

Annual Report 2016



GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

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Green European Foundation asbl

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A Message from our Co-Presidents

The year 2016 brought many, partially drastic, political changes with it and posed, once again, many challenges to the European Union and its Member States. Rather than looking back, those changes and challenges urge us to look forward and stand up for the future of the European project as we, the Green European Foundation as part of the Green European family, envision it.

Although it seems that the number of arriving refugees and migrants has decreased, the EU's refugee and migration policies remain in the focus of the public debate and right-wing populist parties continue to be on the upswing. In the years to follow, we must offer alternatives to this dangerous demagoguery and continue our struggle for an inclusive and democratic society. In this spirit, we dedicated one of our transnational projects, together with partner foundations from four countries, to the exploration of the challenges local communities face as more refugees seek shelter and to exchange best practices on how to help and to integrate those people. Together with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, we published a 'Guide to EU Funding on Migration and Asylum' in more than a dozen languages as we identified the necessity to provide local Green activists, who are engaged in working with refugees and migrants, with a comprehensive overview of EU funds available for their important work.¹

Undoubtedly, the decision in June by a majority of British voters in favour of leaving the European Union poses an immense, unprecedented challenge to the community. Our very own Green European Journal dedicated a Green Observatory to this issue to illustrate the Green debate around Brexit prior to the referendum.²

As in the years before, the European Union also continues to face economic challenges, which will be intensified in the future by the consequences of Brexit, the policy shift of the new US administration, the ongoing uncertainty concerning the Eurozone, as well as controversial public debates on trade agreements such as TTIP. In 2016, one of our transnational projects revolved around the issue of 'Sustainable Work for All', particularly looking at gender and care aspects as well as the digitisation of labour.³

These uncertainties make our efforts to act as a platform to stimulate debates on EU policies and politics and to enable exchange of Green ideas more essential than ever. As this report highlights, our activities in 2016 continued to work towards building a more sustainable, social and democratic EU together with our partners from national foundations, activists, academics and NGOs.⁴

Regarding the year to come, we aim to continue facing Europe's challenging political environment and will be guided by the dedication of an extended General Assembly and a new Board. We would like to wholeheartedly thank our former members Juan Behrend, Anne de Boer, Eva van de Rakt, Heidi Hautala and Monica Frassoni for their engagement and count on their continuous collaboration with the Foundation in the future. Moreover, we welcome the new role of our co-founder and former Co-President, Pierre Jonckheer, as Honorary President, and we thank him for his commitment in establishing the Green European Foundation, presiding over its board for eight years and helping it flourish!

We thank all of you who have been part of GEF in 2016 and count on your Green engagement this year and the years to come!

With warm regards,

Lucile Schmid & Susanne Rieger



¹ In 2017, GEF will pursue its work on those issues with the continuation of our transnational project, which will focus on the creation of a positive New Narrative when it comes to the discourse around refugees and migrants.

² In 2017, we will implement a transnational project with partner foundations to identify the impact of the United Kingdom leaving the EU with a focus on the challenges it might pose to the transition to a greener, more sustainable Europe.

³ This project will also be continued in 2017, focusing on aspects of free-

dom and security under a changing social ecological and geo-economic framework in the context of a Green Transformation. Rooted in political ecology, we will continue, with this and other projects, to act as a laboratory for new ideas towards sustainability and social justice.

⁴ A testimony to these efforts is our new online course for Green activists – Impact Europe – which aims to engage young people in the debate around the future of the EU, while equipping them with the necessary knowledge to understand the past and formulate their own vision for the future.

Our Mission

The Green European Foundation (GEF) is a European level political foundation funded by the European Parliament. It is linked to, but independent of, other European Green actors such as the European Green Party and the Green Group in the European Parliament.

The mission of GEF is to contribute to the development of a European public sphere and to foster greater involvement by citizens in European politics, ultimately forging a stronger, more participative democracy. GEF strives to mainstream discussions on European policies and politics both within and beyond the Green political family. It works to create a common Green vision for Europe and to communicate this to the wider public.

In its contribution to building another Europe, GEF seeks to encourage cross-border cooperation and exchanges. The foundation therefore acts as a platform to discuss Europe's shared challenges by bringing diverse actors together, from European to national foundations, think tanks, academics and NGOs. In other words, GEF aims at bridging the gap between activism at the national level and the decisions that are being made at the European level by coordinating a lively network.

GEF aspires to reach broader audiences across Europe by acting as a laboratory for new ideas through the Green European Journal and other publications in different languages. The Foundation also develops capacity-building and political education programmes for its partners and for young activists eager to get involved at the European level. Finally, GEF supports its national partners across Europe in organising conferences, seminars and other exchanges, mainly through transnational projects. GEF operates within a European context beyond the borders of the EU, due to the EU's ongoing expansion and Europe's shared values and history.

GEF's work programme is organised around three pillars, which will be further illustrated throughout this report: Study and Debate, Capacity Building, and Networking.



STUDY & DEBATE

Encouraging European-level study and debate is central to GEF's efforts to create a truly active public space for exchanging and developing new ideas. GEF invests in research on a variety of European topics, highlighting innovative Green approaches. The results are disseminated through both printed publications and online articles. Furthermore, transnational projects, organised with the support of Green foundations across Europe, foster the reflection on topics of utmost importance as they provide spaces for debate and exchange.



