

Annual Report 2022

Green European Foundation

Address: Rue du Fossé 3
1536 Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Brussels Office: Mundo Madou – Avenue des Arts 7-8,
1210 Brussels, Belgium

Publication Lead: Kel Nkondock

Authors: Seden Anlar, Mariana Batista, Raluca
Besliu, Sien Hasker, Alice Hubbard, Jamie Kendrick,
Kel Nkondock

Proofreading: Raluca Besliu and Julia Lagoutte

Design and Layout: Gio Megrelishvili

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FOREWORD

2022 was a year of uncertainty. It was predicted as the year that marked the long-awaited return to normal. High vaccination rates and the arrival of a milder Omicron variant allowed the world to gradually lose its fear of coronavirus. But few imagined that Europe was about to be hit by another event of global impact that would once again taint our futures with uncertainty. On 24 February 2022, Russian forces began their full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and the Kremlin was determined to take Kyiv in a three-day special operation that remains far from over.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine called into question some of the major assumptions underpinning the European Union's (EU) security and defence policy, while laying bare the fundamental flaws of its energy security. Additionally, 2022 marked the beginning of the post-pandemic era: a time to reflect on economic inequalities, disinformation, rising populism, and the future of our current economic system. In this context, The European Green Deal (EGD) became instrumental in addressing and providing a common response to the concurrent geopolitical, health, and socio-environmental crises. What's more, a successful implementation of the EGD has the potential to help the EU weather the shock of the war, while facilitating sustainable development that leaves no one — and no country — behind.

Within this complex landscape, the Green wave still infused European political developments and debates and, even though it didn't reach all shores equally, progress remains promising. In January 2022, looking to reinforce and enlarge the green movement in Europe, the Green European Foundation (GEF) took a turn in its approach and developed a new work programme, elaborating on its 2022-2024 activities and defining five strategic objectives, two thematic priorities, and a series of flagship initiatives.

Our ambition for 2022 was to be a Green Reference network, and a forward-looking laboratory of ideas. To this end, and to contribute to the development of political ecology ideas in Europe, we supported several summer schools in Eastern Europe by creating a space to shape new, progressive ideas in collective and inclusive ways. These hubs of liveliness and creativity are designed for green and socially-engaged people to gain inspiration and insights. The European Green Academy, in particular, which had its first edition in July 2022 in Poland, aspires to be a yearly meeting point to build and experience a common Green vision for Europe and its future.

In the convoluted scenery of 2022, we continued to foster a pluralistic trans-European conversation, while engaging citizens in public debates through our independent publication. The war in Ukraine was the dominant theme of the Green European Journal's online publishing. However, the journal also explored the ongoing battles over education in Europe in its summer edition, *Making Our Minds: Uncovering the Politics of Education*. Its winter edition, *Priced Out: The Cost of Living in A Disrupted World*, explored the trends and choices that got us into the cost of living crisis.

As part of its mission, GEF strives to ensure that everyone in Europe has access to its content. In 2022, both the foundation and the Journal further expanded their translation offer, making content available in new languages. GEF's pan- and trans-European nature pushes the foundation to be more open to external actors from within and outside its vibrant network. These led us to seek and include speakers and participants for different initiatives and events from all parts of Europe, thus bringing voices from places such as Ukraine or the Global South.

In pursuit of our objective to empower young Europeans to become more politically engaged, we collaborated with national foundations to bring back the European Green Activist Training (EGAT) for its 8th edition. After taking part in a national training programme on Green and European politics, over 100 activists came together to reimagine Europe, build on their skills, and connect with Green experts and Brussels-based policy-makers.

Our collaborations with our national partners in the 2022 decentralised projects allowed us to bring a trans-European approach to our work while fuelling our aim to influence EU policy-making. Our Just Transition project culminated in the publication of the book **A European Just Transition For A Better World**. As part of **Feminists in the Environmental Movement**, we created the **Green Feminism**

e-course and disseminated and promoted the **Dare to Care** book in multiple languages. Through **Cities as Places of Hope**, we explored how to increase urban life resilience in the face of climate change. We also nurtured engaging transnational discussion and fostered forward-looking ideas to limit carbon emissions within the framework of **Climate Emergency Economy: Rethinking Demand**.

As we navigate 2023, many challenges lie ahead, and we have a responsibility to play our part in the European public sphere. The dangers of an increasingly polarised Europe, the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, and the ever-growing climate emergency are just some of them. As the threat to democracy rises globally, we are eager to engage in the broader EU debate around the European Commission's 'Defense of Democracy' package. Over and above that, the 2024 European election calls for political education and commitment to respect pluralism in Europe. GEF,

through its unique connector position, can play a key role, and is fully committed to supporting, expanding, and strengthening Green values across the continent.

To face these challenges, we will continue to rely on the commitment of our diligent staff, without which the completion of the 2022 milestones and any future projects would not be possible. We will also count on our partners, our General Assembly, and our board of directors. With the October 2022 GEF Board elections, we had to say goodbye to some former members to whom we would like to express our heartfelt thanks, including Klara Berg, Susanne Rieger, Teo Comet, and Sevil Turan. As for the year ahead, we are confident that our shared resilience, persistence, and dedication will propel us forward. We are incredibly grateful for all the support we have received in 2022 and are looking forward to sharing green successes and to continue building the movement this year and beyond!

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 five strategic objectives, two thematic priorities, and our flagship initiatives.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

GEF's strategic objectives are derived from the GEF 2020-2024 Strategy, and they set a clear direction for our work in 2022. They summarise the key areas to which GEF has directed its efforts and will keep doing so next year.

Greening East and South!

We contributed to the development of green and political ecology ideas and actors in three countries and established a functioning network of Central and Eastern European green political foundations. Capitalising on the recent years of the Green wave in North Western Europe, GEF sought to contribute to the development of green and political ecology ideas and actors in Southern, Central, and Eastern European countries, with its focus countries being Poland and Spain. GEF also contributed durably to the establishment of a functioning network of Central and Eastern European green political foundations. In addition, GEF provided spaces for other networking opportunities and identified countries and regions where political opportunities may emerge in 2023.

