

GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION **WORK PROGRAMME**

2022-2024

Green European Foundation

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This work programme sets the strategic outline for the Green European Foundation (GEF) for the period 2022-2024. It has been developed by the GEF board, co-directors and staff, and endorsed during the GEF Annual Strategic Day in March 2022.

The work programme is structured into the following sections. First, it sets out the current political context for the green movement in Europe. Second, it explains the approach that GEF will take to its activities between 2022 and 2024. Third, it presents both the strategic objectives for GEF as well as the thematic priorities that the foundation will focus on. Finally, it showcases its ten flagship initiatives for the coming period.

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The invasion of Ukraine and the shock of the pandemic are the two events that define our current political reality. First, the pandemic exacerbated and exposed the multiple inequalities built in our socio-economic system. These stresses have been politically exploited in some quarters, as reflected in increasing polarisation. More recently, the return of war in Europe speaks to the waning power and influence of the West as the world's ethical, cultural and economic compass. As power shifts globally, the general situation is characterised by instability and complexity felt in challenges to democratic systems and the international order.

Within this difficult picture, three intersecting agendas dominate the global scene.

First, the fallout from Covid-19 continues to shake political and economic systems, seen in the presence of anti-lockdown and Covid-sceptic protests animated by anger and mistrust as well as the socio-economic consequences of rising costs and supply issues.

Second, the supply chain crisis, in part produced by the pandemic, is inseparable from the much longer-term question of energy and therefore the climate. The energy crisis has multiple dimensions from the competitive race for a green transition, to the social question of 'just transition', to once again the crisis in Ukraine.

Third, the implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are on a similarly level of relevance as the energy crisis. The invasion demonstrates the limits of the 20th-century international system that has been key to peace and security in Europe. The consequences for the future of European integration and for European security in all its dimensions, as well as the repercussions for all political families, Greens included, will be profound.

Power shifts, polarisation and volatility also contribute to the stalling of institutional reform in the EU that is so vital to matching Europe's ambitions and amplifying its influence.

Globally, multilateralism – one of the core facets of Europe's foreign policy – is being undermined and emptied out by regional and great powers' arrangements. Whilst Greens advocate for decolonising the way in which we see the world and moving away from eurocentrism, these underlying shifts nevertheless unsettle societies and bring unexpected outcomes in terms of elections, public debates, and public opinion.

In Europe, there are deep internal divisions, increasingly along an East/West axis (potentially supplanting a previous North/South split). These divisions often bring the EU to stalemate on issues such as the rule of law, position towards Russia and China, deeper integration versus nation-states. Across Europe, "Brown forces" (hyper-conservative, fascist, illiberal, authoritarian) defending closed societies and old models are strong. They polarise, reinforce and exploit divisions in the political landscape.

Greens are here to stay but...

In this mix, however, a green wave is evident and infuses European political developments. Greens are positioned at the centre of European politics and progress at country level is promising and widespread, though variable. Green parties are contributing to and joining government coalitions (of diverse forms and colours) across Europe. This includes southern and

eastern Europe, where new climate movements have emerged, and there have been electoral breakthroughs for Greens in Croatia, Bulgaria and Poland.

However, the trade-offs and compromises inherent to government coalition-building bring associated challenges, risk fatigue, and disillusionment among vital green movements and actors. At European level, the Green Deal is a positive achievement and represents important mainstreaming of a green agenda. However, for many, this means greenwashing and superficiality that will not meet the challenges ahead.

Green parties, and the green movement more generally, need to differentiate themselves and propose a path to a greener and more socially just Green Deal with a view to challenging the existing one in 2024. This means reimagining and mapping broader, interrelated, and more detailed territory for a Green Deal of greater scope, ambition, and credibility. We need to enable and support policy explorations, innovation, and proposals to extend beyond, and transform, current Green Deal possibilities. These need to build solidarity and amplify youth movements, other green actors, and citizen concerns.

For example, Europe's energy transition is a key challenge – it is costly, cannot be done overnight, and means major changes in vital sectors and aspects of daily life that have sustained the European model throughout its development: mobility (cars), housing (retrofitting and insulation of buildings) and the very structure of its industrial base. It is also a fundamental geopolitical shift that offers relative autonomy from energy powers such as Russia, as well as creating new dependencies. The energy transition is thus imperative, but it also means systemic change that risks deepening inequalities even further. There can be no energy transition without a just transition. If Greens fail to articulate and demonstrate their concern for social justice and combating poverty, they will be easily cornered as the punitive, expensive, and inhuman political grouping.