Green European Journal

The European Venue for Green Ideas

In 2016, the Green European Journal continued to work towards its aim of providing a vibrant and multilingual European platform for exchanging ideas, sharing analysis and sparking debates.

2016 was a year of renewal for the Journal, which oversaw the redesign of its printed layout to give the publication a clear visual identity in a brand new format. The Journal's website was also overhauled to give it a simple, fresh layout designed to enhance the reader's experience, incorporating custom-made unique illustrations. In April, the Journal launched its own dedicated social media channels on Facebook and Twitter as primary vehicles for disseminating its content, alongside the monthly newsletter, which was also redesigned in a style consistent with the website.

The Journal continued to prioritise inclusiveness: the number of languages in which the Journal publishes articles grew to 19 this year, with the addition of translations in Bulgarian, Czech and Serbian. In addition, printed versions of translations of single articles were disseminated alongside the editions for the first time.

In terms of content, new recurring features were introduced, such as the Interview of the Month and the Green Observatory – a pan-European survey of Green views on a given topic connected to current debates.



Three thematic editions were released, bringing together a wide range of voices and approaches. *Checkpoint Europe: The Return of Borders* analysed the alarming trend towards re-establishing divides within Europe, both in tangible forms on the ground and in the minds of European citizens. The summer edition, *Tremors in Europe: Mapping the Faultlines*, set out to provide an overview of the many and varied forces for integration and disintegration at work in Europe today. Lastly, *Finding Common Ground* examined the concept of the commons and the potential of initiatives in this area to bring about change. This final edition of the year was a collaboration with the Foundation's transnational project on the commons, making it an unprecedented collaboration between the Journal and GEF partners.

The launch of each edition was accompanied by a debate on the topic concerned in a different European city (Barcelona, Paris and Brussels). In addition to these events, the Journal also held panel debates at the European Green Party Councils in Utrecht and Glasgow on borders and migration and on the impact of regionalism on European integration, respectively. The Journal also held numerous Editorial Board meetings throughout the year, as well as a meeting of the Journal's correspondents from across Europe. The Journal was also present at several summer universities in 2016.



Commons

Reclaiming the Commons – Commons and Policy

#commonsuccess

With the support of Oikos (Flanders, Belgium), Etopia (Wallonia, Belgium), Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain) and Fondation de l'Écologie Politique (France).

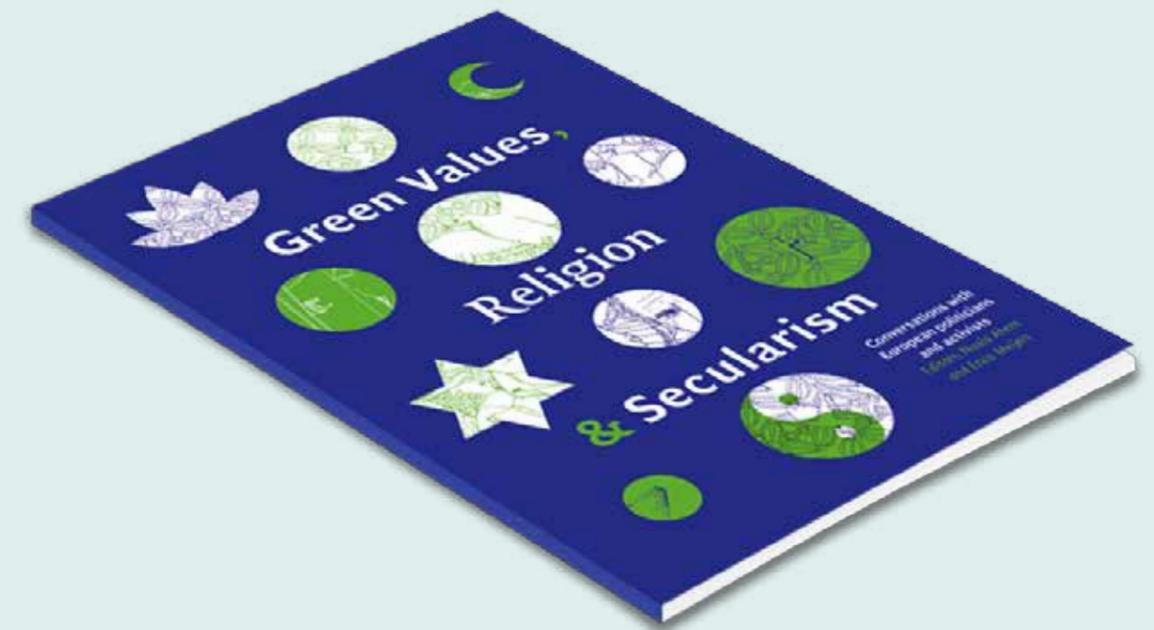
In 2016, this continued transnational project on the commons focused on two particular themes: the relation between commons and policy; and the impact of commons as a governance model on public services. Several internal workshops and meetings were organised throughout the year across Europe, which were centered around different aspects of the commons. Some of the project partners also participated in a study trip to Barcelona, which is known as one of the pioneer cities in the field of the commons, where they met with different initiatives and attended the Esperanzah Festival. The main project activity was the contribution of all project partners to the edition 'Finding Common Ground' of the Green European Journal, which was launched with a panel discussion in November 2016, featuring different commons experts and authors of the edition, and whose articles were translated into various languages.



