

Annual Report 2021

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FOREWORD

2021 was a year of sharp contrasts. Profound crises were met with bold solutions, as status quo answers became unsatisfactory to increasing parts of the population. The world was still ravaged by the health crisis; yet, the vaccine rollout saved millions of people and enabled partial restriction eases, though vaccine inequality and accessibility for people in the Global South continues to be a pervading issue.

The **economic crisis** was further expanded by geopolitical struggles over energy prices and rising inflation, but, simultaneously, the first bricks of a greener and more **sustainable economy** were placed. Instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility provided the needed resources to rebuild societies in a robust manner, as the vision on the delivery of the European Green Deal also became clearer.

While in some countries, **authoritarian rulers** increased their powers, with leaders such as the ones in Poland and Hungary continuing to erode the rule of law and shrink democratic spaces, in others, greens were voted in power. There are now more **greens in government** than ever before, with a crucial victory in Germany in September 2021 allowing the Greens to occupy key ministerial positions.

2021 was a year of **discontent and fatigue**, but also of **resilience and determination** to bring about change. While the effects of climate change ravaged Europe through floods in the West and droughts in the South, **activist movements**, such as the climate one, were galvanised into action.

In this complex landscape, GEF has focused on reinforcing and enlarging the green movement and its impact in Europe. We stood alongside the activists at Glasgow, providing them a meeting point to gather and join civil society mobilisations around COP26 through our **Green Hub**. Beyond that, the Hub provided a space to bring together a wide variety of European and global stakeholders from the green ecosystem to meet, debate, attend events and network. Over ten days, the Hub hosted 54 events, including panels and trainings, which brought together foundations, NGOs, Green Parties, MEPs and academics.

We have also continued to shape tomorrow's ideas and envision a green post-pandemic world, while engaging citizens in public debates. The Green European Journal tackled questions surrounding the struggle over democracy and representation in Europe today in its spring edition, **Democracy Ever After? Perspectives on Power and Representation**. Its winter edition, **Moving Targets: Geopolitics in a Warming World**, set out to ask how Greens and progressives fight for a more just and sustainable world in a context of abounding geopolitical tensions.

Our collaborations with our national partners brought fruitful and inspiring results in 2021. Through online discussions and the development of a book, the **Just Transition** project explored the fundamental changes that needed to be brought not only in key economic branches and consumer systems, such as energy transport and agriculture, but also in infrastructure, social values and politics, to ensure that everyone will benefit from the green and digital transitions. We also published the second volume of **European Green Perspectives on Basic Income** and organised an online course and different webinars around the topic.

In addition, we continued to build the capacities of activists and interested individuals across Europe with the goal of empowering them to be active in their communities and the green political movement. Through our **Feminists in the Climate Movement** project, we equipped twenty feminist climate ambassadors from across Europe with knowledge, skills and resources to fight for climate resilience and a sustainable future where needs addressed in a gender-inclusive manner.

In pursuit of our mission to empower young Europeans to become more politically engaged at the European and local levels, we collaborated with national foundations across Europe on the 7th edition of the **European Green Activist Training**. After taking part in a national training program on Green and European politics, over 100 activists came together during the Green Activism Week to reimagine Europe, build on their skills and directly connect with Green experts and policy-makers from Brussels.

As we enter 2022, many substantial challenges still lay ahead. The dangers of an increasingly polarised Europe and world, torn between far-right, extremist movements and progressive green ones, are a call for both immediate action and long-term responses.

Under the auspices of a change in leadership, GEF will continue to tackle these and other issues. Having served GEF as Co-President for many years, Susanne Rieger stepped down from her position, while Dagmar Tutschek was elected incoming Co-President alongside Dirk Holemans, who will remain in his position. On the other hand, Laurent Standaert will co-lead the organisation as its new Political Director together with Ioana Banach as Managing Director. GEF will continue to work closely with its partners to ensure a green, progressive and resilient future for Europe and the world.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Green European Foundation 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 building capacity, and encourages networking amongst Green actors across Europe. Our aim is to raise awareness among citizens about Green solutions to the challenges Europe faces, and to equip young activists as well as other actors with the knowledge and skills needed to work on issues on the European level. We implement this through transnational training opportunities, such as workshops, seminars, public conferences and summer universities, organised with national Green foundations, and through online and face-to-face training.

GEF as an Ecosystem

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.

STUDY & DEBATE

GREEN EUROPEAN JOURNAL

The Green European Journal began the year with an ambitious set of thematic priorities which it explored throughout 2021 through its printed editions, online publishing, events, and communications and outreach activities. Along with further consolidating the breadth and quality of its publishing, the Journal introduced a number of innovations in terms of distribution, linguistic diversity, and editorial collaborations.

In 2021, the Journal published two print editions. The spring edition, *Democracy Ever After? Perspectives on Power and Representation*, focused on the struggle over democracy and representation in Europe today. To mark the release of the edition, a debate was held in the framework of the European Green Party's online council in May, where several contributors discussed Green visions for a just, inclusive, and vibrant European democracy. Then in June, readers were invited to join an online conversation between Baroness Natalie Bennett and Ece Temelkuran, who were both featured in the edition, to discuss some of the themes in greater depth. The winter edition, *Moving Targets: Geopolitics in a Warming World*, set out to ask how we can navigate an increasingly fractured geopolitical landscape with the future of the planet in the balance. The edition was launched with an online event held in partnership with the European Trade Union Institute. The event focused on the question of Europe's strategic autonomy and featured a panel of experts in the field.

