

News from the international Movement

→ A look back at World Water Day

The events run by the Emmaus groups this year for World Water Day were a great success. A truly varied range of activities was put on in some 10 or so countries. About 40 Emmaus groups raised over 50,000 to help fund the Nokoué project in Benin either by holding special World Water Day sales or allocating the day's takings to the initiative.

Close to 25 groups also ran local lobbying initiatives in order to defend drinking water access for all and awareness raising campaigns to demonstrate to the general public that water is a precious asset that we must use sparingly. Examples of initiatives include events and meetings at Thanapara Swallows in Bangladesh, an event aimed at children at Emmaus Cabriès or with another local organisation at Rédéné in



France, exhibitions at St Albans and a cake sale at South Lambeth (UK) and bear witness to the commitment of the grassroots groups. ■

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→ Emmaus Paris Salon



The 14th edition of this big annual meet-up will take place in Paris in France on Sunday 16 June 2013 to the delight of tens of thousands of socially-responsible shoppers. Once again, themed areas will present Emmaus' occupations and expertise, while upcycled items and Made in Emmaus clothing will be showcased and sold. Europe will be showcased this time round with several European Emmaus groups in attendance. The profits from the sale will be used to fund the work of two groups in Bosnia

and Lithuania that combat human trafficking and some of the regional solidarity programme. ■

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→ Assembly memories

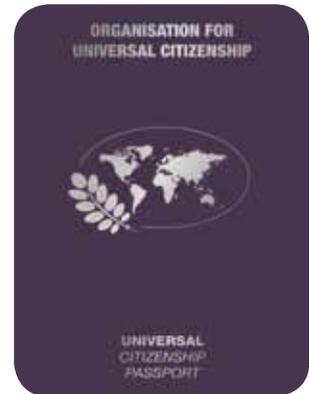
A short film has been made using the many hours of footage shot at the 2012 World Assembly. The film takes a look back at the key moments from the plenary sessions and was made by PixoAssociation's Christophe Gagner, who is also a volunteer at Emmaus Bayonne. The film also contains several testimonies provided by participants about solidarity issues. The French language version of the film is available on the intranet. ■

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→ The OUC takes its first steps

The World Social Forum (WSF) held in Tunis (Tunisia) on 26-30 March was the first opportunity to present the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC) to civil society activists. They particularly liked the ethos of the organisation which seeks to be an umbrella organisation for all the relevant actors – migrants, non-profits, the general public and above all individual countries. The organisation's stand enabled us to chat with the Forum participants, make contacts and hand out a large number of universal citizenship passports – specially designed for the occasion – to interested people. Several conferences and debates on migration and freedom of movement took place, including the Convergence Assembly, which highlighted the OUC due to its broad-based, international, practical and ambitious work to foster freedom of movement and settlement worldwide.

The next phase will take place on 23 May at UNESCO in Paris. The 23 May will be the chance to gain greater media coverage for the OUC. A conference, the official handover of passports to public figures and victims of repressive migration policy, and a call for the UN to organise an international conference on the issue, will form part of the day. ■ Stéphane Melchiorri: s.melchiorri@emmaus-international.org



→ The elected members in action

The Emmaus International Board met on 8-13 April 2013 in Roubaix in France. The aim of this meeting of the Councillors of Emmaus International was to vote on the action plans that will implement the decisions of the



World Assembly for the coming four years. In addition to the annual, policy and financial reports, the Board also approved the groups that will benefit from the 2013 container programme and the projects that will be funded within the framework of solidarity in 2014. Finally, the elected members took advantage of their trip to visit local Emmaus groups and the 'Abbé Pierre, brother of the poor and agitator for peace' exhibition created using the personal archives of our Movement's founder. ■

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→ Dates for your diary

Emmaus International Executive Committee: 30 May - 1 June

Emmaus Europe Training Course on Values (Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre in France): 17 – 22 June

America Region WCTNG meeting (Montevideo, Uruguay): 23 – 24 June

Emmaus America Regional Council in Montevideo (Uruguay): 25 – 30 June

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