



GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Green European Foundation

Address: Rue du Kiem 96
8030 Strassen, Luxembourg

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

Publication Coordinator: Laurent Standaert

Authors: Alice Hubbard, Anthony Msika, Sien Hasker,
Taube Van Melkebeke, Alessio Giussani, Maria Dios,
Giovanni Dal Pra', Laurent Standaert, Alessio De Carolis

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FOREWORD

The year 2024 will be remembered as a year of pivotal elections in Europe and worldwide. Indeed, 2024 plunged the European Union into a whirlwind of European Parliament elections, as well as many national and regional elections, following five years marked by the Covid pandemic and the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. All these events not only tested the resilience of European democratic institutions but also highlighted the challenges that Europe faces in terms of security and stability. It may well mark a turning point both for the green transition and for the reconfiguration of Europe as we knew it.

The year 2024 was also the hottest year ever recorded for our planet, while people suffering from inequalities and a soaring cost of living struggled to make ends meet. 2024 was unfortunately the year that anchored the recent far-right electoral successes in Europe, in a context of shifting priorities for the EU project and a systemic attack on democracy and security, such as the crackdown on civic space and the rise of disinformation and coordinated efforts to distort media and public discourse.

The year 2024 turned out to be a year of major changes and steps for the Green European Foundation. We had to face a turbulent geopolitical and electoral context, along with budget and governance reforms. Despite this adverse environment we continued to strive for what European political foundations were designed for some 15 years ago: political education to give meaning and life to a democratic and vibrant public sphere in and around Europe. The ups and downs of elections and daily politics cannot derail Europe and European Greens from a trajectory that promotes a sustainable and peaceful democratic project for half a billion people, supporting a better future elsewhere on this planet.

The year 2024 saw the Green European Foundation deliver on its newly created Policy Hub with new publications and knowledge communities on crucial topics to further strengthen the social dimension of the ecological transition. It delivered three major publications and many public and expert debates on geopolitics,

defence and security in Europe. The Green European Journal continued to be a crucial place for the debate of ideas and the democratic public space with insightful and articulated pieces and editions on the future of Europe, on the rise of the far right and many other topics that hold the mirror in front of our eyes to ask which Europe are we in and what to do next. We consolidated and fostered its training offer on competences and on knowledge during the European Green Academy and training days. Last but not least, the Green European Foundation continued to partner with its member foundations and stakeholders throughout the European continent in all its diversity, enlarging its General Assembly with 10 new full and observer members.

The year 2024 was not an easy year. But none of the above and of what you will find in this report would have been possible without a great staff, a dedicated board of directors and a dynamic and combative network of member political foundations. It was a year during which all of them rolled up their sleeves and collectively fought for a more democratic, just, and sustainable Europe. And the fight goes on.

The year 2024 was the birthyear of a new chapter for GEF and its partners. The board of directors of the Green European Foundation and its copresidents wish to thank all staff and partners who have worked, supported and delivered so much for our European political foundation and for awareness of Green and European topics throughout the continent.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION

The mission of the Green European Foundation in 2024 remained 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 policy and politics both within and beyond the Green political family. It works to create a common green vision for Europe, to be communicated to a wider audience. Our programme hinges on strategic objectives, several thematic priorities and our key operational pillars' activities described below.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Greening East and South!

In 2024, GEF played a crucial role in nurturing green and political ecology initiatives, fostering the growth of ideas and facilitating the emergence of new green political actors, in particular in Portugal and in the Baltics. This objective aims at empowering and consolidating green and European ideas, debates and actors in Europe's regions where they are more recent and emergent.

Shape tomorrow's ideas!

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. In 2024 the Green European Journal published articles and editions on forward looking ideas and concepts while GEF's policy hub proposed refreshing takes on policy and political issues through its focus on the social and gender dimensions of the green transition.

Training for all!

In 2024 GEF enriched and improved its training offer by hosting an important study trip for young European activists, by delivering training to young green European actors and by offering to the broader public a 300 participants European Green Academy. This objective is essential for a European political foundation in its mission of education and providing accessible knowledge to citizens interested in green and European topics.

Make the Green Flow!

In 2024, GEF consolidated its unique position to serve as a knowledge hub between different political, policy, civil society and trade union actors. GEF has become a leading hub for green ideas, discussion, training and networking within the broader Green family and among like-minded organisations across Europe.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

In line with GEF's work programme 2022-2024 the thematic priorities of the foundation and its network revolved around the social dimension of the green transition, the issues of peace, geopolitics and security, while we retained wellbeing and post-growth as transversal themes and prisms for all our activities and endeavours.

GREEN EUROPEAN JOURNAL

In 2024, much of the Green European Journal's publishing revolved around June's European elections and the European dimension of other important votes taking place across the continent and around the world, notably the US in November.

In the first half of the year, many articles and columns were dedicated to understanding the stakes of the European elections and the main issues driving the campaign at the European and national levels ahead of the vote. These included farming and agriculture, shifting geopolitical realities, war and peace, the economy and cost of living, the green transition, and climate adaptation.

Adaptation was also the topic of the summer print edition of the Journal, "At the Edge", which aimed to provide a Green and progressive framing to a concept that is increasingly central in climate discussions, including at EU level and at UN climate conferences (COPs). A highlight from this edition was an interview with IPCC author Yamina Saheb, who also took part as a speaker in the edition's launch session "Security in Climate Adaptation" at the Progressive Governance Summit in Berlin in June 2024, together with former leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, Natalie Bennett, and GEF Policy Manager, Taube Van Melkebeke, under the moderation of Alessio Giussani, Editor in Chief of the Green European Journal.

