

2015

Annual Report



**GREEN EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION**

About This Publication

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

2015 was one of the most challenging years the European project has seen recently. From the new start in Greece and the afflicted European economy, to the refugee crisis and the fundamental questions posed to the EU by the upcoming British referendum, the year has challenged all political families and the Green movement has certainly made no exception.

It is in this context that our work of reflection on the future of Europe, the way in which citizens can have a say in the democracy they live in, and our efforts of bringing the European project closer to its people becomes truly crucial.

Throughout this report we illustrate the main highlights of projects realised in partnership with national Green foundations across Europe, as well as with our main partners at European level, in order to foster our mission of contributing to the development of a public sphere, where citizens can engage in a political dialogue to shape decisions taken at European level.

In 2015, our work programme focused on three areas of work: fostering Green European political discussions through our study and debate priority, encouraging a more participative European democracy through education and training and strengthening the Green political family by providing a platform for networking and capacity building. Together with our partner organisations, we implemented 26 projects, out of which 11 focused on transnational cooperation to reflect on Europe's biggest topics, from Greening the economy through ecological production to envisaging a Europe where local initiatives for the management of commons replace unsustainable systems or allowing for the third sector to have a say in a participative democracy.

Also in 2015, the Green European Journal published three editions – the online editions “Peace, Love and Intervention” and “Connecting the Struggles” and the print edition “Stress Tests: The European Project Under Pressure”. On top of this, the Journal website published over 100 online articles on topical issues, seeking to promote the Green debate in Europe and the exchange of views among the Green network.

Moreover, the year has been one of change also in the GEF team: we were glad to welcome a new GEF Project Manager, Ioana Banach, but at the same time we had to learn with great sadness about the passing of our much valued member and friend Steve Emmot. After the tragic loss of Benoit Lechat in the first days of the year, the Green European Journal found its new Editor-in-Chief in Laurent Standaert, who joined the team in October.

To everyone who has been part of GEF's achievements in 2015, we say thank you, and we rely on your continuous commitment in facing the challenges of the coming years.



With warm regards,

Susanne Rieger & Pierre Jonckheer

OUR MISSION

The Green European Foundation (GEF) is a European level political foundation. 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. Modelled on many successful national Green political foundations, GEF works to encourage European citizens to participate in European political discussions and to ultimately forge a stronger, more participative European democracy. The primary source of GEF's funding is the European Parliament.

The mission of GEF is to contribute to the development of a European public sphere, where European citizens can engage in a political dialogue to shape decisions taken at European level. A key audience for GEF is the Green political family across Europe (politicians, activists, policy experts, or campaigners) who GEF works with to encourage cooperation across borders, disseminate expertise and information on EU policies and EU decision making, and share best practices.

At the same time, GEF works to reach the widest possible audience, engaging in social media, publishing in different languages and ensuring events and publications are easily accessible to those interested. GEF shares the belief of the wider Green movement that some of Europe's most pressing problems, such as energy provision, climate change and food supply, can best be resolved at European level. GEF therefore works to make such cooperation a reality by providing a platform for networking between Green actors across Europe and disseminating expertise on European issues within and beyond the Green political family.



**GREEN EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION**

2015 in numbers

Direct impact



Over
3000
participants directly
reached through
events

European presence



Over **70** events
Present in more than **30**
cities in **20** European
countries

International team



A total of **13**
staff members from
11 countries

Strong online coverage



3600 Twitter followers



6300 Facebook followers



100.000 websites visitors

Fostering Green European Political Discussions

Encouraging European-level **study** and **debate** has always been central to GEF's efforts. Exchanging and developing new ideas are the hallmarks of the truly active public space we are striving to create. To this end, GEF continued in 2015 to invest 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

One of the core GEF projects encouraging Green debates at a European level is the Green European Journal (GEJ). Since its launch in 2012, the Journal has sought to establish itself as the European venue for Green ideas, to enhance understanding and help debates and ideas travel across Europe's cultural and political borders. The project pursues this objective by acting as a lively platform for exchange, as well as a resource providing topical insights and deeper analysis. In this regard, the multi-lingual dimension of the project remains crucial and articles have been translated into 14 different languages. In addition to the thematic editions, which explore a central topic in depth, the *In the Debate* section of the website publishes regular articles which analyse key developments and trends and provide insight into the main debates taking place within the Green movement and around Europe.