There is a crack in everything: that's how the light gets in, or how neoliberalism dies

The effects and implications of Covid-19 will continue to unfold for economics, politics, and societies across the world (where richer countries have failed to ensure adequate access to vaccinations for the Global South), and in Europe. The pandemic has starkly revealed more of the complex connections – and interdependence – between health and the environment (including the role of big pharma), and the need to restore the relationship between humans and nature.

The global pandemic exposed cracks and contradictions in the foundations of neoliberalism. Unprecedented wage support, assistance to strategic sectors, and monetary activism are no longer taboo, and the EU has distributed the largest ever stimulus and recovery packages to member states. This has unsettled neoliberal beliefs about the role of the state and its relationship to the economy and society. Rowing back on civil liberties, the multiple exposures of low-paid and unpaid work (often by 'essential' workers) upon which capitalist and neoliberal systems depend, and all underpinned by a demand for economic growth, starkly exhibit the cracks and contradictions. Inadequacies in the face of multi-dimensional inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19 (e.g. protected vs unprotected jobs, access to education, mobility inequalities, rural vs urban, the clinical and socioeconomic vulnerability of certain groups) reveal deep instabilities in the current orthodoxy.

As the cracks in the neoliberal system deepen, the societal debate on how the current system functions advances. A qualitative focus underlies the agendas of social movements across the

continent that centre social justice, care, recognition, and equality in their political demands. As socioeconomic and health inequalities have compounded under recent crises, Europe has witnessed a revival of grassroots community actions and mobilisation, with emancipatory movements such as anti-racist, LGBTQI+, youth, feminist movements gaining significant ground.

In this context, there is an opportunity for Greens to build bridges between movements and seek to connect intersecting demands in their political agendas. This also requires the active involvement of underrepresented communities in building a political agenda that serves everyone justly. As green support is often concentrated in urban centres, another challenge includes the need to connect struggles in rural and post-industrial communities with the European sphere. These movements and communities could share an openness to green-minded debates. Connections should be further developed to ensure that these communities are reached and can actively contribute to green discussions, whether on a socially just green transition or the future of Europe in an uncertain world.

GEF APPROACH TOWARDS 2024

While discussions of GEF's future have a longer-term horizon, 2024 is a clear milestone and the next work programme of GEF runs to that point. For that two-year period, the work programme offers a perimeter of action, prioritisation among the ambitions of the 2020-2024 GEF Strategy, and a timeframe for projects and initiatives to unfold over 2022 and 2023.

The Green European Foundation, as part of the Green family and the broader landscape of political ecology actors, aims to complement their work, while building a distinctive identity as a European foundation. The ambition is to be both the Green reference network and hub, as well as a forward-looking laboratory of ideas and practices. To do so, GEF can build on its experience of decentralised projects, capacity-building activities, and stimulating debates. These principles guided the construction of the work programme:

- While building its distinct identity and strategic approach, GEF works to amplify its existing reach and close the gaps with the European Green family and its network of partners.
- GEF continuously seeks to build on areas of excellence and initiatives which have proven their invaluable contribution over the years (such as the Green European Journal and GEF's decentralised projects), by further increasing impact and synergies with other GEF work areas.
- GEF's roles as an organisation and network go hand in hand.
- GEF further improves its impact assessment framework.
- GEF seeks to ensure a wide, visible, and consistent communication of its work to build its public profile and develop recognition among identified target audiences.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

GEF's 2022-2024 strategic objectives are derived from the GEF 2020-2024 Strategy. They set a clear direction for the two years ahead that is both ambitious and achievable.

1. GO GREEN EAST AND SOUTH!



Contribute to the development of green and political ecology ideas and actors in three countries and contribute to the establishment of a functioning network of Central and Eastern European green political foundations.

This objective extends and sharpens GEF's efforts to invest in Southern, Central and Eastern European countries to contribute to the Green family's objective of expanding the Green wave beyond North-Western Europe. A limited number of countries will allow for a clearer focus, dedicated resources and people, impact assessment, and clearer complementarity with other Green family members. In addition, GEF will support networking opportunities and retain a margin of manoeuvre for other countries and regions where political opportunities may emerge.

2. SHAPE TOMORROW'S IDEAS!



Put GEF on the map of organisations developing and curating forward-looking ideas and policy proposals within priority thematic areas.

GEF as an organisation and an ecosystem intends to contribute to the political and policy debate by bringing progressive ideas and proposals that shape tomorrow's rather than today's Europe. All tools and work areas of GEF are to be mobilised to carry out research and debate in innovative, collective and inclusive ways.

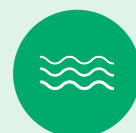
3. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ALL!