Youth Congress Digital Commons

In cooperation with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Southeastern Europe Office (Serbia), Share Foundation (Serbia) and Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia).

This three-day conference, held in May 2016 in Belgrade, aimed to provide a space for a European debate on how to re-decentralise and reclaim the internet as a commons, which also leaves it open to commercial opportunities. The event included talks and panel discussions with a focus on the theme of 'Internet as a Commons and the New Politics/New Economy of Commoning'. The programme tackled a variety of aspects, such as the digital commons in relation to the new EU copyright law, public vs. personal data, knowledge as commons, and many more.



Religion and Secularism

Green Values, Religion and Secularism

With the support of Green Foundation Ireland, Bureau de Helling (Netherlands), Green Institute (Greece), Fondation de l'Écologie Politique (France) and Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland).



This year's continuation of the transnational project focused on the dissemination and further discussion on the book 'Green Values, Religion and Secularism', which was produced with the support of the project partners in 2015. Several book launch events were organised in the Netherlands, Ireland, Poland, Greece, and the United Kingdom to foster the debate on religious or secular values within the Green community,

but also to start a conversation on this topic with the wider public. In those different events, country-specific aspects of religion and secularism were addressed, such as the role of state and the church in Greece, or the ties between religion and politics becoming closer in Poland. To further extend the reach of the book and its worthwhile contents, it was also translated into French at the end of the year.

As the discourse reflected in the book was continued throughout the year, new themes emerged and inspired the co-editors of the book, Nuala Ahern and Erica Meijers, to write a concluding report. This report summarises the two-year project, the debates organised, and the new questions raised, and draws conclusions on what was discovered about religious and secularist values within the Green movement and where challenges were faced. Finally, the report closes by giving recommendations for further discussion and/or research.



Green Economy

Journalists and Policy Makers boost Green Economy

#greenwatchdog

With the support of BlueLink (Bulgaria), Sunrise (Macedonia) and Drugi Novi Centar (Serbia).

This transnational project consisted of regional capacity building workshops for young journalists, Green party members and Green activists from the South-East European countries. The project aimed to facilitate ethical watchdog journalism as the key to raising awareness and promoting Green policy solutions in Balkan societies, which are oftentimes characterised by failures of the democratic mechanisms that are supposed to protect nature and public interest.



In June, a media workshop gathering young journalists from Bulgaria, Macedonia and Serbia was organised and provided an opportunity to gain professional experience in writing articles and to be trained in field research. The second workshop, held in Skopje, Macedonia, in October aimed to train young Green politicians from the three countries involved under the guidance of a professional policy advisor. Both the articles written by the journalists and the declaration adopted by the politicians will contribute to the dissemination of new sustainable policies aimed at the promotion of the Green Economy in Balkan countries.

Degrowth in the Parliaments

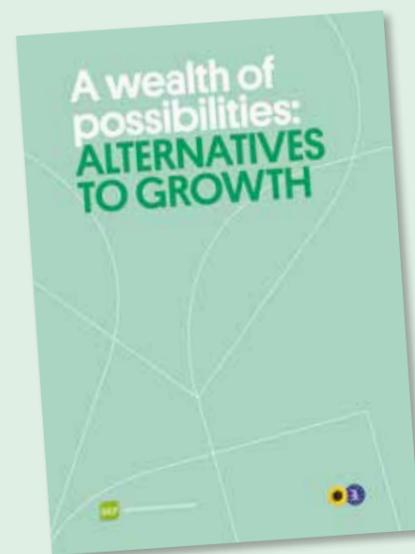
The Green European Foundation hosted a special workshop at the 5th International Degrowth Conference in Budapest in September 2016 in collaboration with Research and Degrowth, entitled 'Degrowth in the Parliaments'. The event brought together renowned politicians from



various European countries, namely Philippe Lamberts, Belgian MEP from Ecolo and Co-Spokesperson of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament; Sabine Leidig, former director of Attac Germany and Member of the Bundestag for Die Linke; Florent Marcellesi, Spanish MEP from EQUO; and Rebeka Szabó, Vice-Mayor of the 14th district of Budapest – Zugló. They discussed opportunities and challenges arising while promoting politics of degrowth in their respective parties and parliaments and exchanged their views on the future prospects of degrowth in public debates, electoral campaigns and in the parliaments. The debate also tackled the question on how the degrowth community, which includes grassroots activists, practitioners and researchers, could eventually support such processes from outside the parliaments.

A Wealth of Possibilities: Alternatives to Growth

In cooperation with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament.



Together with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, namely with Philippe Lamberts, Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA, GEF published the study, 'A Wealth of Possibilities: Alternatives to Growth'. As economic growth has declined since the 1970s, it becomes obvious that our global way of life has outgrown the earth's offer in natural resources and alternatives to growth are urgently needed. Hence, this study aims at questioning current practices and policies in six fields structuring our economic model and at investigating alternative

ways that are more adapted to current challenges by being more socially inclusive and more appropriate on climate and environmental issues. Those six fields are: job creation; basic and maximum income and job guarantee; tax collection; financing the social safety net; monetary system and banking; and international inequality. The study does not reveal a silver bullet for a world without growth, but rather serves as a background document, which outlines those sectors that need to be reframed in a genuinely sustainable way.

