

Annual Report 2010

Green European Foundation
(GEF) asbl



GREEN EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION

The Green European Foundation is a European-level political foundation whose mission is to contribute to a lively European sphere of debate and to foster greater involvement by citizens in European politics. GEF strives to mainstream discussions on European policies and politics both within and beyond the Green political family. The foundation acts as a laboratory for new ideas, offers cross-border political education and a platform for cooperation and exchange at the European level.

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Foreword

In our first published annual report, the Green European Foundation looks back on 2010 as a year of growth in the scope and ambition of the foundation's work programme. Aided by an increase in funding from the European Parliament, the foundation held projects in 19 cities in 14 countries across Europe, on topics ranging from the "Green New Deal" to development of a European wide citizens' democracy.

This marks a significant expansion of the foundation, which begun as a small European Commission pilot project in 2007. This development from the trial phase saw the foundation evolve and adapt to experience and changing circumstances. However, through this time GEF remained focused on its core mission, which at its most basic is to Europeanise political debate at national level. In practice, that means working to encourage Green activists to discuss European solutions to common problems, and to help spread an understanding of how the EU operates.

While GEF sets out this ambition, it operates within a budget that is smaller than that of many of our partners but with a motivated core team from its Brussels office. That means having to prioritise work areas, and focusing on projects that can have the maximum effect within the European Green movement.

In this endeavour, we worked closely with Green political foundations who operate at a national level and with our Green partners at the European level such as the European Green Party and the Green Group in the European Parliament. Such close and fruitful cooperation has allowed us to contribute to the building of a truly European Green movement, where common European solutions can be found to pressing economic, environmental and social problems.

As we look to the future, we see an ever greater need to develop such an approach. The crisis in the Eurozone has shown that Member States lack the ability to act in a coordinated approach to fundamental issues facing the Union, and the stalled climate talks and "Arab Spring" demonstrate more than ever the need for Europe to act in a concerted manner on the world stage. However, this cannot be achieved unless Europe's citizens recognise their common interest.

GEF remains a work in progress, and in the coming period we will continue to roll out new tools and programmes to develop our presence across the political debate in Europe, with a particular emphasis on online content. This will include our "Green New Deal" website, outlining core elements of the Green response to the ongoing economic and environmental crisis. We will also launch an online Journal, bringing the debate on Green issues to a European level.

Whatever the means – through our web platforms or publications or in person at one of our events – we look forward to engaging in the debate with you.

*Heidi Hautala and Pierre Jonckheer,
Co-Presidents of the Green European Foundation*

Introduction

A year of crises and opportunities

The dominant theme for 2010 in Europe was the ongoing Eurozone crisis. This fundamentally changed the nature and shape of European discourse, and exposed the lack of solidarity and cohesion at the basis of the European project. Add to this EU fatigue, EU scepticism and a tendency to re-nationalise European politics and you have the ingredients to challenge the EU future at its very core. It is our responsibility to develop a positive discourse on the future of the EU, with a vision for the EU in difficult times.

The rise of populism, and especially of the populist right, continued in several countries across Europe: elections in the Netherlands, Hungary, the Czech Republic and regional elections in Vienna, Austria were all examples of a trend that has to be addressed. Populists benefited from the instability and fear caused by the crisis, while at the same time their growing influence makes it ever harder to find constructive and inclusive solutions.

GEF and the European Green movement work on a different vision of Europe's future. At the core is the "Green New Deal", a comprehensive set of policy proposals supported and developed by the European Green movement to transform Europe's economies and societies onto more sustainable paths. We published a number of studies under this heading, and held events to directly engage citizens in this process. It will continue to form a basis of GEF's work in the coming years.

Along with dealing with the Eurozone crisis, the EU was also finding its feet with the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty. This opened up a number of opportunities for the EU and at the same time opened new fields of research for GEF. This was especially the case with the European Citizen's Initiative (ECI), a tool which will allow the EU's citizens a direct means of influencing the policy agenda. We published a handbook, a 10 step guide and held seminars across Europe to enable citizens to use the ECI as soon as it comes into force in April 2012.