Make GEF the go-to actor for capacity-building activities for partners and making knowledge accessible for all citizens and activists who wish to empower themselves with knowledge on green issues before the 2024 elections.

GEF will further enrich and improve its online training and education offerings. In particular, it will launch an online educational flagship course around political ecology thinking, history and actors throughout Europe. On the other hand, while the capacity-building pillar of GEF has brought expertise, training and alternative methods and practices to its network, it will be important to further develop, adapt, and amplify, and to consolidate those practices in the next two years.

4. MAKE THE GREEN FLOW!



Make GEF the main go-to place for green ideas, debates, training and network within the Green family and extended network of green like-minded organisations in Europe.

No other actor is better placed than GEF – as a network and organisation – to build bridges between European and national content, actors and experts, initiatives, and networks. GEF must make better and more efficient use of its position within the Green galaxy, closing the gaps to ensure Green galaxy content, ideas and people are connected. This objective also looks to ensure that GEF can bring Green content and people to an extended network of green like-minded organisations in Europe, and in return bring their content and people into the Green galaxy.

5. CONSOLIDATE THE FOUNDATIONS!



Make the green political foundations' ecosystem flourish, to reach sustainable impact in the long-term.

In its efforts to promote transnational spaces for debates and political participation, GEF will continue to work closely with its most paramount resources – an enriching ecosystem of national and regional Green foundations and equivalent organisations. Our partner foundations are extremely diverse, and their strengths, needs and challenges will differ accordingly. With this in mind, we will foster knowledge transfer and mutually reinforcing exchanges between green foundations, which support all members of the ecosystem to find new ways to advance in their mission.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

To shape the agenda over the next two years, GEF has identified two main thematic priorities for its work programme. Chosen for their relevance for the Greens as well as European societies more broadly, they are thematic areas that GEF wishes to explore further, at the same time as consolidating and building on existing achievements.

THE GREEN DEAL FOR ALL

In light of the potential of greenwashing and backfiring of the European Green Deal adopted by the European Commission after the 2019 elections, it is crucial for GEF to curate new ideas and develop cutting-edge proposals to demonstrate what Greens and political ecology actors mean by the 'Green New Deal'. This thematic area encompasses all aspects of the necessary social-ecological transition and therefore permeates all GEF's work: mobility, energy transition, decarbonisation across sectors, socially just and fair transition, trade, technological and digital developments, and food and agriculture. Due to the political challenges that Greens will face in the coming years, it is important that GEF particularly addresses both the social and geopolitical dimensions of ambitious climate and energy transition policies, with a particular attention paid to social protection and just transition. This will integrate and further build on the past GEF work on universal basic income proposals and the reflections on the future of the Welfare State in Europe. This thematic priority also requires GEF to continue being at the forefront of the critique of economic growth and the existing economic model by supporting the coming to light of alternative models and ideas.

GEOPOLITICS, PEACE AND SECURITY

The new geopolitical environment, currently in the process of being reshaped by Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, is complex, fractured and volatile. Through its unique connector position, GEF can play a key role in defining the conversation around geopolitics in several ways. It can consolidate the debate on new geopolitical trends around some of the content that it has produced over the years, with the most recent edition of the Green European Journal covering geopolitical developments being a prime example of this. The Foundation can also utilise further its wide variety of publications, materials and networks to stimulate discussions with CSOs and academia, which will bring enrichingly diverse and multifaceted angles to the table. Finally, GEF can contribute to the debate on the consequences of the current geopolitical landscape, including the Russo-Ukrainian crisis, for Greens and Green European proposals in their effort to ensure a more just and sustainable world.

In addition to the main thematic priorities, GEF will maintain a second set of thematic areas, chosen for their political relevance and their importance to the Greens' visions and projects for Europe as a whole. This second set concerns areas where GEF either has an already acquired expertise, or where it has invested in recent years. This set allows GEF and its network to maintain its first-mover advantage in niche policy and political areas, such as migration, feminism, green and progressive cities and the post-pandemic world.

**GREEN EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION**

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**FLAGSHIP
INITIATIVES**

1. SOUTH AND EAST OF EUROPE



In Eastern and Southern Europe, new climate movements and political ecology actors have emerged, and there is a recognisable and growing demand for green contents, ideas and connections. Existing green political foundations and new or related green and progressive actors represent an important baseline for expanding the Green wave beyond North-Western Europe in the long run, especially because an important part of the EU's future is unfolding in these regions. The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict is a testament to the fact that Eastern Europe in general is a battlefield between progressive and conservative forces.

