

# Annual Report 2019



GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

**Green European Foundation**

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# A message from our Co-presidents

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2019 has been a remarkable year for the European Green movement and the Green European Foundation. It was the year of renewal of hope and civil engagement in Europe ... the year of the Green Wave! Together with our partners across the continent, we worked tirelessly to contribute to the shaping of a political agenda that leads us to a Europe of social and climate justice, solidarity and lived participatory democracy. With European democracy being threatened by rampant corruption, anti-liberal populist movements, serious attacks on the rule of law, as well as climate inaction by many governments, reimagining our European societies through exploring bold ideas for a green future is imperative.

With this mindset, the Green European Journal published its special edition entitled 2049: Open Future. The edition was grounded on a thesis that the politics of tomorrow start with the politics of today. From the evolution of the internet and the ongoing reinvention of monetary systems, to landscapes – geopolitical and natural – to ideas for tomorrow such as Doughnut Economics and Universal Basic Income, to reshaping our lives and habits in the face of the climate crisis: this collection of essays, stories, and interviews, complemented by infographics, sought to capture life and society in 2049. Elsewhere, the Journal has continued to promote a vibrant and multilingual European platform for exchanging ideas, sharing analysis, and sparking debates with the regular publication of online articles and interviews, or showcasing voices and perspectives from across Europe through the Green Wave Podcast.

Looking to the future, we turned to cities – as places of hope! Cities continued to thrive with progressive and green forces taking over municipal power in many European cities. The transformative power of cities hence remained one of the core areas for GEF's work. Through the Foundation's activities, we were able to highlight some of the most inspiring examples of socially and ecologically just policies on the local level and facilitate knowledge transfer between different countries across Europe.

A strong transnational cooperation between green actors enabled the Green Wave and brought historic results in several local and national elections, as well as the European elections. Even more so, the historic turnout of voters in the European elections showed that more and more citizens acknowledge the EU level as crucial to tackle the unprecedented challenges we are facing, in particular in light of growing social inequalities and the escalating climate crisis. In this context, GEF looked at climate change as a transversal issue, trying to understand and document the impact it has on migration and mobility patterns and what some of the answers should be if less and less of our planet becomes habitable. The ongoing climate crisis was a clear concern for the European youth, standing at the forefront of movements calling for societal and systemic transformations. Making resources, political action, and education accessible for all young people in Europe is one of the major ways of enacting change. With that in mind, our Capacity Building programme empowered thousands across the continent. GEF's signature European Green Activists Training and E-learning courses, through carefully curated dynamic content, helped us to demystify the European Institutions for youths and fortify their capacities as activists. In addition, our Summer Academies brought diverse European perspectives to our work programme, establishing a more comprehensive picture of today's Europe for us and the rest of our political family.

Moving into 2020, we have a responsibility to play our part in the European sphere and to contribute to seizing this historical momentum, where urgent action on the environmental, democratic, and social fronts is overdue, and to explore new thematic areas accordingly as well as to reach out to those parts of Europe where the Green Wave has not yet arrived. For this, we will be able to count on the commitment of our General Assembly as well as our new Board. We would like to wholeheartedly thank our former members Natalie Bennett, Michal Berg, Joachim Denking, Olga Kikou, and Ville Ylikahri for their dedication and count on their continued engagement with the Foundation in the future.

We thank everyone who has been a part of GEF in 2019 and are looking forward to shared green successes this year and in the years to come!

With warm regards,  
Susanne Rieger and Dirk Holemans



Susanne Rieger  
Co-President



Dirk Holemans  
Co-President

# About GEF

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.

## Study & Debate

Encouraging European-level study and debate are 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 reflection on topics of utmost importance as they provide spaces for debate and exchange.

## 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 young activists and Green actors to work on issues with a European dimension. 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 meetings.

## Networking

GEF acts as a platform 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.



# STUDY & DEBATE

## Green European Journal

The Green European Journal continued to contribute to a European-wide debate, cultivating and expanding its readership with a huge range of articles, interviews, podcast episodes, and other engaging content.

In March, the 18th thematic edition of the Journal was published with the cooperation of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. Entitled *2049: Open Future*, this special edition goes beyond any one theme, looking ahead to the Europe(s) that could exist in the year 2049 in an exploration of the possibilities of this era via a collection of essays, stories, and interviews, complemented with dynamic infographics. Pivotal topics covered include the evolution of the internet, the reinvention of monetary systems, ideas for tomorrow from Doughnut Economics to Universal Basic Income, the circular fashion industry, rewilding, and life in the face of the climate crisis.



The Journal published over 130 online articles and interviews throughout the year and maintained its commitment to building a truly transnational debate for readers across Europe with 80 translations and 60 republications in a range of print and online media publications. In a year in which the climate crisis broke into the mainstream and key steps were taken towards the future of Europe, the Journal delved into the seminal topics facing our societies today. In particular, its Hungary in Focus shone a spotlight on the threats to democracy and rule of law in the country, while its series ahead of the European elections heard

from diverse and critical voices on where the European Union finds itself today and where it is headed.

The online presence of the Journal went from strength to strength – average website visitors increased from around 10,000 per month in the previous year to 12,000 to 13,000 this year, and the social media platforms of the Journal also saw significant growth.