Green gains and losses

For the Greens, the electoral results were a mixed bag in 2010. On the one hand the German Greens were on an all-time high in the polls (which in the meantime translated into the ground-breaking first Green Prime Minister in the state of Baden-Württemberg), the first ever Green MP in the UK was elected despite the "first past the post-system", France saw the birth of a new Green Party and the Greens started to gain renewed momentum in Spain. In Central and Eastern Europe, Poland and Hungary made for good news. In the extremely difficult context of an election system that sets enormous hurdles and of sweeping victories of the (far-) right parties, the first ever Green MPs were elected in Hungary, later followed by a number of local councillors all over the country. In Poland, a first breakthrough was achieved with 5 elected Green local and regional councillors.

These successes offer GEF new perspectives and sometimes new partners to work with on the ground, which is essential to achieve our goal of bringing the EU closer to individual citizens across the Union.

On the other hand in several 2010 elections Green Parties saw stagnating results. Those Green parties who were in government faced the most difficult situations: be it in Ireland, in Finland or in the Czech Republic. In the last case all Green representation in Parliament was lost after a challenging legislature of Greens in a centre-right coalition government which fell in the middle of the Czech presidency of the Union in 2010.

This continued into 2011, where the Irish Greens suffered a heavy defeat in elections following the end of their period in government. The Finnish Greens are partners in a six-party government coalition, though they had a disappointing result following recently parliamentary elections. They will now face tough opposition from the populist right-wing party True Finns. We will organise the dissemination of the acquired knowhow and experiences by those of our partners that are or have been in government.

Looking ahead

Our objectives for 2011 are to build on our core programmes of work such as the Green New Deal, the European Citizen's Initiative, and to expand our work programme to reach as wide an audience as possible. We will launch a journal, bringing together articles about the Green movement at a national level to be discussed on a European platform, and a Green New Deal website also. We will continue to work with our partner foundations across Europe, including those being newly established in countries such as Ireland, Greece and Hungary to name only a few. Crucially, we will focus on presenting a programme of work that will encourage Green activists, and the wider public, to engage with the European project.



GEF'S CORE AREAS OF WORK

1. Study and Debate: Developing a European Dialogue

One of our objectives is to develop the European public sphere, and to help the Green movement develop coherent, European wide responses to different problems that confront the Union's citizens and its institutions. We published a series of studies on policy issues such as energy and nuclear power, organised debates and discussion on events that have a pan-European dimension, such as the rise of populism and the changing age demographic nature of the EU.

When trying to develop this European Demos we are confronted with difficulties in the European political environment. Some of these are common problems that have confronted European organisations; others are the result of more contemporary developments in the Union:

- European political debate is still hampered by the divergent political environments that exist in different member states. This manifests itself in countries having different political priorities, in different institutional arrangements, in different vocabularies and traditions and in different objectives.

- The Green political movement in Europe continues to be marked by major successes in some countries, and serious setbacks/lack of development in others. We work to ensure our messages are received and focused not just in our strongholds but also in countries where we are weaker or are just getting started.

- The rise of populist, anti-EU parties in certain European countries is the result of a lack of confidence in the ability of the EU to resolve people's most pressing concerns. We have to communicate the real and practical benefits that addressing energy, employment and social rights etc policies at the European level brings.

2010 was a successful year for this aspect of our work. The publications and events held demonstrate the benefits that are to be derived from discussing key issues on a European level, and how people involved in these areas can benefit from sharing their experience and knowledge on a pan-European level.

A Case Study: "27 National Energy Action Plans = 1 European Energy Policy"

This GEF publication took a look at six National Renewable Energy Action Plans submitted to the European Commission in 2010. These action plans contain information on how the six Member States expect to meet their EU renewable energy targets, and therefore present an excellent opportunity to examine how EU energy policy can be expected to develop in the coming years.

The publication undertakes an analysis the NREAPs with two questions in mind: do the Member States take into consideration the long term goal of 100% electricity from renewables, and do they expect to make use of European cooperation methods? The analysis demonstrates the great variety that exists between Member States on renewable energy policy, both in terms of ambition, method, and the likelihood of achieving the legally binding targets.