In 2015, the Green European Journal published two on-line editions, "Peace, Love and Intervention" and "Connecting the struggles", and one printed edition titled "Stress Tests: The European Project Under Pressure", which explored the various crises confronting Europe – economic, political and social. The Journal continued its strengthened efforts in networking and promotion in 2015. A number of events were

organised throughout the year, including panel "debates and workshops". Thanks to these efforts to broaden circulation and expand the network, the readership of the Journal continued to grow.

Towards the end of the year, the Journal embarked on a transition to consolidate its output, notably by launching an extended monthly newsletter and moving towards a more structured and ambitious publishing format. The editorial board of the Journal also saw significant changes in its membership.

The Journal is available at www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu, where partners can also submit articles that may be of interest to other Greens.



EUROPE FOR BEGINNERS

“Europe for Beginners – A Green Guide to the EU” – the fully updated and revised edition of what was previously called the Manual for Europe carries on GEF’s mission to bring Europe closer to citizens in order to foster greater involvement and awareness of the European Union. This year, we published translations into French, German and Spanish, with the support and input of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament, and initiated the work for a Czech and Hungarian version. Hence, some of the most useful information on how the EU operates and Greens’ perspectives on key aspects of the Union is now available to an even broader readership.

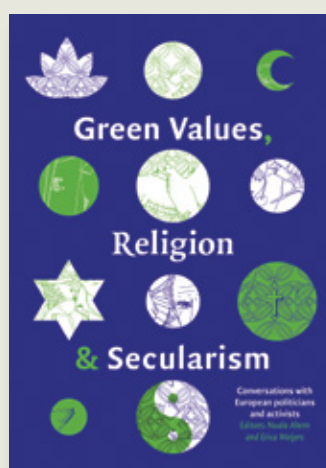


Through a range of **publications**, we have continued working in 2015 to break down the barriers between Europe and its citizens and to provide the tools necessary for them to engage in shaping the continent's future. Check out all our latest publications at <http://gef.eu/publications/>

GREEN VALUES, RELIGION & SECULARISM

With the support of Bureau de Helling (Netherlands), Green Foundation Ireland, Strefa Zieleni (Poland), Green Institute Greece, Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique (France), Green Thought Association (Turkey)

This publication is the result of a project which aims to scrutinise different experiences of religion in various European contexts from a Green perspective and to stimulate debate and reflexion on this topics. The book features various conversations with European politicians and activists on the issues around religion and how it intersects with public and political life. Coming from different national contexts, they reflect on the way their own religious or secular values influence their political attitude; the role of religion in the public forum; conflicts between fundamental rights, such as the freedom of religion and the principle of sexual and gender equality; the role of Islam in Europe and the question



whether religion is a source of inspiration or an obstacle for Green politics.

This publication is an invitation to work towards a more coherent debate within the Greens on the changing role of religion in society, but also to engage in the debate about values to a greater extent. The pub-

lication can either be **downloaded as PDF on the GEF website** or ordered as a **hard copy**.

THE EU'S DATA PROTECTION REFORM

In partnership with Jan Philipp Albrecht, MEP (The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament)

As a new General Data Protection Regulation was adopted by the European Parliament in December 2015, citizens had to be provided with appropriate tools to better understand their rights to data protection. Therefore, an educational video was produced in English and German by GEF and the Greens/EFA about what enhanced data protection laws mean. Moreover, the brochure *The “EU’s Data Protection Reform”* was published by the Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and



Rapporteur for the EU Data Protection Regulation, Jan Philipp Albrecht, and can be downloaded or ordered in German on his website. In cooperation with GEF, both English and French translations were produced and are available for download on the GEF website or as hard copy. The brochure aims to provide answers and background both to questions around data protection and to the potential political and personal action that can be taken to ensure the protection of one's own data.