Climate and Energy

Beyond COP21 – The Future of a New Energy Model for Europe

#beyondCOP21

With the support of Fondation de l'Écologie Politique (France), Etopia (Wallonia, Belgium), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), and Ecopolis (Hungary).



After organising many activities in the forefront of the UN Conference of the Parties on climate - COP21 - in Paris in late 2015, such as the compilation of a book with essays around the COP21 talks or the dissemination of educational videos, GEF launched its own transnational project 'Beyond COP21' in 2016. In preparation for the COP22 negotiations in Marrakesh, the project explored the ways forward for the development of sustainable energy policies across Europe, while considering the important challenges Europe is facing after COP21. The aim was to closely monitor and follow-up on information in the aftermath of COP21 and en-route to COP22. With the creation of the multimedia platform 'Beyond COP21 – The Future of Energy is Yours!', GEF and the project partners gathered ideas and informa-

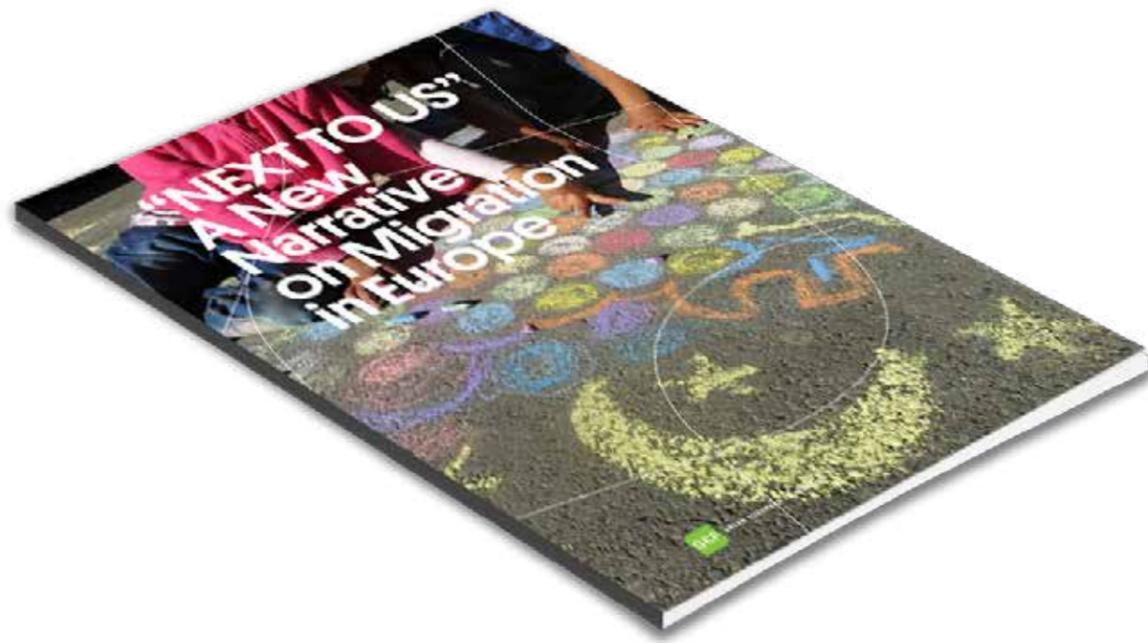
tion around the European energy transition project in order to stimulate the public debate in the political, national and European context necessary to translate it into action. The platform, available in French and English, serves as a collection point for stories on energy from the past, present and the future.

Governare Green

With the support of Fondazione Eco (Italy).

The conference 'Governare Green', which took place in Rome in October, focused on Green approaches to city management as solutions to local and global challenges. In three different sessions, a variety of speakers presented best practices from Italy and elsewhere within Europe. The event provided an opportunity for the participants to have a lively exchange on how to achieve Green changes on a local level but also to transfer those best practices to a European, or even global, level. Among the different areas discussed were energy transition, ideas for a zero-waste local administration, e-government, migration policies and many more.





Refugees and Migration

Refugees and Migrant Policies – The Local Level

#refugeEU

With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain), Fundación EQUO (Spain), Green Economics Institute (United Kingdom), Green Institute (Greece), and Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia).

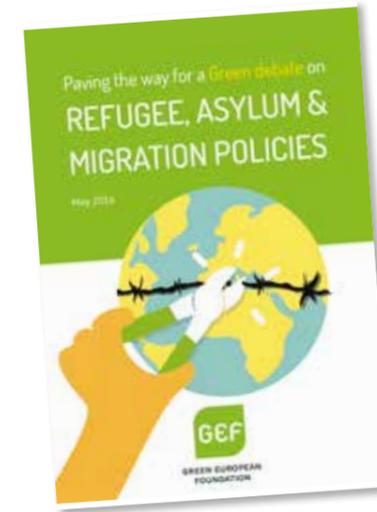


This transnational project was dedicated to the apparent shortcomings and malfunctioning of refugees and migrant policies on the European level. As it became quite clear in 2015, the challenge of accommodating and integrating refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers was primarily faced by local communities.

