

AMICI DI EMMAUS

Annual report 2023



Amici di Emmaus
Associazione ETS
Dal 2022

Associazione di supporto
dell'ONG Emmaus di Kharkiv, Ucraina
Fondata nel 2011



Riccardo Zagaria
President of
"Amici di Emmaus"

WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT

In these uncertain times, marked by the intensification of the war in Ukraine, our annual report presents an opportunity to take stock of the progress made, but above all to highlight the significant impact of our initiatives, made possible thanks to the indispensable support of a network of supportive and friendly relationships

The essence of people is eternal, and the only concrete attitude is attention to the individual: this has been the most important discovery we made this year, meeting and accompanying 150 Ukrainian refugees. The life of the Association is the life of each of the individuals we have met and whom we would like to continue supporting, especially in such a profoundly distressing time.



Elena Mazzola
President of
"Emmaus" NGO

Our operations in Italy, supported by the collaboration of 14 employees and more than 30 stable volunteers, emphasize the crucial importance of uniting forces between the non-profit sector, the business world, and volunteering. The reality of war has pushed us to confront unprecedented challenges, demanding a prompt response from us to address the pressing needs of our friends, often in situations of great difficulty.

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Thanksgiving
meeting
07.01.2024

AMICI DI EMMAUS

Who are we?

Amici di Emmaus is an Italian association founded in Milan in October 2022 to support the Ukrainian NGO Emmaus of Kharkiv (2011), which since the beginning of the war has transferred part of its activities to Italy to protect the most vulnerable people.

Beneficiaries

Young people with disabilities, young orphans, and refugees.

ITALY Lombardy Region

In Italy, after the outbreak of the war, Emmaus reorganized its activities to support the daily lives of the youth. Additionally, it has welcomed and continues to accompany Ukrainian refugee families.

Annual Budget 2023: € 600 000

150 ukrainian refugees
accompanied and supported

1 residence
for 20 people

14 employees

1 workshop
an artisanal laboratory for people with disabilities

7 apartments
for refugee accommodation

30+ volunteers

Mission

To build a space of friendship and create conditions that focus on the dignity and responsibility of young people with disabilities and orphans, to accompany them in the discovery and realization of their personal potential.

Vision

To create a bridge of exchange and sharing between Italy and Ukraine.

UKRAINE Kharkiv Region

In Ukraine, Emmaus has implemented emergency and reconstruction projects, strengthened support for the remaining children in the country, and initiated a support program for young people with mental disabilities and their families.

Annual Budget 2023: € 160 000

Emergency Annual Budget: € 1 572 000

60 vulnerable families
with children with disabilities accompanied

2 properties
for social projects

8 employees

5 orphans
protected and accompanied

10+ volunteers



OUR STORY



The NGO Emmaus is founded in Kharkiv.

2011



The first annual Dante Fest is organized, an event of exchange and socio-cultural promotion that brings together Ukrainian and European social and cultural works.

2015



Ten years after its founding, Emmaus has 2 owned buildings, 9 managed houses, and 35 young people under its care, including youth with disabilities and orphans.

2021



Through a solidarity network, almost all staff and young people move to Italy, while part of Emmaus continues to operate in Ukraine.

February 24 2022



Emmaus moves to Milan and opens a house in the Bovisa area.

September 2022



Development and implementation of an inclusive rehabilitation program for families raising children with mental disabilities in Kharkiv begins.

January 2023

2013

The project “La Casa Volante” is born, a place to accompany young people leaving state institutions in the challenges of their new adult life.



2017

“La Casa Volante,” the first house owned by Emmaus, is inaugurated.



January 2022

Emmaus’ Board of Directors decides to evacuate some young people to Italy before the outbreak of war.



March 2022

Emmaus’ staff and young people are welcomed by friends in a holiday home in Val Seriana, in the province of Bergamo. Emmaus also works on the evacuation and reception of Ukrainian families seeking refuge in Italy.



October 2022

The support organization “Associazione Amici di Emmaus” is founded in Milan.



October 2023

Emmaus’ Board of Directors decides to establish in Italy indefinitely. Emmaus is now looking for a building to renovate.



EMMAUS HOUSE



“For Emmaus, ‘home’ means a place of family relationships, ‘it’s that safe place where young people can embark on the journey of self-discovery and become adults capable of taking responsibility for their own lives and the world. This responsibility always arises in dialogue with people they trust.”