PREPARING FOR COP 21

GEF joined other political organisations in the reflection on climate negotiations ahead of COP21. As a result, we co-funded three publications and financed the subtitles for two educational videos:

- With the support of Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique (France) a selection of extracts from *“Paris Climat 2015 – 20 ans après”* originally published in French, was launched. The collection of essays, now translated into

English, adopt an optimistic approach about how the world could look 20 years from now in case of successful COP21 talks. This new version of the publication, with an introduction by GEF Co-Presidents Susanne Rieger and Pierre Jonckheer, is titled *“Paris Climate 2015 – 20 years on”* and was published in the forefront of the UN COP21 climate negotiations in Paris, which took place in late 2015.

- GEF financed the English subtitled versions of the two short educational videos *“Le climat fait son cinéma”* and *“Tous acteurs du climat”*, which were originally produced in French by Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique and its partners to foster a better understanding of climate change and individual action that should be taken. Those videos can be found on GEF's YouTube channel.
- Moreover, GEF looked, in collaboration with the Federation of Young European Greens, into the processes and politics beyond climate deals in the publication titled *“Building up for Paris”*.
- Together with Strefa Zieleni (Poland) and the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, GEF published a multilingual special e-book edition of *“Green News”* compiling several points of views on climate challenges, and in particular on the question of coal mining in Poland. The publication, which includes articles in French, Polish and English, is available on the GEF website.





ECOPRO – EXPLORING PATHWAYS FOR ECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION IN A POST-GROWTH SOCIETY

With the support of Oikos (Flanders, Belgium), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain), Green Foundation Ireland (Ireland), Green House (United Kingdom), Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria), Ecopolis (Hungary), Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia) and Visio (Finland).

The transnational project Ecological Production in a Post-Growth Society (ECOPRO) built on the work of GEF's 2014 project Socioecological Reindustrialisation (SERIND) and explored pathways for a transition towards ecological production, as part of a sustainable economy that is low-carbon and fosters an equal society.

Taking into consideration the structural differences between various national contexts, the project explored a multitude of solutions suitable

for addressing specific ecological challenges and economic development trajectories. Eight Green foundations from different regions and member states of the European Union were involved in exploring 4 pathways

for ecological production: peer-to-peer production; conversion of existing companies so as to contribute to a more regionalised circular economy; product-service systems; and the potential of sharing and commoning. A framing paper, available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on the GEF website, explains the differing paths and served as a background for the conferences taking place in the participating countries.



RECLAIM THE COMMONS –

REVIVING THE DEBATE AROUND AND EXPLORING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE COMMONS

With the support of Etopia (Wallonia, Belgium), Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique (France), Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia), Oikos (Flanders, Belgium) and Strefa Zieleni (Poland).

Reclaim the Commons aimed to revive the debate around the commons, which is a fundamental part of the Green political ideology. Through this project, five national partners from Belgium, Poland, Croatia and France explored the transformative power of the commons, aiming to engage Greens and a wider audience in this topic. They explored both theoretical and prac-

tical approaches to commons across Europe. Somewhere between privatisation and public management, natural, digital or economic resources can be managed as commons; that is through an innovative institutional, economic and political model, placing democracy and citizens participation at its heart. The project offered insights into the struggles around the commons and analysed the cases where commons have been a driving force for mobilisation, the cases where the commons are to be protected and, more importantly, the transformative potential of these struggles for relationships in our societies.



PRIVATISATION OF EDUCATION AND WELFARE SERVICES

With the support of Cogito (Sweden), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalunya, Spain), Ecopolis (Hungary), Fundación EQUO (Spain)

In continuation of the 2014 study “**Green Responses to Privatisation of Welfare Services In Europe**”, this project was realised by aiming to deepen the discussion and answered many questions that were raised in the study, such as: how do we finance welfare in the future? How do

we strengthen the third sector in many countries? Is the profit motive compatible with the public interest? How can we regulate the private market? The project also had the goal of defining common Green principles in welfare policies, showcasing those privatisation models that have proved to be successful and in line with Green values, and by formulating recommendations for Green parties across Europe. To this end, several national seminars were organised by project partners.

UNDERSTANDING AND COUNTERING POPULISM IN THE EU

With the support of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Germany), Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria), Bureau de Helling (Netherlands)

With right-wing populist movements and parties becoming a wide-spread and increasingly mainstream phenomenon all over Europe, other political and civil society actors find themselves often overwhelmed by the challenge of countering the right-wing populist messages,

both in their political content and political communication strategies. Therefore, this project aimed at providing a platform for Green politicians and activists around Europe to formulate counterstrategies and find new tools in confronting the right-wing populist messages. A roundtable was organised in Vienna in September, gathering experts from different EU countries.