Therefore, the project aimed to examine the situation occurring at the local level in European cities, enable exchange between the locals and Green activists, to identify questions that need to be addressed in the framework of the current problems, to collect answers, and to ultimately connect the local with the European level again. The collaboration with our national partner foundations aspired to offer an analysis within the current context of both the European scale and national debates, and to produce new normative, institutional and social settings of migration policy. To this end, a series of events across Europe, in Barcelona, Madrid, Athens and Oxford were organised in the course of 2016.

Eventually, the findings of all project activities in 2016 were compiled into a [final report](#), which showed the necessity for a New Narrative for Europe in order to overcome negative stereotypes surrounding refugees and migrants and to promote alternatives to the demagoguery of right-wing populist movements. This idea also serves as a basis for a [workshop](#) organised by GEF at the European Green Party Council in Glasgow in December, which aimed to gather ideas on how this New Narrative should look like and how it can be achieved.

Paving the Way for a Green debate on Refugee, Asylum and Migration Policies



This brochure, published in May, aims at providing a summary of the main Green positions on refugee, asylum and migration policies, both at the European and national level. In addition, it gives a résumé of a study conducted by the Green European Foundation in regards to the Green response to the current refugee, asylum and migration policies crisis in Europe in late 2015. It is based on a questionnaire answered by representatives from several Green political parties across Europe between October and December 2015, and is entitled 'Towards a Common Green Response: points of agreement, disagreement and issues for further internal debate among European Green parties on refugee and migration policies'. By identifying common ground, points of divergence and open questions within the European Green Family, the brochure represents an effort of the Green European Foundation to foster a dialogue among the main Green actors across Europe to build common proposals for alternative refugee, asylum and migration policies.

Guide to EU Funding on Migration and Asylum

In cooperation with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament.

With the ongoing Syrian civil war and a number of refugees and displaced people worldwide, the figures of which are comparable only to those of the Second World War, the EU faces an unprecedented challenge to shelter and integrate those who seek asylum within its Member States.

The Guide to EU Funding on Migration and Asylum aims to give local activists a practical tool at hand, which summarises the most relevant funds at the EU level available for local and regional actors working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, with key information and practical inputs in regards to accessing them. Special attention is given to projects that foster integration, social inclusion and a better quality of life for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Due to the pertinence of the topic, the publication is available in more than a dozen languages, such as English, French, German, Hungarian or Greek, to increase its reach and make it easily accessible for those active within their local communities.



Work and Solidarity

ECOPRO – Sustainable Work For All

#aftergrowth

With the support of Oikos (Flanders, Belgium), Etopia (Wallonia, Belgium), Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia), Green House Think Tank (United Kingdom), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain), Ecopolis (Hungary), Green Foundation Ireland, Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria), and Federation of Young European Greens.



Already in its third year, this project focused on the topic of Sustainable Work For All. The project aspired to enable the further development of the Greens' front-running approach in the field of the "work of the future" (sustainable jobs), with a particular consideration of "working beyond the job" (as more than paid work). In the course of the project, two papers were produced which summarised the findings of the ongoing project activities and research and which aim to broaden the discourse by particularly emphasising feminist, care and gender divisions. 'Working beyond the job: building blocks for a new economy', which can be downloaded in [English](#) on the GEF website, argues that the economic paradigm shift must be accompanied by a new perception of work and the value of work as well. 'Sustainable Work for All – a socio-ecological and gender perspective', available in [German](#) and [English](#), introduces the concept of sustainability with a special emphasis on gender equity. Both papers stress the importance of work that is necessary to sustain a society, e.g. care or community work, but is not (yet) met with adequate remuneration. The British foundation Green House Think Tank produced a [report](#), entitled 'A Green Transition for the Isle of Wight', which looked at the job creation potential of the Isle of Wight's contribution to the global challenge to become environmentally sustainable. The report analysed various metrics to illustrate the potential of a green transition on this particular island and outlined the next steps on how to implement those proposals. Moreover, GEF organised several debates together with eight national partner foundations in their respective countries, such as a side event at the 5th International Degrowth Conference in Budapest.

European Union

Ecopolis 2017: Power, Politics and Chocolate

In cooperation with Oikos (Flanders, Belgium).



The second edition of the annual Ecopolis event took place in April in Brussels. The event was organised by Oikos together with several other partners and in cooperation with GEF. This year's edition of Ecopolis featured round tables, documentaries and a book salon, as well as panel debates. Those five debates addressed the topics 'Power and Europe', on which actors hold power in modern politics; 'What comes after COP21 in Paris?'; 'Chocolate' and how to ensure fair trade; 'Enough', which provided a platform to discuss the concept of degrowth and how to achieve it; and 'Citizens in the world' on how to be(come) an active member of a global civil society.

How should G(g)reens vote in the EU referendum? An open debate

With the support of Green House Think Tank (United Kingdom).

In June, GEF organised a [debate](#) in London bringing together adversaries and supporters of Brexit. The event aimed to provide a space for debate on both sides of the argument within the Green family.

Molly Scott Cato (Green MEP) and Dick Pels (Dutch Green Party member and author of A Heart for Europe) argued why UK should remain in the EU. In opposition to this, Jenny Jones (Green Party Baroness) and Patricia McKenna (former Green MEP for Dublin) presented reasons for leaving.