Shaping Tomorrow's Ideas!

GEF as an organisation and an ecosystem endeavoured to foster political and policy debate by bringing progressive ideas and proposals to shape the Europe of tomorrow rather than the one of today. All our 2022 tools and work areas aimed to carry out research and debate in innovative, collective, and inclusive ways. Along the same lines, we intended to put GEF on the map of organisations developing and curating forward-looking ideas and policy proposals within priority thematic areas.

Capacity Building for All!

We sought to make GEF a leading organisation for training and education activities for partners and to provide expertise to citizens and activists who wished to become knowledgeable on green topics ahead of the 2024 elections.

Making the Green Flow!

GEF stands in a solid position to build bridges between European and national contexts, actors and experts, initiatives, and networks. In 2022, we leveraged our singular position to make GEF the main go-to place for green ideas, debates, training, and networking within the Green family and extended network of like-minded organisations in Europe.

Consolidating the Foundations!

Consolidating pre-acquired knowledge is essential for GEF to make the green political foundations' ecosystem flourish and reach sustainable impact in the long-term. In our efforts to promote transnational spaces for debates and political participation, we continued to work closely with our most paramount asset: an enriching ecosystem of national and regional foundations and equivalent organisations. Our partner foundations are extremely diverse, and their strengths, needs, and challenges differ accordingly. With this in mind, we have aimed to 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

Green Deal for All

In light of the potential for greenwashing and backfiring of the European Green Deal adopted by the European Commission after the 2019 elections, it was 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’. Over 2022, this thematic area encompassed all aspects of the necessary social-ecological transition and therefore permeated throughout GEF’s entire work: mobility, energy transition, decarbonisation across sectors, socially just and fair transition, trade, technological and digital developments, and food and agriculture. This thematic priority also furthered the conversation around 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 landscape, currently being reshaped by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and its outcomes, is complex, fractured, and volatile. In 2022, GEF aimed to contribute to the conversation around geopolitics through its unique connector position. We sought to consolidate the debate on new geopolitical trends around some of the content produced over the years and further utilised a variety of publications, materials, and networks to stimulate discussions with civil society organisations and academia. In its effort to ensure a more just and sustainable world, GEF also contributed to the debate around the consequences of the current geopolitical landscape through diverse events, with the first edition of the European Green Academy being a prime example of this.

In addition to the main thematic priorities listed below, GEF worked — and is still working — on a second set of transversal thematic areas, chosen for their political relevance and their importance to the Greens’ visions for Europe as a whole. This second set of areas 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.



FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Our flagship initiatives derive from GEF's 2022-2024 Work Programme and include the major initiatives we worked on in 2022. They also represent the main focus areas for the upcoming year.

Green European Journal

Like many other publications across Europe, the Journal's priorities for 2022 were reshaped by the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Europe's changing geopolitical situation had been an established thematic area going into the year, but the war cemented its position as a major strand of the Journal's editorial line alongside political ecology thinking and transnational perspectives on political and social developments around Europe. Throughout 2022, the Journal prioritised presence at in-person events, hosting debates, reaching new readerships, and making up for two years of intermittent lockdown.

The Journal published two print editions in 2022. The Journal's summer edition, *Making Our Minds: Uncovering the Politics of Education*, explored Green thinking on education, asking how its power can be harnessed to build a more sustainable and just society. German economist Maja Göpel was featured in the opening interview and the public launch event was co-organised in Madrid in partnership with the *EcoPolítica* think tank. The second edition of the year changed gear, moving from longer-term transformational thinking to the issue of the day. *Priced Out: The Cost of Living in a Disrupted World* looked at the effect of rising prices on living standards across Europe, explaining the political ecology of price rises and Green responses. An interview with historian Helen Thompson on the deep roots of the energy crisis stands out as a highlight, while a launch session at the European Greens' Congress in Copenhagen asked how the rising cost of living has influenced social movement and trade union strategy.

The war in Ukraine was the dominant theme of the Journal's online publishing, particularly its regional impacts, the role of media and civil society, and the conflict's energy and environmental dimension. Emerging ideas in political ecology, especially decolonial perspectives and new degrowth thinking, and articles on political developments, including a series on green politics in the Balkans, were



additional focuses. The Journal published over 120 articles in its online journal. Throughout the year, articles from the Journal were republished more than 90 times by outlets from over 20 countries.

As life moved back offline, the Journal prioritised expanding its visibility through events and embarked on media partnerships for a major European trade union conference in Brussels and the Progressive Governance Summit in Berlin. The publication marked its 10th anniversary through a series of discussions, *10 Years of Change*, that brought together authors, activists, and academics from all corners of Europe to reflect on the transformation of European politics over the past decade. The Journal distributed over 3000 copies to green and progressive political events, summer schools, national Green Party offices, Young Green groups, university libraries, and think tanks across Europe.

The online readership of Journal articles grew by 7% to over 290,000 and its audience on social media and newsletters grew to over 30,000 followers across all used platforms. The Journal also continued to build on the success of its podcast, *Green Wave*. Available to listen to on the Journal's website and all podcast platforms, the podcast's plays and downloads exceeded 30,000 and reached listeners in 156 countries.

DECENTRALISED PROJECTS

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

A European Just Transition for a Better World

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

In 2022 GEF published a book called “[A European Just Transition for a Better World](#)”, a unique edited volume developed as part of a multi-year transnational project. As the broader European conversation about Just Transition becomes more vibrant and central to Green Deal discussions, the book offers a space and time for reflection. Covering many perspectives including historical aspects, European policy developments, and youth views, the book focuses on specific struggles, such as unemployment, regional disparities, and transitioning industries,

Throughout the year, we presented the book at GEF events and dedicated launch activities across Europe. There were reflections on Just Transition in the Western Balkans, presentations in Brussels and Ghent, conversations at the Green Academy in Croatia, a



book launch and union-focused event in the UK, launch debates in Skopje and Belgrade, and more. All in all, around a dozen events took place, and the book's dissemination was complemented with translated chapters, a podcast, videos, and even an essay competition.

