.



Solidarity sales

Solidarity is what makes Emmaus tick. The movement is built around its work helping the most disadvantaged people. That's why Emmaus groups worldwide have committed to holding a sale every year specifically for solidarity. "Every year, these funds go towards 20 projects run by Emmaus groups and are also used in case of emergencies, for example" explains Emmanuelle Larcher, head of the solidarity department at Emmaus International's secretariat. Go ahead and organise your very own solidarity sale this year. Without you, the movement wouldn't exist!

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Regional secretariats team up

From 17 – 24 March, staff from the four regional secretariats (Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe) met with the international secretariat in Montreuil, France. The aim of the meeting was to improve communication between the secretariats, which hadn't met since 2008. It gave them an opportunity to introduce themselves, share working methods and resources and talk about how they can work together in future. They also visited the Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre, giving them a chance to find out about our movement's heritage.

23 May: Universal Citizenship Day



On 23 May last year, more than 400 people gathered at UNESCO for the official launch of the Organisation for Universal Citizenship, set up by Emmaus International, the France Libertés – Danielle Mitterrand Foundation and Utopia Movement.

The OUC presented universal citizenship passports to several migrants and public figures and made clear its intention of “Overcoming years of ostracism of freedom of movement”, in the words of Jean Rousseau.

The event got the OUC off to a flying start and it has since presented 100 people with universal citizenship passports. It’s also continued campaigning in international forums for the universal citizenship passport to be recognised as a tool for freedom of movement and for an international conference to be organised, with the backing of the United Nations, about freedom of movement and settlement.

After a successful first year, the OUC wants to dedicate the day to freedom of movement. This 23 May, an appeal will be put out so “Everyone who shares our ideas comes and joins us”, says Stéphane Melchiorri, head of priority action at Emmaus International’s secretariat.

There’ll be several opportunities this year to speak out and mobilise support for these issues: the global forum on migration and development in May, the world social forum on migration in December in Johannesburg and International Migrants Day on 18 December.

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ Safeguarding our documentary heritage

In 2012 Emmaus International and the French Ministry of Culture decided to nominate Abbé Pierre and the movement’s archives to be put on UNESCO’s ‘Memory of the World’ register. The application will be submitted in February 2016 and assessed in 2017. A great opportunity for our documentary heritage to gain worldwide recognition.

→ Your answers for the new website

18% of Emmaus groups answered the questionnaire about Emmaus International’s website make-over. 70% said they only rarely consult the current website, whilst three quarters said they don’t use the Planet Emmaus website. The results of the questionnaire will be used to help develop the new website.

→ Online platform about human trafficking

Using its wealth of experience fighting human trafficking since 1999, the International Forum of Solidarity in Bosnia–Herzegovina has recently inaugurated a European online resource centre for the prevention of trafficking. There’s a great deal of information on the website, which aims to provide the means to fight this issue. <http://www.eurcenter.net/>

SAVE THE DATE

2 – 3 June

Values committee, in preparation for the next world assembly:
Montreuil, France

16 – 22 June

Trainer training:
Montreuil, France

9 – 10 September

Container days:
Toulouse, France

23 858

migrants have died or disappeared on Europe's borders since 2000

(source: The Migrant Files).

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Applying a decision made by the board of Emmaus International

→ WHAT?

Every year, the board meets to implement the guidelines, proposals and decisions set out by the general (or world) assembly, which meets every four years.

The board then makes decisions which steer the movement's work.

→ WHO?

The executive committee is made up of the chair and seven Emmaus International board members, representing the Emmaus regions. It's responsible for applying the board's decisions. To do that, it relies on support from the international secretariat.

→ HOW?

The executive committee meets every two months to apply the board's decisions. Each executive committee member has been assigned a specific matter to monitor: the priority areas, administration, coordination, communications, finance, training or solidarity. Depending on the subject matter broached, the world councillors are also included in the reflection process.

→ WHEN?

Once the action plan has been approved, the executive committee and international secretariat implement the decision by mobilising support from all the groups in the movement. They rely on support from the regional executive committees and secretariats.