The Journal's online publishing focused on feminism, geopolitics, and the pandemic's social and economic fallout, as well as articles and interviews tracking political developments and emerging ideas in political ecology. Through the Journal's close links with partner publications and organisations, the Journal greatly expanded its translation offer, publishing regular translations and making content available in several new languages. Journal articles are now available in 28 different languages. Articles from the Journal were republished more than 160 times by a variety of outlets from over 15 countries. The publication also embarked on several shared editorial projects.



The online presence of the Journal continued to grow in 2021. The online readership of journal articles grew to over 270,000 and the journal's audience on social media expanded by 25% and grew to over 21,600. To provide readers with a better experience, the Journal's website has been renewed with a new look and features. As a result, readers now spend more time on the website, visiting more pages, and engaging with different types of content.

To reach new readers and adapt to the pandemic, the Journal launched a subscription scheme for individual readers to subscribe to get the biannual print editions and order editions from our catalogue (all articles remain accessible online without a paywall.) Since the launch of the scheme in May 2021, the Journal surpassed 100 print edition subscribers and sold over 200 copies.

Whenever possible, the Journal also reached out to its audience through offline means by distributing over 3000 copies of print editions to green and progressive political events, summer schools, national Green Party offices, Young Green groups, university libraries, and think tanks across Europe.

The Journal also continued to build on the success of its long-read style podcast, *Green Wave*. Available to listen on the journal's website and all podcast platforms, the podcast's plays and downloads grew by almost half to reach over 40,000 in 2021.

SOUTH AND EAST EUROPE

GEF continues to work on strengthening the green wave in the regions of South- and East Europe, with the ultimate goals of reinforcing key stakeholders and disseminating green ideas in the national public sphere. The past year has been marked with the development of GEF's South-East Strategy, in addition to the implementation of several events in the region.

Terrestrial Forum

With the support of the Ministry of Spatial Planning (Serbia)

All The Terrestrial forum was a six-day summer school implemented in August in Serbia. The Forum provided a space for learning, exchange, and planning for cooperation between progressive civic and political actors from Serbia, together with counterparts from the Balkan region and Europe. The interactive programme brought together 21 speakers from the region and Europe to share their experiences through four work streams: Narratives and Mobilisation; The Institutionalisation of Solidarity; Self-organisation; and A Just Energy Transition.

Budapest Forum

With the support of the Institute for Political Capital (Hungary)

In September, GEF participated in an event entitled the Budapest Forum – Building Sustainable Democracies. The Forum brought together representatives of



progressive cities (politicians, experts and activists) from across Europe. As part of the forum, GEF held a side event with the title “A small tour of Europe – the lenses of Green Cities”, which highlighted green city frontrunners, inspired by the GEF transnational project ‘Cities as Places of Hope’.

Central-Eastern Europe Network Event

In cooperation with FREDA – Die Akademie [Austria]

In December, GEF organised an online networking event, gathering national foundations and equivalent organisations, as well as European partners working in the region. The meeting took place online and served as an opportunity to gather input from the organisations in the region, ahead of the 2022 Central-Eastern Europe Network kick-off meeting. Accordingly, the organisations exchanged on opportunities and challenges, identifying synergies for common projects and collaborations, as well as potential pivotal points for the green movement in the region, such as engaging youth and urban audiences.

TRANSFORMATIVE CITIES

GEF supports the growing emergence of a cross-border network of local governments, which are active in many fields such as energy cooperatives, mobility, or circular economy initiatives. This network has steadily grown to become a crucial component of transnational governance in Europe. In 2021, we placed a particular emphasis on the potential of cities as a transformative force towards resilient and democratic societies – whether that be through self-organisation or by building vital and inclusive public spaces for all.

Cities as Places of Hope

With the support of Oikos [Flanders, Belgium], Fundació Nous Horitzons [Catalonia, Spain], Transición Verde [Spain], the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia], Sunrise [North Macedonia], Green Thought Association [Turkey], Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks [The Netherlands]

The [Cities as Places of Hope](#) is a continuing project. This year’s work further built on the foundations from the last two years and focused on progressive city networks and their transformative power in developing a positive narrative of the future of Europe and supporting engaged citizens in developing urban commons and democratic innovation.

In order to further explore and exchange on transformative local practices in 2021, partners organised online events across green cities with local green actors by asking themselves whether green cities have universal policies or core values. In autumn, the project partners documented transformative examples

through [videos](#) from Ghent in Belgium, Zagreb in Croatia, Skopje in North Macedonia, Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Logroño in Spain, Istanbul in Turkey and El Prat in Catalonia.

Cities for All

With the support of the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe [Belgium-registered, operating in Central and Eastern Europe]

The [Cities for all-How?](#) project brought together around 30 young participants in a 7-day training. The aim of the event was to help participants improve their lobbying and advocacy skills to convince authorities to take concrete steps towards inclusive urban planning. Prior to the event, a four-week-long online course was developed and organised on the same topic, where participants were able to learn about urbanism, activism, gender and politics. Moreover, participants, who completed the training and the online course, developed a Manifesto with recommendations for improving urban politics in Eastern European cities.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

GEF seeks 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. This work includes regional approaches and national case studies, as well as debates on the durable transformation of entire sectors and livelihoods like tourism and agriculture.