CAPACITY BUILDING

GEF promotes education and training and provides opportunities for building capacity and encouraging networking amongst Green actors across Europe. Our aim is to raise awareness among citizens about Green solutions to the challenges Europe faces, and to enhance the ability of activists and Green actors to work on issues on the European level. We implement this through transnational events, such as workshops, seminars, public conferences and summer universities, organised with national Green foundations, as well as through online and face-to-face trainings.

Training

Erasmus + Training

In April, GEF organised a training for some of its partners in Brussels to familiarise them, with the help of trainers, with the Erasmus+ application process. After comprehensive information on general documentation and eligibility criteria, the participants had the chance to discuss their project applications with the trainers, receive recommendations and practical help, as well as to further develop their applications within their groups.



European Green Activist Training

#EGAT

With the support of Visio (Finland), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czech Republic), Ecopolis (Hungary), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain) and Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria).

Based on the successful Finnish model of similar trainings, the [European Green Activist Training project](#) aims at the Europeanisation of existing trainings for Green activists in several European countries by making them more European in their content, but also more co-operative by liaising with other similar trainings in other countries.

National Green foundations gather young people interested in politics in their respective countries and train them across several weekends. The foundations share their existing curricula and develop the content for the training session on EU topics together, which is then applied in all participating countries. The 2015 - 2016 edition of this transnational project was successfully concluded by a [study trip to Brussels](#) in April. This enabled the young participants to meet and exchange with other Green-minded people from all over Europe, and provided them with a first-hand opportunity to gain knowledge of European politics during their visits to the European Parliament and other European institutions. In the second half of 2016, a new group of young Green activists started their trainings in Finland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Catalonia and completed it with their common Brussels study trip in January 2017.



Handbook 'Organising a European Green Activists Training Programme'

This handbook was developed by the Green European Foundation, together with representatives of Green foundations across Europe (Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria), with the aim of sharing experience and providing tips on organising trainings for Green activists.

Considering the unique character of the European Green Activists Training programme, the project coordinators decided to develop this handbook, disseminating good practice for future editions of the training within their own foundations, as well as among other organisations interested in training programmes for young activists. This publication is aimed at all organisations involved in educational activities for Green actors, such as Green foundations, Green parties, Green youth organisations and Green study centres in European countries, who are interested in discovering practical tools and tips on organising trainings which empower young people with the ambition to change Europe for the better. The handbook is available for [download](#) or can be ordered as a hard copy by sending an email to info@gef.eu



GEF Summer 2016

#gefsummer

Summer Universities across Europe

Also in 2016, GEF organised a number of Summer Universities on a variety of topics. These projects were implemented throughout Europe in collaboration with many national partners, aiming to bring together Green-minded people to share ideas and engage in debates in a relaxed atmosphere.

This year's **Dublin Summer School** (with the support of Green Foundation Ireland) was organised under the title 'European Migration: Causes and Effects' in May. It focused on how European civil society can manage migration and the attitudes towards it in a positive and constructive way, with a broader remit of linking migration to poverty, climate change and general Green issues. The event also specifically addressed the situation in Ireland and its role as a member of the European Union in finding solutions to this humanitarian crisis.

For the first time, the **Summer Lab** was organised (with the support of Grüne Akademie Steiermark) in July 2016.



It tackled questions around the crisis of European democracy and provided an analysis of the future role of the Greens and possibilities of change for the parliamentary democracy in Austria and Europe. GEF hosted a special workshop entitled 'Progressive Populism!'.

The Summer School '**Tipping Points**' (with the support of Institute for Political Ecology) gathered participants on three working modules on climate justice, post-growth/degrowth, and the commons. The main aim was to identify the driving forces of systemic change that could be triggered by bold social and political actions. During this year's edition, the Green European Foundation organised a workshop in order to foster the European debate on new economic alternatives and new urban politics at the European level.



This year's Catalonian Summer School, **Escola Estiu** (with the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons), tackled questions on the future of the European Union, and Catalonia in particular, on a political but also economic level. A panel debate, organised by the Green European Foundation, with speakers such as Ernest Urtasun (MEP Greens/EFA, Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds & Economist), dealt with the topic of fiscal paradises, tax evasion and whistle-blower protection in the aftermath of the release of the Panama papers.



The 2016 **Green Summer Academy 'Green Poland – Green River'** (with the support of Fundacja Strefa Zieleni) revolved around four main thematic pillars: sustainable development, alternative economy, international policy in the context of European issues, and human rights. Its aim was to achieve balance between the national and European perspectives by focusing on the national level while taking into account the European context. During a workshop organised by GEF, a special focus was put on the illiberal tendencies within the EU Member States.



Rencontres Écologiques d'Été (with the support of Etopia) was organised in August in Wallonia, Belgium. GEF organised two debates on the present and future of the European Union. The first debate focused on "why" questions, such as: why the EU? Is the EU dream over? Why should we keep working hard on it? Does it represent the best way to ensure progress in Europe? The second debate, however, provided insights into "how" the EU should deal with this year's challenges, such as the situation in Greece, issues with refugee policies, and Brexit.

Univerde (with the support of Fundació EQUO), in its 8th edition, focused on the topic of fostering Green economies through transitions to circular economy. More specifically, this Summer School provided insights into the development of new economical approaches related to resource use, energy consumption, and the concept of "Circular Economy".



