

# Recycling in the Emaus Communities



The Emmaus communities are a part of Emmaus International, founded after the WWII in France by a French priest Abbe Pierre.

The members of the communities come from permanently disfavored social background (which include, among others, the unemployed, homeless, former prisoners or former orphanage inmates).

The principle of operation of the communities throughout Europe is similar, and consists in collection, renovation and resale of second-hand chattels done by the members of the communities.

The communities incorporate recycling in their day-to-day work.

The main field of activity is the refurbishment and reuse of things no longer needed by other people (furniture, household appliances, clothes and books)



and prolongation of their lifetime, which has become very short nowadays - in the times of unsatisfied consumption.

The Emmaus communities in Poland collect considerable amounts of second-hand objects, which otherwise, considering low level of ecological awareness in our country – would end up in garbage and later at the scrapheap.

Things that can no longer be used – are dismantled and become a source of recycling materials (particularly metals) while usable or repairable objects go to the Emmaus fair.



We estimate that we use the collected things in 80-90%, the rest being scrapped at municipal waste disposal sites.

The international Emmaus organization stresses the ecological aspect of the Communities' activity, underlining also the promotion of ecological awareness, water saving and recycling-related issues, in its activity in Asia and Africa.