

Annual Report

2020



Green European Foundation

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

2020 was a year like no other: the Covid-19 pandemic tore communities apart, wrecked families, and took the lives of millions. As Brexit loomed, the European project was at a crossroad tasking Member States to forge the future path of the bloc. The global pandemic has served as a mirror, bringing pre-existing challenges and problems into sharp focus while aggravating others. We are experiencing a health, economic and social crisis, as well as widening inequalities and enormous strains on our economies.

Additionally, democracies and freedoms are under strain as the rights to peaceful assembly and protest have been curtailed to prevent the spread of the virus, and authoritarian regimes exploit the pandemic to roll back on fundamental rights. Despite barriers to political organising and to voicing demands, 2020 saw the global mobilisation of citizens in solidarity with the **Black Lives Matter** movement as the world witnessed the horrifying murders of black people in the USA and serious cases of police violence and racist, disproportionate actions of authorities across Europe.

In many ways, green concepts and proposals have come in sharp focus as the Covid-19 pandemic has prompted the questioning of well-accepted axioms in our societies. GDP no longer resonates as a marker of a thriving society as **health and public services** have proven critical in defence against the virus. On questions regarding societal and economic resilience, **creating a more participatory democracy** and providing **better social security** with a universal basic income are green ideas that have gained support in debate and government action.

In response to the rapidly changing and challenging environment, the green movement has shaped the debate on a recovery plan for Europe and put forward a green vision for the post-pandemic future. At the Green European Foundation (GEF), we initiated the **Green Post-Corona Talks** as a series of participatory online debates bringing together

stakeholders from politics, civil society, academia, unions and more. The Green European Journal also published the thematic edition **Life Under Shock: Understanding the Pandemic**, offering a green analysis on the long-term impact of the health crisis on our societies.

Through decentralised projects supported by national partners across Europe, we continued to engage in meaningful, transnational exchange on **fair and carbon-free tourism** in a post-Covid world, the **just transition**, and **gender equality in the climate movement**.

At the same time, we focused on **engaging citizens in European public debates** and empowering the green movement in Europe and beyond to get organised, informed, and ready to tackle today's challenges as well as those ahead. To support this work, we launched the online learning platform Green Academy, as well as the online hub Greenr for green trainers, facilitators, consultants and the organisations that need them.

Our work in the year ahead is crucial. Together with our European and national members, as well as partners, we will co-create an inclusive European public sphere and foster debates that will bring a truly democratic Europe to fruition.

Susanne Rieger & Dirk Holemans



Susanne Rieger
Co-President



Dirk Holemans
Co-President

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Green European Foundation (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. Our programme is focused around three areas of work:

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

Networking

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 creating and encouraging European debate. GEF believes that Europe is also built through exchanges between national actors, who can learn from each other and work together to forge a shared European vision.

GEF Strategy 2020-2024

Building on its core mission, GEF has mapped out a strategy, focusing on five strategic goals to work towards in the coming years:

- Reinforce and enlarge the Green political movement and its impact in Europe;
- Develop and curate forward-looking ideas to contribute to public debates and shape policymaking in Europe;
- Contribute to a lively European public sphere through transnational debates;
- Equip activists across Europe with skills and knowledge and empower them to be active in their communities and the green political movement;
- Facilitate an inspiring and supporting ecosystem of Green national foundations and similar actors across Europe.

STUDY & DEBATE

GREEN EUROPEAN JOURNAL

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

The Journal published two print editions in 2020. The 19th edition, *A World Alive: Green Politics in Europe and Beyond*, was released in March. This edition set out to explore and navigate the different worlds of green politics. From concepts such as ecofeminism and the Green New Deal to questions of narrative and institutional change, the edition mapped the forces, strategies, and ideas driving political ecology today and analysed how green politics plays out in different parts of Europe. *Life Under Shock: Understanding the Pandemic*, the Journal's 20th edition, was released in November. In the context of the unfolding Covid-19 pandemic, it examined the impact of the health crisis on society, across areas including work, solidarity, technology, inequality, and relations with the natural world. Analysing what the pandemic and its consequences mean for political ecology narratives and agendas was a central question. In December, the edition was launched with an online event that focused on care, community and solidarity in the context of the pandemic.

The Journal published over 120 online articles and interviews throughout the year and maintained its commitment to building a truly transnational debate with 80 translations. Journal articles were republished 80 times in a range of print and online media publications across Europe. In a year where all aspects of life were turned upside down, the Journal provided analysis throughout the year on the health crisis and its social and economic consequences. Building on its first edition, new ideas in political ecology and the rise of the climate movement were also a focus, as was the future of farming and agroecology and the Black Lives Matter movement.

The online readership and presence of the Journal continued to grow in 2020. Annual website visitors increased by 12 per cent from 159,000 visits in 2019 to 180,000 and the Journal's audience on social media grew considerably. To both reach new readers and adapt to the health situation, the Journal launched an [e-shop](#) to allow individuals to purchase editions for a small shipping cost. All articles remain accessible online without a pay wall.

The Journal continued to build on the success of its long-read style podcast, *Green Wave*. Available to listen on Journal website and all podcast platforms, the podcast grew from 7500 plays and downloads in 2019 to 20,000 in 2020. Green Wave also joined Europod, a network of European podcasts that brings together journalistic, cultural, and institutional views on political and societal trends in Europe, along with Bruegel, Caf  b  bel, and New Eastern Europe.