The website of the Journal was recognised as one of the most impactful .eu websites of 2019, winning the House of .eu category. Decided by a public vote and jury panel, the Journal received the award at a ceremony held in Brussels in November. As a prize, it will receive promotional materials and advertising space in 2020.

The Journal continued to build upon the success of its long-read style podcast, Green Wave, launched at the end of 2018. Available to listen on the Journal's website and all major podcast platforms, the podcast grew in listenership throughout 2019, with 35 episodes published in total and thousands of listens and downloads from across the world. Selected episodes of the podcast have also been featured on certain courses of the Green Learning platform.

To encourage pan-European debate and reach new audiences, the Journal organised and was part of multiple events throughout the year, including a debate in Prague on the role of European media in communicating on the climate crisis with Czech partner publication Deník Referendum and an interactive debate organised with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung exploring the next 30 years of Europe.



# Climate & Energy

The fight against climate change is at the heart of the Green European Foundation's mission. To tackle this shared challenge, the Foundation offers a multi-perspective approach which examines both the economic and social implications of climate change. The aim of its activities on this topic is to empower citizens, activists, and politicians who want to deepen their knowledge and boost their actions in this field.

GEF promotes a fair, transparent and sustainable energy transition in Europe. It analyses examples and solutions already implemented in Europe as part of the energy transition. In this way, it supports the development of sustainable energy policies at the European level and its transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energies, as well as a democratic and participative approach to the energy transition.

In parallel GEF looks at the impact of climate change on a variety of aspects of our lives – may it be how and where we work, what we eat and where we get our food from, or the effects a changing climate can have on migratory movements all over the world.

## Strengthening Climate Targets, Creating Local Climate Jobs

*With the support of Green House Think Tank (United Kingdom), Green Foundation Ireland (Ireland), and Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland)*

This project built upon work carried out over the previous three years which estimated the number of jobs that would be created through a transition to zero carbon in key sectors of the economy. The transnational project looked at jobs in five sectors – energy, transport, buildings, waste management and agriculture, and food and forestry, and showed that moving to a zero-carbon economy would increase the numbers of jobs in these sectors. In 2018, the developed model was applied to the UK, Ireland and Hungary to produce job estimates.

Throughout 2019, the results of this research were enriched with climate jobs modelling for regions in the UK. The project outcomes were broadly disseminated among relevant stakeholders through online communication and promotion of the project's animated video on Transitioning to a Zero Carbon Economy & Employment, as well as at events in London and Belfast.

Moreover, the estimation method was expanded to include Poland and was presented via an online webinar on how the energy transition will affect employment in Poland. The project brought concrete recommendations for stronger climate targets based on



location-specific plans for climate action for publicising the EU-wide potential of greening local economies.

## **The Climate Emergency: how to Build a Bridge Between Scientific Knowledge and the Political and Social Reality?**

*In collaboration with transform!europe and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies*

It is up to progressive political forces to take the climate emergency seriously and find answers to urgent questions: how can we achieve a good, a prosperous life for all now and in future? Moreover, how can we rally the political majorities for the necessary transformation of our societies? Is it possible to channel the powerful wave of climate awareness to redress the economic growth paradigm that caused this emergency?

To this end, GEF held a workshop in collaboration with transform!europe and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) at the third edition of the European Forum organised by the European Left, sharing analyses and proposals on specific climate policies and exploring commonalities among European progressive forces to stimulate political debate on the way forward

## **A Different Perspective for Climate Change, Society, Movements, Communication and Green Politics**

*With the support of Green Thought Association (Turkey)*

This conference in May in Istanbul aimed to build capacities and raise awareness of the effects of climate change, local actions, and green policy alternatives in the region. The event brought together the agenda for the climate and ecology movement on both the European and local levels; it compared mitigation and adaptation policies, and the obligations and potential they offer.

The conference, attended by more than 100 participants, was a key opportunity to consider the Turkish perspective on this transnational issue and to help establish solidarity networks amongst local movements to assist them in their communications and campaigning.

## **ECOPOLIS 2019: Generation Hope**

*With the support of Het Groene Boek (Flanders, Belgium)*

Ecopolis returned to Brussels on 10 of November and was, as every year, a successful event with more than 500 attendees. This year's edition, entitled Generation Hope, explored how we can ensure a sustainable future on our planet. To discuss such a universal challenge, the line-up was suitably diverse, bringing together academics, activists, civil-society thinkers, and writers from across national and generational borders. Incorporating plenary discussions, workshops, performances, film screenings

and book readings, some of the many topics discussed included education on climate change, bridging fragmented societies and the interplay between misogyny and climate denial. As the youth was in focus, GEF supported the Federation of Young European Greens and Generation Climate Europe members attending the event, in particular the roundtable with young climate activists.



## **Energy Democracy Workshop**

*With the support of Sunrise (North Macedonia)*

This workshop was held on 8 and 9 of September 2019 as a continuation of the debates on energy democracy initiated in North Macedonia in 2018 by GEF via a transnational project on the topic. More than 60 participants learnt more about the European experiences in the energy sector and explored cooperatives and other forms of socio-environmental economy in Europe. The workshop focused on comparing energy democracy practices on the EU level with those in the Balkans, as well the role it plays in the state of democracy in EU Member States and candidate countries.