GEF has over ten years of experience in supporting green actors and debates in a broad variety of contexts: it brings with its organisation a massive and rich network of partners to develop and consolidate the greening of the public debate and political sphere in the South and East.

GEF will bring together green foundations, NGOs and think tanks working in the region to connect people and content, to facilitate synergies, and advance knowledge sharing and political education. GEF will look to contribute to the green movement and consolidate its actions through the full range of its tools, networks, and activities.

This flagship initiative will rest on three main pillars. First, GEF will work and invest in supporting green actors and greening the debate in three focus countries, namely Bulgaria, Poland and Spain. This will involve, at first, the development of country specific methodologies. Based on these, GEF will co-create and deploy an all-encompassing programme for implementation that will also align with GEF's thematic priorities and strategic objectives. It will be very important for GEF to guarantee a built-in ongoing monitoring of progress, learning and reflection.

Second, GEF will support the build-up of a self-sustaining community network of green political foundations (and equivalent actors) in Central and Eastern Europe. As a support factor, GEF will seek to help connect people to people, people to content, and content to content to further cement this network. GEF can also act as a hub and a go-to place for this network to thrive.

Third and finally, GEF will remain agile in its support and its networking to ensure it adapts to ongoing developments of green spaces and debates in Southern and Eastern Europe beyond its three focus countries. To this effect, it will remain in close contact with existing and emerging actors in other countries and connect constantly with the European Green family on these matters, as well as it will maintain a contingency budget for rapid and one-off actions and support.

This flagship initiative will contribute within the next two years and beyond to the development and consolidation of the green movement, political ecology thinking as well as proposals in the three focus countries and via the network of Central and Eastern European foundations.

In 2024, the public spaces and debates in these countries will have a greener colour than they had up to 2022.

2. GREEN EUROPEAN JOURNAL



The Green European Journal is the editorially independent flagship political magazine of the Green European Foundation. The Journal aims to build solidarity and understanding across borders through hosting a pluralistic trans-European conversation. An invaluable tool for shaping and debating the ideas of tomorrow, political discussion and debate as well as the exploration of new concepts are integral to Journal's editorial project, as they are to GEF's mission as a political foundation at the European level. The Journal is an important means to engage with the worlds of journalism, civil society, and academia and draw on the resources they can provide for green politics, as well as being a venue that connects green actors around Europe.

The Journal publishes analyses on politics and society around Europe with a focus on new ideas and debate. Its print editions adopt a thematic approach to explore salient and underexamined topics for green thinking. The Journal's online publishing includes forward-looking, medium-term analysis and big ideas through interviews and book reviews, as well as more topical analysis of political and social developments around Europe, such as Russia's invasion of the Ukraine. Through translations and its vibrant partners' network, these debates reach new readers across Europe and beyond. In 2021, the Journal greatly expanded its translation offer, was republished in various media outlets based in over fifteen countries, and embarked on several shared editorial projects.

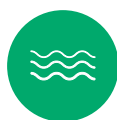
Between 2022 and 2023, the Journal will have several pillars of work. The first one, Bringing the Page to Life, builds on the success of its recent democracy and geopolitics editions as well as the new subscriptions scheme, the journal will publish two print editions in each year. Through the expansion of its dissemination activities and greater emphasis on events and promotion, the journal intends to bring the debates on the Journal's pages to life and increase the impact and influence of its print editions.

The second one, Curate the Debate, will mark the Journal's 10th anniversary in 2022, by introducing new formats for discussion and debate. For the online magazine, this will involve the introduction of new formats and greater use of curated series. The ten years of the journal will be a chance to organise a series engaging the wider journal community to exchange and reflect on key questions for political ecology in Europe from a 10-year perspective. This initiative will serve as a template for similar debates in 2023.

Finally, through its Spread the Word pillar, the Journal will develop its dissemination in print and online to reach new readers across Europe. For its communications and outreach activities, this will involve making the most of the publication's existing channels as well as new formats and series. Continuing to expand the Journal's translation offer via partner publications, the GEF network, and the Journal website will be key in this effort.

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the Journal aims to establish new and different kinds of regular readers, raise the Journal's visibility in trans-European debates, and leverage the wealth of the Journal's archive. The objective is that the Journal readership reaches a growing audience and is regarded as a place of expertise on certain topics. Journal editions should be recognised reference points in political ecology circles. The Journal's content should transcend Europe's language barriers and be readily available, where it is most useful and relevant. The 10th anniversary will be used to make a statement about the Journal's achievements in becoming a trusted and influential green voice and make space for deeper, longer-term reflection about societal and political trends.

3. KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES



The battle of ideas is a key field of investment for the Green European family as forward-looking and cutting-edge ideas and innovative proposals are often game changers in today's complex and changing geopolitical, political and societal context. GEF is both a pan- and trans-European actor that acts via its organisation and thanks to its vibrant network. It is this specific feature that makes it particularly well-placed and equipped to foray into research and policy debate at different levels to play its role in the public debate and in the broader Green movement. GEF has a vast experience in bringing people and content together in all forms and shapes and can therefore bring an added value in comparison to existing more classical policy research initiatives.

GEF will develop an agile and unique research infrastructure and network via the consolidation of knowledge communities in priority thematic areas. This initiative will connect politicians, academia, and civil society, for developing policy proposals that address the complex challenges for a greener Europe. It will establish a longer-term and lasting network of knowledge production, exchange, and dissemination. At the same time, it will also serve as an active tool to monitor new research and concepts developed in academic circles, thus enabling GEF to access new ideas before they enter public debate.

This initiative will be developed around three simultaneous and self-sustaining pillars. First, GEF will invest in a European research consortium, which will bring together green-minded academics, civil society stakeholders, practitioners, experts, and networks. The consortium will focus on priority thematic areas in mapping the territory, developing research agendas and strategies, and facilitating and undertaking research projects, which will be earmarked by publications, debates, and events.

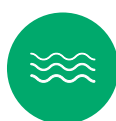
Second, GEF will support national-level research initiatives. Similar in their format to the type of consortium sought for at the EU level, the national research initiatives – in synergy with the South and East flagship initiative – will develop forward-looking policy proposals and ideas, while responding to the needs and realities of the national or regional contexts.

Third, GEF will facilitate the establishment and consolidation of knowledge communities through rich exchanges, networking and synergies between the EU and national research

initiatives as well as with the existing expertise and networks ensuing from decentralised projects.

In placing GEF further in the spectrum of policy research and forward-looking ideas development, knowledge communities and their research output will have a direct policy and political impact within the different Green and progressive EU and national spheres and further green the public debate. This initiative will result in firmly grounding GEF as a visible and credible actor in the EU environment and agenda-setting.

4. DEBATING THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD AND THE STATE OF EUROPE



As a political foundation, GEF needs to be able to react to unanticipated developments and make the most of opportunities to put forward positive ideas, proposals, and policies for greener and more resilient societies. In a post-pandemic and geopolitically fast changing world, it is also the role of a political foundation to ensure these ideas, proposals and policies are debated, exchanged on and further shaped via a vibrant and direct engagement and dialogue between the Green movement and a diverse range of actors, including civil society and movements.

In 2022 and 2023, GEF will develop a debate series that builds on existing areas of expertise as well as provides scope and flexibility to make new connections. In particular, GEF will capitalise on the success of formats such as the Green Post-Corona Talks to host debates that stimulate the development of ideas and proposals within the Green family and beyond. These debates could range from open events to safe discussion spaces. This debate series will mainly focus on GEF's thematic priority geopolitics, peace and security.

Imaginative thinking about the shape of the post-pandemic world and the new geopolitical realities will be the thread that ties the series together, but the format will change based on the thematic area and participants. The approach will be to consolidate the activities and achievements of GEF and its network since the 2019. In the first part of 2022, GEF will consult with its network of partners to determine which thematic areas and which formats are most suited to different regional contexts based on political relevance.

This 2022-2023 debate initiative will have several key features. One initiative, What beyond Covid-19 and geopolitical crises?, will provide a space for forward-looking discussion within and beyond the Green family looking at the post-pandemic world and beyond the present geopolitical urgencies from a range of thematic perspectives. A second initiative, Reap the rewards, will build on existing areas of expertise to affirm the profile of the GEF network and the wider Green family, in relation to thematic areas, where they can claim a certain first-mover advantage. Finally, the Stay Agile initiative will provide a format that allows GEF to react to emerging debates, if and as needed.

This flagship initiative will have a twofold impact. On the one hand GEF and its network will provide the Green movement with spaces and forum that allow ideas and proposals to be debated and further elaborated. On the other hand, the present debate series is an important step for GEF and its network to reap the fruits of their thematic work of the last years in broadening their target audience, deepening their outreach, and connecting with civil society actors, think tank and other society, industry and unions representatives to further green the discourse.

5. POLITICAL ECOLOGY E-COURSE



Ever since the 2019 elections and the expansion of a Green wave throughout Europe, there is an increasing thirst and demand in different parts of Europe for more knowledge about the Green movement and political ecology values and thinking. The Covid-19 pandemic and recent breakthroughs or consolidations of green presence on the continent further compel GEF to develop an online flagship political ecology course for Green and political ecology actors, activists, and all interested citizens across Europe and beyond.