MONEY FOR CHANGE

With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalunya, Spain) and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Germany), Bureau de Helling (Netherlands)

This project was a follow-up of the 2014 study “**Money for Change: The financial sector in the Green economic transformation**” on financing the green transformation through mobilising private economic partners.

In October, a conference with Gerhard Schick, German MP, was organised in Barcelona discussing the implications of the European currency crisis and ideas on reforming the financial sector. GEF, in collaboration with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, also published several policy papers related to the topic in **German, English, French and Spanish**.

CREATING A WATCHDOG MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE BALKANS

With the support of Bluelink (Bulgaria), Institutul Verde (Romania), National Environment Centre (Moldova) and Sunrise (Macedonia).

Environmental NGOs, media and political party representatives from four European countries combined their forces in order to achieve a bigger social and environmental impact, through the creation of synergies and exchange of experience. The major goal of the project was to set the foundation for a transboundary watchdog mechanism, involving Green organisations, political parties and journalists from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova and Romania. The project aimed at initiating and strengthening the capacity of journalists from the participating states to investigate and report on important environmental issues, such as illegal logging, in a transboundary context. The investigations triggered Green debates within the par-



ticipating states and succeeded in establishing long-term transnational working contacts between the representatives of Green non-governmental organisations, journalists and political entities. Moreover, the investigative work resulted in a publication showcasing the issue of deforestation and illegal logging – in different contexts across three countries.

A MORE PARTICIPATIVE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

Another core area of GEF's work in 2015 was represented by the promotion of Green **education** and **training**, while **building capacity** and encouraging **networking** amongst Green actors across Europe. This was provided through transnational workshops, for instance in the framework of summer universities organised by national Green foundations, as well as seminars and public conferences. The aim was to raise awareness among citizens about Green solutions to the challenges Europe faces and to enhance the ability of Green actors to work on issues with a European dimension. The ultimate goal was to encourage a stronger and more participative European democracy.

GREENING THE MEDIA

Deep transformations have been taking place across the media landscape in recent years. With new voices emerging and new platforms proliferating in journalism, expert voices have lost authority in media and citizen journalists are now able to reach even wider audiences thanks to the extension of digital tools. The seminar “Greening the Media” organised in London in June 2015 discussed the extent to which the ‘new’ media sources can provide a reliable alternative to the ‘old’ media. One of the important issues discussed at the seminar was the inclusion of

new and multiple voices while maintaining responsibility, ethics and accountability that must go hand in hand with high-quality and informative journalism.



EUROPEANISING GREEN ACTIVIST TRAINING

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



The project “Europeanising Green Activist Training” had as its main objective the addition of a European dimension to the existing Green activist trainings offered by Green organisations from four different countries – Finland, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary. 88 training participants had an opportunity to gain knowledge about European politics while developing some very practical skills, such as negotiation and networking. Participating organisations drafted a Handbook for organising European Green Activist Trainings with the aim of multiplying the experience of this project to other GEF partners.

CLIMATE KNOWS NO BORDERS

With the support of the Federation of Young European Greens and the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe.

Emerging as a result and continuation of the 2014 “Europe Ahead” conference, the project consisted of a 3-day conference in Tirana, organised in September, and was devoted to two main themes: climate change with a specific focus on energy policies; the framework of EU negotiations in regard to energy, energy efficiency, recycling and waste management within the EU pre-accession agreements with the countries of the Western Balkans/Turkey.



The discussions also explored the proposed actions to reach climate goals given by the regional governments and the opportunities for the Greens to position their agenda more effectively, taking into consideration different aspects of the bigger picture.

CONGRESS OF YOUNG EUROPEANS: (RE)CLAIM YOUR SPACE IN EUROPE

In cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Germany) Prague Office and Headquarters Berlin, Ecopolis (Hungary), and the Federation of Young European Greens.