## **Climate Emergency Seminar**

*With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain)*

The climate emergency is still worryingly absent from the daily agenda in Southern Europe. With this in mind, this seminar in Barcelona aimed to develop the debate on this important issue, in which representatives from academia, politics, and civil society from Spain and across Europe came together for a lively discussion. About 70 participants attended the seminar, which had a specific focus on the EU level as well as the situation in Spain and Catalonia. After the plenary session on climate challenges, the event hosted parallel workshops on energy challenges in research and development, food and climate change, and mobility and health.

# Transformative Cities

GEF supports the growing emergence of translocal networks that are becoming a crucial transnational governance level in Europe, and that are active in many fields, such as energy cooperatives and circular economy initiatives. By bringing together political, civil, and economic actors from progressive cities who are developing transformative policies across Europe, GEF wants to create platforms for a credible, positive picture of Europe.

The Foundation particularly focuses on the potential of cities to function as a transformative force towards resilient and democratic societies – either through organising themselves in transnational networks or by getting ready for the technological challenges ahead.

In particular, it explores the commons as a way to rethink the production and management of goods, culture, transport, housing, and so on, but also their collective re-appropriation by citizens beyond the traditional state-market dichotomy.

## A Charter for the Smart City

*With the support of Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (The Netherlands), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), and Green Economics Institute (United Kingdom)*

All over Europe, so-called ‘smart cities’ are the testing grounds for new technologies that affect how we live, how we organise our societies and what our ethical foundation is. These technologies often involve the use of big data and devices that can act with a degree of autonomy. The development of new technologies therefore cannot be left to engineers and managers; it requires public debate and democratic control. Given the opportunities that new technologies offer for reducing the ecological footprint of cities and creating new urban commons, as well as the potential threats they pose to civil liberties and social justice, in 2019 GEF aimed

to stimulate the debate on smart cities through the transnational project ‘A Charter for the Smart City’.

Throughout the year, a Charter for the Smart City, consisting of 18 guiding principles, was drafted, aiming to make it easier for green European politicians and activists to assess and steer technological innovations in their cities.

The project partners solicited ideas for the Charter, including best practises from NGOs, experts, and local green politicians, as well as from GEF partner foundations and other Green European actors, through a digital exchange of ideas and four workshops organised in Belgium, Czechia, Norway, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The Charter was published in English and Czech in print as well as online. Additionally, the text was made available online in Dutch, French and German to stimulate a broader public debate on the opportunities and challenges ahead for smart cities.

## Cities as Places of Hope in the European Union

*With the support of Oikos (Flanders, Belgium), Fondation de l'Écologie Politique (France), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain), Fundación EQUO (Spain), and Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia)*

Despite increasing divisions and the rise of right-wing forces on the European and national scenes, many European cities are pursuing a progressive, positive, and transnationally networked vision.

Building upon the expertise gained in the implementation of previous transnational projects on Urban Commons, the ‘Cities as Places of Hope in the European Union’ project focussed on these progressive city networks as a key factor in the development for a positive narrative on the future of Europe.

Bringing together political, civil, and economic actors, the partner foundations discussed how these networks can gain more power at the European level. In addition, it aimed to form a connected space where engaged citizens can find partner states for support in developing urban commons as an answer to bureaucratic state dominance and aggressive commodification.

Throughout 2019, a series of events across Europe were implemented, drawing together progressive and transformative forces to connect them to the Green movement and facilitate their exchanges. A paper was published by GEF at the end of the project year to reflect the developments across Europe.



# Work & Solidarity

GEF undertakes research on the creation of employment through green and climate jobs and explores innovative paths such as basic income, work sharing, and working time reduction. The Foundation also explores the various notions of work beyond paid work, as well as care and gender divisions within the labour perspective. Only new concepts like these can provide answers to the uncertainties created by automation and digitalisation, as well as by the ageing population and the multiplication of precarious work contracts and degraded working conditions. GEF's aim is to uncover the potential of these alternatives to deliver more freedom and security to everyone whilst reducing inequalities in our societies and addressing climate change.

## Work(ing) Policies in the EU?

*With the support of Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (The Netherlands)*

In an era of rapid socio-economic restructuring characterised by economic globalisation, trade liberalisation, skill-biased technological innovation and digitalisation, and changes in family structures and gender roles, the lives of citizens and the nature of their work is directly affected.

As part of GEF's objective to explore the various notions of work and debate pathways to face challenges such as increasing precarity, in June the Foundation organised an expert roundtable in Brussels upon invitation only to discuss two different policy approaches on how those who are left behind in a changing working world can be socially and economically included.

The event evolved around the question of whether active labour market policies or a Universal Basic Income is the most useful tool to allow meaningful participation of all citizens in society, in particular those that are the most affected by the social risks created by today's changing socio-economic conditions – or indeed whether these two policy approaches could even be combined to address these problems.