The construction of political ecology as a coherent body of thoughts guiding a green societal vision was rooted in intellectual, scientific and philosophical premises as well as interacted with vibrant social movements. The political ecology e-course will aim at giving everyone interested in the formation of this approach useful tools to understand its history, its core theories and concepts and how it can help envision green and progressive European public policies.

The interest in such a product is great for all kinds of partners, from long-time established green actors in Western Europe who wish to continuously learn from others in Europe, to newcomers in the green galaxy. The political ecology course will also focus on the global elements of political ecology, which are becoming all the more relevant in light of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

GEF will develop a course that addresses these needs and furthermore guarantees its course to be accessible to all audiences, with a specific focus on the youth. In the next two years GEF will thus enrich its political education offering by proceeding along two main pillars of action: first, GEF will develop, with support from partners, a signature e-course on political ecology that combines values, history and thematic areas, such as the Green historical context, key topics that unite Greens and the main issues on the Green agenda. Benefiting from nearly 10 years of experience in developing educational projects, GEF aims to pull on extensive expertise and connections with academia and the green ecosystem to establish common ground to develop a truly European course. This will ensure that the course remains relevant for years to come and that it resonates with the green movement across Europe.

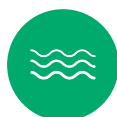
Second, GEF will support partners in translating and adapting the signature course to reflect their social, cultural, and historical contexts. The adaptations will bring the signature course

to life in different parts of Europe, by engaging with diverse perspectives and bringing newcomers to the green movement.

Using trusted and successful methodologies, GEF will support partners in the pedagogical development of the e-course to present an offer that is both impactful and accessible. The e-course and its adaptations will be hosted on GEF's uniquely built educational platform which offers GEF and its partners the potential to present innovative technical features and design that will bring the learning approaches and methodologies to new heights.

The flagship initiative will serve to equip the European Green movement by guaranteeing access to political ecology education, whilst also position GEF as a known, valued and distinctive stakeholder in education for political ecology in Europe, open to all interested citizens.

6. DECENTRALISED PROJECTS



Through their trans-European perspective, decentralised projects contribute to mainstreaming discussion on EU policies and politics and connect diverse actors such as NGOs, think tanks, activists and academics in cross-border cooperation and exchange. Through their implementation in national contexts across Europe and through original research, built-in synergies, and dissemination channels within and beyond our network, decentralised projects are a thrilling space for political debate, which connect citizens and strengthen the relations between the green foundations.

Each year, decentralised projects are selected by the GEF Board to be implemented with support of national partners. They are chosen in line with GEF's thematic and strategic priorities but rely above all on the proposals and expertise of our partner foundations. This reflects GEF's philosophy that the European project should not be imposed top-down by technocrats in Brussels but be the result of transnational and open contributions from multiple groups in society; and that European identity can only be built through respectful exchange between different national, collective, and individual realities.

To continue fostering this space, GEF will build on three main pillars. The first one focuses on investing in inspiring and forward-looking decentralised projects, proposed and implemented by partners. These can be a transnational cooperation between national foundations, address a topic of utmost national or local relevance through a European lens, or link EU policies and debates to a local context. They also cover a wide range of activities, from workshops, conferences, and seminars to research reports, videos, and e-learning. In 2022, the selected projects are: Just Transition; Cities as Places of Hope; Fair and Carbon Free Tourism; Future of Eastern Europe and (Eco)Democracy; Rethinking Demand; Feminists in the Environmental Movement; Dark Side of the Cloud; Transition to Energy Democracy; Green Politics and Nature Rights; and Green-Red Dialogues.

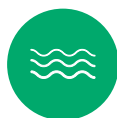
The second pillar will be to use decentralised projects to make our ecosystem of foundations flourish, providing great opportunities for peer learning and exchange, with partners taking

on different roles in projects according to their interests and capacities. This allows smaller or less established foundations to grow in the wings of others, while ensuring that voices from across Europe are represented – even where the green movement may be less strong. GEF also assists partners directly via day-to-day project support, like connecting them to high-level speakers or EU debates, facilitation of tools and resources such as the project coordination guidebook, and targeted guidance on questions relating to issues such as fundraising, communication, hybrid events, or project design.

The final, third pillar will be focus on reflecting on the format and future of decentralised projects, to maximise impact and expand the project reach beyond its end date, as well as respond to network needs. In the medium term, this may involve feeding insights and outputs into the GEF Knowledge Communities and Debate Series, and closing the gap in the information exchange and knowledge generated by the Green family and the extended network of green like-minded organisations.