Conceptualised as a follow-up to the “Berlin Youth Congress” in 2013 and the “European Youth Dialogue” in Thessaloniki in 2014, the **four-day congress held in Budapest in September 2015** fostered an exchange between young European citizens on issues such as freedoms, rights and liabilities in the digital age; urban future; and education for the future. Moreover, it sought to strengthen a transnational European network and to explore pathways for the future of Europe. The congress was organised around the idea of reclaiming space, trying to exchange and develop ideas of virtual, political, cultural, and all forms of public spaces in Europe.

In the culturally diverse and politically charged environment of Budapest, an additional focus was placed on the current developments in Ukraine and its implications for Europe, as well as the asylum policies of the EU.



TOOLKIT FOR GREEN ACTIVISTS

The seminar has become a core pillar of GEF's transnational capacity building activities, reaching its 6th edition in March 2015. The aim of the seminar was to introduce and discuss the EU level of policy making with an interested Green-minded public. The course was particularly relevant in the post-electoral context of the 2014 European Parlia-

ment elections, and aimed at creating a Green audience more knowledgeable of how the European Union works and of key EU policy issues on the political agenda. The seminar enhanced Green activists' interest in EU level politics and increased their awareness of potential synergies between national and European levels of decision-making.

SUMMER UNIVERSITIES

Summer universities aim to bring together Green-minded people to share ideas, engage in debates, and to enjoy themselves in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. In this environment, GEF continued to organise European workshops at summer universities all across Europe.

1 As part of the Summer University Workshop **Stop TTIP - with arguments and actions** (with the support of *Fundació Nous Horitzons, Barcelona, Spain*) participants had, amongst others, a chance to debate the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), bringing together a representative of Spanish academia, international speakers, as well as members of political parties and civil society.

2 The summer camp **Energy Transition and Mega-Projects in the Balkans** (with the support of *Green Institute Greece, Halkidiki, Greece*) gathered Green activists from the Balkans to address some crucial issues such as the impacts of extractive industries, in particular the gold mining activities in the region on a transnational level. A platform for representatives of the Green movement was provided to exchange information and best practices. GEF was present with a session on mega-projects and struggles coming along, as well as information on how actors in the Balkan network can benefit from GEF's activities.

3 The summer university **Green Forest – Green Poland** (with the support of *Strefa Zieleni, Białowieża, Poland*) addressed a broad range of Green key topics, such as Green economy or environmental protection, seen from a European perspective. It provided a platform for networking, bridging the gap regarding the level of ecopolitics knowledge in Poland, and for exploring the links between Green issues such as environment and sustainable development.

4 The Sustainable Energy Youth Academy '**Youth ReS/Volution**' **SEYN Šolta Academy** (with the support of *Institute for Political Ecology, Šolta, Croatia*) addressed the lack of youth participation in European energy decision-making, as well as the deficiency of information about employment and self-employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

5 The summer university **Art, Ecology and Climate Change** (with the support of *Green Foundation Ireland, Ballyvaughan, Ireland*) incorporated the summer exhibition and presentation of work at Burren College of Art with a focus on 'Art and Ecology' and 'Food and Culture'. In the context of the event, a presentation of the work of European artists was organised, which provided the context for a panel debate on the theme of food security and climate change from a European angle.

6 The **Ecopolis conference** (with the support of *Oikos, Brussels, Belgium*) offered a full day of lectures and debates, the aim of which was to set up a fruitful dialogue between different sectors of society in order to ensure exchange of innovative ideas and perspectives on the ecological challenges. The debates were addressing two central issues: European policy on climate change and the future of the economic policy from a Green perspective.

7 Reaching its seventh edition in 2015, the **Green Summer University Univerde** (with the support of *EQUO Foundation, Villena, Alicante, Spain*) became the most important forum for political ecology in Spain and develops proposals on Green economy, sustainable development, democracy and transparency. The event gathered over 250 participants and addressed crucial European topics, such as climate change, the local Green policies and new scenarios for political cooperation.