## Basic Income : European Public Debate

*With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons (Catalonia, Spain), Fundación EQUO (Spain), Federation of Young European Greens, Visio (Finland), and Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria)*

Building on the work of the past two years, the 2019 edition of this transnational project continued to explore the debates on basic income as one of the solutions to increasing inequality in European societies.

Since 2017, the project has brought together various partner foundations and basic income experts from Belgium, Catalonia,

Finland, Germany, Greece, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to discuss issues surrounding Universal Basic Income (UBI) which resulted in a publication featuring different perspectives on the debates.

Throughout 2019, GEF disseminated its work done and further stimulated the debate around UBI on the EU level by organising several conferences across Europe, focusing on a specific angle of basic income and considering possibilities, limitations and options of a UBI. The topics included youth precarity and social rights, the ecological component of a basic income, and feminist considerations, as well as pathways to make a UBI a European reality.

The public events, alongside an internal meeting in December bringing together UBI stakeholders from the EU and national level, aimed to feed into the discussion on the way forward for the European green movement regarding UBI.

# Europe in the World

A multi-polar world continues to emerge, in which alliances are changing and power is shifting on the global geopolitical scene. Economic governance at the global level in the form of international agreements, such as trade agreements, raise many questions regarding their potential to ensure economic and social justice. New types of actors, such as international corporations, are grabbing more and more power on the global stage. In this context, we create spaces to discuss the foreign and trade policy of the European Union, its diplomatic strategy, as well as its capacities for dealing with new actors on the international scene.

## Sustainable Development Goals

*With the support of Ökopolisz (Hungary)*

Besides an introductory online course on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on mygreenlearning.eu, this project included the publication of two books summarising the proceedings of two events which focussed on two goals specifically and their implementation progress in the Hungarian context: SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

This GEF project aimed to activate green actors in the field of the SDGs by connecting them with experts within the fields of system-thinking and the SGDs and highlighting synergies between these parties. In doing so, the project looked to increase awareness of the values and goals that the green movement shares with the SDG agenda. It also highlighted the crucial role the SDGs play in deciding future priorities for the EU and its member states, and hopefully contributed to secure commitment to the implementation of the SDGs amongst green actors across Europe.

# Food & Agriculture

Across Europe, questions around healthy food and sustainable agriculture are gaining more and more importance as this topic is at the centre of everyone's daily life. GEF wants to approach the central question of food from a systemic point of view by looking at the interconnections between policies on agriculture, public health, environmental protection, energy, economic development, and more. Comprehensive food policies are needed to deliver quality and affordable food to all citizens in Europe and around the world.

The Foundation's activities on this topic look at the local level and best practices of decentralised food systems that respect the limits of our environment, but also draw the bigger picture of what needs to happen on the European level to facilitate this change, for instance through an extensive reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

## Fair and Healthy Food

*With the support of Oikos (Flanders, Belgium), Green Foundation Ireland (Ireland), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), Networked (Serbia), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), and Sunrise (North Macedonia)*

The GEF transnational project 'Fair and Healthy Food' aimed to reach out to actors across Europe who are working to demonstrate

that different food systems around agroecological principles are possible, such as cities that are building local food systems, farmers who are working collaboratively with researchers, and consumers who are reconnecting with local producers. A working paper served as a starting point of the project to feed the debate.

By bringing these actors together, the project explored alternative solutions and discussed the necessary changes to the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union; it also examined how regional sustainable food systems can revitalise rural communities. In order to build a bridge between food in our everyday lives and the complex discourse on the Common Agricultural Policy reform, the events organised in Northern Ireland, Ireland, Czechia, Poland, and North Macedonia, as well as the concluding event in the European Parliament in Brussels, went beyond classical formats of events and created possibilities for connections between progressive farmers and innovative food creatives.

## Politics on the Plate – Visions and Demands for Urban Food of the Future

*With the support of Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria)*

In October, an urban agriculture symposium was held in Vienna entitled 'Politics on the Plate – Visions and Demands for Urban Food of the Future' which focussed on the political dimensions while fostering the exchange of best practices by inviting highlight projects from all over Europe to share their experiences with alternative urban food supply.

The objective was to bring together local and European changemakers to inspire each other as well as to eventually formulate concrete recommendations for local politicians and citizens on how to ensure urban food supply in the future.



# Migration & Refugees

The number of displaced persons around the world in recent years is comparable only to figures seen at the end of the Second World War and has triggered a severe crisis of European refugee and migration policies. The European Union risks jeopardising the founding principles commonly agreed upon and written in the EU Treaties, which include the Charter of Fundamental Rights and compliance with international law. Despite a cry for help from progressive actors all around Europe, we still see continued violations of human rights and hostility towards migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

In this context, GEF strives to focus its efforts on combatting the insufficiency of EU migration and asylum policies and on supporting the citizens, associations and policymakers engaged in the defence of a diverse and welcoming Europe. The Foundation puts forward proposals and identifies best practices which not only counter the discourses and policies of fear but also lay down the fundamentals for living together in a Europe of solidarity and democracy.

## Environmental Migration and Displacement

Throughout 2019, GEF focused particularly on environmental migration and displacement as a crucial issue of the present and

the future that is at the intersection of two global challenges: the progression of climate change and the growing backlash to migratory movements in many countries.