This publication has been translated into multiple languages, and copies are available to download:

www.bit.ly/national_energy_action_plan

GEF will continue developing a pan-European dialogue in 2011, with a number of publications and studies on topics such as "Greens in Government", populism, the Green New Deal and nuclear energy.

2. Education and Training: Developing the capacity for European engagement in the Green movement

Given the evolving nature and the complexity of the European Union, it is obvious that GEF has to engage massively in capacity building and training Green activists in their European engagement.

We try to give Green activists in different countries the training and tools to allow them to engage with the European Union. This varied from producing information documents about the European Union, providing hands on training for activists and assisting our member organisations in working together across borders. It included events held in Brussels but also events held in

different countries, to ensure that our training and message reached as wide an audience as possible.

This activity was not limited to countries within the EU. We also reached out to countries outside of the Union, to help those Green activists learn from the experience of the EU in certain policy fields (environment, energy) and to help Green activists understand and engage with the accession process that their country may be undergoing.

A Case Study: EU level training “Greening Europe – reality and vision”

In November 2010, GEF brought together Green activists from across Europe for an intensive three day course outlining how the EU operates, discussing different EU policy areas and discussing how the Green movement operates at a European level. The training mixed theoretical discussions about the institutions with practical work, such as a simulation on the CAP reform.

The participants stated that the event was very beneficial in increasing their knowledge of the European Union and how it operates. Participants included activists from countries both inside and outside of the European Union. This successful pilot project by GEF is to become an ongoing event, with another training seminar organised for June 2011.

Given the broadening nature of the European Green movement, with member organisations continuing to be established and expanded in countries in different parts of the Union, GEF is planning to grow and develop this aspect of its work.

To ensure we reach as wide an audience as possible, GEF will be putting added emphasis on our online activities. For example, we have launched and will continue to develop the website campaignhandbook.gef.eu, a website which contains articles on campaigning for political activists to develop their skills and learn from the experience of others across Europe.

3. Networking Green Europe: Building bridges – creating networks across Europe

GEF works with national Green political foundations. These foundations vary in size and structure, but all have a high level of overlap in the topics of study and the type of activities that they carry out. Part of GEF's remit is to act as a platform for Green actors at European level, to facilitate this sharing of knowledge and to help the foundations maximise the impact of their sometimes limited resources.

Developing networks of actors was a focus for all of GEF's activities in 2010, but we also engaged in a number of activities whose primary goal was to help facilitate this development. These proved to be an effective means of helping “Europeanise” the public debate in these member countries; not only did it result in areas of cooperation between different foundations, but the sharing of different backgrounds and experiences between these foundations also helped them shape their activities and agendas.

A Case Study: Greening Balkan Economies

As the EU extends its membership into the Balkans the need to develop a coherent Green approach for the region is evident. As a beginning to this process, GEF organised a conference titled “Greening Balkan Economies” in December 2010 with the support of the Green East West Dialogue. This three day event brought together over 300 people from more than 15 green parties and movements from across Europe. It addressed economic issues particular to the Balkans, with an emphasis on the measures that the Balkan economies need to adopt to be placed on a more sustainable path.

In 2011 GEF will continue to extend its work in this area, both online and in events



ABOUT GEF

1. The People of GEF

Members of the General Assembly:

Juan Behrend (European Green Party), Anne de Boer (St. Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks), Reinhard Bütikofer (Green Group in the European Parliament), Jacqueline Cremers (European Green Party), Ingrid Facchinelli (Alexander Langer Stiftung), Monica Frassoni (European Green Party), Ralf Fücks (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung), Per Gahrton (Cogito), Daniela Graf (Grüne Bildungswerkstatt), Heidi Hautala (Visili), Dirk Holemans (Oikos), Abbes Jacoby (Greng Steftung), Pierre Jonckheer (Green Group in the European Parliament), Miriam Kennet (Green Economics Institute), Alexey Kozlov (European Green Party), Benoît Lechat (Etopia), Isabelle Loevin (Green Group in the European Parliament), Susanne Rieger (Nous Horizons), Michèle Rivasi (Green Group in the European Parliament), Tommy Simpson (Green Ireland Foundation), Claude Turmes (Green Group in the European Parliament), Monika Vana (European Green Party)