STRENGTHENING THE GREEN FAMILY IN EUROPE

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 EDUCATION AND TRAINING DAY

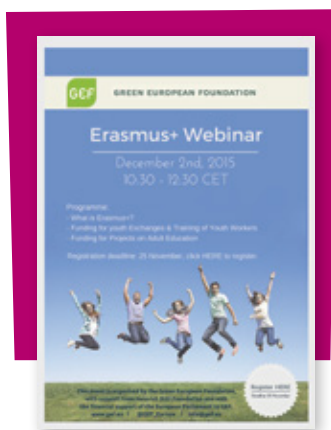
This capacity building day was organised in October in Brussels and provided a platform for exchange amongst the participants, as well as the opportunity to collectively develop ideas on how GEF can best support its partners' education and training projects and shape own initiatives for 2016. The sessions included a presentation/discussion of the “**Green Activist Training**” project, presentations and discussions on projects and platforms that others could join, as well as opportunities and ideas for empowering education, depending on each organisation's needs.



**BEWARE WHAT LIES
BENEATH**

FOSTERING ACTION ON TTIP

One of the main debates of 2015 was the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which awakened many activist voices across Europe to react in front of a negotiation process which threatened the European democracy. Since arguments used across Europe failed to reach the public in Eastern and Central Europe, countries like Poland, Bulgaria and Romania faced the challenge of building a different narrative, adapted to the specific situation of each country. GEF acted as a bridge between national Green foundations and the Green group in the European Parliament, informing its partners about the most pressing issues in the negotiation process, as well as supporting their participation in European workshops and enabling translations of campaigning material.



ERASMUS+ WEBINAR

The webinar was organised by GEF in December 2015 in order to provide participants with a chance to explore funding opportunities within the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission. Another goal of the webinar was to initiate collaborations between national foundations as part of the funding's application process. The project will continue in 2016 with the planning of project partnerships and face-to-face training.

COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY

Workshops at EGP Councils

At the 2015 spring Council meeting of the European Green Party in Zagreb, the Green European Journal organised a panel discussion around the theme of its edition "Peace, Love and Intervention", to discuss and confront Green views on issues connected to foreign policy, such as the ethics of humanitarian intervention, the role of the EU in conflicts beyond its borders, and the changing balance of global power.

In connection to the transnational project "Green Values, Religion and Secularism" and the book with the same title, GEF organised a panel discussion to explore how Green parties relate to the changing role of religion in society and public space. The workshop presented this project at the EGP Council in November in Lyon, and invited participants to exchange views and experiences with religion and green values within their own contexts.

GREEN CITIES CONFERENCE HELSINKI



On top of being present at the EGP Councils in Zagreb and Lyon, GEF supported, with other partners, the organisation of the EGP Green Cities Conference in Helsinki in September. This conference gathered around 300 local councillors and Green activists from all around Europe to discuss the challenges cities face nowadays, and the solutions a Green vision can bring in terms of mobility, social inclusion, democracy and diversity.

BOARD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS



Six Board Meetings were organised in Brussels, Helsinki and Lyon, to ensure the overall strategic management and decision-making of the foundation. Moreover, one General Strategic Meeting and two General Assemblies were held in Brussels in February, April and October to align our partners' interests and to create a common vision for GEF's future.

GEF PEOPLE 2015

Our General Assembly Members:

Alejandro Sánchez Perez (Fundación EQUO, Spain, until March), Anne de Boer (Bureau de Helling, Netherlands), Annika Hjelm (Cogito, Sweden), Claude Turmes (Green Group in the European Parliament), Dirk Holemans (Oikos, Belgium), Heidi Hautala (Green Group in the European Parliament), Ingrid Facchinelli (Alexander Langer Foundation, Italy), Lucile Schmid (Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique, France), Madeleine Petrovic (Grüne Bildungswerkstatt, Austria, as of April), Marie Toussaint (European Green Party), Marie Utter (European Green Party), Michel Genet (Etopia, Belgium, as of October), Mike Mathias (Gréng Steftung, Luxembourg), Miriam Kennet (Green Economics Institute, United Kingdom), Peter Eriksson (Green Group in the European Parliament), Pierre Jonckheer (Green Group in the European Parliament), Ralf Fücks (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany), Reinhard Bütikofer (European Green Party), Sandor Fulop (Ecopolis, Hungary, as of October), Steve Emmot (European Green Party, until September), Susanne Rieger (Fundació Nous Horitzons, Catalunya, Spain), Tommy Simpson (Green Foundation Ireland), Ville Ylikahri (ViSiO, Finland)

Our Associate Members:

Lars-Olof Karlsson (Green Forum Foundation, Sweden), Olga Kikou (Greek Green Institute), Sevil Turan (Green Thought Association, Turkey), Shenna Sanchez (Federation of Young European Greens, until November)

Our Board of Directors:

Pierre Jonckheer (Co-President)
Susanne Rieger (Co-President)
Anne de Boer
Dirk Holemans
Eva van de Rakt
Heidi Hautala
Juan Behrend
Monica Frassoni

Our Staff:

Aurélie Maréchal (Director and Secretary General)
Ioana Banach-Sirbu (Project Manager, as of February)
Beatrice White (Project Manager/ Green European Journal)
Laurent Standaert (Editor-in-Chief Green European Journal, as of October)
Krisztian Simon (Deputy Editor-in-Chief Green European Journal, January-September)
Ana Faias Ambrosio (Administrative and Finances Officer)
Fiona Costello (Project Officer and Deputy Financial Officer, August-December)
Ferran Rosa (Project Assistant, January-February)

Our Interns:

Antonia Banovic, Ashley Sherwood, Fiona Costello, Victor Popovici, Josiah Mortimer, Essi Saarto

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EXPENDITURE	Euro
A.1: Personnel costs	354.654,10
1. Salaries	211.414,19
2. Contributions	87.036,73
3. Professional training	3.922,52
4. Staff mission expenses	9.111,15
5. Other personnel costs	43.169,51
A.2: Infrastructure and operating costs	89.336,81
1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	57.336,92
2. Costs relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	9.268,54
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	2.200,34
4. Stationery and office supplies	5.078,85
5. Postal and telecommunications charges	11.317,66
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	4.134,50
7. Other infrastructure costs	0,00
A.3: Administrative expenditure	71.103,24
1. Documentation costs (newspapers, press agencies, databases)	3.163,62
2. Costs of studies and research	53.922,60
3. Legal costs	1.050,00
4. Accounting and audit costs	10.856,53
5. Support to affiliated organisations and subsidies to third parties	0,00
6. Miscellaneous administrative costs	2.110,49
A.4: Meetings and representation costs	58.455,56
1. Costs of meetings of the political party	43.160,43
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	10.837,87
3. Representation costs	4.196,22
4. Cost of invitations	261,04
5. Other meeting-related costs	0,00
A.5: Information and publication costs	422.482,21
1. Publication costs	126.694,71
2. Creation and operation of Internet sites	10.757,39
3. Publicity costs	1.476,75
4. Communications equipment (gadgets)	0,00
5. Seminars and exhibitions	283.553,36
6. Election campaigns	0,00
7. Other information-related costs	0,00
A.6: Expenditure relating to contributions in kind	79.435,03
TOTAL ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	1.075.466,95
TOTAL NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	97,67
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1.075.564,62
REVENUE	
European Parliament grant *	945.500,00
Own resources	83.398,81
Contributions in kind	79.435,03
Revenue to cover non-eligible expenditure	0,00
TOTAL REVENUE	1.108.333,84
Surplus of own resources to be transferred to the 2016 reserve account	1.402,21

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.

* pending confirmation by the European Parliament

■ ■ ■ GEF in 2016

The success of transnational projects in all the key areas of GEF's work encourages the foundation and its partners to continue their efforts in 2016. Important transnational work on topics such as the commons, green economy, or the future of Europe will continue to build on 2015 results and generate key political reflections. New initiatives on some of the most pressing European issues - such as migration, refugees and asylum policies - have been initiated and will constitute an important part of our work programme.

The Green European Journal will continue its development across two complementary channels of dissemination: the thematic editions, providing in-depth analysis of a subject from a range of perspectives, and the Journal's online presence, providing topical insights on current developments and debates. This will involve, notably, a redesigning of the Journal's visual identity, both online and in print, enhanced channels of communication, and renewed efforts to build an active and vibrant network of Green publications across Europe.

Training and capacity building will also remain a priority, through projects such as Europeanising Green Activist Training, the development of an e-learning platform for young activists, as well as 9 European workshops organised at summer schools organised together with national partners across Europe.

Last but not least, GEF's General Assembly will elect a new Board in October, which will continue to ensure the foundation's successful work beyond 2016.



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