In Sao Paulo, we have an innovative approach to immigration. We believe that migrants are as much part of the city as anyone else and must, therefore, be fully integrated. We protect their rights, but, more than anything, we try to give them the means to be independent. I’m very interested in Emmaus’s perspective as it not only condemns current policies, but also proposes an alternative, namely freedom of movement at the international level.”

Conference for alternative migration policies

To mark its 2nd birthday, the Organisation for Universal Citizenship organised a conference on the theme of “Alternative Migration Policies” in collaboration with several French and international organisations. The conference took place in Paris on 22-23rd May and brought together nearly 180 activists (including experts on migration, migrants, civil society organisations and local politicians). These activists analysed and assessed current migration policies, and discussed alternative models, some of which are already in place in parts of the world. As a result of the conference, a “roadmap” was drawn up, which will allow politicians, institutions and citizens to work towards an alternative and democratic international migration system. The proceedings from the conference will soon be available on our website.

Women’s Day at Florence Home Foundation

Florence Home Foundation (India) organised its annual day of events to mark international women’s day. More than 150 women who receive micro-loans from the foundation took part, as well as local businesswomen, who shared their experience and expertise with the women. The foundation’s micro-loans allow women to be more independent by earning their own income. Their activities include providing photocopying services, running restaurants, selling fish, growing crops, dairy farming and raising livestock.

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GO FOR IT!

Container Days in Rédéné

The next containers days will be held on 29th and 30th September in Rédéné (France). All groups in the region and some UK groups have been invited to take part. The day’s objectives are to inform groups about the practicalities of sending a container and to motivate new groups to take part in the programme.

For more information, contact: Paola Da Fonseca – p.dafonseca@emmaus-international.org

Become a member of the international board

The next Emmaus International board members, who will take up their roles after the 2016 world assembly, will be elected at the upcoming regional assemblies. Anyone who works with an Emmaus group that is a member group of Emmaus International can stand for election. Would you be up for the challenge? For more information, contact your regional secretariat.

Second stage of the values project

The second stage of the values project begins in June. Now that we’ve identified our shared values, the next step is to understand how these values are put into practice in our daily work. Keep an eye on your inbox and visit the dedicated website: https://sites.google.com/siteassembleemondiale2016/

Paris salon

The Paris salon will be held at Porte de Versailles on 14th June. Nearly 140 French and European groups (from Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, the UK, Switzerland, Ukraine and Sweden) are expected to attend the 16th salon. This year, the salon will be celebrating international solidarity. It’s an opportunity to remember what makes solidarity in the Emmaus movement different, with our focus on sharing resources and fighting the causes of poverty on an international scale! Proceeds from the salon will fund projects proposed by Emmaus groups all over the world, to be selected in 2016.

A new warehouse, thanks to the sales

In 2014, the Emmaus group Igualdade no Brasil was finally able to build the warehouse it had been planning for a long time. This new building, which is 480m2, will protect companions from bad weather, improving their working conditions and allowing them to better store supplies and repair equipment. Thanks to their new warehouse, the group hopes to be able set up new solidarity projects. Find out more about solidarity projects funded in 2014 in the new edition of the “2014 International Solidarity Review”, which has just been published.
The 2016 world assembly

The next Emmaus International world assembly will be held from 18th to 23rd April in Jesolo (Italy). All Emmaus groups from all over the world, whether full or trial members, are invited. We are very excited to be able to tell you more for the first time...

Jesolo, in Italy, is a holiday resort close to Venice. After the 2012 world assembly in Anglet, it was decided to hold the 2016 world assembly in Italy for policy and practical reasons. “Our assembly will be held in a country where there is a high level of engagement in our movement, where activists are active and numerous, united by the values of our movement,” explains Jean Rousseau. “Holding the assembly in Jesolo gives us the chance to bring together as many of the people involved in our movement as possible!”

The objective of the world assembly? To breathe new life into our movement by reminding us all of the values that we share and of the guiding principles that will guide our movement in the coming years. We will then review the last four years, particularly our international solidarity initiatives and policy and campaigns. Surveys on these two areas, which are at the heart of Emmaus International’s work, were launched in 2014, and will be completed by the end of 2015. The initial results from these surveys will be sent to groups so that all can be as prepared as possible for this event, which only takes place once every four years.

A list of the most important dates between now and the world assembly will be sent out in the near future. One of the most important dates to remember is September to the end of December 2015, which is when you can register for the assembly. You can find all information relating to the world assembly under the “World assembly” section of the intranet. We hope to see many of you there!
The Abbé Pierre archives

→ WHAT?
Abbé Pierre’s sole legatee or heir, Emmaus International’s mission is to “spread his message and good works, and preserve his memory”. One of our duties is to preserve and promote the personal archives we inherited from him, which are a valuable treasure.

→ WHEN?
At the end of 2000, Emmaus International deposited its archives and those of Abbé Pierre at the French national archives in Roubaix. An archivist has been going through the archives (paperwork, posters, photographs, audio and video recordings, etc.) and drawing up an inventory with the support of Brigitte Mary, the first permanent member of staff at Emmaus International. Some work was done in 2001, and the current work started in mid-2009 and will be completed in April 2017.

→ HOW?
The archivist sorts, classifies and cross-references information; cross-checks the material; draws up an inventory; and carries out research to add more information, all to make the archives accessible to researchers and to the public. She also assures that the archives are stored in such a way as to protect them from age or damage.

→ WHAT FOR?
Drawing up an inventory and studying our archives closely brings Abbé Pierre’s work to light. This work can lead to exhibitions, books, reviews, films and online resources. In the future, we will develop a multimedia database to make it easier to access this information. We are also preparing to submit some archives to UNESCO’s Memory of the World register.

30 000 photographic prints have already been added to the inventory, and the work is far from finished!