Board:

- Heidi Hautala (President)
- Pierre Jonckheer (President)
- Juan Behrend
- Anne de Boer
- Monica Frassoni
- Ralf Fücks
- Daniela Graf

Staff 2010/2011:

- Claude Weinber (General Secretary)
- Leonore Gewessler (Director)
- Marina Barbalata (Project Management)
- Martijn Willems (Office Administration)
- Eszter Farkas (Intern until January 2011)
- Andrew Rodgers (English language editing, research until March 2011)

2. The Structures and Finances of GEF

General Assembly:

The Green European Foundation has two main decision-making bodies: the Board of Directors and the General Assembly. Members of the General Assembly represent the three main stakeholders of the Green European Foundation: national Green foundations from all over Europe, the European Green Party and the Green Group in the European Parliament.

At least 50% of the members of the General Assembly are representatives of the national political foundations. Every second year the General Assembly elects a Board of Directors from its members.

Legal Framework:

GEF is registered as a not for profit association under Luxembourgian law. It operates a bureau based in Brussels, Belgium.

GEF was created by a modification of the European Council and Parliament Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 related to the statutes and the financing of European political parties. This modification (EC) 1524/2007 includes specific elements about political foundations at the European level affiliated to their respective European political parties.

GEF is closely related to both the Green Group in the European Parliament and the European Green Party, which accredits it annually as the Green foundation at European level. Though both of these groups are represented in our General Assembly, GEF operates as an independent body.

Financial Framework:

GEF is co-funded by the European Parliament on an annual basis since September 2008, which means that 85% of its total yearly budget comes from an annual grant from the European Parliament; this funding is linked mainly to the size of the Green Group in the European Parliament. 15% of the budget must come from own resources, mainly brought in by the members and partners of GEF supporting the activities implemented with their support.

3. GEF Budget 2010

Eligible expenditure	
A.1: Personnel costs	149,873.03
1. Salaries	90,361.69
2. Contributions	42,366.63
3. Professional training	177.00
4. Staff mission expenses	7,761.72
5. Other personnel costs	9,205.99
A.2: Infrastructure and operating costs	32,552.29
1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	9,194.92
2. Costs relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	5,358.91
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	0.00
4. Stationery and office supplies	2,150.57
5. Postal and telecommunications charges	11,669.73
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	3,875.83
7. Other infrastructure costs	302.33
A.3: Administrative expenditure	62,684.40
1. Documentation costs (newspapers, press agencies, databases)	2,001.90
2. Costs of studies and research	50,287.21
3. Legal costs	1,977.99
4. Accounting and audit costs	8,417.30
5. Support to affiliated organisations and subsidies to third parties	0.00
6. Miscellaneous administrative costs	0.00
A.4: Meetings and representation costs	29,056.37
1. Costs of meetings of the political party	23,275.30
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	4,662.78
3. Representation costs	1,057.99
4. Cost of invitations	25.80
5. Other meeting-related costs	34.50
A.5: Information and publication costs	473,700.59
1. Publication costs	181,322.62
2. Creation and operation of Internet sites	44,768.43
3. Publicity costs	3,372.88
4. Communications equipment (gadgets)	0.00
5. Seminars and exhibitions	244,236.66
6. Election campaigns	0.00
7. Other information-related costs	0.00
A.6: Expenditure relating to contributions in kind	45,619.70
A. TOTAL ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	793,486.38
B.1: Non-eligible expenditure	808.46
1. Allocations to other provisions	
2. Financial charges	808.46
3. Exchange losses	
4. Doubtful claims on third parties	
5. Others (to be specified)	
B. TOTAL NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	808.46
C. TOTAL EXPENDITURE	794,294.84

Revenue	
D.2 European Parliament grant	674,463.42
D.3 Membership fee	0.00
D.4 Donations	0.00
D.5 Other own resources	73,803.04
D.6 Contributions in kind	45,619.70
TOTAL REVENUE	793,886.16