Elena Mazzola
President of the NGO “Emmaus”

Development of the method

The idea of a large community house was born as a necessary development of the project “La Casa Volante”: the growth path of the first girls of the House highlighted that their traumas (abandonment and physical disability which tends to worsen over time) do not allow them to think of a definitive stability outside of some form of shared life in close contact with the Emmaus ‘family’ that welcomed them.

In the final years of its work in Ukraine, Emmaus had already understood the importance of a large house. The evacuation to Italy made it possible to experiment with this type of coexistence.



Since September 2022, Emmaus has rented a HOUSE in Milan in the Bovisa area (via Mercantini 28). In practice, it consists of two three-floor buildings with shared spaces for living together and private areas for each individual. The House currently accommodates 18 people, including Emmaus’ youths and adults.

The House welcomes not only the accompanied individuals but also friends, volunteers, and partners, inviting them to actively participate in the life of the house.

CAMPAIGN “WHERE IS MY HOME?”



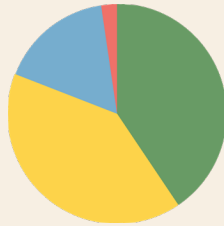
The image for the campaign was created by the artist Giorgio Bordin. The artist's words:

“I had in my eyes the images of buildings torn apart by bombs and I compared them with the logo of the Association, which is a simple and naive little house, like that of children. I imagined it nestled in the wound, otherwise incurable, of those battered buildings; like a source of light and warmth, in a period of the year, for those who live in the midst of war, the cold was not just a metaphor.”

Due to serious uncertainties about the future, Emmaus decided, at the beginning of 2023, not to consider returning to Ukraine safe for at least another year. Subsequently, in April 2023, it launched the fundraising campaign “Where is my home?” to support the cost of renting the House in Bovisa and the activities of the youths for one year.

The campaign reached and exceeded its goal of €240,000 and concluded in early January 2024.

25 DONATING COMPANIES
1500 ESTIMATED DONORS
41 FUNDRAISING EVENTS



EUR	ENTRATE
100 336,46	Private Individuals
99 785,00	Companies
41 500,00	Foundations
5 797,30	Associations
247 418,76	Total



I am Irina and in Emmaus I found a family

I lived in an orphanage until I was 33 years old. My childhood was not easy: I lacked love and attention. Then I met the people from Emmaus. I didn't know how to do anything, and I was very surprised by the care with which they started teaching me everything. I understood that they loved me, and slowly I started to trust. I trusted even when they told me that the war had broken out and we would have to come to Italy. I was scared because I had never been so far away. But I accepted because Elena told me that everything would be fine and that I wouldn't be alone: I could trust her because she had taken me from the orphanage and loved me. At first, it was difficult for me, and I missed Ukraine a lot. But then, little by little, I met many friends, and everything changed. I didn't think someone like me could be loved, but now I have a family and friends. I am happy.

YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAM



Project Start: 2013 in Ukraine, reactivated in Italy in 2022

Partners: L'Imprevisto Social Cooperative, I Bambini Dell'Est, Alma Cooking School, Nazareno Social Cooperative, Banco Alimentare Foundation, San Martino Association, Catholic University of Milan, Seingim, Humanitas, PoliMi Graduate School of Management.

Main Purpose: To support the educational journey and personality development of orphaned or parentless youth and young people with disabilities.

The project welcomes young people already supported by Emmaus in Ukraine and now refugees in Italy. Most of them currently live in the Residence in Milan (which currently accommodates 18 people, including adults and young people from Emmaus), while other young people are hosted in Italian families. For the latter, there is a specific support program with home visits by Association operators.

The young people of Emmaus are not only experiencing detachment from the environment where they grew up and worked but also feel discomfort, with psychological implications yet to be evaluated, due to the trauma of having friends and relatives who experience war daily. For this reason, this area constitutes the main priority of the Association's intervention.

The support process starts from considering the environment and experiences of each individual: the lack of education due to the stay and growth in an orphanage, the lack of inclusivity for people with disabilities in Ukraine, the trauma of war, and the sudden change in living conditions.