GEF created a space for the exchange of knowledge and new ideas and to debate ways forward to face this challenge and position the European Green movement within the discourse. Firstly, a working paper was published in June. Secondly, with the help of an expert panel with representatives from academia, the policy level, and the NGO sector, a Green Salon was conceptualised and hosted in Brussels in January 2020. Its aim was to further stimulate the debate within the green movement through exchanges with experts from the academic and NGO world.

Beyond this, GEF worked to enrich the broader debate on the issue and to raise awareness on the challenges faced by the global community and possible responses by the EU.

## System of (im)mobility – Movement of Asylum Seekers and Refugees within the Schengen Area

*With the support of Fondazione Alexander Langer (Italy)*

In December, this conference in Milan focused on the mobility of asylum seekers and refugees within European borders and aimed to explore issues such as drivers leading asylum seekers and refugees to move to other European countries, available legal channels for movement, and obstacles posed by the system of (im)mobility created by the current legal framework.

The aim of the conference was to deepen participants' understanding of the current European legislation's adverse impact on the mobility of asylum seekers and refugees, its interplay with local policies,



and to identify proposals for sustainable reform. The programme featured presentations by legal and academic experts as well as NGO and political representatives. The proceedings were published in a brochure, available in English and Italian.

## Green Economy

The Green European Foundation supports innovative approaches to economic sustainability in Europe and, together with our European and national partners, we aspire to contribute to the transition towards a green economy.

Green economy has been a core area of work for the Green European Foundation since its beginnings and it has reflected on a variety of aspects of the transformation of the economy: green jobs, state aid, the financial system, etc. Regional approaches and national case studies have also been a constant focus of the Foundation. Finally, GEF is actively at the forefront of reflections on the creation of a green society and the functioning of an economy beyond GDP growth.

### The Green Economy Congress – Municipalism: Economic Patterns for the Green Europe

*With the support of Networked (Serbia)*

The third edition of the Green Economy Congress, organised from 6 to 8 of June in Belgrade, focussed on cities and local democracy as main drivers of the green economy. About 70 participants had the opportunity to hear from economists, innovators, entrepreneurs and green decision makers, to share their stories and discover ways to promote an alternative vision for growth and development. A variety of formats were employed, such as lectures, panel discussions, workshops, a world café and a green economy fair with young start-up companies.

From the inception the Green Economy Congress has sought to break the business-as-usual path, not only regarding the economy but also society in general. This year it included discussions on commons, green buildings, zero waste concepts, decentralisation, and the participation of energy, agriculture, or waste management. The role of local actors and initiatives across Europe was also of particular interest at this year's event.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

## Empowering Youth

GEF is committed to contributing to youth empowerment. With more young people taking a strong stance against social and environmental injustices, we saw our capacity building programme playing an increasingly important role in amplifying these young European voices.

### European Green Activist Training

Since 2015, the European Green Activist Training (EGAT) aims to Europeanise the content of already existing training programmes across Europe and to create a platform through which young people interested in politics can meet, learn, and exchange ideas.



The project consists of training sessions for young green activists in three phases: the first entails going through the online course

'Impact Europe'; secondly, a national training session on domestic politics, as well as a session on European politics and institutions is held; and finally, the activists from different countries come together in Brussels to complement their training by experiencing the European political dimension first-hand.



In March, 80 EGAT participants of the 2018-2019 edition came together for their Brussels study trip, after having completed their national trainings the previous year, with the support of Green Window (Croatia), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), Ceratonia Foundation (Malta) and Visio (Finland). Over four days, the participants had the opportunity to put what they had learnt into practice, exchange with each other, visit European institutions, and hear from people working within the EU political sphere.

In the 2019-2020 EGAT edition, the organisations Ökopolisz (Hungary), Green Window, Institute for Active Citizenship, Visio are participating and supporting the implementation of national training sessions with young people. In preparation for the 2020 Brussels Study Trip, the coordinators met in October to set out the programme, expectations and objectives.

## The Climate Superhero Powerpack

In November, we kicked off our crowdfunding effort in cooperation with the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) to raise funds for The Climate Superhero Powerpack. This is a project bringing together young activists, educators, and climate experts to co-create a multimedia-based and pocket-sized toolbox, which gives 12 to 16-year-olds the superpower to educate, mobilise, and fight for climate justice. The guide will be developed throughout 2020 and will be packed with all the essential information on climate science, as well as examples of simple and powerful actions.

The first version of the Climate Superhero Powerpack will be developed in four European languages: Italian, Polish, Romanian, and English. We are looking forward to building a truly inclusive and useful tool that thousands of young people across Europe can use.

## Idea Challenge

The Idea Challenge is a project for young people aged 18 to 24 from Croatia, Czechia and Portugal, specifically for youth not usually engaged in active citizenship. The project aimed to encourage this target group to become active European citizens by challenging them to propose ideas for change in their communities and create a

bridge between their local struggles and the struggles of their peers in other countries. Three winning ideas were chosen from each country, which saw the construction of an educational aquarium, a historical city treasure hunt and a documentary on youth attitudes towards the European Union.