The Journal wholeheartedly thanks its former Editor-in-Chief, Laurent Standaert, who left the Journal in early 2020, for his commitment and valuable work in raising the Journal's profile as green venue for ideas and is happy to count on his continued engagement as new member of the Journal's Editorial Board.



COVID-19 AND A POST-PANDEMIC, GREEN VISION

As the spread of Covid-19 gripped societies worldwide, it became clear that it would impact our lives long after the related crisis, and that “business as usual” was not an option. GEF addressed the need to take stock of the rapidly changing political situation and unfolding challenges for our societies, but also offered a space to discuss positive ideas and concepts for a better, greener future and resilient societies.

Green Post-Corona Talks

In cooperation with Oikos [Belgium]

GEF launched its [Green Post-Corona Talks](#), a series of participatory online discussions with high-level experts, thinkers, and policymakers in April 2020. 12 talks were organised throughout the year, highlighting what is currently at stake in the coronavirus crisis, beyond the period of the pandemic, as well as existing solutions that could lend themselves to design the post-corona world. The series covered different themes from economy and migration to gender. It brought in inspiring perspectives from all across Europe and created the opportunity for the audience to engage with the speakers in real time on social media.

To make the discussions more accessible to a European audience, GEF implemented regional series of Green Post-Corona Talks in Poland and Croatia throughout the year. GEF also cooperated with its partners to provide translations of the talks.

Worldwide Pandemic, European Responses

In cooperation with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU office

Together with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU office, GEF organised joint participatory online talks entitled “[Worldwide Pandemic, European Responses](#)” to provide an analysis on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our daily lives as well as our political, environmental, economic and societal realities.

Throughout the year, four online talks were organised out of which three had a specific focus on EU policies: public health and the role of the EU; the future of the economic and monetary policies of the EU; and European mobility in the context of Covid-19 as one of the areas with a pressing need for transformation amidst the climate crisis. The fourth episode was dedicated to the immediate neighbourhood of the EU and its candidate countries in the Western Balkans, tackling the epidemiological and political situation in North Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

To further disseminate the content and inspire cross-European debates on these crucial topics, the recordings of the talks were [published online](#) and made accessible in additional languages.



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 fields such as energy cooperatives or 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 as a transformative force towards resilient and democratic societies – either through self-organisation in transnational networks or by preparing for the technological challenges ahead.

A Charter for the Smart City

With the support of Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks [The Netherlands], the Institute for Active Citizenship [Czechia], the Green Economics Institute [United Kingdom], Etopia [Belgium], Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe [Belgium]

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 our ethical foundation. These technologies often involve the use of big data and devices that can act with a degree of autonomy. Their development therefore cannot be left to engineers and managers; they require a public debate and democratic control.

In 2020, this project was dedicated to the dissemination of the [Charter for the Smart City](#), which was developed in 2019 and compiles guiding principles that make it easier for green politicians and activists to assess and steer the development of technological innovations in their cities. To make the charter more

accessible to green stakeholders and active citizens, it was made [available in multiple languages](#) and a series of online meetings and events were organised with partners across Europe. Further material such as an [animation video](#) on key values of the charter, a [toolkit for action](#) highlighting the Central and Eastern European (youth) dimension and more, provided insights and stimulated discussion on the topic.

Cities as Places of Hope

With the support of Oikos [Belgium], Fundació Nous Horitzons [Spain], Transición Verde [Spain], the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia], Sunrise [North Macedonia], Green Thought Association [Turkey]

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 transnational vision. [The Cities as Places of Hope project](#), launched in 2019, focuses on these progressive city networks that are a key factor in the development of a positive narrative on the future of Europe. Bringing together political, civil society, and economic actors, the partner foundations discussed how these networks can gain more power at European level, with the objective to contribute to the transition to more sustainable cities and communities. The project is also providing a connected space to support committed citizens in developing urban commons and democratic innovation.

The 2020 edition of the project focused on examining selected countries and showed there is great potential as Greens get stronger at the city level. In countries in Eastern and Southern Europe where Greens are not a strong force at national level, they are often successful on a local level, bringing about real change and giving an important opportunity for capacity building. To further explore and exchange on trans-



formative local practices and their potential to reinforce the Green family, GEF and its partners conducted research about inspiring transformative policies in cities where Greens or Green-minded actors are present. These successes were documented through journalistic articles highlighting transformative examples from El Prat in Catalonia, Spain to Istanbul, Turkey and several [online events across Europe](#).

In Search of the Green City

With the support of Quercus [Portugal]

What makes a city “green”? Aspects like urban planning, mobility, architecture, climate and energy, waste, green spaces, biodiversity, food system, and more must be taken into account. All over Europe and beyond, initiatives and commitments are multiplying. Notable examples are: the Covenant of Mayors for Energy and Climate, the Milan Pact, Cities Without Pesticides, Cities Friendly to Pollinators, and more recently, the Green City Accord which are often concluded voluntarily by cities and municipalities who strive to be more sustainable or ecological. But are these commitments communicated to the citizens? How do they articulate with legal obligations of Spatial Planning? Are they transparent for the electorate? And how can we measure the impact of such commitments? [In this webinar](#), GEF reviewed some of these initiatives and discussed pathways towards greener cities with the support of its partner organisations.