Activities

Through the work of a psycho-pedagogical team, whose main nucleus consists of the staff evacuated from Ukraine by Emmaus, a specific path is built together with each young person covering various areas:

- Social integration
- Higher education and training
- Medical and sports rehabilitation
- Management of economic resources
- Psychological assistance
- Job Placement

Numbers

- 1** community residence rented in Milan
- 14** young people accommodated in the Residence and supported
- 5** young people accommodated in families and supported
- 5** educators
- 2** educational supervisors
- 20** volunteers

REFUGEES RECEPTION



Project Start: 2022
Partners: Progetto Arca, Banco Alimentare Foundation, COMETA, WHANAU social enterprise, AVSI Foundation, Refugees Welcome, CAV Vimercate, Municipality of Cormano, Jobbing, Santa Marta Foundation.
Main Purpose: To accompany Ukrainian refugee families on their path to autonomy in Italy through accommodation in families/apartments, addressing occupational, documentary, medical, educational, psychological, and linguistic needs.

Since March 2022, Emmaus has also been involved in the evacuation, reception, and integration of Ukrainian refugee families in Italy in the areas of Milan, Monza-Brianza, Varese, Lecco, and Como. Initially, all 48 families were welcomed by Italian families. Subsequently, the families in the project were placed in semi-autonomous housing solutions or with controlled rents, loans for use with the association, or in the civil protection reception circuit. To date, the Association directly manages 7 apartments.

A network of over 50 Italian families has spontaneously mobilized to offer short and long-term accommodation to families evacuated from Ukraine. Thanks to the dialogue initiated by these families, it was possible to better understand the needs of refugees and develop personalized support paths.



Activities

Each Ukrainian family receives personalized psycho-educational support, aimed not only at providing assistance with primary needs but also at building a network of relationships and connections that foster the creation of a stable social fabric in a foreign context.

- Accommodation in families and apartments
- Documentary support
- Psycho-Social Support
- Cultural Mediation
- Socialization activities for children and families

Numbers

- 50+** hosting families
- 120** total beneficiaries
- 30** children involved in socialization projects
- 7** managed apartments

LA BOTTEGA (ARTISAN WORKSHOP)



Project Start: 2020 (Reactivation in Italy March 2022)

Partners: PPolitecnico of Milan Graduate School of Management, L'Artigiano in Fiera, LEDHA - League for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Tessitura Raponi, GiGroup Training Hub.

Main Purpose: To develop creative skills and provide a path to artisanal work for young people with disabilities, always keeping in mind the individual value of each person. The goal of our project is to become a true social enterprise, capable of sustaining itself independently and supporting Emmaus' activities. di Emmaus.

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The idea of the “Bottega di Emmaus” (Emmaus’ Workshop) project was born in Ukraine during the first lockdown period (2020) as a continuation of vocational orientation courses for one of our girls. The project was then expanded to include other young people with disabilities. After the interruption of activities due to the war, the workshop was promptly reactivated in Italy.



I am Julia. Since I was born, my parents have always treated me like a stranger, my grandmother was the only person who loved me. Then I met Emmaus, which soon became like a family to me. When the tutors noticed that I was passionate about sewing, they offered me to create a workshop. Lera, my art teacher, is now like a sister.

Activities

- **Training:** Creation of accessory models and packaging, artifact cutting, machine and manual sewing, bead weaving, drawing, and fabric decoration
- **Production:** Own production for fairs and events; design and planning for orders or collaborations

Perspective

- **Collaboration with companies:** La Bottega aims to develop lines of corporate products, establishing and strengthening partnerships in Italy

Numbers

5	girls with disabilities	1	art teacher
30+	volunteers	10	fairs
5+	refugees in vulnerable situations	2	editions of Artigiano in Fiera

ATTIVITIES IN UKRAINE IN 2022

Emergency and Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine

In early March 2022, with the strategic partner Fondazione AVSI from Italy, Emmaus began working to provide assistance to the citizens of Kharkiv in the following activities:

- **Distribution of Humanitarian Aid:** Emergency assistance and provision of essential goods to communities affected by the war
- **Cash transfer:** Financial support to enable vulnerable families affected by the conflict to access vital resources and meet their immediate needs
- **Educational and Recreational Activities:** Socialization moments and artistic therapy to mitigate the psychological effects of the conflict
- **Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation:** Medical care and specialized therapies to help people recover from physical injuries and overcome the challenges of disability
- **Reconstruction and Reopenin of schools damaged by bombing**

In collaborazione con AVSI:

Evacuazione

more than **150** people evacuated

Distribution of Humanitarian Aid

1 800 000 kg of food and medicine distributed
88 500 beneficiaries
200 emergency winter kits distributed

Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation

100 beneficiaries

Cash transfer

1350 beneficiaries
300 000 € dati

Attività educative e recreative

1500 beneficiaries
3000 distributed school kits
60 clear courses for teachers

Reconstruction

7 educational institutions rebuilt



From February 24, 2022, Emmaus' staff remaining in Kharkiv continued to operate, focusing mainly on first emergency interventions. After the first year of the severe crisis, Emmaus returned to the implementation of specific activities designed for vulnerable families with children with disabilities, who encountered difficulties in evacuation. They are experiencing an intensification of the isolation and marginalization already experienced due to the stigma associated with disability in Ukraine.

INCLUSIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN KHARKIV

Project Start: January 2023

Partners: Crown Agents in Ukraine, German Marshall Fund, Renovabis, Pulte Family Foundation, USCCB, Caritas Kharkiv Charity Foundation, Fizio Center, UMAX Jewelry Factory, Caritas Kharkiv Charitable Foundation, Parallel Worlds Charity Organization.

Main Purpose: The project involves a set of activities closely connected and conceived as an indivisible set aimed at creating an Experimental Inclusive Rehabilitation Model in Ukraine that takes into account: Person with disabilities, Family, Community, External Factors, Services, Schools, Service Providers.

Starting from January 2023, the Emmaus team launched the program, which includes the following activities:

- Individual support and case management
- Art therapy program for children and adolescents
- Basic literacy courses for children and adolescents
- Individual and group sessions with a speech therapist and psychomotor therapist
- Individual physical rehabilitation courses
- Group sessions with a psychologist for children, adolescents, and their parents
- Organization of social events for parents, and family events (outings, picnics, summer camps, etc.)

In June 2022, Emmaus requested a list of people with disabilities and vulnerabilities from the Kharkiv City Council to obtain data on those who remained in the city despite the war. In this way, Emmaus managed to contact over 60 families (200 people) raising children with mental and/or physical disabilities in Kharkiv.



EMMAUS FRIENDS NETWORK



“In the face of so much pain, what gives more energy and hope is when there is someone with you, who never stops being with you, within this evil that seems stronger than anything. For this, I have immense gratitude for all the friends who are with us. And who never stop being with us.”

Elena Mazzola
President of the Emmaus NGO

Volunteers

Volunteers play an indispensable role for Emmaus, which in the past year has involved people of all ages who have contributed in different ways and with great creativity: weekly visits to the Bottega to work with the girls, teaching Italian, logistical support and organization of events, mentoring for training and job search, recreational activities.

Non-profit Organizations

Through collaborations with other non-profit organizations in the area, Emmaus is able to share resources, skills, and knowledge, working together towards common goals, adding value and promoting the exchange of best practices.

Universities and Schools

Emmaus collaborates with academic institutions for the education of young people, offering them opportunities for learning and growth; and in the promotion and organization of educational events and meetings.

Hosting Families

Italian families are an integral and essential part in building support paths for both the young people and refugee families. Thanks to their involvement and ongoing dialogue, stronger bonds and perspectives are created.

Cpanies

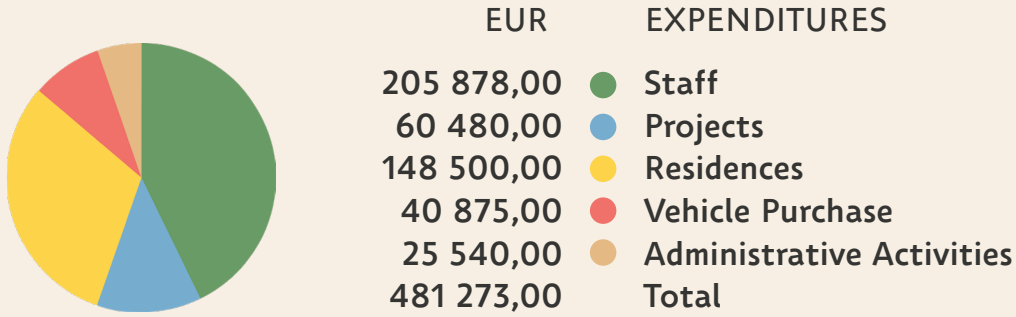
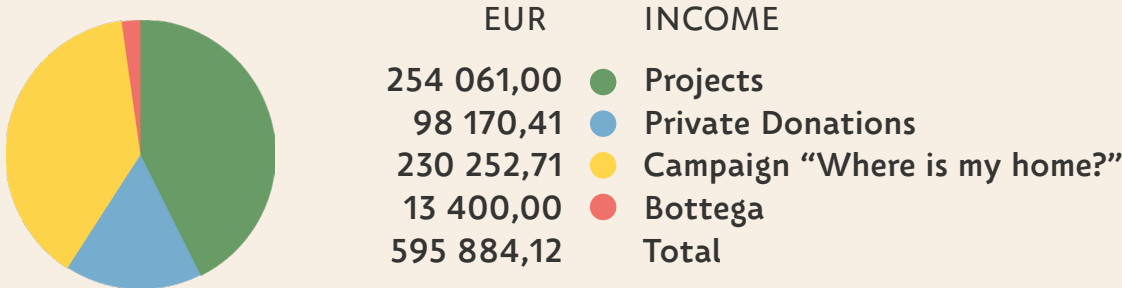
Emmaus promotes various forms of collaboration with companies including: financial support for projects or campaigns, pro bono (spaces, materials, and specific consultations), job placements, orders for corporate gifts.