GEF Networking Day on Education and Training

In October, GEF hosted a capacity building in Brussels for members of its partner foundations. This annual event serves as a platform for exchange amongst its participants and as an opportunity to identify the needs of GEF's national partner foundations in regards to trainings and educational offers. This year's edition included a troubleshooting on the involvement of young people in to the work programme of foundations, a comprehensive workshop on how to organise a European Green Activist Training, and a session on GEF Summer Schools where participants had the chance to exchange best practices and discuss challenges they face as organisers.



Impact Europe: Online Course for Green Activists

In collaboration with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament.

The online course 'Impact Europe' is a common project between GEF and the Greens/EFA, initiated in 2016 with the aim of providing accessible and interactive education on the European Union, while keeping in mind a critical and Green perspective, in order to encourage active citizenship, potential Green votes and Green activism at the European level. Based on a unique content, the course serves as a stimulating learning environment which provides a critical understanding of the EU and the functioning of its institutions, insights into the Green political movement and an opportunity to discover ways to be part of a European network of activists. In view of the latest developments in 2016, such as the decision on Brexit and the continued success of right-wing populist movements, the course also provides critical perspectives on the latest challenges the community is facing and on the avenues which could be pursued for a much-needed reform of the EU project. The platform provides young people with the tools at hand to understand how Europe works but, most importantly, on how to influence decision-making at a European level.



NET WORKING

GEF acts as a framework for cooperation between Green actors at the European level. This is a key element of its work and helps to ensure the sustainability of its activities, as the contributions of diverse European partners are vital to create and encourage European debate. GEF believes that Europe is also built through exchanges between national actors, who can learn from each other and work together to forge a shared European vision.

GEF presence across Europe

EU Quo Vadis – Crossing Borders – Refugees and Asylum Policy in Europe

In 2016, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung organised its annual international conference, realised in cooperation with GEF, around the topic of refugee and asylum policy. This event addressed the scope and the causes of an unprecedented number of more than 60 million displaced people worldwide in relation to refugee, asylum and migration policies in Europe. Furthermore, it analysed the EU's lack of political consensus and co-ordination in the process of decision-making and the impact of this situation on the ongoing crisis. This conference included experts from Europe and the US, as well as from the EU's southern neighbouring regions, who discussed crucial issues of Europe's asylum and migration policies.

A variety of pressing questions were addressed, such as what the responsibilities of Europeans are, and how the EU could improve co-operation with its neighbours, in order to stabilise Europe's external borders and improve the conditions for refugees in the initial receiving countries.

Conference “A local green view on refugees: the opportunities and challenges for our cities”



In line with its focus on migration and refugee policies throughout the year, GEF was also present at a conference, organised in Munich, by the European Green Party and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen in June. It brought together Green local councillors from all over Europe to share their first-hand experience of welcoming refugees and to discuss the opportunities and challenges it brought about, such as access to public services and inclusion, or raising awareness for local communities to foster a sense of solidarity and understanding. The event aimed to identify the obstacles that Greens have faced on different levels, to share the lessons learnt in different countries, and to develop Green ideas for further decision-making on the sustainable inclusion of migrants and refugees within Europe.



European Green Party Councils Utrecht and Glasgow

As in the year before, the Green European Foundation was again present during the 2016 European Green Party Councils in Utrecht in May and Glasgow in December. During the 24th EGP Council in Utrecht, GEF organised a lively panel debate around its book, 'Green Values, Religion and Secularism'. The speakers were Philippe Lamberts (MEP), Ali Bas (Member of Nordrhein-Westfälischen Landtag), Meyrem Almaci (President of Groen) and Judith Sargentini (MEP). In Glasgow, at the 25th EGP Council, a workshop entitled 'Migration and Refugees: A New Narrative for Europe' was organised, which addressed the need to develop a new and positive narrative on migration and refugees to create public interest and counter the anti-immigration and xenophobic rhetoric in European countries.



GEF Family

Project Coordinators' Day

For the first time, GEF hosted a Project Coordinators' Day in Brussels for all its partners coordinating projects on behalf of the Foundation in 2016.

This meeting, which was organised in February, provided all project partners with the opportunity to receive first-hand inputs on the implementation regulations for GEF projects in form of the Project Coordination Guidebook, exchange best practices, and to further develop their projects together with other partners.





Board and General Assembly Meetings

Six Board Meetings were organised in Ghent, Brussels, Barcelona, Prague, Utrecht and Glasgow to ensure the overall decision-making of GEF. One Strategic Meeting was held in February to discuss the general direction of the Foundation among partners, the GEF Board and the General Assembly members. Two General Assemblies were held in April and October to discuss the overall direction of the Foundation. During the General Assembly in October, a new associated member, the Institute for Political Ecology from Croatia was incorporated, and a new GEF Board was elected for a 3-year term.