Just Transition

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

The Just Transition is a continuation project, building on last year’s project which led partners to conduct research on the proposed European just transition and to develop a Framing Paper on the topic. In 2020, partners connected with relevant European and national actors to build the network through organised online events in partner countries, through interviews with people impacted by this transition, and developed an online course.

In 2021, the project partners focused on writing the Just Transition book chapters which will be published in 2022 to showcase the main challenges and opportunities around this topic. Furthermore, the project brought together relevant actors in an [online event](#) in Serbia and interviewed an [expert in North Macedonia](#) to elaborate

on the local realities. A book author was also invited to speak in a discussion on “[How to be Good Ancestors](#)” in Belgium.

Fair and Carbon Free Tourism

With the support of the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia], Fundació Nous Horitzons [Catalonia, Spain], FREDA - Die Akademie [Austria], Sunrise [North Macedonia], and PolEkol [Serbia]

Since 2020, GEF and its partners have been working to identify and create conditions for collective action against the detrimental social and environmental impacts of tourism. This year, we met with stakeholders in tourist hubs like Istria and Barcelona, as well as emerging destinations, and worked to identify transformative cases and practices that can provide inspiration for a [more sustainable tourism for people and the planet](#).

As Europe slowly but surely emerges from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, this project aims to develop discussions on the green approach and build a community that is interested in transforming this sector by moving towards in the direction of zero carbon intensity, with strong attention to the social dimension and inequalities tourism is generating. Results of the past years’ research will be bundled and published in early 2022.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

The fight for the climate crisis lies at the heart of GEF’s mission. The foundation’s multi-perspective approach examined both the economic and social implications of climate change, with a focus on promoting a fair, transparent, and sustainable energy transition in Europe. Acting as a forward-looking foundation, GEF collected expertise and stimulated debate on the tougher questions in this area, such as the role of metals or hydrogen in our green transition, as well as how to tackle harder-to-reach sectors like trade and agriculture.



The Green Hub at Cop26

In cooperation with the European Green Party

The Green Hub at COP26 was one of GEF’s flagship events of the year. In cooperation with the European Green Party, GEF provided a space to bring together a wide variety of European and global stakeholders from the green ecosystem to meet, debate, attend events and network.



As part of a ten-day [programme](#), the Green Hub hosted 54 events, ranging from panels, workshops, seminars, to cultural activities, keynote events, walking tours and training, bringing together foundations, NGOs, Green Parties, MEPs and academics. A total of 18 events were delivered by 9 GEF partners. There was a wide range of event topics, including: biodiversity, indigenous rights, ecofeminism, to hydrogen, the Green New Deal, the Just Transition and racial justice. During those ten days, over 1500 people passed through the doors of the Green Hub, with a further 300 participants attending Green Hub events online.

Climate Emergency Economy

With the support of Green House Think Tank [United Kingdom], Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks [The Netherlands], Green Foundation Ireland [Ireland], and Strefa Zieleni [Poland]

What does it mean to build a climate emergency economy, and how do we tackle the ‘hard-to-reach’ sectors in Europe in our pursuit of zero carbon? How do we ensure that our international investments and search for alternative energy sources do not bring harmful repercussions beyond our borders? GEF and its partner foundations have been pursuing these questions for several years, with this year’s focus being transport and trade infrastructure; food sovereignty and agriculture; and the use of hydrogen in the green transition.

The project featured a [series of webinars](#), [expert meetings](#), and three sessions at the [Green Hub at COP26](#). We also published [five different reports](#) with key findings, and produced a [board game](#) that introduces

players to some of the enablers and blockers of a carbon-free future. With such a range of events and outputs, we brought the debate to everyone from policy-makers and Greens in government to climate activists and the general public.

Metals for a Green and Digital Future

With the support of Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks [The Netherlands], Transición Verde [Spain], the Institute of Active Citizenship [Czechia], Visio [Finland], the Green Economics Institute [UK], Etopia [Belgium] Fundacja Strefa Zieleni [Poland]

The [Metals for a Green and Digital Europe](#) project took a comprehensive look at how to tackle the difficult questions raised by Europe's increasing demand for metals for the energy transition and digitalisation. The overall scope of the project included 12 online events, while the partners developed an [online multimedia dossier and discussion platform](#), created videos for social media and a discussion paper focusing on the [Finnish mining industry](#). The project concluded with the creation of a final publication: a concise but comprehensive [Agenda for Action](#) at all political levels, interspersed with best and worst practices both from inside and outside Europe. It was published as a booklet in six languages.



Transformation towards Energy Democracy

With the support of Sunrise [North Macedonia]

The project built on our partner's pre-existing and pioneering work on energy democracy in the region and implemented two online conferences in North Macedonia in 2021. The events brought together [energy cooperatives](#) and [energy experts](#) from the region and Europe. The participants had a chance to discuss and elaborate on cooperatives and other forms of socio - environmental economic models in Europe which contribute to the debate at the EU level, with best practices and challenges from the Balkans. The events generated interest from the broader public on

green topics and especially energy democracy. A series of [four videos](#) was developed as part of the project.