CLIMATE AND 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, while paying particular attention to difficult-to-decarbonise sectors and other emerging challenges. 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 different aspects of our lives – be it on how we work, what we eat and where we get our food, or migratory movements all over the world.

Climate Migration and Environmental Displacement

In January 2020, GEF hosted a Green Salon on environmental (im)mobility and the interlinkages of climate and migration in Brussels, based on previous work and networks from 2019. The Green Salon was conceptualised with the help of an expert panel with representatives from academia, the policy level, and the NGO sector. The aim of the invitation-only event was to further the debate within the green movement through exchanges with experts from the academic, policy and NGO world.

Throughout 2020, GEF continued to engage with the topic by connecting with relevant stakeholders and presenting its work and findings. In this context, GEF participated in a [session of the event on 'Climate Change and Forced Migration'](#) in June 2020, jointly organised by the Ariadne Network and UNHCR. The online event aimed to raise awareness among philanthropic foundations and seek innovative and holistic solutions in addressing the rising challenge of protecting refugees, internally displaced people and other people of concern in the era of climate change. GEF contributed by contextualising the EU-level discussions and considerations regarding climate-related forced migration, while presenting some of GEF's work in this field as well as exploring recent academic developments in the field of mobility and immobility.

Greening COP26: an Online Hub for Climate

With the pandemic and particularly the economic recovery of this crisis dominating the public discourse, as well as the postponement of COP26 in Glasgow by a year to November 2021, GEF provided an online space for the green ecosystem - as a hub to meet and exchange as well as to engage with broader civil society on climate.



The [Online Hub for Climate](#) over a period of three days in November and December 2020, featuring seminars on the situation of the Amazonian rainforest, climate change and migration, a panel debate on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement with high-level speakers, resources on climate-related issues as well as interactive ways to engage with others on the online platform and further strengthen climate activism in a transnational setting.

In 2021, GEF will continue to use the developed online platform to ensure its work towards COP26 can be impactful in light of the continued pandemic and related restrictions for international travel and face-to-face gatherings.

Climate Networking Conference

With the support of the Green Economics Institute [United Kingdom]

As an additional effort to maintain momentum on tackling the climate crisis and engage in pan-European exchanges to ensure governments are keeping up their end of the bargain and committing to subs-

tantial climate action at the next UN climate summit, GEF organised a full-day Climate Networking Conference with its partner Green Economics Institute. It worked to stimulate transnational debates on the climate issues that should be prioritised at the summit in Glasgow in 2021 as well as providing an opportunity to bring together representatives of civil society, politics and academia to determine strategies, messages and objectives for the wider green movement outside and inside the COP26 in order to ensure strong climate action for the years to come.

Fair and Carbon-free Tourism

With the support of the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia], Fundació Nous Horitzons [Spain], FREDA – Die Akademie [Austria], Sunrise [North Macedonia], Transición Verde [Spain], Networked [Serbia]

This [project](#) was launched in early 2020 to identify and create conditions for collective action against the detrimental social and environmental impacts of tourism. While social impacts of tourism are increasingly being considered in some of the tourist hubs, for instance in Barcelona, Dubrovnik, Salzburg, or Ohrid, environmental impacts are often not addressed. With Covid-19 taking hold of Europe and devastating tourism industries across the continent, both the economic sustainability and environmental impact of the sector took centre stage.

The project hence focused on desk research into unsustainable tourism practices in the participating countries, later expanding that research into chronicling the impacts and lessons of the Covid-19 crisis. The research fed into a [series of online events](#) in the autumn and [first preliminary results](#) were published.



Climate Emergency Economy

With the support of Green House Think Tank [UK], the Green Foundation Ireland, Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks [The Netherlands]

In 2020, [the project](#) brought together partners across the EU to widen policy ambitions on EU infrastructure spending and investment rules in light of the climate emergency and highlighted the scale of the challenge. The work of the project identified the key enablers and blockers in order to formulate strategies to stop those actors of the EU and global economy from blocking the transition to limit climate change to 1.5°C. Furthermore, project partners explored the challenge to decarbonise the 'harder to reach' sectors, such as the chemistry, basic metals and refinery industries and international trade, to inform the implications of an EU-wide climate emergency and the European Commission's proposal for a Green Deal. The [outcomes of the research](#) were discussed in online events and [published](#) in different articles and reports.

Transformation Towards Energy Democracy

With the support of Sunrise [North Macedonia]

After more than three years of pioneering work on Energy Democracy in North Macedonia, GEF and its partner Sunrise [continued its engagement on this topic throughout 2020](#). The focus was on the regional dimension and how to bring a positive change in the energy sector through a participatory, inclusive and decentralised approach. Two online events were organised with simultaneous translation, gathering project partners, green activists and local councillors. Public debate was further stimulated through the [dissemination of informative videos](#).

Deforestation and Climate

With the support of FREDA – Die Akademie [Austria]

Deforestation is an issue not just in tropical forests but also on the European continent. The question of how to stop illegal logging and protect the remaining forests demands concerted action not only at national level but also at European level, as the implications of deforestation, including climate change, knows no borders.