GEF PROJECTS 2010


→ STUDY AND DEBATE: DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN GREEN DIALOGUE

ERENE, 100% renewable for Europe

Publication “27 National Energy Action Plans = 1 European Energy Policy? An analysis of six National Renewable Energy Action Plans”, presentation in national contexts, presentation events in Vienna, Austria, Prague, Czech Republic, and Berlin, Germany

Supporting partners: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Cogito, Stichting Wetenschapeliek Bureau, Grüne Bildungswerkstatt

Working within the framework of the topic “100% renewables are possible”, the project focuses on analyzing the National Renewable Energy Action Plans of 6 countries with a view to the benefits of enhanced European cooperation and the long-term fundamental changes they envisage for the electricity sector. It is a continuation of work done on this topic in 2009, where the launching of the Spanish version of a publication on “ERENE” – a possible European Renewable Energy Community – coincided with the Spanish presidency. The 2010 publication is available in printed version in English and on-line (from 2011) in French and German.

 Publication is available for download at the following link www.bit.ly/national_energy_action_plan

Myths of Atomic Energy

Publication

Supporting partners: Sbilanciamoci!

Translation and publishing into Italian of a publication on the myths of nuclear energy – “Systems for change: Nuclear power vs. Energy Efficiency + Renewables?” – initially published by the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. The publication was distributed during the GEF conference “Greening the next Italian government” (December 2010) and to NGO networks, politicians and other relevant actors across the country. This work continued in 2011, and was given fresh impetus following the Fukushima disaster and the 25th anniversary of Chernobyl.


 www.bit.ly/nuclear_myths

Sustainable Industrial Policy for Europe

Publication

Partners: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Öko-Institut Berlin

A project started in 2009; and finalised in 2010. The publication was the third appearance in GEF’s Green New Deal publication series, which continued with volumes on energy and transport. The sustainable industry policy examined how governments can lead the way in making industry sustainable while at the same time using it to meet environmental and social needs.


 www.bit.ly/sustainable_industry

Green New Deal for Poland

Publication

Supporting partners: Green Institute Poland and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Warsaw and EU offices

A publication analysing the opportunities for a GND for Poland, as an example of the implementation of a European Green New Deal in Central and Eastern Europe. The publication is available in Polish and English and it will be followed-up by a series of debates in Poland. Three presentation events of the concept took place in 2010 already, in a pre-publication phase, more events are implemented in 2011, when Poland, taking over the rotating presidency of the EU council in the second half of the year, remains to be a key player for a sustainable future for Europe.

 Publication is available to download at the following link www.bit.ly/GND_Poland

Green New Deal – For Green Economy in an environmental friendly city

Partner: Citta Invisible

Venice, 15 January 2010

The panel debate, entitled “For Green Economy in an environmental friendly city” discussed various aspects of the Green New Deal. The discussion started from translating the publication “A Green New Deal for Europe” (which was published in English by GEF) into Italian.

 www.bit.ly/GND_cities

Gender and the Green New Deal: Round table during the annual conference on Green Economy of the Green Economics Institute

Partners: Green Economics Institute

Oxford, 29 July 2010

The Green Economics Institute’s conference was held at the end of July 2010 in Oxford. GEF organised a round table on the gender aspects of the financial and economic crisis. For the round table, GEF also commissioned an article on the gendered implications of the financial crisis. In 2011 our work on gender issues will be continued by cooperating in a world-wide essay contest on “Women and Climate Change” and the organisation of an afternoon conference in Oxford on gender issues of the Green New Deal.

 www.bit.ly/GEI_Gender

Luxembourg and the Greater Region 2030 – a cross-border implementation of the Green New Deal

Series of round tables and public debates

Supporting partner: Gréng Steftung, Luxembourg

Participants: varying from 50 to 120 per event

A series of debates on a Green New Deal for European regions. Various topics have been approached, such as mobility, renewable energy, or green economy. The debates were all well-attended and benefitted from the participation of high level speakers (e.g. Jacques Santer). The project received extensive press coverage. 2010 was the first year in what is planned to be a three year discussion process on the Green New Deal in a regional context.