The Future of Sustainable Mobility

In cooperation with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung [EU]. With the support of the Institute for Political Ecology [Croatia], Transición Verde [Spain], Fundació Nous Horitzons [Catalonia, Spain] and GreenHouse ThinkTank [United Kingdom]

2021 was the European year of rail, which GEF marked by reimagining the Future of European Mobility, which was a collaboration with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. The results of this project included the translation of the European Mobility Atlas into [Italian](#) and [Spanish](#) to increase the European dimension of the publication.

GEF also implemented a series of decentralised actions on the topic of the future of mobility across Europe. In Croatia, a roundtable was organised on the topic of the Just Transition in mobility sectors of post-socialist countries. In the UK, a [research report](#) was published on the local implementation of the Green New Deal in cities dependent on airport economies. In Spain, [research](#) was conducted on sustainability in various sectors with roundtable discussions on the topic scheduled for 2022.

Deforestation and Climate Change

With the support of FREDA – Die Akademie [Austria], the Green Institute Greece [Greece]

This year's [Deforestation and Climate Change](#) project was implemented with a main emphasis on the topics of deforestation, reforestation, climate change, and sustainable forestry. Five online events were organised with experts, NGOs, Universities and MEPs. A [comprehensive handbook](#) was developed with recommendations for the Greek forestry sector. The second part of the project will be organised in 2022 in Austria and will include a visit to a sustainable woodshop and a fact-finding mission seeking out best practices for sustainable forestry.

Towards a Sustainable Agri-Food System

With the support of Transición Verde [Spain]

This project mainly focused on the European agri-food system, looking at some of the current challenges and opportunities in changing our food production and consumption patterns. Working with partners, NGOs, universities and experts, Transición Verde hosted a [series of five events featuring panels](#), round tables and discussions on the current agri-food system and what its future could look like. The Common Agricultural Policy of the EU was another focus point, and specific importance was given to the pressing climate and biodiversity crisis.

Sustainable Development Goals

With the support of Ecopolis Foundation [Hungary]

The project partners held a full-day conference in Budapest on the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), as a universal call to action for a fair and sustainable world for all. The conference focused on [clean water and basic sanitation](#) (SDG6), and included a high-level panel discussion with academics, researchers, and NGOs from Hungary. Following the event in early 2022 a summary report will be published, compiling the main outcomes of the conference.

GENDER & FEMINISM

[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. As anti-democratic and far-right backlash put even more fundamental freedoms under threat, GEF focused in particular on acting as a platform for empowerment, knowledge sharing, and transnational collaboration. GEF explored the topic of feminism and gender through a variety of formats and lenses, while also highlighting the intersection with other topics like climate justice and racial equality.](#)

Feminists in the Climate Movement

With the support of Visio [Finland], the Green Economics Institute [United Kingdom], Fundacja Strefa Zieleni [Poland], and Oikos [Flanders, Belgium]

For the second year in a row, GEF selected twenty Feminists Climate Ambassadors from across Europe in a year-long transnational training programme – equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and network needed to fight for a fair and sustainable future. Our Ambassadors enjoyed a series of online trainings with experts and trainers from across Europe, as well as study trips to the European Ideas Lab in Milan, Ecopolis in Brussels, and COP26 in Glasgow where they themselves delivered a [Green Hub session](#) and [joint statement](#).

In parallel, GEF and its project partners hosted a series of [public webinars](#) and summer school sessions to dive further into different aspects of the climate crisis and gender equality, and how they relate to EU policies and debates. Finally, the project produced and adapted some key resources on this topic: the [SAFE guide](#) for people targeted by online violence, and the forthcoming Ethics of Care: lessons from ecofeminism which formed the basis for a series of ecofeminist round tables throughout the year.

Feminist Policies in Green Politics

With the support of Green Thought Association [Turkey]

In a year where Turkey formally withdrew from the Istanbul Convention, GEF and Green Thought Association brought together women, LGBTQI+ activists, and policymakers to explore feminist policies in green politics and equip them with skills and knowledge to push for change in challenging circumstances. The project kicked off with a Green Feminist Talk with MEP Terry Reintke, followed by a series of digital roundtables on different themes throughout the year linking ecological and human rights issues. This culminated with the online Women+ in Power conference in December, which gathered 80+ participants to discuss a range of topics and build a stronger movement for gender and environmental justice. Finally, we published the [Green-Purple podcast series](#) with short, inspiring conversations on all these topics.

Ecopolis 2021: Dare to Care

With the support of Oikos [Flanders, Belgium]

Ecopolis, the annual ecological festival in Brussels, once again featured inspiring conversations and debates with writers, academic experts, and civil society thinkers from Europe and beyond. Through this year's theme – Dare to Care – we explored the concept of care in all its political and economic dimensions and asked ourselves how care, as an emancipatory principle, could be a starting point for reshaping our world. Ecofeminist lessons formed an underlying current to much of the conversation at this one-day event, with hundreds of participants joining the various sessions throughout the day.



EU & GREEN THINKING

GEF 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. This includes reflections on foundational Green thinkers and the lessons they hold for society today. Our 2021 work also reflected the view that a true European response is fundamental in tackling the most pressing issues of our time, from geopolitical challenges to post-pandemic recovery. The EU and its member states are, however, not exempt of flaws which is why we take a constructive but critical stance in these discussions.

Green Post-Corona Talks

With the support of Sustainable Development Forum Green Window [Croatia] and the Institute for Social Ecology [Slovenia]

In 2021, GEF continued its Green Post-Corona Talks series, addressing pressing European issues and putting forward positive ideas, proposals, and policies for greener and more resilient societies. The talks highlighted what is at stake in the COVID-19 crisis and looked beyond the period of the pandemic, exploring how possible solutions can lend themselves to design a sustainable and greener post-corona world.

