

SAVE THE DATE

16 – 17 March

Values committee and 2016 world assembly steering committee meetings

24 – 28 March

World Social Forum, Tunis

22 – 29 May

Emmaus International board meeting, Montreuil, France

23 May

OUC international meeting

3 – 6 September

Emmaus Europe regional assembly, Manchester, UK

Marta Deudero Mayans, head of the accounting and finance department and **Blandine Denoncin**, external fundraiser, have now left the international secretariat and will soon be replaced.

75%

of the world's Emmaus organisations are involved in at least two of Emmaus International's solidarity programmes.

An Emmaus International publication – 2015
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Photo credits: Emmaus International

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The world assembly

→ WHO?

The world assembly brings together all Emmaus International's member and trial member organisations. It's the highest body of Emmaus International as it may exercise all the movement's powers. It also sets the movement's direction for the following four years and elects members to sit on the governing bodies.

→ WHEN?

The world assembly meets every four years for about a week in one of the countries that offers to host the event. The next world assembly will be in April 2016, and will be held in Europe. The country is yet to be determined.

→ WHAT?

The world assembly provides an opportunity to take stock of the previous four years' work and set the movement's direction and priority areas for the next four years. The world assembly's decisions are made by Emmaus International's member organisations, which are each entitled to vote.

→ HOW?

Discussions take place in large, plenary sessions as well as in small groups. The proposals that come out of these discussions are then voted on by the whole assembly. The board, which elects the executive committee, also meets for the first time at the world assembly. The chair of Emmaus International is elected directly by the world assembly.



RIGHTS FOR US ALL

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

World Social Forum, Tunis



Emmaus International is going to the next World Social Forum in Tunis, Tunisia, from 24 – 28 March 2015.

The delegation includes executive committee members and activists, Patrick Atohoun, from Emmaus Pahou in Benin, who will be speaking about the right to water and Renzo Fior from Villa Franca in Italy who will be there to speak about international migration.

Our representatives are to lead workshops with other organisations and will make a proposal for there to be an international agreement on migration and universal citizenship. In other workshops, Emmaus will share its experience of public and community management of water and of helping to support the transition to democracy – in a country where this is still a crucial issue. Workshops will also be run on access to fundamental rights, common resources and ethical finance.

Nokoué meeting

Emmaus organisations involved in the Nokoué programme met on 4 February in Montreuil, France. Construction work to build the infrastructure is winding up, so the priority is now to raise awareness about hygiene.

Although support from the main backers will come to an end this year, it's still important that all Emmaus organisations support the project so it's successful over the long term.


Efforts will now also focus on drawing on the Nokoué project to develop policy. All members of the movement will then be able to challenge the authorities to implement public and community management of water.

POINT OF VIEW → In preparation for the world assembly, Grégoire Chauveau, 26, has volunteered to help conduct a survey about our priority areas

"I'll be spending three months with Emmaus organisations in Asia and Europe to find out more about their involvement in Emmaus International's priority areas. I can really identify with the movement and its values, the fact it disagrees with just receiving handouts, works to collect and recycle goods, is non-religious, and campaigns for fundamental rights. I was thrown in the deep end for 10 days at Emmaus Angers (France) and now I can't wait to meet other Emmaus organisations in other countries and find out about their daily lives..."



GO FOR IT!

Like us on
Facebook! 

→ Emmaus International is now on Facebook. Come visit and “like” Emmaus International’s page to find out more about the movement and its activities, as well as our campaigns for change.

You can also share the page with your contacts...

Set a date for your annual solidarity sale

→ Now’s the time to start getting ready for your 2015 solidarity sale. Set a date, put aside goods to sell and organise a special solidarity event. This year, the solidarity sales will pay for projects that are to be approved by the board in May 2016.

Solidarity booklets

→ A booklet about the 2014 container programme will soon be coming out. It’s the second year in a row that this kind of booklet is to be issued.

You’ll find details about how receiver organisations used the goods sent by container last year, and the activities they’ve been able to develop by receiving them. Copies will be sent to you by post at the end of March.



Europe collectives meeting

The Europe collectives allow Emmaus organisations to meet, discuss their activities and come up with solidarity initiatives in response to the needs of others – for example financial support, work camps, or sending goods and equipment.

The Poland-Ukraine collective is to meet from 13 – 14 March in Cracow, Poland. During the event, a community house that’s been supported by international and European solidarity since 2009 is to be officially opened. The Europe region also coordinates the Bosnia-Herzegovina and Romania collectives.



Solidarity convoys sent to Calais

Up to 2500 migrants are living in atrocious conditions in Calais, France. Emmaus France has been sending relief convoys to migrants there since October, with support and involvement from local Emmaus organisations that have been on the front line supporting migrants for years. Emmaus activists have been sending goods ranging from shoes to duvets – so far, more than 30 vanloads have been sent.

After the rally in Calais on 18 December, Emmaus International, Emmaus Europe, Emmaus France and the OUC are still calling for policy change. A letter will soon be sent to French Members of Parliament.

Work and training in Brazil



From 18 – 29 January, the Americas’ ninth work camp took place in Cachoeira, Brazil. For the first time, this work camp also included training workshops...

Around a hundred participants (companions, leaders and staff) from the whole of the Americas region, as well as France, Burundi and Burkina Faso, took part in the Joao Benevides work and training camp, which was named after the founder of Emmaus organisation, Igualdade, which hosted the event.

The Americas region wanted to give the work camp an additional component, so they brought together work and training for the very first time. “With these work camps, which are part of our region’s identity, we want to reinforce activism, political engagement and good management of Emmaus organisations”, explains Jorge Ambiado, the regional executive committee’s rep for training and project coordinator. “There were workshops on these themes, which aimed to support those who are new to Emmaus and encourage them to take on a proactive and mindful approach to their involvement in the movement.”

Workshops were led by regional trainers during the morning, covering subjects such as management, running creative projects, self-sufficiency, advocacy, understanding political contexts, and on the life of Abbé Pierre and on the movement’s values. The afternoons were spent doing the usual Emmaus community work – sorting through waste and clothing, and doing carpentry work and repairs.

A big sale and rally were also organised, helping to raise awareness in the region of Emmaus and its work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ Go for our logo

Emmaus International’s logo has recently been updated. As before, there are also versions for the Emmaus regions, countries and member organisations. If your organisation would like to use the logo, please get in touch with us by email: communication@emmaus-international.org

→ Our Emmaus values – next stage coming up!

Over 45% of member organisations joined in the first stage of the initiative to think about our Emmaus values. The answers have been collected up in each country and the regions are now summarising them. The board will examine a summary of all the contributions in May. The next stage will start in June and will determine the guiding principles we follow when putting our values into practice.

Visit the website: <https://sites.google.com/site/assemblemondiale2016/>

→ Kinto official opening

Every three months, the Nokoué steering committees meet in Benin, bringing together the programme’s stakeholders. The Kinto site is to be officially opened in March, marking the end of the water-access construction work. The opening is especially important as locating a source of safe drinking water there was particularly difficult.