 www.bit.ly/Lux_region

European Citizens' Initiative Handbook

Publication in five languages

This publication was done in cooperation with the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (Bruno Kaufmann – main author) and linked to the Greens/EFA group's efforts and support for the European Citizens' Initiative. The handbook is meant as a support tool for Greens and civil society organisations who plan to engage in ECIs. Work on this publication began in 2009 and it is now available in 5 languages. With the Directive relating to the ECI due to come into force in 2012, GEF published an easy to use "10 step guide to a successful ECI" in 2011.

 www.bit.ly/ECI_Handbook

White Book "Another ageing for Europe"

Publication

Partners: European Network of Green Seniors

GEF was a cooperation partner in this publication which is a first attempt to collect best policy and practice examples from various European countries meant to adequately confront the challenges posed by an ageing European demographic. A presentation of a draft text was done in the European Social Forum (Istanbul, July 2010), the text was ready and published at the end of 2010.

 www.bit.ly/ENGS_WhitePaper

Mobility Conference: Moving Minds – After the Car

Partners: Oikos, Kaitheater

Brussels, 30 November 2010

Participants: 141

GEF was a cooperation partner in this international conference on Green mobility for European cities which was initiated by the Flemish Green foundation Oikos. GEF will continue its work on transport policy in 2011, working with the Greens/EFA group to publish a policy document on this issue.

 www.bit.ly/after_the_car

All equal before the law... except divorce!

Conference

Supporting partners: Ceratonia Foundation, Malta

Malta, 23 October 2010

Participants: 56

Malta is among three states worldwide (joining the Philippines and the Vatican) that don't allow divorce. The conference highlighted the problem from various angles and from a European comparative perspective. The conference received a lot of media and public attention in general.

Many of those who attended the conference shortly afterwards got together and formed a pro-divorce campaign organisation. The networking and publicity behind this event eventually contributed to the passage of a referendum in support of divorce in June 2011.

 www.bit.ly/Malta_divorce

Greening the next Italian government

Conference

Supporting partners: Greens and key Italian players, organised around Sbilanciamoci!

Rome, 10 December 2010

Participants: 120

The conference brought together like-minded Green organizations that aimed to develop, by increased cooperation, an alternative to the current right-wing governing platform in Italy by implementing the core principles of a Green New Deal for Europe.

 www.bit.ly/Green_Italy

GEF round tables at the EGP council meetings: European Citizens' Initiative; Freedom of Movement

Partners: *Nous Horizons*

Barcelona, 19 March 2010

Participants: 24

Tallinn, 9 October 2010

Participants: 14

The first round table took place in Barcelona and discussed the European Citizens' Initiative with relevant actors on the topic (Greens/EFA MEP Gerald Häfner, Bruno Kaufmann – author of GEF's publication on the topic). The second round table, during the autumn council in Tallinn, discussed freedom of movement and European citizenship in the light of the current debate on expulsion of Roma citizens from France.

 www.bit.ly/ECI_Freedom

→ EDUCATION AND TRAINING: DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY FOR EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT IN THE GREEN MOVEMENT

Manual for Europe. A Beginner's Guide to the EU

Publication

Partners: *Grüne Bildungswerkstatt*

The manual is based on the Grüne Bildungswerkstatt's "Betriebsanleitung Europa", and consists of a booklet on structures and decision mechanisms of EU post-Lisbon, with a special focus on issues like the ECI, the role of the Parliament, European parties and foundations – as a general knowledge tool and a basic learning material for the EU training courses which GEF will continue to develop in 2011.

 www.bit.ly/Manual_for_Europe

EU training course

Supporting partner: ViSiO
Brussels, 14-16 November 2010
Participants: 22

A training course on the general functioning of the EU institutions and on the upcoming key EU policy debates (budget reform, economic governance, CAP, etc.). The course was targeted at Green national level activists and young activists, with a special focus on countries with no Green MEP representation. The aim was to bring Green activists closer to the discussion in Brussels and to create a network of activists interested in the European debates. The training module will become part of GEF's annual transnational capacity building offer.

 www.bit.ly/Europe_training

Capacity building on fundraising

Partners: GreenCampus at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Budapest, 17 September 2010
Participants: 21

A seminar for treasurers and fundraisers on transparent party finances – how to raise money “the Green way” while being efficient at it. The seminar was linked to the “Greens in big cities” meeting on “Anti-Corruption Strategies” in Budapest and was organised with support of GreenCampus at the Heinrich Böll Foundation. It followed-up on the 2008/2009 GEF fundraising survey.