A total of five talks were organised on topics relating to consequences of the Covid crisis for Europe, The Common Agricultural Policy and its connection to the Green Deal and Recovery, as well as the role of Green governments in the pandemic. The talks brought together European politicians, experts, and NGOs, sti-

mulating lively debate and building on expertise developed by GEF and its network to propose forward-thinking ideas to shape tomorrow's future.

Public Debate on Green Recovery and Resilience

With the support of BlueLink [Bulgaria]

As all EU member states submitted their National Recovery and Resilience Plans, GEF with the support of BlueLink conducted [original research](#), [consultation](#), and [outreach](#) to foster much-needed dialogue on green recovery and resilience in Bulgaria. The project featured comparative analyses with other countries' plans, and delved deeper into three key areas: agriculture, circular economy, energy and climate. Outcomes were shared and discussed with relevant stakeholders, and brought to the general public through media and filmed interventions.

Green-Red Dialogues

With the support of Fundació Nous Horitzons [Catalonia, Spain]

For the second year running, GEF and its Catalan partner hosted a series of online dialogues, tackling timely issues for (Southern) Europe while bringing together green and leftist voices and ideas to emphasise the needs for both environmental and social justice. This year's dialogues discussed everything from agri-food exploitation, to implications of the German elections, and feminist perspectives on the EU's Next Generation funds.



Radical Humanism and Ecological Conversion

With the support of Alexander Langer Foundation [Italy]

Over a weekend in October, around 70 participants gathered in Montebello, Italy to examine the thoughts and criticisms of Ivan Illich and Alexander Langer and discuss their relevance to our current moment – particularly with regards to an ecological policy for the next generations. A packed schedule of seminars was complemented by more informal discussions and outside interventions from Extinction Rebellion activists and the Green European Journal. The bilingual seminar was held in Italian and German, and key proceedings are to be published in a conference booklet.

SUMMER UNIVERSITIES & ACADEMIES

GEF's [summer universities and academies](#), implemented in collaboration with national partners, enabled [Green-minded people to connect and debate on inspiring political, social and environmental issues all over Europe](#). While many had a particular thematic focus, they also allowed for [more practical skill-building and networking opportunities beyond any one topic](#).

Be Brave Summer Camp

With the support of the Federation of Young European Greens

The Be Brave Summer Camps were held in five decentralised locations in Ukraine, Georgia, Scotland/Ireland, Catalonia and Greece and gathered young Europeans and young representatives of youth movements from 25 countries. The activities focused on challenges and best practices for ensuring youth participation at the local level, such as methods of community organising, citizen's assemblies, technologies for e-democracy or collective policy-making.



Summer School of Environmental Politics

With the support of the Institute for Active Citizenship [Czechia]

This weekend-long summer school from 22-25 July brought together around 60 participants for a packed but diverse programme exploring how to build greener, healthier, and more resilient cities. The programme featured debates, workshops, and seminars, but also allowed for more informal moments and experiential sessions on mental wellness and stress relief. While international participation was limited due to pandemic restrictions, several speakers were able to join online for hybrid discussions.



Green Horizons Academy: The Good Story

With the support of PolEko! [Serbia]

The first Green Horizons Academy took place as a hybrid event in Belgrade and online from 15-17 October. We gathered participants from across the Western Balkans and beyond around the theme "The Good Story" - articulating green, democratic, feminist, sustainable, and just alternatives for (South-East) Europe. With in-person workshops and live-streamed panel debates, the event served to take a step back from the day-to-day crises and urgencies faced by green-minded activists and experts, in order to expand the imaginary of the green movement towards an alternative sustainable future across Europe.

Albanian Green Academy

With the support of the Albanian Green Institute [Albania]

The Albanian Green Academy took place in two parts, each lasting three days. The training, workshop and lecture series took place in Tirana and Pogradec with 15 diverse young participants who were interested in green policies. The overarching themes of the venue covered the European Green Deal and Climate Justice at local and national levels, with the aim of promoting green thinking in political, social and environmental aspects. The project culminated in the publication of a booklet which summarises the learning outcomes of the lectures and discussions held at the Green Academy.

KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES

This was a newly introduced format in 2021, aiming to bring together organisations and individuals within the network willing to work on green cutting-edge topics with a clear potential for transforming the society, beyond the GEF decentralised projects framework.

UBI Knowledge Community

With the support of Transición Verde [Spain], Fundació Nous Horitzons [Catalonia, Spain], Federation of Young European Greens, Fundacja Strefa Zieleni [Poland]

Building on the previous knowledge on Universal Basic Income created within the GEF Network, a special workflow was dedicated to the topic in 2021. The collaboration resulted in a publication entitled [European Green Perspectives on Basic Income II](#), which gathered national debates on UBI from across Europe. Furthermore, GEF participated at the BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network) conference on Universal Basic Income. Finally, a series of three webinars was held and published for replay, each focusing on different aspects of UBI, including [A Pilot project on UBI](#); [The European dimension of UBI](#); and [UBI in the context of the COVID pandemic](#).