In November, a networking event was held at the GEF offices in Brussels to exchange based on the book and connect experts, professionals, civil society, green actors, trade unions, young people, and business representatives working on just transition-related themes. It was a vibrant discussion, with specific tables dedicated to youth perspectives, Fit for 55 and the European Green Deal, trade union perspectives, and just transition in cities. While this multi-annual project has ended, these connections, the book, and further work on just transition will remain highly relevant in 2023 and beyond.

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 and to find transformative cases and practices that can provide inspiration for more sustainable tourism for people and the planet. As a sector, tourism has been highly impacted first by Covid-19, and then the war in Ukraine and rising energy prices. This had an obvious impact on the project itself and led GEF and its partners to focus more on fact finding, cross-country experience sharing, and building a network than on public events and definitive reports.

In 2022, there were study trips to North Macedonia and Serbia, conference meetings, and expert consultations, as well as events in Barcelona, Skopje, and Belgrade. With our Austrian partner FREDA, we published ‘[Go, but Slow](#)’ - a publication that provides some possible pathways for a tourism model that is more aligned with social and environmental justice. We also published shorter reports on sustainable spa tourism and rural mountain tourism in Serbia, as well as a series of videos giving snapshots of the various research and study trips.

PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

The Future of Eastern Europe and Eco-democracy

With the support of Green Institute (Greece), Cooperation and Development Network (Eastern Europe), Green Thought Association (Turkey), and Green Window (Croatia)

This project, organised with the support of (young) green organisations across Eastern Europe, sought to explore the fragile state of democracy in the region, the key issues affecting young people, and the challenges and opportunities for an ecological and progressive turnaround.

Throughout Eastern Europe, authoritarianism is growing, and nationalist narratives are reopening old conflicts. The Covid-19 pandemic exposed governments' inability to react to any sort of crisis and contributed to heightened polarisation in an already polarised society. The war in Ukraine has reinforced the region's vulnerability and opened the door for new cleavages and misinformation. In fact, this project's central conference – meant to take place in Tbilisi in February 2022 – had to be postponed last minute due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Lastly, the Future of Eastern Europe conference took place in Riga in June, bringing together dozens of young green activists as well as online viewers for expert panels, workshops, and study cases on the region's political history, energy democracy, eco-democracy as a new paradigm, roots of conflict, and much more. Key learnings from the conference and the project as a whole were bundled in a [publication](#), and [four podcast episodes](#) were released featuring interviews with experts and delegates who attended the event. Besides the conference, there was also an all day eco democracy workshop held in Turkey in August, and a smaller closing conference will take place in Croatia in March 2023.

Green-Red Dialogues

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

GEF's Green-Red Dialogues, organised with the support of our Catalan partner, aim to tackle pressing issues of our time and the challenges Europe faces with an explicit social and green lens. In doing so, these debates connect the red and the green and highlight

Southern European perspectives on Europe's most pressing topics and debates. This year we held two online dialogues and one in person. The online events covered Europe's response to the war in Ukraine (April), and global discourses of feminism from Iran to Poland (December). The in-person event, held in Barcelona in October, tackled the consequences of the Italian elections and the rise of the far right in Europe.

Featuring a mix of Green politicians and academic experts, these sessions allowed for frank and timely conversations, contextualising current events in terms of what they mean for a greener, more social Europe.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Climate Emergency Economy: Rethinking Demand

With the support of Green House Think Tank (UK), Etopia (Belgium), and Green Foundation Ireland

Building on several years of work exploring what it means to create an economy fit for the climate emergency, GEF and its partners focused this year on the crucial question of how Europe must reduce its demand for energy and materials to meet its decarbonisation targets and limit climate danger. Looking beyond efficiency gains, tech fixes, and individual change — which tend to reproduce existing consumption levels with marginally less energy and resource use — the project explored the challenge of rethinking demand society-wide, even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine put energy demand top of the political agenda.



With expert meetings and interviews with politicians, academics, and policy experts across Europe, we mapped out some of the policies, politics, and economics at the heart of this challenge. We explored concepts like energy sobriety, sufficiency, and emergency climate governance, but also searched for the narratives that would facilitate such fundamental shifts. Questions of wellbeing and redistribution were kept central throughout.

Project findings were published in two reports, [Rethinking Energy Demand](#) and [Rethinking Heating and Cooling](#), an article in the Green European Journal, and a podcast episode on energy sufficiency. In October, dozens of people gathered in Dublin and online to consider the project findings and further discuss the realities and opportunities of rethinking demand. Key excerpts from that hybrid conference can be watched on [GEF's YouTube channel](#).

Transition to Energy Democracy

With the support of ASSED Sunrise (North Macedonia)

For several years, GEF has been working with the support of ASSED Sunrise to promote the concept of energy democracy in North Macedonia, spark crucial debates around this topic, and provide fertile ground for energy cooperatives and citizen engagement. This year we continued these efforts, while connecting with other actors across the region to exchange best practices and discuss the role played by the EU, for instance through the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. In May, we hosted a panel discussion about the links between energy policy and the fight for a more democratic and inclusive society, while later in the year we hosted a workshop in Skopje geared particularly towards young people learning more about prosumer and energy cooperative models as elements of a decentralised green economy. Finally, a YouTube video series was created to highlight case studies and further disseminate the project learnings in an easy and accessible way.

Metals for a Green and Digital Europe

With the support of Cogito (Sweden)

Building on a 2021 transnational project of the same name, in 2022 GEF teamed up with its Swedish partner Cogito to continue the discussions around Europe's increasing demand for metals for the green energy transition and digitalisation. GEF's

existing [Agenda for Action](#) was translated into Swedish, and accompanied by a seminar in Stockholm that gave particular attention to the implications for and role of Sweden's indigenous Sámi people when it comes to mineral use and extraction.