## Congress of Young Europeans

*In collaboration with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Paris office*

GEF collaborated with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Paris and the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) to organise the seventh Congress of Young Europeans under the title “*How To Fight for Climate and Democracy*”.

The three-day congress, taking place in Marseille, France, from 4 to 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2019, gathered selected participants from all over Europe to address urgent questions: How can young people with ideas and ideals at hand contribute to social and political change? What can we learn from movements like Fridays for Future? Which tools do successful activists use? How can we build and connect a movement? Through different panels and workshops focusing on these questions, the young attendees had the opportunity to come together and engage in debates.



# Summer Universities

Our summer universities, implemented in collaboration with national partners, enable green-minded people to connect and debate on inspiring political, social, and environmental issues all over Europe.

## Alps and Carpathian Mountain Summit

*With the support of Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (Austria)*

This two-day summit brought together politicians from the local, national, and European levels with policy experts to discuss the climate crisis and the specific challenges it poses to mountain regions.

Fittingly taking place in the Austrian alps, the summit consisted of keynote speeches, workshops, and excursions to better understand the unique alpine environment, its wildlife and tourism, and the role it plays in climate protection.

## Summer Camp – Social Rights Hackathon

*With the support of Federation of Young European Greens*

FYEG's summer camp "Our Social Rights – Our Future!" brought together almost 50 young participants and took place in Serbia from 22 to 28 of July, with the support of GEF who also specifically organised a hackathon on 25 and 26 of July. The hackathon – an intense, sprint-like, goal-oriented teamwork-based activity – saw participants of the summer camp band together for 36 hours to

develop tools to equip young Europeans to combat social injustice and better defend their rights.

The organisers of the hackathon drew upon their experiences and expertise to produce a handbook for those wishing to run their similar own events – Hold Your Local Hackathon on Social Rights. Moreover, the online course Know Your (Social) Rights!, designed for the event participants, is open to everyone who wants to discover what social rights are and how they are protected in Europe.

## Youth and the City – Young People for Fair and Green Cities

*With the support of the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe*

With a focus on cities, this summer school explored the role of alternative urbanisation in shaping the future of Europe's cities, and how those cities can act as platforms for green, local, and alternative policies as well as positive practices.

Bringing together young people from Central Europe and the Balkans in Prague, the summer school provided an opportunity to conceptualise and promote the model of sustainable and democratic cities among green-minded youth and to equip them with concrete tools for urban activism.

## Europe and the Environment – Towards an Active Citizenship

*With the support of Quercus (Portugal)*

The summer school took place on 14 and 15 of June in Lisbon and involved a group of young participants that explored environmental policies, legislation, and activism at a European level. The



programme included a visit to the EU Parliament Representation in Portugal and a workshop on communication using short videos and other visual tools.

On 27 of November, another event focusing on “Food policies in Europe” gave space to a discussion with key actors on fair and sustainable food and agricultural systems, including on the challenges regarding the European Common Agricultural Policy. The event also showcased local innovative responses to current demands for fair and local food production.

### **Green Summer Academy: Closer to Europe**

*With the support of Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland)*

The fifth Green Summer Academy in Poland took place in Ośno Lubuskie from 14 to 17 of July and was attended by almost 150 participants. It offered over four days packed with discussions, workshops, expeditions to local sites, film screenings, and a plethora of other activities. Issues explored included the global crises regarding to biodiversity and climate, pollution, inequality, and rising nationalism, while also reflecting on recent successes for green and progressive movements and what can be learned from them. In addition to this, GEF hosted one of the parallel workshops on e-learning.



### **Winter Seminar of the Green Academy: Degrowth Kaleidoscope**

*With the support of the Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia)*

The third edition of the Green Academy Winter Seminar was focussed on the ongoing debates around the Green New Deal and degrowth concepts and practices in the context of the climate emergency. The seminar explored a kaleidoscopic perspective of a degrowth transition and its various interconnections to explore specific sectors where it can make a fundamental difference. Particularly pertinent ahead of Croatia’s EU presidency in 2020, the seminar then considered the significance of emerging Green New Deal policies on both sides of the Atlantic and what it means for a future sustainable Europe.

### **Univerde: Capitalism in Front of the Mirror – the Socio-Environmental Response to a Predatory System**

*With the support of Fundación EQUO (Spain)*

Returning with the eleventh edition of the Green University in Spain, this year’s Univerde delved into the political and societal changes that are essential to ensuring the transition to a just and sustainable way of life, and the role Europe must play in leading the way forward in this transition.

Inviting politicians and policy experts from Spain and across Europe, Univerde took place over the course of three days, with particular focus on the climate crisis, environmental refugees, geopolitics, natural resource conflicts, and the contrast of green policies with those of the rising far right.

# Capacity Building for Green Organisations

Over the past decade, GEF has built expertise in the area of capacity building as an integral part of its work programme through education and training offers for the green movement across Europe through online courses and face-to-face trainings.

## Green Learning

Green Learning is the educational platform of the Green European Foundation, offering free online courses to those who wish to develop their skills and knowledge on European topics and green issues, through a variety of methods: videos, interviews, podcasts, quizzes, and more.