Our Green Deal Knowledge Community

With the support of Fundacja Strefa Zieleni [Poland]

The project was implemented in August with the main emphasis being on the European Green Deal policies, looking at some of the current challenges and opportunities cities are facing when implementing the EU Green Deal on the local level. In close collaboration with the [GEF Cities as Places of Hope](#) transnational project, the partner organised an event as part of the [Polish Green Days on the Drawa River](#). In the beginning of 2022, four video interviews will be published on the GEF YouTube channel with change makers introducing the European Green Deal on the local level.



CAPACITY BUILDING

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. These consisted of both online courses and face-to-face trainings.

In 2021, the capacity-building programme has continued strengthening the Green Academy platform, by adding new courses and translating existing ones into various languages, as well as its Greenr community, by selecting more trainers and facilitators and organising specialised events for them. The programme has also held several trainings and workshops, on topics ranging from hate speech online to combatting anti-conspiracy theories.

EMPOWERING YOUTH

Green Academy

Green Academy is the educational platform of the Green European foundation, offering free e-learning courses to those who wish to develop their skills and knowledge on European topics and green issues through an innovative user experience. Hosted on a dedicated website www.green-academy.eu, the extensive course catalogue was bolstered this year with a range of new content with many of GEF's signature courses translated and adapted to local contexts.

Twelve new courses were added to the platform through collaborative efforts with GEF's partners FYEG, CDNEE, Transición Verde, Oikos, Visio, Green House Think Tank, Greng Stiftung, and FREDa - Die Akademie. The diverse courses feature dynamic and engaging content that guide learners through pivotal issues facing the European Union today. The platform now offers e-courses in 8 different languages and GEF continues to increase capacities amongst its partner foundations to develop their own e-learning courses for their network.

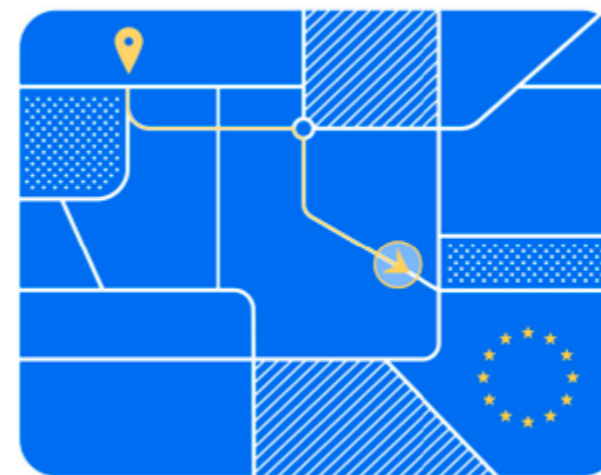
As a valuable tool for empowering keen and green-minded learners and a useful resource for our partners, Green Academy will continue to be updated and refined in the year to come.



'EU for Beginners' Translations into French and Italian

In cooperation with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (France)

Thanks to our collaboration with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, we ensured the translation of the 'EU for Beginners' course into French and Italian. The goal of this partnership was to increase accessibility of this course for learners speaking these languages. The two-hour long course offers an introduction to European activism. Learners gain an understanding of the European Union and discover some of the latest and greatest challenges faced by the EU. They also learn more about green activism in Europe and how they can get involved.



'Combatting Online Hate Speech' Translation into French

In cooperation with Bureau De Helling- Democracy Development Abroad (Netherlands)

The collaboration with De Helling ensured the translation of the 'Combatting Online Hate Speech' course into French. The course allows users to gather basic information on hate speech, while also informing them about who is affected by it, introducing them to case studies on national and European frameworks as well as strategies for combating it. Overall, this partnership aimed to make the course more accessible to a French-speaking audience.

'Combatting Online Hate Speech' Live Virtual Training

In collaboration with Gegenargument (Germany)

The increased interest in the translated versions of the Combatting Online Hate Speech e-learning course prompted GEF to gather learners from various regions

in one virtual room to discuss and debate on the topic. The training was built on the existing curriculum and touched upon the topics of disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories stemming from Hate Speech online. GEF partnered with Transición Verde, FREDa - Die Akademie, Greng Stiftung, Green Campus, Visio and Green Forum to promote the call for registrants within their networks and offered live interpretation with various target languages. The intention was to diversify the participants and reach new target audiences beyond the green galaxy. This was met with great success as participants ranged in age and profession with students in human rights law and others as working professionals in journalism.

European Green Activist Training

In collaboration with Ökopolisz (Hungary), Green Window (Croatia), Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), Visio (Finland), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), Nous Horizons (Catalonia, Spain) and Green Institute Greece (Greece)

The European Green Activist Training (EGAT) consists of training sessions for young Green activists in three phases: the first entails going through an online course entitled EU for Beginners, followed by national training sessions on domestic- and European politics in the second half of the year, and ending with a study trip to Brussels to experience European politics at work first-hand.

In 2021, a total of 18 national training sessions were held in the seven countries where the project was implemented. In April, over 100 EGAT participants from the seven participating countries came together for an online version of the Brussels Study Trip week. Over the course of four days, participants had the opportunity to exchange with one another, but also, learn about European institutions, and hear from professionals, politicians, NGOs and other activists working within the EU political sphere and interact with experts on topics such as sustainable cities, biodiversity, deforestation and gender equality.