Regional Adaptations to Climate Change

With the support of Green Institute Greece (Greece)

This project helped to draw attention to the visible effects of the current climate and biodiversity crisis, exploring the adaptation plans in four regions in Greece: North Aegean, Central Macedonia, Thessaly, and Western Greece. A series of four events brought visibility to region-specific aspects, such as coastal erosion and desertification, and examined how the European perspective on climate change can benefit from regional examples. The project also explored how to put into practice the opportunities presented by the newly revised Common Agricultural Policy and the Climate Change Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2027 in European countries.

The Dark Side of the Cloud

With the support of Transición Verde (Spain)

This project consisted of three different sessions exploring "[The Dark Side of the Cloud](#)". The so-called digital cloud is often portrayed as something ethereal, light, and dematerialised, which makes it difficult to visualise the millions of devices, thousands of kilometres of cables, gigantic data storage, and processing centres that make up its immense infrastructure. The cloud requires enormous amounts of mineral, water, and energy resources to operate properly, and their production and disposal have serious environmental impacts.

These [webinar series](#) ran from 20 October to 3 November and aimed to put forward environmental issues surrounding the cloud. The sessions focused on infrastructure and materials, data, and energy, and ended with a discussion on several alternatives for a more energy-sufficient, sustainable, and long-lasting digitalisation.

Green Politics and Nature Rights Against Ecocide

With the support of Green Thought Association [Turkey]

Building on previous projects such as the ‘Ecological Constitution Initiative’ and ‘Nature Has Rights’, in 2022 we shone a light on ecocide and the collective memory of green movements in Turkey. As part of this project, we organised the “Ecocide and Rights of Nature” conference to draw attention to this issue, contribute to strengthening environmental protection monitoring and advocacy, and reinforce the political discourse in conservation movements. The “Ecocide and Rights of Nature” conference brought together nature rights defenders, activists, academics, lawyers, and green actors fighting against ecocide from Turkey and Europe. A few weeks later, and with the purpose of consolidating the key lessons, we organised a capacity-building training on the theoretical background of ecocide, campaigning, and activism around conservation.

Deforestation and Climate Change

With the support of FREDA [Austria], Codrii Iașilor [Romania], Agent Green [Romania]

This year we continued the Deforestation and Climate Change project with a clear emphasis on sustainable forest management and clearcutting. As part of the project, we organised two in-person events with experts, NGOs, universities, and MEPs. The first event took place in Goldegg (Austria) and entailed a fact-finding mission to seek out best practices for sustainable forestry and the presentation of GEF’s 2021 Agroforestry handbook. The second event happened in Romania and consisted of a one-day seminar composed of three workshops and a study visit organised in partnership with the grassroots environmental organisation Codrii Iașilor. The main focus of this event was illegal logging and biodiversity loss in Romanian and Greek forests, gathering mainly civil society representatives and policy-makers from Romania and abroad.

FEMINISM AND GENDER

Feminists in the Environmental Movement

With the support of Visio [Finland], Oikos [Belgium], Strefa Zieleni [Poland], Green Thought Association [Turkey], and Cooperation and Development Network [Eastern Europe]

With this project, GEF and its partners worked on capacity building and discussions across Europe, to point out linkages and opportunities for intersectional feminism in green ideology and policy and support the further development of the feminist green movement across different national contexts.



One pillar of work revolved around the translation, dissemination, and discussion of our ecofeminist publication [Dare to Care](#), produced with our Belgian partner Oikos. The book was published in English, Polish, Turkish, and German. Dare to Care offers a clear grounding in ecofeminist thought and history and considers how care, as an emancipatory principle, can underpin our politics, economy, and society to offer a true shift in our valuing of people and planet. Throughout the year, we held a series of publication launch events and book discussions, including (virtually) in Poland and Turkey.

With the support of Visio, GEF developed a [Green Feminism](#) e-learning course, offering learners a great

primer on the connections between feminist and green thinking, and connecting it to concrete European policies and debates. To complement the course, an online training series was organised in early 2023 for selected participants. In Turkey, there was also an in-person feminist leadership training, built around similar themes and objectives.

Finally, the project trained young reporters in Central and Eastern Europe to explore and write about how gender and environmental struggles intersect in various local contexts - focusing on rural and post-industrial communities. Their preliminary findings were presented in a webinar in August and collected in a [final publication](#) at the end of the year, bringing the project's green feminist lens to even more regions and audiences.

TRANSFORMATIVE CITIES

Cities as Places of Hope - Resilient Cities

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

[Cities as Places of Hope](#) is a continuing project that, in 2022, focused on the notion of resilience. Events, discussions, and expert meetings took place in Vilvoorde, Barcelona, Utrecht, Zagreb, Istanbul, Skopje, and online, covering resilience across countless angles and domains from health and sanitation to food, and from transportation to water management. As always, a central aspect of the project was the exchanges between different places, and the sharing of best practices from those cities where Greens have managed to implement transformative policies. A study trip to Barcelona for instance gave project partners a clear view of how innovative local food systems can deliver for the good of people and planet.

Besides hosting events, GEF and its partners conducted further research and collected inputs for a framing paper on resilient cities to be published in 2023. In October, we also published the booklet [City and Countryside: So Close, So Far Away](#), which contained key reflections from an online conference on shaping urban-rural interactions amid limited resources.

KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES

The Green European Foundation invests in forward-looking ideas, as they are often the key to solving the political and societal problems of our time. GEF is both a pan- and trans-European actor that acts via its organisation and 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 the broader Green movement. In 2022, GEF started developing an agile and unique research infrastructure and network via the consolidation of knowledge communities. This initiative allowed us to connect politicians, academia, and civil society to develop policy proposals addressing the complex challenges of a greener Europe. It also set the path to establishing a longer-term and lasting network of knowledge production, exchange, and dissemination. At the same time, it is 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.