Harnessing the strengths and expertise across the GEF network, decentralised projects will continue to connect GEF to citizens and civil society across Europe, taking debates on green and progressive topics far beyond Brussels. Through this, they contribute to creating a European public sphere.

7. SUMMER SCHOOLS



GEF's summer schools, implemented in collaboration with national partners, are important meeting places, allowing Green-minded individuals to come together and take stock as well as shape the future of the movement. They also serve as places of inspiration, by putting forth the latest ideas on socio-political and environmental issues all over Europe.

Summer schools are typically conceptualised at the national or regional level, but GEF supports partners by bringing a European dimension to these events. This can mean, for example, hosting workshops on specific EU policies and debates, bringing in MEPs and other EU-level actors, or inviting speakers and participants from different countries to offer alternative perspectives. Their friendly and relaxed atmosphere makes summer schools an ideal space to shape new, progressive ideas and engage in debate in innovative, collective, and inclusive ways.

Decentralised summer schools are built on the strengths of our partner foundations. By elevating and connecting these events across Europe, GEF creates bridges between the national and European level and ensures that a growing number of citizens gain awareness of and engage in EU issues. To continue reaching this aim, the foundation will, firstly, invest in selected 2021 summer schools and academies: Green Academy (Croatia); Summer School of Environmental Politics (Czechia); Ecopolis (Belgium); Green Horizons Academy (Serbia); Mental Health is Political (FYEG); and Thinking about Ecology (France).

It will also introduce the GEF Summer Academy, an annual event that will be hosted together with a different partner foundation each year, to become a key meeting point for Green actors and debate from across Europe, but also to energise and inspire interested citizens more broadly, while putting forth a vision for the future of Europe. By attracting high-level speakers, offering translation and interpretation, sponsoring trainers and facilitators, or even providing communications and planning support, GEF will ensure maximum reach and impact of this truly European event.

Finally, it will advance state-of-the-art methodological support. A key strength of the summer schools are the capacity-building elements and networking, with a strong focus on political education and tailored methodologies. There is space for learning and experimentation, through best practice exchanges and peer-to-peer coaching, which will build upon the plethora of experiences of those taking part in the summer schools.

Ultimately, GEF's summer schools will advance the green movement and contribute to creating a stronger, more participative democracy by providing vibrant discussion spaces where green actors and engaged citizens meet and examine the big issues of today and tomorrow. These hubs of energy and ideas are crucial for green-minded people to gain inspiration and insights, and the GEF Summer Academy in particular will become a yearly meeting point to build and experience a common Green vision for Europe and its future. Finally, we see our summer schools as a continually improving and self-sustaining ecosystem, with national foundations and GEF cooperating closely to share learnings, topics, and resources year after year.

8. EUROPEAN GREEN ACTIVIST TRAINING



Grassroots movements are on the rise in Europe, and they are often fuelled by young voices demanding immediate change. Youth activism has proven time and time again extremely capable of shifting the public discourse and has propelled the Green agenda forward. Building on the belief that a European public sphere cannot be promoted without ensuring much-needed spaces for learning and exchanges between diverse actors, GEF has been investing for over a decade in training the next-generation of Green activists in Europe.

Our most central programme, the European Green Activist Training (EGAT), reaches its 8th annual edition in 2022. Throughout its history, this 10-month training programme has equipped close to 1000 participants with knowledge and skills to build on their personal mission, learn about political ecology and European values, as well as with a wide support network to take the next steps in their activism. More than half of these participants have discovered the Green movement through EGAT, and many alumni carry on their activism in their communities, stand as candidates in elections, or go on to become youth trainers for their peers.

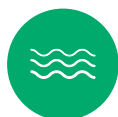
GEF will continue to build on the success of this programme in partnership with national Green foundations and Young Green organisations from all corners of Europe. In 2022, the programme expands to 7 countries: Poland, Hungary, Spain (Catalonia), Finland, Croatia, Greece and the Czechia. After several national trainings, over 120 participants will meet other

delegations during a common study trip to Brussels, where they learn about the European Green movement, the various forces that influence the political agenda in the European capital, and ways to become involved in Green activism at European level.

Beyond the impact it has on participants, the EGAT programme also contributes extensively to building of a close-knit network of Green trainers and facilitators. They play a crucial role in the success of EGAT and other educational projects, often being the first point of contact between the Green movement and the wider public. Building on their long experience and tried-and-tested methodological portfolio, past and present EGAT trainers and facilitators will be called upon to contribute to the creation of a Green Train-the-Trainer programme. Their expertise will be transferred to the wider GEF network, empowering many others to design and facilitate educational programmes that truly have a positive impact on the participants.