In 2020, the Green European Foundation, together with its Austrian partner FREDA, organised an online event entitled [Evergreen: Restoring Europe's Forests](#). The event brought together stakeholders from across Europe with a focus on Romanian forests and how to protect them from illegal logging. Prior to the event three opinion pieces were written covering the topics of EU Biodiversity Strategy, forest protection and restoration.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The Green European Foundation supports innovative approaches to economic sustainability in Europe and, together with its European and national partners, aspires to contribute to the transition towards societies that enable a good life for all within the physical limits of our planet.

In this context, concepts for economic transformation have been a core area of work for the Green European Foundation since its beginnings and it has reflected on a variety of aspects: green jobs, state aid, the financial system, just transition and more. Regional approaches and national case studies have also been a constant focus of the foundation. Finally, GEF is active in the avant-garde of the reflection on creating a society and an economy beyond GDP growth.

Just Transition

With the support of Oikos [Flanders, Belgium], Transición Verde [Spain], the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia], Sunrise [North Macedonia], the Federation of Young European Greens [FYEG], Green House Think Tank [UK], Networked [Serbia]

In 2020, project partners set out to tackle questions surrounding a [just transition](#) including how to transition from an extractive to a regenerative economy in a just and equitable way to find the necessary support among the population. The project aims to contribute to positioning the green movement as leading actor in the development of future-proof politics and policies sensitive to local specificities.



Throughout the year, partners conducted research, [published a framing paper](#) in several languages, and [held events](#) to connect with relevant European and national actors and build a network to further raise awareness of this important topic. In addition, an [online course](#) was developed and publications on the [transition of the agricultural sector in the UK](#) and the [Covid-19 recovery in Spain](#) were published.

Green Transition for Europe

With the support of Transición Verde [Spain]

Covid-19 has exposed the shortcomings of our public systems that have for decades been weakened by those same policies that led to the 2008 economic crisis. From the impacts of climate change and the environmental crisis, there are important lessons to draw for the future. Firstly, the global economic system is leaking through many holes that are costly to fix. Secondly, living against nature, as we have done up to now, is incompatible with survival. Thirdly, the green transition is unavoidable, urgent, difficult and not without sacrifices, but ultimately possible.

In a [series of four roundtables](#), GEF and its partner Transición Verde brought together a wide range of high-level speakers, researchers, NGO representatives and politicians to seek realistic alternatives. The discussions focused on topics such as biodiversity and global change, decarbonisation, energy transition, agri-food systems, economy and taxation.

Ecopolis20: Again(st) Nature

With the support of Oikos [Belgium]

For this sixth edition, [Ecopolis](#) invited a broad range of writers, academic experts and thinkers from civil society. This year, with the biodiversity crisis as our main theme, we entered into dialogue to reflect on the post-coronavirus challenges and ways to repair our relationship with nature. The 2020 edition entitled “Again(st) Nature” acknowledged that from wildfires to viruses, the exploitation of nature is threatening our own existence and especially for vulnerable people here and in the Global South. The conference brought together members of the Green family, academics, NGOs and authors from across Europe, in a fully digital conference with five panel discussions and over 500 participants joining online.

The Green Economy Congress: the Time to Act is Now

With the support of Networked [Serbia]

This [fourth edition of the Green Economy Congress](#) took place entirely online, gathering participants from across Serbia, the Western Balkans, and beyond. The focus was on the Green Deal as a social model for a new Europe and its implications for the Western Balkans region, while also presenting other related concepts like degrowth, the zero-carbon economy, and climate justice. Additionally, dedicated lectures on (un)sustainable tourism as well as cities and the new urban agenda provided valuable case studies. The Congress was broadcast live on 15 and 16 October, with further dissemination of the recorded videos afterwards.



SOCIAL EUROPE

Solidarity and inclusion feature strongly at the heart of Green ideals. In the European context, many challenges lie ahead of us in these fields as a result of the economic crisis of the last decade, but also due to the political choices made and the policies implemented until now. The Covid-19 pandemic and its economic consequences once again shine a spotlight on these issues.

GEF undertakes research on the creation of employment with 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, including care and gender divisions within the labour perspective. Only with new concepts like these can answers be provided to the uncertainties created by automation, digitalisation, an ageing population and the multiplication of precarious work contracts and degraded working conditions. The 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.

Change of Mindset : Civil Society Dialogue Around UBI, Social Justice and Climate Impact

With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons (Spain), Transición Verde (Spain), the Federation of Young European Greens, Visio (Finland), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland)

Having gathered comprehensive expertise and having set up transnational networks through a three-year long project on universal basic income, GEF and its project partners built on the outputs and successes of its existing work on the topic.

With renewed interest in UBI amid the Covid-19 pandemic, GEF worked to track and amplify the debate in different countries while assessing the UBI-like measures that various governments found themselves considering. Through a [series of online and hybrid events, animation videos](#), and translations of new and existing publications, this project worked to spark a stronger civil society dialogue to bring about the change of mindset needed to raise acceptance of universal basic income among the public and to deepen the debate on our conceptions of productivity and work. The project will stretch into early 2021, with the launch of another animation video as well as the dissemination of research results via a short paper on social policy responses to Covid-19.