As part of the 2022 Knowledge Communities, we held one meeting in the framework of the European Trade Union Institute's conference A Just Transition Beyond Growth, one meeting as part of the summer school Archipelagos in Movement (Komiža, Croatia) on the topic Green Deal for All, and we are planning several more that will run throughout 2023.

DEBATING THE STATE OF EUROPE

As a political foundation, GEF needs to be able to react to unforeseen developments and make the most of the opportunities we are presented with 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, and further shaped via a lively and direct engagement and dialogue between the Green movement and a diverse range of actors, including academia and civil society.

Green Post-Corona Talks

With the support of Oikos [Belgium]

In 2022, GEF continued its [Green Post-Corona Talks](#) series, addressing pressing issues and putting forward positive ideas, proposals, and policies for greener and more resilient societies. The talks aimed to highlight the intrinsic links between the Covid-19 pandemic and biodiversity and ecosystem health. Over the course of [four webinars](#), this series aimed to emphasise different aspects of the biodiversity crisis and provide cross-cutting solutions. In summary, the webinars explored the following topics: (1) Declining biodiversity, international response, and views on the COP15 on Biodiversity; (2) Is the EU Biodiversity Strategy the plan we need?; (3) Expanding our scope beyond the EU: The role of Indigenous peoples in protecting biodiversity; (4) Biodiversity loss, climate change, and the covid crisis: connected issues.

Peace and Security Debate Series

In recent years, events such as the Covid-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine have fostered a Europeanisation of the public debate in the union. However, these debates often focus on the “common” consequences and impact of EU policy and political decisions, rather than fostering a trans-European discussion that seeks to build an understanding of different political realities in Europe and the EU. In a post-pandemic and geopolitically fast-changing world, the Green movement needs to react to unanticipated developments and put forward new ideas, proposals, and policies, but it must do so by advancing democratic debate.

Capitalising on the success of formats like that of the Green Post-Corona Talks, in 2022 GEF launched a [debate series](#) building on existing areas of expertise, supplying scope and flexibility to make new connections. In 2022 we organised two debates with the Sustainable Development Forum Green Window (Croatia) and one with the Institute for Active Citizenship (Czech Republic) in their respective countries, aiming to build bridges between national-level debates and regional strands of the Green movement.

In line with GEF’s thematic priority areas and political framing, the peace and security debate series will continue in 2023. This topic will have a transversal element, being a feminist perspective on peace and security and different subtopics in relation to national contexts and local realities, such as EU defence, EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy, pacifism, refugee integration, energy security, food security, and cyber security.





SUMMER SCHOOLS

We are the Future, but we are here NOW (Riga)

With the support of Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDNEE)

Alarmed by the shrinking space for civil society in Eastern Europe — exacerbated by the pandemic, corruption scandals, and limited youth participation — GEF and its partner CDNEE gathered around 30 participants from EU member states, accession countries, and the Caucasus in Riga to discuss and gain practical skills to increase political participation and design inventive and efficient actions in local communities. Sessions took place over five days and were dedicated to creative issue campaigning, public speaking, movement organising, and non-formal education, with a strong emphasis on intercultural exchange and empowering youth to make their voice heard and expand democratic space in their local communities with transnational cooperation.

Ecotransformation Summer School (Litomyšl)

With the support of Institute for Active Citizenship (Czech Republic)

Our Czech summer school opened its doors once again to welcome green activists for a weekend of insightful and collaborative activities. During this third edition of the environmental summer school, over 40 participants were encouraged to engage actively in seminars, debates, and experiential workshops aimed at helping them develop skills to drive social change. The central theme of this edition was to investigate the energy crises of the present day through a green perspective, such as renewable energy expansion, energy communities, and spreading green stories to those outside the movement.

Mental Health is Political (Rouen)

With the support of the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)

On July 27th, GEF organised a full day of sessions called “Mental Health is Political,” embedded within FYEG’s six-day summer camp on the same theme. Around 50 participants from across Europe enjoyed a programme of workshops and mini-lectures built around mapping and evaluating mental health policy at the national, regional, and international levels. In doing so, they learnt more about limited EU competencies in this domain and how they can find information and seek to influence decision-making. The afternoon focused on imagining radical green solutions and allowed participants to build their own policy platform and brains-

term campaigns to advocate for vulnerable groups, especially since such issues disproportionately affect oppressed individuals and can hinder their freedom of expression, right to protest, and other democratic tools.

Green Academy: Archipelagos in Movement (Komiža)

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

Under the title “Archipelagos in Movement,” GEF and its partners gathered over 120 academics, researchers, activists, politicians, and councillors from 20 European countries for a five-day summer school on the island of Vis. This 8th edition of the Green Academy was built around the idea of archipelagos as a territory where various transformative and emancipatory practices are taking shape or making an impact: “islands of change.” The varied programme included political debates, lectures, more in-depth thematic modules, workshops, and self-organised sessions on key themes of the green-left agenda: from degrowth theory and citizen deliberations to institutional politics, housing, and economic democracy. The summer school also provided an important meeting point for GEF’s Knowledge Community on the Green Deal for All, and included a session dedicated to the launch of the book “A European Just Transition for a Better World.”

Green Horizons Academy (Belgrade)

With the support of PolEkol (Serbia)

In the context of a shrinking democratic space across Europe, social movements need allies in the political sphere and institutional support for their activism on the streets. The second Green Horizons Academy, built around the theme The Good Collective sought to bridge this space and address, through a green political lens, some of the pressures individuals and activist groups put on themselves in the form of (self) exploitation, a productivity race to the bottom, unequal distribution of tasks and power, and various forms of discrimination. By gathering around 20 activists and a dozen lecturers for workshops, lectures, and informal exchange, GEF and its partner worked to reinforce the Green movement in Eastern Europe, while sparking important discussions on topics like feminisation of collectives and the politics of care. The Green Horizons Academy involved both a public

evening programme and closed sessions for invited participants, who received a copy of GEF’s ecofeminist booklet *Dare to Care* for further reflection.

