COP 21: Civil society joins forces!

From 30 November to 11 December 2015, France will be hosting the 21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21). The objective is to reach a universal agreement on the climate and limit global warming to 2°C. In the lead-up to the event, more than 130 French civil society organisations have joined forces to form Coalition Climat 21, which asserts that the COP21 negotiations will not be sufficient to combat climate change and all the inequalities it brings with it. In response to this urgent situation, the coalition is inviting civil society to rally together to show that there are alternative solutions. Emmaus International is supporting this initiative. In early December, a number of events will be taking place around the world - feel free to act as a spokesperson for Emmaus at these forums!

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Update on the mutual health funds

A mission to Tara Projects (India) has just been conducted in order to review the mutual health fund set up four years ago, and the results are encouraging! In the space of a year, the fund’s membership has increased from 1,750 to 2,127. Health-care services are also developing rapidly and the fund has established partnerships with seven health centres. Prevention work (hygiene awareness, etc.) is ongoing with a view to reducing the frequency of consultations. Currently, 67% of health-care costs are self-funded compared with 56% a year ago. The next two missions will be to Bangladesh and Burkina Faso.

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“It is an honour for Italy to be hosting the World Assembly. The World Assembly is a meeting place and an opportunity to fulfil the political responsibility we inherited from Abbé Pierre. Although we’ll have to spend a few days away from our respective groups, it is important that we decide our future together and become actors, rather than just extras.”

Marie Luisa Testori, Emmaus International councillor from 2016 to 2020
GO FOR IT!

World Assembly registration – only one month left!

➔ You only have a month left to register for the Emmaus World Assembly, which will be taking place from 18 to 23 April 2016 in Jesolo, Italy. Come and meet the 343 Emmaus groups from around the world and help establish our key focuses for the next four years!

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Migrants Day appeal!

➔ 18 December is International Migrants Day. To mark the occasion, the Organisation for Universal Citizenship will be going public with an official appeal for an international change in migration policy, which it has been preparing for several months. It will also be growing its family of universal citizenship passport holders. More information to come!

2015 results of the container project

➔ By the end of 2015, we should have sent 59 containers! The container training days held in Rédéné in early October encouraged new groups to get involved in this solidarity initiative.

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Improving Emmaus accommodation

In 2015, the Abbé Pierre Foundation joined forces with Emmaus International to fund selected projects aimed at improving the accommodation offered by Emmaus groups in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. The ten selected projects focus mainly on building and renovating accommodation for companions, establishing shared spaces to develop community life and building capacities for hosting and accommodating groups. A similar initiative will be implemented in 2016 - submit project proposals to your Regions by the end of December!

Your solidarity with Bosnia

In October 2014, Emmaus International launched an emergency appeal following flooding in Bosnia. Through the joint efforts of 14 groups, we were able to raise €23,240. Using those funds, the local Emmaus group IFS carried out a number of solidarity projects to benefit the affected population – 1,000 meals were distributed from December 2014 to May 2015 and packs of food and hygiene products were distributed to 110 people in May 2015. Lastly, eight family homes in Doboj and Šamac were rebuilt thanks to this solidarity initiative. Many thanks to everyone involved!
Results of our policy and campaigns and solidarity work

In anticipation of the World Assembly, Emmaus International assessed the involvement of the groups in political campaigning and international solidarity. Here is a summary of the results.

At the last three World Assemblies, Emmaus groups from around the world decided to commit collectively to the six key policy and campaigns areas. In early 2015, six volunteers visited 134 Emmaus groups from 29 countries to review their commitment. The study revealed that 73% of the groups were involved to varying degrees in at least four of the six areas and that 85% of the groups were conducting specific grassroots activities relating to the various issues. However, that strong commitment demonstrated on the ground was not resulting in a great deal of political campaigning, notably with local and national decision-makers.

The study on the groups’ commitment to international solidarity indicates that more than half of them, from all four regions, are participating in one of the Emmaus International programmes, are taking part in salons or have responded to emergency appeals. However, the momentum for international solidarity has slowed in recent years. In 2014, for example, only 55% of the groups held solidarity sales. The organisations seem to prioritise local or direct solidarity, the impact of which is can be measured instantly.

How can we rethink our actions and campaigns in order to find new momentum? Are our modes of engagement still relevant? How can we develop our initiatives? All these questions will be discussed at the World Assembly!

See the results on the intranet: www.emmaus-international.org/intranet (Username: intranet ; password: 1949)
Electing the Chair of Emmaus International

→ WHAT?
The chair of Emmaus International is elected by the member groups. He or she chairs the World Assembly, the Board and the Executive Committee and is also a member of the latter two bodies.

→ WHEN?
The Chair is elected at the World Assembly for a term of four years, which may be renewed once. The next Chair will therefore be elected on 22 April 2016 and serve until the following World Assembly in 2020. Applications for the position of Chair must be sent to Emmaus International before 4 March 2016.

→ WHO?
Candidates for the position of Chair must have been an active member of the movement for at least five years and have the support of their member organisation, national organisation or regional organisation, or at least 5% of the member organisations. Each candidate must draft a candidacy letter accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a work programme, as well as a declaration from the candidate’s National Organisation and Regional Organisation that they have no objection regarding his or her integrity and honesty.

→ HOW?
The member organisations in attendance at the World Assembly elect the Chair by secret ballot. Election in the first round requires at least two-thirds of the votes, whereas a simple majority is required in the second round.

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