Capacity building for European web-campaigners

Partners: Green MEPs, EGP, GreenCampus at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Brussels, 18 September 2010
Participants: 17

A workshop on best-practice exchange as well as a skills training for web-campaigners of parties and activist networks, which looked at how web campaigners are using online platforms to spread their message across Europe. The meeting was planned as a one day follow-up of a communications experts meeting organized jointly by the EGP, the Greens/EFA Group and GEF.

 www.bit.ly/web_capacity

“Green New Deal” Capacity Building Seminars for Greens and NGOs in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary


Capacity building seminar
Supporting partners: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague and EU offices
Prague, 22 October 2010
Participants: 17

The project combined a seminar with Greens and NGO representatives on the European Green New Deal, with a communication workshop on Green economy. For these seminars the Green New Deal for Europe Executive Summary (study published in 2009 for the Greens/EFA Group) was translated in Czech, Slovakian and Hungarian.

Digital knowledge base: Handbook on Campaigning

Partners: *Green Campus at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, national-level actors in campaigning, EGP*

The online “handbook on campaigning” is a flexible and easily available internet learning tool drawing upon the experience of earlier GEF seminars. The concept focuses on best practice and theories exchange and interactivity. The Berlin based project team started working in end of May 2010, and several presentations of the digital handbook were done in European Greens’ meetings. The project is now managed by GEF, and is updated regular with new “best practice” articles.

 campaignhandbook.gef.eu

Capacity building workshop (Estonia)

Partners: *GreenCampus, Eestima Rohelised*

Tallinn, 14-15 May 2010

Participants: *19*

This workshop was aimed at potential office holders and Green activists to acquire some of the tools needed to successfully campaign on issues of European relevance and were designed to the countries’ specific needs with support of Green Campus/Heinrich Böll Foundation, Germany. A special focus in the design of the seminar was given to European best practice exchange.

2 Capacity Building Seminars for Young European Greens on Green Economy (beginners/advanced)

supporting partner: *FYEG*

Opovo (Serbia), 13-18 April 2010

Participants: *23*

Thessaloniki, 24-29 November 2010

Participants: *32*

Two transnational capacity building seminars on the topic of green economy were organised with support of the Federation of Young European Greens. The first event – organised in Serbia – was targeted at young greens with little economic knowledge and was meant as a first introduction to green economy. The second event, targeting young Greens with more knowledge on economy, took place at the end of November in Greece, and discussed among other things the Green New Deal from a young green perspective.

 www.bit.ly/greeneconomyfyeg

→ NETWORKING GREEN EUROPE: BUILDING BRIDGES – CREATING GREEN NETWORKS ACROSS EUROPE

Black Sea Countries: Partners for Ecology and Democracy?

Networking conference in the SEE region

Supporting partners: Stichting Wetenschappelijk Bureau, Green East West Dialogue, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, local Green parties

Sofia, 29-31 October 20110

Participants: 120 people

This networking conference for the Black Sea Region, uniting Green actors from all over the region, discussed the issues of energy security, deep-sea oil drilling in the Black Sea and questions of minority rights around the Black Sea.

 www.bit.ly/blacksea_partners

CEE Green Summer University

Partners: Ökopolitikai Műhely Alapítvány (Ecopolitics workshop foundation) and Vedegylet (Hungarian NGO)

Horány, Hungary, 21-24 July 2010

Participants: 208

The second CEE summer university gathered more than 200 participants, with an increased international participation in comparison to its first edition. The summer camp discussed various aspects of the Green New Deal from a Central European perspective. This was an increase on the event held in 2009, and it is expected that the 2011 Summer University will be even larger.