Ecopolis (Brussels, Kortrijk)

With the support of Het Groene Boek-Oikos (Belgium)

This year, the ecological festival Ecopolis revolved around the theme of Multiple (Hi)stories, Multiple Futures. Gathering green and progressive thinkers, academics, artists, and authors, GEF and its partners put together a varied programme built around the realisation that we need space for new narratives and suppressed (hi)stories, as the dominant ones remain linked to histories of exploitation and exclusion and offer no way out of our social and ecological crises. Sessions covered topics from colonisation to war and the environment, and GEF secured the presence of international speakers and simultaneous translation throughout — opening the conversation beyond national borders.



EUROPEAN GREEN ACTIVIST TRAINING

With the support of Ökopolis (Hungary), Green Window (Croatia), the Institute for Active Citizenship (Czechia), Visio (Finland), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Spain), and Green Institute Greece (Greece)

The European Green Activist Training (EGAT) is a programme implemented by GEF consisting of a series of training sessions for young activists divided into three phases. The first one 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 see EU politics at work firsthand.

In 2022, a total of 18 national training sessions were held in the seven countries where the project was implemented. In May, and after two consecutive online editions, over 120 EGAT activists from the

seven participant countries came to Brussels for the 8th edition of the study trip to explore the European political sphere firsthand.

Over the course of four days, participants had the opportunity to explore various topics such as climate justice and lobbying in Brussels, and further discovered EU institutions. The four-day study trip encompassed a range of formal and non-formal training methods, including interactive workshops, and participants exchanged with one another, heard from professionals, politicians, NGOs, and other activists working within the EU political sphere, and interacted with experts on topics such as sustainable cities, biodiversity, deforestation, and gender equality.

The EGAT project was born in 2015 with the purpose of bringing together like-minded young activists connected through Green values and a motivation to enact change, but also to Europeanise existing training programmes for Green activists by incorporating a pan-European element.



EUROPEAN GREEN ACADEMY

With the support of Strefa Zieleni [Poland] and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Warsaw [Poland]

Together with its Polish partners, GEF hosted the first annual [European Green Academy](#) (EGA) from 15-16 July in Warsaw. EGA aimed to facilitate a key meeting point for green actors and engaged citizens and to promote an inspiring learning environment to connect, debate, and build capacities.

With Poland identified as a pivotal country for the EU, Europe, and for the European Green family, EGA looked to strengthen relationships between European Greens and the Green movement in Poland and to deepen understanding of the political situation and salient Green issues in Poland, whilst building bridges between national- and European-level debates.



The academy welcomed over 200 diverse green actors, activists, politicians, and academics from a wide variety of backgrounds, including civil society, academia, media, activists, young greens, and elected representatives. There was an important focus on young activists, with almost 40% of participants under the age of 35 years. Overall, around 30% of participants and speakers came from outside of Poland, representing 27 countries.

Central themes of the programme were Just Transition and Peace and Security, framing plenaries and parallel sessions throughout the academy. These themes were accompanied by crucial streams of work on energy, feminism, and LGBTIQ+ rights. The EGA 2022 programme offered a plethora of workshops, skills training, seminars, and roundtable debates for participants to deepen their knowledge on topics such as feminist foreign policy, doughnut economy, energy sufficiency, right to housing, debunking nuclear myths, food security, reproductive rights, and ecofeminism, amongst others.

By fostering trans-European exchanges and connections, as well as building knowledge and capacity, EGA equipped participants with new knowledge, networks, and contacts to grow and strengthen the Green movement in their respective countries.

POLITICAL ECOLOGY COURSE

Ever since the 2019 elections and subsequent Green waves throughout Europe, there is an increasing demand for knowledge about the Green movement and its values and thinking. As green topics go mainstream, it's also particularly important to combat greenwashing and false narratives. In an effort to democratise political ecology education and provide a valuable compass in these turbulent times, GEF has been working behind the scenes to gather relevant resources and perspectives from across Europe, and design an educational package that brings the concepts, history, and lessons of political ecology to citizens in an engaging and accessible way. In 2022 we continued these efforts and collected testimonies from Greens across Europe at the European Green Party Congress in Copenhagen to feed into the course. The work on this flagship project will continue throughout 2023.

SOUTH AND EAST EUROPE

CEE Network

The Central and Eastern European (CEE) Network of Green Foundations is an autonomous platform for representatives of political foundations affiliated with the Green movement in the CEE region. In 2022, GEF organised two in-person meetings of the CEE Network, taking place in Vienna (July) and Copenhagen (December), bringing together 18 green foundations from the region. The work of the CEE Network in 2022 focused on energy democracy and the state of democracy through the lens of journalism and media rights as pressing topics of mutual interest for the region. This involved facilitating a dedicated forum to connect and share best practices regarding ongoing workstreams on energy communities and training programmes for women journalists in the CEE region. In 2023, the CEE Network will look to further operationalise such transnational cooperation with a view to strengthening the common impact of Green foundations in the CEE region.

BUDAPEST Forum

Building on its strategic objective of promoting green debates in Europe, GEF cooperated with the Institute for Political Capital in Hungary for the Budapest Forum, which took place in September 2022. The forum focused on two main themes: building democratic resilience and just climate transition, and brought together civic leaders, activists, change-makers, and academics to provide a joint platform for relevant stakeholders in search of a sustainable and democratic future. GEF's contribution supported the attendance of Green actors from across Europe as speakers and participants at the forum, as well as distribution of GEF flagship publications to participants.