GEF's EGAT and Train-the-Trainer programme contribute directly to forming the next generation of Green change-makers, who in turn will fuel the Green movement with new energy, as well as fresh ideas and perspectives.

9. GREEN HUB



After two long years of pandemic restrictions and in the face of an ever bigger Green movement in Europe, connecting people, their ideas, trajectories, content and proposals is more important than ever to exchange, share and further build the movement. The network is a key aspect to plant seeds of new ideas and collaborations at the same time as to harvest the fruits of a bigger movement. GEF is the main Green family actor in that regard, bringing its experience in bridge building, network development, and drawing in new actors and ideas in efficient and effective ways. Therefore, GEF will create the Green Hub as a meeting place for members of the wider green family, including academics, politicians, young greens, experts, and civil society groups.

GEF will develop the Green Hub to become a space hosted by GEF alongside or prior to major green events, used for networking of greens and their allies, as well as for the creation of new ideas and momentum for their work. The Green Hub will take place annually, at an event identified as having most potential for green impact. GEF will ensure the trans-European character of the Hub by bringing together European, global, and local partners, such as EGP, the Green Group in the European Parliament, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, FYEG, CDNEE, Global Greens and Global Young Greens, and empowering them to co-create the programme together with GEF. The programme will be based on the possibilities, opportunities and particular needs of the Green family.

This flagship initiative will rest on three main pillars of action: first, the networking space which aims to provide Green actors and stakeholders a common platform for networking and exchanges. Second, GEF will facilitate the co-creation of the hub programme and ensure its dynamism to let new ideas, initiatives and actors emerge. Third, GEF will ensure all actors and stakeholders get access to the foundation's content, publications and networks. These

pillars will directly feed into GEF's role in nourishing the Green European ecosystem with exchanges of content, ideas and actors, enabling the green flow!

This flagship initiative will further strengthen the Green movement's cohesiveness and vibrant exchanges in the next two years. The Green Hub will help in shaping the quality and reach of outcomes and conclusions of large-scale Green European meetings and conferences. Overall, it will bring Green partners from different walks of politics closer, which in turn helps them to have a more relevant and direct impact on societies.

10. GREEN COMMUNITY: A GEF ALUMNI NETWORK



Now more than ever, debating Europe's most pressing social and ecological challenges requires us to engage in inter-disciplinary, cross-sectoral debates, and connect individuals and movements that do not organically exchange on a regular basis. GEF and its network operate as an ecosystem, the meeting point where partner foundations and other civil society organisations, academics, political thinkers, experts, policymakers, activists and citizens come together to develop and debate new ideas, as well as paint and communicate a Green vision for Europe. It is crucial to ensure that the interactions between all these actors is not limited to one-event/one-project collaborations, but that they remain interconnected and retain their involvement with the Green movement. To this end, GEF will develop the Green Community, a platform which gathers former, current, and future GEF alumni.

The alumni network will take the shape of a digital platform, a space where alumni from GEF summer schools, training programmes, and other activities can connect with like-minded individuals from all corners of Europe, discover Green projects and opportunities for further engagement in the Green movement, and develop a feeling of community. The platform will include GEF project participants, speakers, professionals, experts, and partners. Coming from various countries, age-groups, and backgrounds, they have one thing in common: their interest and passion for Green ideas and their strive for a Green transformation in Europe. On the GEF alumni platform, they will meet each other, join topical discussion groups, and find out about opportunities for further engagement in the network, whether through future events, calls for projects, publications, or network activities.

Two main pillars will carry this initiative forward: the first will focus on the individual. We will engage in an exploration of our own audiences, seeking to have a thorough understanding of what helps individuals become and remain engaged in the European Green movement. GEF and its partner foundations will gain insights into how various groups interact and wish to interact with the Green ecosystem, and how to cater to their needs and interests in a way which keeps them in the movement or brings them back, and inspires them to expand their involvement.

The second pillar will focus on the community. Developing a community strategy will require a deep understanding of how individuals interact with each other, how the knowledge and skills travel within the network, and what kind of community structures will foster meaningful connections that reach far beyond individual action.

By providing Green-minded individuals with opportunities to become or remain active participants in the GEF ecosystem, we will see long-term results: trainees become trainers, speakers become activists, policymakers become mentors, and experts become communicators. The GEF alumni network will ultimately enlarge the pool of Green-minded thinkers and activists, who bring the Green movement in Europe forward.

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