Hosted on a dedicated website [www.mygreenlearning.eu](http://www.mygreenlearning.eu), the extensive course catalogue was bolstered this year with a range of new content. Through a collaborative effort with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, 12 new courses were added, featuring dynamic and engaging videos that guide learners through the pivotal issues facing the European Union today. In addition, courses on green cities and social rights were also created.

A valuable tool for empowering keen and green-minded learners and a useful resource for our partners, Green Learning will continue to be updated and refined in the year to come.

## Greenr

Greenr (Formerly Green It!) is an ambitious plan to ensure that every event, training session and seminar we hold is exciting, energising, and inspiring! And so, throughout the year, we collaborated with partners during our many events held across Europe to collate information for an online database of green experts and training resources. Following on from this work done, the platform will be named Greenr.eu and is to be launched in 2020.

## Green Events Methodology Audit

Throughout its work programme and in particular with the development of Greenr, GEF stresses the importance of non-formal learning as a goal-oriented, engaging, and participatory process which aims at the personal development and empowerment of participants. To ensure that our events are of high quality, in 2019 GEF started a dialogue with interested partners on the most suitable green methodologies that can elevate the educational projects we organise together.

In particular, the new process is aimed at GEF's partner foundations

engaged in the organisation of summer academies and other education-oriented events. The so-called 'methodology audit' entails an exchange on the ways to increase the use of green methodology and innovative approaches. This can range from advice on methodology to the concrete recommendation of specific facilitators and trainers who can help implement the desired methodology.

GEF and its project partners will then assess together the impact of the events and evaluate the methodology adaptations.



## Networking Day on Education and Training

The seventh annual edition of the Networking Day on Education and Training took place in Brussels in October, bringing together GEF staff with 25 guests from GEF's partners and network.

This year's edition focused on capacity building, networking and exploring the key competences of a "Green Trainer". The Green Learning online platform was also discussed with trainers and experts present and training took place specifically on storytelling and public speaking.

## emPOWERing the Informal

*With Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), Cascais Municipality (Portugal), timișoara Municipality (Romania), Asociación para la Participación (Spain), Oportunidad y Desarrollo Tenerife (Spain), Experimentaculo Associacao Cultural (Portugal), and Szubjektív Ertekekek Alapítvány (Hungary)*

In 2019, GEF joined a three-year Europe-wide project aiming to increase the capacity and professionalism of youth workers in managing informal groups by understanding, adapting and implementing existing EU tools for assessment and development of youth work competence and management competences.

The project mapped existing legal frameworks throughout Europe that focus on informal groups. Currently, an analysis of the evolution of informal groups as a social movement is being developed through quantitative and qualitative research, aiming at making suggestions at national and international level on how policies can be improved to favour the growth of informal groups and the impact they have upon youths and the communities they are based in. In the coming year, an online tool will be developed as a one-stop-shop for informal groups in Europe, where they can connect, access, and share resources.



# NET WORKING

## Quo Vadis EU -After Europe Goes to the Poll: Where is the European Union headed?

*In cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*

The yearly Quo Vadis event took place in Berlin over two days in June. Following the results of the European elections, this year's Quo Vadis was composed of a conference exploring the future challenges that will be faced by the incumbent European Parliament, and a networking event to connect green and progressive actors.

## The European Parliament Goes Green

*In cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU office*

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament grew significantly in size following its success in the European elections in May. The European Parliament Goes Green introduced 16 of the newly elected Green MEPs from across Europe, who presented their ideas, dreams, and wishes for their coming mandate in either a video or written interview. Friends of GEF and others working in the European political sphere also presented their insights into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## Presence at the European Green Party Events

In 2019, the Green European Foundation was represented at the Local Councillors conference of the European Green Party in Oslo from 21 to 22 of June, focusing on the transformative power of cities and their crucial role in building the future of Europe.

Moreover, GEF was present during the European Green Party Council in Tampere, Finland, from 8 to 10 of November. We used the opportunity to meet delegates from Green parties across Europe to inform them about our projects.

## GEF Board and General Assembly Meetings

In order to ensure the overall decision-making of GEF, the Board met seven times throughout 2019, in Helsinki and Brussels.



Three General Assembly meetings were hosted in Brussels in January, June, and October to discuss the overall direction of the Foundation and to exchange on the main challenges we currently face.

During the General Assembly on 11 of October, a new Board was elected for a 3-year mandate, consisting of Klara Berg, Teo Comet, Dirk Holemans, Vedran Horvat, Benoit Monange, Susanne Rieger, Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart, Sevil Turan, and Dagmar Tutschek.