Sustainable Mobility for All: Tackling Mobility Deserts and Inequality in Spain and Europe

With the support of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU office, Ecopolítica (Spain), Fundació Nous Horitzons (Spain) and Transición Verde (Spain)

In cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU office, GEF sought to nurture the debate in Spain and beyond around the future of mobility, with a particular eye for its social dimension. The cooperation brought together Spanish partner foundations Ecopolítica, Fundació Nous Horitzons, and Transición Verde to deliver a series of events and outreach activities with a focus on mobility poverty and rural mobility. This included delivery of three debates, which took place in different regions across Spain, strategically chosen to engage local communities and minority groups most affected by lack of mobility. The debates explored the far-reaching implications of unequal access to mobility options and fostered a trans-European exchange on best practices, offering guidance on how to make sure no one gets left behind in Europe's push for greener, more sustainable mobility. The events were accompanied by the production of a multimedia series on the social dimension of green mobility, including a podcast, three articles, and event recordings. Partners also distributed 500 copies of the Spanish translation of the Sustainable Mobility Atlas and 200 copies of the accompanying booklet on mobility in Spain to key stakeholders ranging from trade unions and local associations to parliamentarians and civil society organisations.

GREEN COMMUNITY

Foundation Leaders' Meetings

GEF organised four online Foundation Leaders' Meetings (FLM) in 2022, which brought together the leaders of various green political foundations in the GEF network. The FLMs provided a regular space for political and strategic dialogue, discussion, and peer-to-peer learning, as well as facilitating information exchange on key Green family issues. This ongoing endeavour aims to build and consolidate the European Green political foundation community via regular exchange outside of General Assemblies and other statutory meetings and focuses on making sure that we deliver a real Green Flow within our own network.

Presence at Major Progressive Green Events

As part of GEF's strategic 'green flow' priority to connect people and content and deepen relationships with key green actors across Europe, GEF participated in several Green events throughout 2022. These included attendance to the European Green Party Council (Riga, June), European Forum (Athens, June), the Progressive Governance Summit (Berlin, October), and the European Green Party congress (Copenhagen, December). GEF's activities at these events included programmatic contributions, networking, and distribution of GEF's flagship publications, as well as important communication outputs such as booklets and articles. These events facilitated outreach to a vast array of green and progressive actors in Europe, provided visibility for GEF's flagship publications and intellectual outputs, as well as harvested insights and connections for GEF flagship initiatives.



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Social Impact Assessment

With the support of the Bosch Alumni Network

This two-day impact assessment training, supported by the Bosch Alumni Network, focused on increasing GEF and its partners' confidence and understanding of different approaches, tools, and ways of thinking about impact assessment. Day one provided a brief overview of some key monitoring, evaluation and terms. On day two, we came back together to share progress on our social impact assessment plans, discuss and address challenges faced, and dive deeper into exploring different lenses to view monitoring, evaluation, and learning and impact assessment, focusing on non-western and decolonising approaches and gender and intersectionality. As a result of the training programme, we put together a toolkit for organisations in the GEF network on how to build a social impact assessment plan.

Diversity Training

With the support of the Bosch Alumni Network

We put together a three-day boot camp for around 15 experienced educators from across Europe on best practices for including marginalised European youth in educational projects. One of our main partners in implementing the training was Green Institute Greece, an organisation which has been working with marginalised Greek youth.

We had sessions on how to find and engage with marginalised youth, what specific resources are available to use, and which types of skills and knowledge should be mainly emphasised, among other things. Some of the sessions were experiential: we asked the participants to bring their own examples of projects and activities engaging marginalised youth. We discussed these examples together, highlighting best practices as well as addressing potential challenges, which could ultimately improve these projects.

We also put together a visual collection of the best practices highlighted in the training, including the examples brought by the participations and tools and methodologies.

STATUTORY AND NETWORKING MEETINGS

The GEF board met several times in 2022, with the purpose of ensuring GEF's overall decision-making process. GEF organised two General Assemblies (GA) in 2022: one in May, and the second in October, both held in Brussels. During the first GA, 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. During the October GA, we celebrated our triannual GEF board elections and welcomed our new members.

In March 2022, 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 the year ahead.

In October, we also celebrated our annual Projects Lab in which we explored with our partners the current political context and key topics and debates we needed to address as Green political foundations, setting the ground for the projects of 2023.

The 2022 GAs weren't only formal gatherings, they also represented an opportunity for GEF and its partners to take a step back and consider the Green movement in Europe and the geopolitical environment in which it is unfolding. During the May GA, we held a debate involving peace and security and Russia's aggression against Ukraine with expert contributions from Ukraine and Poland. At the October GA, the energy crisis and the cost of living were the major topics of discussion, with representatives from Southern, Eastern, and Central Europe present.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COSTS

Reimbursable costs	Budget	Actual
A.1: Personnel costs	986.000,00	1.163.142,74
1. Salaries	535.000,00	872.399,92
2. Contributions	345.000,00	202.928,88
3. Professional training	32.000,00	15.353,07
4. Staff missions expenses	14.000,00	22.169,04
5. Other personnel costs	60.000,00	50.291,83
A.2: Infrastructure and operating costs	161.000,00	151.689,31
1. Rent, charges and maintenance costs	76.000,00	75.716,07
2. Costs relating to installation, operation and maintenance of equipment	10.000,00	32.179,60
3. Depreciation of movable and immovable property	30.000,00	6.633,41
4. Stationery and office supplies	10.000,00	5.784,07
5. Postal and telecommunications charges	25.000,00	25.801,11
6. Printing, translation and reproduction costs	10.000,00	5.575,05
7. Other infrastructure costs	0,00	
A.3: Administrative costs	33.000,00	63.484,16
1. Documentation costs (newspapers, press agencies, databases)	5.000,00	2.837,71
2. Costs of studies and research	0,00	8.784,25
3. Legal costs	10.000,00	13.400,28
4. Accounting and audit costs	16.000,00	33.856,28
5. Miscellaneous administrative costs	2.000,00	816,13
6. Support to third parties	0,00	3.789,51