The European Green Deal: implications for Human Rights and Social Change

In collaboration with the Ariadne Network

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the implementation of the European Green Deal and questions on how to embed the economic transformation of our societies in the recovery programme remained highly relevant. Avoiding the climate breakdown must be one of the guiding principles in re-imagining our post-coronavirus societies.

In May 2020, GEF and Ariadne Network organised a [joint webinar](#), moderated by GEF co-president Dirk Holemans, which explored the extent to which human rights and social justice feature in the Green Deal and its legislative framework. It also analysed how the Green Deal could influence the work programmes of foundations in general, and how the transition to renewables could be an opportunity to tackle energy poverty in particular.



FEMINISM AND GENDER

The pursuit of gender equality and fight against all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, is at the core of green values. GEF explores the topic of feminism and gender through a variety of formats, taking different contexts into consideration as well as acting as a platform for empowerment, knowledge sharing and transnational collaboration.

Feminists in the Climate Movement

With the support of Visio [Finland]

Given Finland's leading example in women's participation in politics, GEF and its Finnish partner implemented a [project](#) sharing experiences and supporting the growth of the Green feminist movement across Europe. The online Feminist Climate Conference highlighted the role of women and non-binary persons in climate resilience and discussed different needs from a gender-inclusive perspective.

A pilot run in autumn brought together around 30 women and non-binary persons from across Europe, and to build bridges between a feminist movement in advocacy and activism against climate change. The entire training took place online, with dedicated webinars, individual tasks, and outreach support. A [closing blog post](#) summarised acquired insights as well as the demands of the selected feminist climate ambassadors.

Art for the Young, Queer, and Feminists of Eastern Europe

With the support of Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe [Belgium]

Via the creation of a [blended learning online course](#), GEF, with the support of CDNEE, brought together young Green activists from across Europe to explore activism and its use for gender activism, giving them new knowledge while empowering them to deliver their messages.

The course consists of a general introduction to feminism, LGBT+ and women's rights, and political activism and art. Then, the first generation of participants dove further into either the LGBT+ or the Women* module, where they deepened their understanding, gained regional and (Green) EU perspectives, concrete examples of art, activism, and political change, and learned of inspiring examples and individuals. With space to share personal experiences, support, and solidarity, the final block concentrated on skill development to make a change.

Climate Feminism Audiobook

With the support of Visio [Finland]

With the support of Visio and the former Member of the European Parliament Linnéa Engström, GEF published an [audiobook](#) in June 2020 featuring feminist stories about climate justice activism in English to raise awareness about the interlinkages of climate change and gender.



Gender Equality for Green Politics

With the support of Green Thought Association [Turkey]

While gender equality is one of the basic policies of the Greens, it continues to face weak institutional mechanisms and poor representation in social life, legislative and executive power, politics, the economy, and many other areas of daily life in Turkish society.



With the support of its Turkish partner, GEF organised a series of six (mostly) online seminars as well as a conference on the political and theoretical background of gender issues and the Green response. The seminars featured a pre-selected group of participants and worked to strengthen the feminist Green network and build a community of interested stakeholders, while the Women in Power conference (with around 150 participants) also provided a space for cross-European exchanges, particularly with the Polish women's movement. [A series of three videos](#) highlighted key insights on ecofeminism, Islamic feminism, and gender and climate justice.

GREEN THINKING

Rooted in political ecology, the Green European Foundation strives to spread green ideas across Europe, to feed new and forward-looking ideas into the green movement itself and to connect the European Green family in its efforts to promote green thinking.

Political Ecology Days

With the support of Etopia (Belgium)

This [four-day event](#) was planned for March 2020 to feature plenary debates, seminars, workshops, and various other activities seeking to explore what political ecology means in 2020 and take a first step towards developing a “European” view of the concept. It was postponed to October due to the Covid-19 pandemic, eventually taking place in an online format. With hundreds of participants tuning in and video recordings being subtitled and edited for further dissemination,

this modified first edition was a success despite the many challenges and presents a strong foundation to build on in years ahead.

Green-red Dialogues

With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons (Spain)

Through a series of online dialogues, GEF and its Catalan partners were able to tackle timely issues while combining both the green and social lenses. The [first dialogue](#) dealt with the health crisis, [the second](#) looked at UBI as a potential policy solution to a range of challenges, and [the third](#) delved into the European recovery fund. With simultaneous translation in English and Spanish and dozens of live viewers as well as people watching the recordings later, the project created a valuable and open space for stakeholder discussion in Catalonia but also beyond.

Czech Green Academy

With the support of the Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia)

In December 2020, GEF launched the Green Academy for Czechia with the support of its partner organisation. It is a series of online participatory workshops and webinars, with each instalment focusing on a specific topic being explored in its local, national and European dimension, fostering public awareness about green ideas and policy proposals. The [series was kicked off with an event](#) on the Clean Energy Transition in Cities. In early 2021, this is followed by sessions on [waste management](#), [urban mobility](#) and [food policy](#).



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) has been Europeanising the content of existing training programmes across Europe and creating a platform where young people interested in politics can meet, learn and exchange.