Entrepreneur Committee

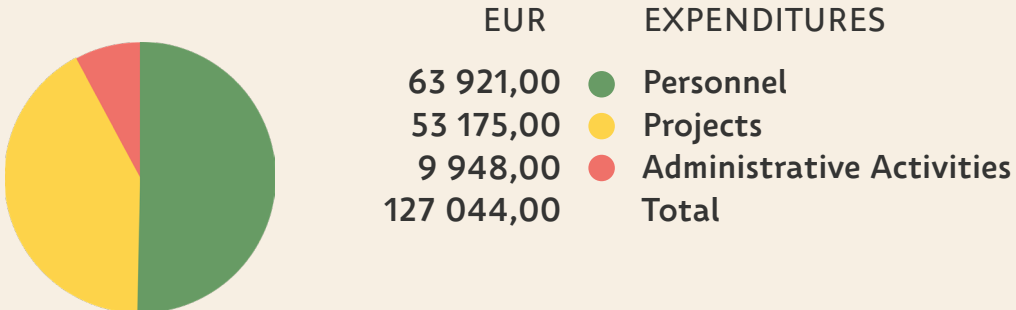
Emmaus supported the initiative of a group of entrepreneurs aimed at promoting the consolidation and economic sustainability of Amici di Emmaus' Network in Italy over the next three years.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

AMICI DI EMMAUS



EMMAUS



STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE 2024-2026

The vision is to build a bridge between Ukraine and Italy.

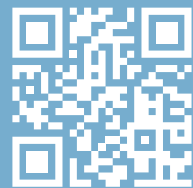
The idea of a stable Emmaus residence in Milan also aims to be an investment in building a future of peace: a stable place for welcoming vulnerable people who come to Italy from Ukraine for short periods for health reasons, but also a place that fosters the understanding of people, supporting the needs of those who are committed to building in the spheres of culture and education.

The prolonged war in Ukraine (which began on February 24, 2022) has led to the reformulation of the strategic plan for 2024-2026:

- Activation of an office, preferably in the metropolitan city of Milan, to ensure a stable residence capable of accommodating the Association's beneficiaries;
- Revision of the funding method to allow for greater sustainability of the organization;
- Promotion of projects for reception and socio-cultural exchange between the realities present in Ukraine and Italy, involving the network of collaborations developed over the years.

LET'S BUILD A FUTURE OF PEACE TOGETHER

3 together with Amici di Emmaus



Participate here

Participate in the construction of Emmaus' work: a future bridge between Italy and Ukraine.

In January 2024, we launched a campaign entitled "Let's Build a Future of Peace Together", with the aim of ensuring the stabilization of our activities in Italy within three years. This will be possible through the establishment of a solidarity network involving companies, entrepreneurs, and individuals interested in sharing our strategic objectives. Various ways have been identified through which support can be provided for this campaign.

Methods of support:

Fundraising Organization:

Companies:

- 👉 Become a supporter of the three-year program.
- 👉 Become a supporter of a specific project.
- 👉 Order corporate gifts from Emmaus Workshop.

Individuals:

- 👉 Activate a continuous donation.
- 👉 Become a coordinator for continuous fundraising among groups of friends/relatives/colleagues.
- 👉 Become an organizer of fundraising events.

Sharing and Promotion of Emmaus Life:

- 👉 Volunteering
- 👉 collaboration with the Bottega
- 👉 Organization of public meetings in various institutions.
- 👉 Awareness campaigns in schools
- 👉 Partnership with companies

DONORS AND PARTNERS



ORGANIZATION DATA

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BANKING INFORMATION

Amici Di Emmaus

Tax Code: 97932070150

IBAN: IT61V0306909606100000191166

Bank: Intesa San Paolo

Swift/BIC: BCITITMM



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