A.4: Meetings and representation costs	125.000,00	93.359,99
1. Costs of meetings	58.000,00	47.810,50
2. Participation in seminars and conferences	32.000,00	20.839,13
3. Representation costs	35.000,00	16.504,49
4. Costs of invitations	0,00	8.205,87
5. Other meeting-related costs	0,00	
A.5: Information and publication costs	1.051.544,00	1.061.219,42
1. Publication costs	187.000,00	240.950,63
2. Creation and operation of Internet sites	25.000,00	33.418,27
3. Publicity costs	17.000,00	14.832,88
4. Communications equipment (gadgets)	12.000,00	358,32
5. Seminar and exhibitions	810.544,00	771.659,32
6. Other information-related costs	0,00	
A.6. Allocation to "Provision to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N+1"		337.831,12
A. TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS	2.356.544,00	2.870.726,74
Ineligible costs		
1. Allocations to other Provisions		
2. Financial charges		
3. Exchange losses		
4. Doubtful claims on third parties		
5. Others (to be specified)	10.000,00	28.907,87
5. Contributions in kind		
B. TOTAL INELIGIBLE COSTS	10.000,00	28.907,87
C. TOTAL COSTS	2.366.544,00	2.899.634,61

REVENUE

	Budget	Actual
D.1. Dissolution of “Provision to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N”		515.252,00
D.2. European Parliament funding	2.238.717,00	2.237.701,00
D.3. Member contributions	41.951,00	66.168,19
3.1 from member organisations	41.951,00	66.168,19
3.2 from individual members		
D.4 Donations	52.000,00	40.805,71
Individual donations	5.000,00	715,00
Philanthropic foundations: International Alumni Center gmbh (Robert Bosch Stiftung)	26.000,00	16.050,00
National and European partner foundations	21.000,00	24.040,71
Green Window		4.412,00
Institute for Political Ecology		3.840,00
CDNEE		3.515,00
Institute for Active Citizenship		3.325,00
Green Institute Greece		2.863,00
Fundacja Strefa Zieleni		2.785,71
FYEG		1.760,00
Other national and European partner foundations		1.540,00
D.5 Other own resources	33.876,00	48.502,41
Books sale and participation fees	9.000,00	1.300,00
Capacity building trainings and workshops	10.376,00	18.298,04
Peer-to-peer support programme and GEF's partners networking programme	4.500,00	
Revenue to cover non-eligible expenditure	10.000,00	28.904,37
D.6. Interest from pre-financing		
D.7. Contributions in kind	0,00	
D.8. OTHER REVENUE to cover non-eligible expenditure	10.000,00	28.904,37

D. TOTAL REVENUE	2.366.544,00	2.908.429,31
E. profit/loss (D-C)	0,00	8.794,70
F. Allocation of own resources to the reserve account		8.794,70
G. Profit/loss for verifying compliance with the no-profit rule (E-F)	0,00	0,00

PEOPLE AND STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

Until October

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

As of October

Dagmar Tutschek (Co-President), **Dirk Holemans**
(Co-President), **Vedran Horvat, Benoit Monange**
(Treasurer), **Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart, Gwendoline**
Delbos-Corfield, Mar Garcia Sanz, Claude Weinber,
Vedran Horvat, Benedek Jávör

General Assembly

Alexandra Geese – Greens/EFA group in the Euro-
pean Parliament
Benoit Monange – Fondation de l'Écologie Politique
Dirk Holemans – Oikos
Emma Nohrén – European Green Party
Eva van de Rakt – Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Gwendoline Delbos Corfield – Greens/EFA group in
the European Parliament
Heidi Hautala – Greens/EFA group in the European
Parliament
Ingrid Facchinelli – Fondazione Alexander Langer
Katarina Wangler Björk – Cogito
Katja Alvoittu – Visio
Malgorzata Tracz – European Green Party
Mar García Sanz – Fundació Nous Horitzons
Marie Pochon – European Green Party
Michael Schmid – FREDA
Miriam Kennet – Green Economics Institute
Noortje Thijssen – Wetenschappelijk Bureau Groen-
Links
Rasmus Nordqvist – European Green Party
Raúl Gómez – Transición Verde
Sara Matthieu – Greens/EFA group in the European
Parliament
Sophie Wustefeld – Etopia
Tommy Simpson – Green Foundation Ireland
To be appointed – Ökopolisz

Associate Members

Chris Sakellaridis - Greek Green Institute
Conny Wahlström - Green Forum
Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart - Strefa Zieleni
Lana Pukanic - Institute for Political Ecology
Melisa Kutluğ - Green Thought Association
Özgecan Kara - Federation of Young European Greens

Staff

Seden Anlar (Communications and Outreach Manager)
Ioana Banach-Sirbu (Managing Director)
Mariana Batista (Project Coordinator - Senior Project
Lead)
Laura Bazen (Project Coordinator) until November
Raluca Besliu (Fundraising Manager)
Antonio Contini (Editorial and Communications Intern)
as of November
Celia Fernández (PR and Outreach Associate) as of
November
Lydia García (Editorial Communications Intern) from
July to September
Cécile Grebet (Finance Manager) as of July
Luka Gudek (Project coordinator) until May
Sien Hasker (Project Coordinator - Senior Project Lead)
Anas Henawy (Finances and Office Manager) until May
Alice Hubbard (Strategy Manager)
Jamie Kendrick (Editor-in-Chief)
Jennifer Kwao (Editorial Assistant)
Giovanna Lamarca (Executive Assistant and Office
Coordinator) as of October
Kel Nkondock (Project Communications Intern - Com-
munications Officer)
Antoine Préel-Dumas (Events Coordinator) as of May
Laura Rahman (Communications Manager)
Ben Ryan (Editorial Communications Intern) until July
Laurent Standaert (Political Director)
Adrián Tóth (Project Coordinator) until December
Beatrice White (Deputy Editor-in-Chief) until December
Ward Wuyts (Assistant to the Director) until August

Contact us:



GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

Rue du Fossé 3, L-1536 Luxembourg
Brussels Office: Avenue des Arts 7-8,
1210 Brussels

t: +32 2 329 00 50

e: info@gef.eu

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