 www.bit.ly/CEE_Summer


Spanish Green Summer University

Partners: Green movements and parties from all over Spain

Navarra, 29 July – 1 August 2010

Participants: more than 200

The summer university, dealing with the local implementation of the Green New Deal around Europe, was well attended and benefitted from the presence of several international experts. It attracted more than 200 participants.

 www.bit.ly/Spanish_Summer_University

CDN summer camp

Partners: Cooperation and Development Network Europe (CDN)

Artvin, Turkey, 18-25 July 2010

Participants: 64

GEF cooperated in the annual young green summer camp in Eastern Europe organised by CDN. The topic of the summer camp was sustainable living in connection to green economy. It forms part of GEF's effort of capacity building for the European aspect of the Green movement in Eastern Europe.

Global Young Greens Congress

Partners: *Global Young Greens*
Berlin, 8–14 August 2010
Participants: 181

GEF cooperated in the second congress of the Global Young Greens, the global network of young green activists. The Green New Deal was among the main topics discussed in the congress hosted by the German Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin.

Green experiences in Europe

Supporting partner: *EQUO*
Madrid, 11 December 2010
Participants: 86

A conference with the participation of Green minded people, brought together with the support of the Spanish EQUO foundation, focused on European best practice exchange around the diverse experiences of Green parties around Europe in the wake of a reinvigorated Spanish Green political scene.

 www.bit.ly/Green_Best_Practice

Greens in big cities

Partners: *Vienna Greens, LMP, EGP*
Budapest, 17–19 September 2010
Participants: 18

A first stakeholder meeting took place on June 17 in Brussels, with the aim of deciding how to develop the so called "Greens in Big Cities" best practice exchange network, which is one of the numerous European initiatives to connect local councillors to the European level of policy making and exchange.

In September, a meeting of local councillors from big cities was organised in Budapest, on the topic of anti-corruption strategies. GEF was a cooperation partner in this event.

 www.bit.ly/Greens_Big_Cities

GEF OUTLOOK FOR 2011/2012

As GEF looks to the future, there are a number of exciting and engaging projects that we are working on. While many of these will contain a response to contemporary issues, such as the rise of the populist-right, all will be part of longer term projects to shape the debates in Europe towards a Greener discourse.

Below is a sample of some of the major projects that we are working on. There will also be a continuation of many of our projects from 2010, such as the campaign handbook, numerous networking events and the training of Green activists to assist them in working with Europe and across Europe.

Green New Deal website

A website uniting GEF's, Greens/EFA's, national foundations' and EGP's material on the Green New Deal with a general introduction on the topic, as a one-stop-entry point for everyone interested. As Green Parties enter government or elected office, there will be a growing list of examples of Green New Deal ideas and policies being implemented. This website will bring these different examples together from across Europe in an easy access format

Green European Journal

Partner: Etopia and other national foundations, respectively regional experts

A European level online Green journal is to be developed with strong links to the GEF website. The Journal will bring together, and translate into English, articles of interest to Green activists across Europe. It will be published quarterly, with the first edition available in the second half of 2011.

Populism in Europe

Publication

Supporting Partners: Stichting Wetenschappelijk Bureau

A comprehensive publication on this political phenomenon will appear in summer 2011, and be presented during the Green European Summer University in Frankfurt/Oder – Slubice. A preparatory authors' conference was held in December 2010 in Brussels. Project management is with Erica Meijers from the Stichting Wetenschappelijk Bureau, which has a lot of expertise on the issue. The publication will be done in the "Planet Verlag", the publishing house of the Grüne Bildungswerkstatt Austria, Oikos, the Flemish Green foundation has offered to organise the launching event. In this sense: this is a good example of how a topic touches several of our member foundations and incites cooperation.

Roma Inclusion in Europe: Green Questions and Answers

Publication

Partner: ViSiO (Finland)

The study is aimed at gathering information and knowledge on Green policy solutions, strategies and best practices for fighting against Roma exclusion both at national and European levels. The editor-in-chief, Kati Pietarinen, started to work on the project in mid March 2011. The publication is expected to be ready in autumn 2011.