The project consists of training sessions for young Green activists in three phases: the first entails going through an online course entitled EU for Beginners, formerly known as Impact Europe. The updated

course focuses on the inner workings of the European Union, activism on an international level, and some of the key challenges Europe is facing in the year of a pandemic. In the second half of the year, project coordinators hold a national training session on domestic politics, as well as a session on European politics and institutions for the activists in their respective countries. Finally, the activists from different countries come together in Brussels to experience European politics at work first-hand.

In March, 83 EGAT participants of the 2019 to 2020 edition came together for a study trip to Brussels, after having completed their national trainings in the previous year with the support of Green Window (Croatia), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), Ökopolisz (Hungary) and Visio (Finland). Over the course of four days, 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.

The 2020 to 2021 EGAT edition has six participating organisations: Ökopolisz (Hungary), Green Window (Croatia), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), Visio (Finland), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), and Fundació (Spain). These participating partners support the implementation of national training sessions in hybrid and online settings. Coordinators met online throughout 2020 to prepare for the four-day Brussels study trip that will take place in an online/hybrid format.

Gaming Europe

In partnership with the Bosch Alumni Network

In partnership with the Bosch Alumni Network, the Green European Foundation coordinated a transnational project in 2020 with one question in mind: Video games are a storytelling medium that reaches youth



across borders, socio-economic backgrounds and regardless of their level of education. Can we make use of this medium to address the topic of Europe in an engaging, fun, and non-patronising fashion?

To answer this question, two national workshops were organised [in Portugal](#) (in Lisbon in person) and [in Belgium](#) (online) hosting young gamers aged 12 to 14 with educators familiar with both, the age group as well as video gaming, and non-profit representatives working on education on Europe and citizenship. A follow-up online transnational hackathon brought together representatives from the video gaming world and non-profit organisations, to look at the results of the national workshops and the video game ideas that emerged, striving to harvest common lessons and ideas, and brainstorming further to get a concrete video game concept.

Education on Europe Conference

In partnership with the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Bosch Alumni Network

The growing importance of the European Union for policy making shines a spotlight on the need for European Citizenship Education. Active European citizenship requires an understanding of how politics works on the European level. At the same time, educational programmes in this field do not reach enough young people. In this context, the Green European Foundation worked together with the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Bosch Alumni Network throughout 2020 to prepare and organise the Education on Europe Conference, a two-day, online conference for Educators on European issues set to take place in January 2021. The conference aimed to create a space to discover and try out new approaches to make European politics, identity and values more accessible and approachable for difficult-to-reach target groups.

SUMMER UNIVERSITIES AND ACADEMIES

Our various summer universities, academies, and congresses, implemented in collaboration with national partners, enable Green-minded people to connect, and debate on inspiring political, social and environmental issues all over Europe. Amid the Covid-19 crisis, many of these planned activities were not implemented as traditional summer universities and academies but relied on a mix of different formats – online as well as face-to-face.

Green Academy 2020 “The Future is Ours”

With the support of the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia]

In August 2020 the Green European Foundation and the Institute for Political Ecology organised their [10th edition of the Green Academy](#). Under the title “The Future is Ours,” this year’s summer university focused on cities and municipalities as the real changemakers and terrains for progressive political change. The dynamic and interactive programme included workshops, debates and lectures designed to encourage participants to dive deeper into the municipalist world and seek solutions that can be the driving force for political change at the local level. With the political successes at local and national level in Croatia, the aim of the summer academy was to incorporate political education formats for further knowledge building, both in theory and practice. During the five-day, Green Academy over 60 participants gathered in Komiza, Croatia to learn about future-proof politics that can ensure ecological sustainability, absence of oppression and social justice for future generations.



Ecotransformation Summer School

With the support of the Institute of Active Citizenship (Czechia)

This **weekend-long summer school** from 23-25 July brought together around 60 participants near Prague for a series of activities around the overarching theme of (green) transformation. It opened with a public debate, followed by a series of workshops, presentations and more informal formats providing opportunities for networking and experience sharing. The focus was on climate policies at the local level, with a storytelling workshop as well as an open space for participants to bring up their own ideas and concerns. While international participation was limited due to pandemic restrictions, exchanges on topics including the European Green Deal nevertheless ensured a strong EU dimension.

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 Academy

In 2020, the Green European Foundation launched a new educational platform, **Green Academy**, with a new visual identity. The platform offers green activists, green professionals and green parties who wish to develop their skills and knowledge on European topics and green issues an innovative user experience

by bringing content to life through a variety of methods: engaging videos, timelines of events, interactive quizzes, podcasts, and more.

Hosted on a dedicated website www.green-academy.eu, the extensive course catalogue from the previous platform was updated and 5 courses were uploaded onto the new platform while new content was created in collaborative efforts with GEF's partners FYEG and CDN. EU for Beginners, an updated version of Impact Europe, became available to all EGAT participants in 2020 focusing on the pivotal issue of the EU Recovery Deal. In the coming year signature courses tied to GEF's 2021 priorities will be translated, adapted to local contexts in collaboration with partners and uploaded throughout the year.

Greenr

Greenr enables organisations to connect with green-minded trainers, facilitators and consultants who use sustainable, inclusive and forward-thinking methods in their work to organise inclusive and impactful events. On the Greenr platform, the trainers' profiles and specialisations are presented in detail, enabling the green network to find the right individual for their event. A selection panel comprised of educational professionals from the GEF network verifies the applicants when applying and ensures that green values are present throughout the Greenr community.