Financial overview*

EXPENDITURE

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	EUR
Category 1: Personnel costs	403.706,48
1. Salaries	257.366,67
2. Contributions	98.046,17
3. Professional training	3.713,45
4. Staff mission expenses	8.394,22
5. Other personnel costs	36.185,97
Category 2: Infrastructure and operating costs	100.299,65
1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	66.111,85
2. Costs relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	9.980,83
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	8.471,72
4. Stationery and office supplies	4.464,15
5. Postal and telecommunications charges	10.256,91
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	1.014,19
7. Other infrastructure costs	0,00
Category 3: Administrative expenditure	43.742,66
1. Documentation costs (newspapers, press agencies, databases)	1.820,35
2. Costs of studies and research	24.632,10
3. Legal costs	3.480,75
4. Accounting and audit costs	12.047,80
5. Miscellaneous administrative costs	1.761,66
Category 4: Meetings and representation costs	68.386,88
1. Costs of meetings	53.811,99
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	12.504,72
3. Representation costs	1.598,37
4. Cost of invitations	471,80
5. Other meeting-related costs	0,00
Category 5: Information and publication costs	574.198,31
1. Publication costs	161.302,48
2. Creation and operation of Internet sites	79.495,34
3. Publicity costs	606,74
4. Communications equipment (gadgets)	14.481,09
5. Seminars	318.312,66
6. Exhibitions	0,00
7. Other information-related costs	0,00
Category 6: Expenditure relating to contributions in kind	96.188,00
TOTAL ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	1.286.521,98
TOTAL NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	2.552,48
TOTAL BUDGET	1.289.074,46
REVENUE	
1. EP grant**	1.090.124,00
2. Membership fees	0,00
3. Donations	0,00
4. Own resources	106.125,37
5. Contributions in kind	96.188,00
6. Revenue to cover non-eligible expenditure	2552,48
TOTAL REVENUE	1.294.989,85
SALDO 2016 (to be transferred as reserve in 2017)	5915,39

GEF is co-funded by the European Parliament on an annual basis since September 2008. It means that 85% of its total yearly budget comes from an annual grant awarded by the European Parliament to Political Foundations at European level. For GEF, this funding is mainly linked to the size of the Green Group in the European Parliament. 15% of GEF's total budget must come from own resources, mainly brought in by members and partners of GEF supporting the implementation of GEF's activities.

*as of 24 March 2017, pending confirmation by the European Parliament and the GEF General Assembly.

** pending confirmation by the European Parliament.



GEF People 2016

Our General Assembly Members

Anne de Boer (Bureau de Helling, The Netherlands), **Annika Hjelm** (Cogito, Sweden, until April), **Claude Turmes** (Green Group in the European Parliament, Luxembourg), **Dirk Holemans** (Oikos, Belgium), **Evelyne Huytebroeck** (European Green Party, Belgium, as of October), **Frida Johnsson** (Cogito, Sweden, as of April), **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (European Green Party, France, as of April), **Heidi Hautala** (Green Group in the European Parliament, Finland), **Ingrid Facchinelli** (Fondazione Alexander Langer, Italy), **Klaus Linssenmeier** (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany, as of October), **Lucile Schmid** (Fondation de l'Écologie Politique, France), **Madeleine Petrovic** (Grüne Bildungswerkstatt, Austria), **Marie Toussaint** (European Green Party, France), **Marie Utter** (European Green Party, until April), **Michel Genet** (Étopia, Belgium), **Mike Mathias** (Gréng Steftung, Luxembourg), **Miriam Kennet** (Green Economics Institute, United Kingdom), **Peter Eriksson** (Green Group in the European Parliament, Sweden), **Pierre Jonckheer** (Green Group in the European Parliament, Belgium), **Ralf Fücks** (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany, until October), **Raúl Gómez Vázquez** (Fundación EQUO, Spain, as of April), **Reinhard Bütikofer** (European Green Party, Germany), **Sandor Fulop** (Ökopolisz, Hungary), **Susanne Rieger** (Fundació Nous Horitzons, Catalonia, Spain), **Tommy Simpson** (Green Foundation Ireland, Ireland), **Ville Ylikahri** (The Green Cultural Association ViSiLi / The Green Cultural and Educational Centre ViSiO, Finland).

Our Associate Members:

Lars-Olof Karlsson (Green Forum, Sweden), **Olga Kikou** (Green Institute, Greece), **Sevil Turan** (Green Thought Association, Turkey), **Teo Comet** (Federation of Young European Greens, as of October), **Vedran Horvat** (Institute for Political Ecology, Croatia, as of October).

Our Board of Directors:

Anne de Boer (until October), **Dirk Holemans**, **Eva van de Rakt** (until October), **Heidi Hautala** (until October), **Joachim Denking** (as of October), **Juan Behrend** (until October), **Lucile Schmid** (Co-President) (as of October), **Monica Frassoni** (until October), **Natalie Bennett** (as of October), **Olga Kikou** (as of October), **Pierre Jonckheer** (Co-President) (until October), **Reinhard Bütikofer** (as of October), **Susanne Rieger** (Co-President), **Ville Ylikahri** (as of October).

Our Honorary President:

Pierre Jonckheer (as of October)

Our Staff:

Aurélie Maréchal
(Director and Secretary General)

Ioana Banach-Sirbu
(Programme Manager)

Laurent Standaert
(Editor-in-Chief, Green European Journal)

Beatrice White
(Deputy Editor, Green European Journal)

Ana Faias Ambrosio
(Administrative and Financial Officer)

Carlotta Weber
(Project Assistant, as of February)

Ognjen Sobat
(Project Assistant, as of April)

Ashley Sherwood
(Project Assistant, October-December)

Our Interns:

Victor Popovici (until March), **Ashley Sherwood** (January-August), **Julia Lagoutte** (as of August)



Contact us:



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