# Financial overview\*

EXPENDITURE	
ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	EUR
<b>Category 1: Personnel costs</b>	<b>633.689,22</b>
1. Salaries	388.184,96
2. Contributions	173.403,83
3. Professional training	7.744,95
4. Staff mission cost	9.219,78
5. Other personnel costs	55.135,70
<b>Category 2: Infrastructure and operating costs</b>	<b>128.687,60</b>
1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	67.420,83
2. Costs relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	20.596,06
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	14.951,34
4. Stationery and office supplies	1.874,43
5. Postal and telecommunications charges	14.186,95
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	9.657,99
<b>Category 3: Administrative costs</b>	<b>19.484,46</b>
1. Documentation costs	2.788,28
2. Costs of studies and research	239,55
3. Legal costs	4.032,12
4. Accounting and audit costs	9.245,22
5. Support to third parties	0
6. Miscellaneous administrative costs	3.179,29
<b>Category 4: Meetings and representation costs</b>	<b>123.675,41</b>
1. Costs of meetings	86.625,57
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	21.762,64
3. Representation costs	15.287,20
4. Cost of invitations	0
5. Other meeting-related costs	0
<b>Category 5: Information and publication costs</b>	<b>486.554,31</b>
1. Publication costs	89.892,43
2. Creation and operation of Internet sites	33.423,37
3. Publicity costs	332,52
4. Communications equipment (gadgets)	2.106,01
5. Seminars	360.799,98
6. Exhibitions	0
7. Other information-related costs	0
<b>Category 6: Allocation to "Provision to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N+1"</b>	<b>87.093,25</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	
Total non-eligible expenditure	4.495,30
Total eligible expenditure	1.479.184,25
REVENUE	
1. EP grant	1.405.225,04
2. Membership fees	0
3. Donations	5.585,00
4. Other own resources	69.432,54
5. Contributions in kind	0
6. Revenue to cover non-eligible expenditure	4.495,30
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1.484.737,88</b>

\* As per 6 April, including the results of the GEF 2019 external audit. Pending approval by the European Parliament and the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations.

# Members of the GEF 2019

## Honorary President

**Pierre Jonckheer**

## Our Staff

**Ioana Banach-Sirbu** (Deputy Director) **Annabelle Dawson** (Junior Editorial Assistant, Green European Journal) **Samuel Gregory-Manning** (Communications Officer) **Sien Hasker** (Intern as of June, Project Assistant as of October) **Jamie Kendrick** (Editorial Assistant, Green European Journal) **Aurélie Maréchal** (Director) **Gio Megrelishvili** (Web & Digital Media Officer) **Urszula Sadlowska-Schülke** (Project Coordinator) **Ogi Sobat** (Administrative Officer) **Laurent Standaert** (Editor in Chief, Green European Journal) **Rita Pereira** (Project Coordinator, as of August) **Maiju Turunen** (Project Coordinator, until July) **Carlotta Weber** (Project Coordinator)

## Members Nominated by National Political Foundations

**Mikko Airtto** (The Green Cultural Association ViSiLi / The Green Cultural and Educational Centre ViSiO Finland, as of June), **Robbert Bodegraven** (Stichting Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks), **Alexis Carles** (Etopia, as of January), **Mohssin El Ghabri** (Etopia, Belgium, until January), **Ingrid Facchinelli** (Fondazione Alexander Langer, Italy), **Sandor Fulop** (Ökopolisz, Hungary), **Linda Gaasch** (Gréng Steftung, Luxembourg, as of June), **Raúl Gómez** (Fundacion EQUO, Spain), **Dirk Holemans** (Oikos, Belgium), **Frida Johnsson** (Cogito, Sweden), **Miriam Kennet** (Green Economics Institute, United Kingdom), **Klaus Linsenmeier** (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany, until October), **Mike Mathias** (Gréng Steftung, Luxembourg, until June), **Benoit Monange** (Fondation de l'Écologie Politique, as of January), **Michael Schmid** (Grüne Bildungswerkstatt, Austria), **Susanne Rieger** (Nous Horizons, Spain), **Lucile Schmid** (Fondation de l'Écologie Politique, France, until January), **Tommy Simpson** (Green Foundation Ireland, Ireland), **Eva van de Rakt** (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany, as of October), **Ville Ylikahri** (The Green Cultural Association ViSiLi / The Green Cultural and Educational Centre ViSiO Finland, until June).

## Members Nominated by the European Green Party

**Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (France), **Monica Frassoni** (Italy), **Adam Ostolski** (Poland), **Marie Toussaint** (France)

## Members Nominated by the Green Group in the European Parliament

**Rebecca Harms** (Germany), **Heidi Hautala** (Finland), **Pierre Jonckheer** (Belgium)

## Associate Members

**Teo Comet** (Federation of Young European Greens, until October), **Vedran Horvat** (Institute for Political Ecology, Croatia), **Özgecan Kara** (Federation of Young European Greens, as of October), **Olga Kikou** (Greek Green Institute, Greece), **Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart** (Strefa Zieleni, Poland), **Sevil Turan** (Green Thought Association, Turkey), **Conny Wahlström** (Green Forum, Sweden)

## Board of Directors

**Natalie Bennett** (until October), **Michal Berg** (until October), **Klara Berg** (as of October), **Teo Comet** (as of October), **Joachim Denking** (Treasurer) (until October), **Dirk Holemans** (Co-President as of October), **Vedran Horvat** (as of October), **Olga Kikou** (Secretary) (until October), **Benoit Monange** (Treasurer) (as of October), **Susanne Rieger** (President until October, Co-President as of October), **Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart** (as of January), **Sevil Turan** (as of October), **Dagmar Tutschek** (Secretary) (as of October), **Ville Ylikahri** (until October).



## Contact us:

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## Connect with us:

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Follow our social media to stay informed about our latest activities and events taking place all over Europe