The platform launch took place in late 2020 and was met with great success as the Greenr community expanded steadily and GEF's network immediately connected with trainers to facilitate their events.





Online Facilitation for Green-minded Trainers

With the support of Horizontal School

During 2020, online trainings and online events gained popularity due to their relative accessibility amidst the pandemic, convenience and easier admission to a variety of expertise. In this context, GEF in cooperation with Horizontal School, developed an [online training](#) to help participants building the facilitation knowledge and skills needed to successfully implement and design online and hybrid meetings/events that embody green values. Over the course of two weeks participants familiarised themselves with green approaches and tools for online facilitation, learned how to design and facilitate inclusive and participatory online workshops and networked with other green-minded facilitators.

emPOWERing the Informal

With Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona [Spain], Cascais Municipality [Portugal], Timișoara Municipality [Romania], Asociación para la Participación, Oportunidad y Desarrollo Tenerife [Spain], Szubjektív Értékek 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. An analysis of the evolution of informal groups as a social movement was developed through quantitative and qualitative research, aiming to make 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 youngsters and the community they are based in. In 2020, this research and outreach continued, and an online tool was developed as a one-stop-shop for informal groups in Europe, where they can connect, access and share resources.



Peer-to-Peer Exchange

The Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme aims to provide a dedicated space for the network of Green foundations, NGOs, youth organisations and activists to engage in inspiring, targeted interactions that will strengthen their work and ultimately their impact. Whilst every national or regional context is different, a lot of the challenges faced on the ground are common, from fundraising to working with volunteers, finding ways to increase visibility in public debates, or interacting with civil society actors to name a few. In this context, every GEF partner has valuable resources or successful experiences to share with their peers.



Resilience and Resource Mobilisation Capacity-building Digital Workshops

In partnership with the Bosch Alumni Network

In 2020, the global health and economic crises forced non-profit organisations in Europe and beyond to adapt to unprecedentedly strenuous conditions. In response to this challenge, the Green European Foundation in partnership with the Bosch Alumni Network, organised a [series of three capacity-building workshops](#) on resource mobilisation, resilience and thinking ahead for organisations working on education on Europe in October 2020.

The aim was to support civil society actors and grassroots movements working on the topics of education on Europe and European values, to find solutions to their needs. The workshops featured speakers from organisations implementing innovative responses in the pandemic, highlighted existing solutions to current challenges, allowed for brainstorming on new solutions, revealed adaptation strategies and much more.

NET WORKING

NETWORKING IN TIMES OF COVID-19: VIRTUAL OPEN SPACE EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Covid-19 fundamentally affected GEF's work as a network with members and partners all across Europe, and the foundation's core role to provide a platform and acting as a facilitator for exchanges and networking within the green ecosystem.

GEF therefore conceptualised and held two open space events in June and October 2020. The main objectives were to provide an opportunity for the network and the partners to come together for an informal exchange on a variety of topics related to the current political situation; to inform each other within the green ecosystem and exchange with other Green actors; and finally, to discover new opportunities for cooperation/synergies and expand networks in a challenging new setting.

GEF also created other digital spaces for networking and exchange, including webinars to share tips and best practices on moving events online, and virtual brainstorming opportunities such as the Projects Lab, where partners could collaborate on their 2021 project proposals.

Networking Day on Education and Training

On the occasion of its 9th edition, the Networking Day on Education and Training provided spaces and dynamic platforms for interactions between those of GEF's partners who were interested in educational projects. In 2020, the annual event was designed to meet the needs of the education trainers and professionals who were faced with the obstacles of transferring their working methods online. The event provided them with tools, resources and methods to implement their projects in the new reality. Additionally, the event was extended to a wider network of green-minded facilitators therefore contributing to lively discussions and fresh ideas.



PRESENCE AT THE EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY EVENTS

In 2020, GEF was present at the 31st and 32nd Council of the European Green Party hosted digitally in June and December 2020. We used the opportunity to meet online with the participants of the councils and to inform them about our projects.

Civil Society in Action: European and Polish Perspectives

With the support of Fundacja Strefa Zieleni [Poland]

Prior to the public programme of the 32nd Council, which was co-hosted by the Polish Greens, GEF organised a [one-day event](#). The live-streamed event drew attention to selected challenges that are not only important for Poland, but also for Europe and the international community. We used this opportunity to: present and promote the activities and prospects for several Polish coalitions and platforms of cooperation, advocacy, and activism; and to showcase how the green movement is engaging with civil society to bring about change.

