

What are our origins?

In **1972**, Marion Cahour, a medical doctor, created a **place where the homeless people with addiction problems were welcomed** by a team of volunteers.

Very quickly people with **mental illness problems** came to this place and needed the creation of a second specialized shelter. In 1976 a NGO was registered by the name of "le petit club Sarrazin", which became later on "l'association Les Eaux Vives".

The creation of a day-shelter called "Sophonie" and a hostel for integration "le Val des Eaux Vives" followed and the organization took on professional workers to complete the work of volunteers.

Other spheres of activity were developed:

- In 1986 a structure for the **integration by housing**, "le Coteau"
- In 2002 a structure for the **integration of people asking for asylum**
- In 2007 a structure for the **integration by mobility**

Who are we?

Les Eaux Vives, a non-governmental organization (association loi 1901) officially declared the 30th of June **1993**, assures a public service in according to exclusion. It is part of Emmaus since 2013.

The NGO creates structures and services to respond to the needs of people living vulnerability on either material, physical, psychological or social level.

It works with both professional and voluntary workers.

Its activities are organized in 4 poles:

- A **Social Emergency Pole** (Pôle Accueil Urgence) with a day- and a night-shelter, two hostels and midway-housing
- A **Hosting and Housing Pole** (Pôle Hébergement Logement) with a service to evaluate capacity to live autonomously and two midway-housing structures for people with psychological handicaps
- A **Foreigners Pole** (Pôle Etrangers) with both housing and support for asylum-seekers as well as refugees and regularized foreigners.
- A **Integration and Mobility Pole** (Pôle Insertion et Mobilité) with vehicle-leasing facilities

What do we believe in ?

Les Eaux Vives believes in the **intrinsic value of every welcomed person**, whatever situation he lives. It

- **respects** every person,
- **cares** for him/her
- and it **believes** in everybody's capacity to stand up and be an actor of his/her own life.

The NGO bases its action on

- **user's participation**
- **complementarity of voluntary and professional work**

It thinks voluntary work is a social and political action-based commitment, opposing every type of injustice and oppression, heading for a more just and human world.

What do we want to do ?

Les Eaux Vives is fighting exclusion.

It welcomes every person as he or she is, even without life-plan, in order to make him/her the center of our action.

It bases its action on its user's aspiration to live in dignity.

How do we do this ?

By

- Asking every professionals and volunteers to subscribe both the NGO's values as the Universal Emmaus Manifest.
- Working as a united team between professionals and voluntary workers.
- Bearing experience-based witness
- Creating new activities wherever needed

We also

- Care about good and stable work conditions
- Care about a continual improvement of quality

With whom do we do this ?

Europe, French Government and Local Bodies delegate missions to the organization and finance them. Les Eaux Vives collaborates with them in mutual respect, guarding certain independence and the possibility to contest.

It participates actively in the life of Emmaus.

It develops partnerships wherever possible.

Which are our projects ?

In order to respond to identified needs and to anticipate context changes, Les Eaux vives wants to be a creative force.

It wants to:

- Stabilize and develop existing structures
- Develop voluntary work
- Improve the participation of professionals and volunteers in the organization's governance
- Consolidate the participation of users
- Explore ways to innovate (for this other funding than government aid will be necessary)
- Develop a network, and all kinds of partnership, keeping our autonomy
- Considerate questions of sustainable development and social responsibility

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