Anti-Conspiracy Theories On TikTok Bootcamp – 2021-2022

In partnership with the Bosch Alumni Network (Germany)

TikTok, as the go-to social media app for 12 – 17 year olds, has become a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. This is partially due to its easy redistribution tools as well as the age of its users who are at a time in life where they are most likely to believe conspiracy theories and fake news. To counteract this trend, GEF held a four-day online bootcamp where young TikTok users learned how to combat the spread of this type of misinformation.

This online bootcamp was held with a small group of TikTok users from Croatia and Romania aged 16 to 19, who learned about the mechanisms of conspiracy theories and worked on debunking strategies with experts and facilitators by preparing videos and campaign ideas together. Due to the Covid situation in the respective countries, the bootcamp had to be moved online but was nevertheless a success.

GREENING OUR EVENTS

Greenr

Greenr enables organisations to connect with green-minded trainers, facilitators and consultants who use sustainable 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.

Throughout 2021, GEF dedicated resources to expand and enhance the Greenr community through a variety of formats such as a newsletter that includes work opportunities, peer-to-peer learning, workshops as well as networking opportunities. To celebrate the first year of the Greenr platform, GEF held a one-day event where Greenr trainers were invited to connect with other like-minded individuals, discuss green values that are foundational to their work, and strengthen their expertise. The event was coupled with a specialized training, extended to the wider network, on organisational development led by our partners at Horizontal School.

TRAINING FOR OUR NETWORK(S)

Training on Organisational Development- Facilitating Participatory Decision-Making Processes

In collaboration with Horizontal School [Germany]

During 2021, the GEF network and Greenr trainers expressed interest in specialised training opportunities, particularly on organisational development. In this context, GEF and Horizontal School developed a hybrid training on facilitated participatory decision-making processes. The aim was to explore how to navigate a group, team or organisation through a decision-making process that opens up space for diverse ideas and opinions and enables a common decision-making at the end. The training was available to the entire network and welcomed many new faces to the GEF Capacity-Building programme.

Networking Day

On the occasion of its 10th edition, the Networking Day on Education and Training was designed to assess the training and capacity-building needs of green organisations, parties and activists and to provide concrete initiatives and solutions looking at the next two years ahead. The event was an opportunity to present projects or new ideas and exchange with the GEF network. In the afternoon, the partners initiated productive discussions on topics such as the use of cartoons, mental health, a European network for sex educators, the future of Eastern Europe, etc, in parallel with the "EcoActive for the Planet" mini-workshops on the definition of ecological competences.

Eco-Active

Eco-Active for the Planet is an Erasmus+ project that aims to develop the skills and knowledge of trainers and educators regarding environmental protection and environmental footprint reduction; to learn how to best share these skills and this knowledge in their trainings/ workshops, to exchange best practices and eco-habits between trainers as well as diagnose the needs of trainers and educators in this process.

This transnational two-year Erasmus+ project started at the beginning of 2021. So far, the partners have developed a list of ecological competences for trainers and trainees as well as a code of conduct for green-minded trainers. Two learning, teaching and training weeks have also taken place, as well as a multiplier event at the end of October during the Networking Day on Training and Education, to share these new resources and discussions with the GEF network. Within the framework of this project, partners have also started working on a toolkit for trainers as we strive for more inclusive, impactful and participatory trainings and events.

Community of Practice Project- Education on Europe 2021

In partnership with the Bosch Alumni Network

Through the Community of Practice project, GEF aimed to ensure that every young European can benefit from a quality European civic education, and that educators have access to effective and innovative resources dedicated to that purpose. GEF and a group of civic educators from the Bosch Alumni Network collaborated to create this community of practice, which took the shape of a platform. The platform is a place where these resources and tools can be shared with formal and non-formal educators looking for new approaches to make European politics, identity and values more accessible and approachable for difficult-to-reach target groups. Three workshops were organised, with the first two held online and the last taking place in-person in Lisbon in September 2021.

GEF AS AN ECOSYSTEM

Statutory and Network Meetings

The GEF board has met ten times in 2021, with the purpose of ensuring GEF's overall decision-making process.

GEF organised two General Assemblies in 2021: one online in May, due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions, and the second one in person in Brussels in October. During both of these meetings, our members discussed the overall direction of the Foundation and had exchanges on the main challenges we face, while striving to come up with innovative solutions for them.

In February 2021, GEF's online Strategic Meeting set the political scene for the crucial work to be done together, in conjunction with the kick-off of the decentralised projects. The Strategic Meeting also gave our members and partners an opportunity to further elaborate on their own organisations' priorities for the year, while also addressing the possibilities and challenges of the set GEF priorities for 2021.