GEF BOARD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

To facilitate decision-making, the GEF board met 13 times throughout 2020. In January 2020, a Strategic Day was organised in Brussels to align the network strategically and start the work for the year together. Two General Assembly meetings were hosted online in May and October due to Covid-19 and travel restrictions, during which our members discussed the overall direction of the foundation and exchanged on the main challenges we currently face.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EXPENDITURE

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

EUR

CATEGORY 1: PERSONNEL COSTS

856.637,06

1. Salaries	519.635,75
2. Contributions	262.027,58
3. Professional training	10.523,09
4. Staff mission costs	1.022,95
5. Other personnel costs	63.427,69

CATEGORY 2: INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATING COSTS

97.799,17

1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	58.140,88
2. Costs relating to installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	9.946,84
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	10.200,51
4. Stationery and office supplies	4.168,68
5. Postal and telecommunication charges	11.968,97
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	3.373,29

CATEGORY 3: ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

20.520,71

1. Documentation costs	1.670,42
2. Costs of studies and research	0,00
3. Legal costs	1.004,62
4. Accounting and audit costs	14.716,57
5. Support to third parties	0,00
6. Miscellaneous administrative costs	3.129,10

CATEGORY 4: MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION COSTS	60.761,66
1. Cost of meetings	33.799,76
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	419,48
3. Representation costs	26.542,42
4. Costs of invitation	0,00
5. Other meeting-related costs	0,00
CATEGORY 5: INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION COSTS	699.513,26
1. Publication costs	116.950,48
2. Creation and operation of internet sites	42.746,21
3. Publicity costs	1.948,68
4. Communication equipment (gadgets)	0,00
5. Seminars	537.867,89
6. Exhibitions	0,00
7. Other information - related costs	0,00
CATEGORY 6: ALLOCATION TO "PROVISION TO COVER ELIGIBLE COSTS OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF YEAR N+1"	384.499,09
<u>TOTAL ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2.119.730,95</u>
NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE	6.210,70
<u>REVENUE</u>	
1. Carryover from 2019	50.190,95
2. EP Grant	1.966.063,00
3. Membership fees	55.516,65
4. Donations	25.221,76
5. Other own resources	29.778,02
6. Contributions in kind	0,00
7. Revenue to cover non-eligible expenditure	6.210,70
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>2.132.981,08</u>

As per 06 May 2021, including the results of GEF 2020 audit, pending revision by the European Parliament and The Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations.

MEMBERS OF GEF 2020

Members Nominated by National Political Foundations

Mikko Airto – Visio (Finland)
Robbert Bodegraven – Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (The Netherlands, until May)
Alexis Carles – Etopia (Belgium, until May)
Ingrid Facchinelli – Fondazione Alexander Langer (Italy)
Linda Gaasch – Gréng Steftung (Luxembourg)
Raúl Gómez – Transición Verde (Spain)
Dirk Holemans – Oikos (Belgium)
Miriam Kennet – Green Economics Institute (United Kingdom)
Benoit Monange – Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique (France)
Eva van de Rakt – Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Germany)
Susanne Rieger – Nous Horizons Fundació (Spain)
Michael Schmid – FREDA (Austria)
Tommy Simpson – Green Foundation Ireland (Ireland)
Noortje Thijssen – Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (The Netherlands, as of October)
Katarina Wangler Björk – Cogito (Sweden, as of May)
Sophie Wustefeld – Etopia (Belgium, as of May)

Members Nominated by the European Green Party

Gwendoline Delbos Corfield (France, until May)
Monica Frassoni (Italy, until May)
Evelyn Huytebroeck (Belgium, as of May)
Jean Lambert (United Kingdom, as of May)
Emma Nohrén (Sweden, as of May)
Adam Ostolski (Poland, until May)
Marie Toussaint (France)

Members Nominated by the Green Group in the European Parliament

Rasmus Andresen (Germany, as of May)
Gwendoline Delbos Corfield (France, as of May)
Rebecca Harms (Germany, until May)
Heidi Hautala (Finland)
Pierre Jonckheer (Belgium, until May)

Associate Members

Vedran Horvat (Institute for Political Ecology, Croatia)
Özgecan Kara (Federation of Young European Greens)
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

Klara Berg
Teo Comet
Dirk Holemans (Co-President)
Vedran Horvat
Benoit Monange (Treasurer)
Susanne Rieger (Co-President)
Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart
Sevil Turan
Dagmar Tutschek (Secretary)

Honorary President

Pierre Jonckheer

Our Staff

Seden Anlar (Outreach and Communications Manager, Green European Journal, as of February)
Ioana Banach-Sirbu (Deputy Director until April, Director ad interim until August, Managing Director as of September)
Mariana Batista (Project Coordinator, Capacity Building, as of July)
Laura Bazen (Assistant to Director, as of February, Project Assistant, as of July)
Raluca Besliu (Fundraiser, as of January)
Sara Bettine (Project and Communications Intern, as of February, Project assistant as of September)
Clara Dassonville (Green European Journal Intern, until July)
Annabelle Dawson (Editorial Assistant, Green European Journal)
Sien Hasker (Project Coordinator, Decentralised Projects)
Jamie Kendrick (Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Green European Journal until July, Editor-in-Chief as of August)
Aleksandra Kluczk (Project Coordinator, Capacity Building, until June)
Jennifer Kwao (Green European Journal Intern as of July)
Aurélien Maréchal (Director until August, Political Director as of September)
Gio Megrelishvili (Communications Manager)
Christopher McFadyen (Project and Communications Intern, as of September)
Rita Pereira (Project Coordinator, Capacity Building until February)
Ognjen Sobot (Administrative Officer)
Laurent Standaert (Editor-in-Chief, Green European Journal, until January)
Adrián Tóth (Project Coordinator, Decentralised Projects, as of July)
Carlotta Weber (Project Manager as of January, Strategy Manager as of March)
Beatrice White (Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Green European Journal as of November)

Contact us:



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