Financial Overview

Costs		
Reimbursable costs	Budget	Actual
A.1: Personnel costs	974,000.00	988,491.57
1. Salaries	535,000.00	627,550.18
2. Contributions	345,000.00	271,389.81
3. Professional training	20,000.00	21,860.32
4. Staff missions expenses	14,000.00	2,088.68
5. Other personnel costs	60,000.00	65,602.58
A.2: Infrastructure and operating costs	158,000.00	97,754.67
1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	76,000.00	60,240.15
2. Costs relating to installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	16,000.00	9,064.82
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	30,000.00	6,195.67
4. Stationery and office supplies	6,000.00	877.84
5. Postal and telecommunications charges	20,000.00	17,900.22
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	10,000.00	3,475.97
7. Other infrastructure costs	0.00	0.00
A.3: Administrative costs	32,000.00	43,380.42
1. Documentation costs (newspapers, press agencies, databases)	5,000.00	2,370.93
2. Costs of studies and research	0.00	0.00
3. Legal costs	8,000.00	21,101.28
4. Accounting and audit costs	13,000.00	16,656.06
5. Miscellaneous administrative costs	6,000.00	3,252.15
6. Support to third parties	0.00	0.00
A.4: Meetings and representation costs	120,000.00	47,836.22
1. Costs of meetings	55,000.00	19,211.71
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	30,000.00	5,387.26
3. Representation costs	35,000.00	22,513.03
4. Costs of invitations	0.00	724.22
5. Other meeting-related costs	0.00	0.00
A.5: Information and publication costs	1,014,397.00	961,369.06
1. Publication costs	180,000.00	164,165.17
2. Creation and operation of Internet sites	82,000.00	24,354.20
3. Publicity costs	12,000.00	5,514.30
4. Communications equipment (gadgets)	12,397.00	0.00
5. Seminar and exhibitions	728,000.00	767,335.39
6. Other information-related costs	0.00	0.00
A.6. Allocation to "Provision to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N+1"		515252.02
A. TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS	2,298,397.00	2,138,831.94
Ineligible costs		
1. Allocations to other Provisions		
2. Financial charges		
3. Exchange losses		
4. Doubtful claims on third parties		
5. Others (to be specified)	8,000.00	12,453.55
5. Contributions in kind	3,000.00	0.00
B. TOTAL INELIGIBLE COSTS	11,000.00	12,453.55
C. TOTAL COSTS	2,309,397.00	2,151,285.49

Revenue		
Reimbursable costs	Budget	Actual
D.1. Dissolution of "Provision to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N"	n/a	384,499.09
D.2. European Parliament funding	2,183,477.00	1,640,853.61
D.3. Member contributions	38,000.00	75,540.18
3.1 from member organisations	38,000.00	75,540.18
3.2 from individual members		0.00
D.4 Donations	55,420.00	41,045.78
General and Major Donations for Journal and GEF	10,420.00	
Philanthropic foundations	25,000.00	
National and European partners	20,000.00	
D.5 Other own resources	21,500.00	17,311.24
Books sale and participation fees	9,500.00	
Capacity building trainings and workshops	11,000.00	
Peer-to-peer support programme and GEF's partners networking programme	1,000.00	
Revenu stemming from work program D		17,311.24
D.6. Interest from pre-financing		0.00
D.7. Contributions in kind	3,000.00	0.00
D.8. OTHER REVENUE to cover non-eligible expenditure	8,000.00	12,453.55
D. TOTAL REVENUE	2,309,397.00	2,171,703.45
E. profit/loss (D-C)	0.00	20,417.96
F. Allocation of own resources to the reserve account		20,417.96
G. Profit/loss for verifying compliance with the no-profit rule (E-F)		0.00

MEMBERS OF GEF 2021

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)

General Assembly Members

Benoit Monange – Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique
Dirk Holemans – Oikos
Emma Nohrén – European Green Party
Eva van de Rakt – Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Evelyne Huytebroeck – European Green Party
Gwendoline Delbos Corfield – Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament
Heidi Hautala – Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament
Ingrid Facchinelli – Fondazione Alexander Langer
Jean Lambert – European Green Party
Katarina Wangler Björk – Cogito
Linda Gaasch – Gréng Steftung
Marie Pochon – European Green Party
Michael Schmid – FREDA
Miriam Kennet – Green Economics Institute
Noortje Thijseen – Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks
Rasmus Andresen – Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament
Raúl Gómez – Transición Verde
Sara Matthieu – Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament
Sophie Wustefeld – Etopia
Susanne Rieger – Nous Horizons Fundació
Tommy Simpson – Green Foundation Ireland
To be appointed – Ökopolisz

Associate Members

Conny Wahlström Green Forum
Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart – Strefa Zieleni
Olga Kikou – Greek Green Institute
Özgecan Kara – Federation of Young European Greens
Sevil Turan – Green Thought Association
Iana Pukanić – Institute for Political Ecology

Our Staff

Seden Anlar (Communications and Outreach Manager)
Ioana Banach-Sirbu (Managing Director)
Mariana Batista (Project Coordinator)
Laura Bazen (Project Coordinator)
Raluca Besliu (Fundraising Manager)
Sara Bettinelli (Project assistant) - until May
Annabelle Dawson (Editorial Assistant, Green European Journal) - until August
Luka Gudek (Project coordinator) - as of May
Sien Hasker (Project Coordinator)
Anas Henawy (Finances and Office Manager) – as of September
Alice Hubbard (Strategy Manager) - as of September
Jamie Kendrick (Editor-in-Chief)
Jennifer Kwao (GEJ intern until June, Editorial Assistant as of July)
Farah Makarem (Human Resources Generalist) - from May to July
Aurélie Maréchal (Political Director) - until August
Christopher Mc Fayden (Project and Communications Assistant) - until March
Gio Megrelishvili (Media and Communications Manager) - until January
Kel Nkondock (Project Communications Intern) - as of April
Laura Rahman (Communications Manager) - as of January
Ben Ryan (Editorial Communications Intern) - as of October
Ognjen Sobat (Administrative Officer) - until August
Adrián Tóth (Project Coordinator)
Carlotta Weber (Strategy Manager) - until August
Beatrice White (Deputy Editor-in-Chief)
Ward Wuyts (Assistant to the Director) -as of December

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