In the second half of the year, the Journal's publishing focused on understanding the political shifts brought about by the outcome of the European elections, and discussing the implications for Europe of the US elections in November. As the political debate in Brussels reoriented itself towards economic competitiveness, the Journal dedicated an online series to the relationship between market competition and sustainability. The series, co-curated by lawyer Michelle Meagher, included a contribution by Simon Holmes, a law professor at Oxford University.

"Head On", the winter print edition of the Journal, out in early December, aimed at understanding the rise of the far right across Europe and beyond. The edition looked at the economic and cultural roots of far-right success, and sketched out strategies and narratives for progressive forces to fight back. Highlights from this edition include an interview with Prof. Daphne Halikiopoulou, chair in comparative politics at York University, and an article on the Italian far right's culture policies by Francesca De Benedetti, a senior editor of the Italian daily Domani. The edition was launched in early December.

In May 2024, the Journal launched The Sprout, a monthly ideas-based newsletter, in parallel to the already existing Editor's Picks newsletter. The Sprout aims at consolidating and expanding the expertise on post-growth thinking the Journal has built since 2023, when it co-produced the special print edition "Imagining Europe Beyond Growth".

In terms of regular partnerships, the Spanish online daily El Salto republished 15 Journal articles, and the Czech online media outlet Denik Referendum republished 14 articles. In the summer of 2024, the Journal also carried out a German translation of its winter 2023 print edition "Aligning Stars" on visions for the future of the European project.

In 2024, the Green European Journal distributed more than 3,000 print copies across Europe to members of the Green family, participants at progressive political events, attendees at summer schools, universities, and think tanks, as well as individual subscribers. Online, its website received over 200.000 visits over the course of the year, while its email subscriber base grew over 5.000, reflecting sustained interest in the magazine's content.



GEF IN ITS NETWORK

In 2024, GEF continued to work with its network of partner foundations and other EU stakeholders. Steered from Brussels but taking place across Europe, these projects are central to GEF's mission of bridging the gap between national-level activism and EU decision-making, and reflect the foundation's philosophy that the European project should be the result of transnational and open contributions from many groups in society. Additionally, the work of GEF in its network allows the foundation to increase its visibility across Europe, and thus creates space for European actors and inputs in important green political debates.

Projects and events in 2024 benefited greatly from the guidance, support, and/or cooperation of Bluelink (Bulgaria), Center za Zelene Politike (Serbia), Cogito (Sweden), Cooperation and Development Network (Eastern Europe), Demokratijos institutas (Lithuania), Etopia (Belgium), Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique (France), Forum za održivi razvoj Zeleni prozor (Croatia), Fundacio Nous Horitzons (Spain), Green Foundation Ireland, Green House Think Tank (United Kingdom), Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Germany), Institut aktivniho občanství (Czechia), Instituto José Tengarrinha (Portugal), Institut za političku ekologiju (Croatia), Megújuló Magyarorszáért Alapítvány (Hungary), Oikos (Belgium), Polekol (Serbia), Strefa Zieleni (Poland), Sunrise (Northern Macedonia), Transición Verde (Spain), Visio (Finland), and Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (Netherlands),

GREEN VISIONS ON EU SECURITY

As Greens grapple with the interplay between their traditional pacifist roots and the post-February 2022 security challenges, this project continued to contribute to the green movement's reflections and anchoring of an updated vision on security and defence.

In spring 2024, GEF published *Green Approaches to Security and Defence*, a report which maps out and analyses key security and defence positions of Green forces across eight EU member states. It offers a thoughtful account of points of convergence, gaps, and tension, with some concrete recommendations and a clear call for progressive and principled approaches.

The report was pre-launched in Brussels on March 6th, at a half-day event along with GEF's other peace and security publications. Additionally, this project featured a one-day conference in Zagreb on February 3rd, and a series of articles and testimonies highlighting topics and experiences of (in)security across Europe. The publication was also translated into German and Greek, and disseminated at the Budapest Energy and Security



Talks, where GEF supported the participation of former Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto to the panel "Europe under Siege: Scenarios for After Russia's War Against Ukraine." Finally, the session "Addressing Military Threats: Developing Progressive Approaches to Security and Defence" at the Progressive Governance Summit in Berlin was organised and included as speakers Natalie Bennett, former leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, Joanna Kamińska, Member of the Management Board of the Polish Green Party Zieloni, Sergey Lagodinsky, German member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group) and Sara Nanni, Member of the German Parliament (Alliance 90/the Greens). The panel was moderated by Leonie Stamm, research fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations.

NAVIGATING NATO

In April 2024, GEF published *Navigating NATO: Green and Progressive Paths to Influence*. The report was the culmination of a multi-annual study and debate project that examined the potential for advancing green values and priorities within NATO, as well as the dynamics of the trans-Atlantic alliance with European security structures. It was accompanied by the publication of two opinion pieces along with further discussion and dissemination efforts, including Greek and German translations of the report.

GEOPOLITICS OF A POST-GROWTH EUROPE

With the support of Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (Netherlands), BlueLink (Bulgaria), and Instituto José Tengarrinha (Portugal)

It is unlikely that we will be able to defuse the climate time bomb, let alone other ecological threats, as long as our economy continues to grow. But what would the end of economic growth mean for geopolitics? Could a European Union that is the first to embrace post-growth still be a global actor? Would it be able to defend itself, its allies, democracy, human rights, and the international rule of law at a time when aggressive autocracies are invading or threatening their democratic neighbours? This GEF project brought together critics of economic growth and progressive thinkers on foreign and security policy for a crucial forward-thinking debate.

In January 2024, following a year of research, expert meetings, events, and interviews, GEF officially launched the publication *Geopolitics of a Post-Growth Europe: Being More with Less*. The report was translated into Dutch, Spanish, Serbian, French, Bulgarian, Czech, and Portuguese, and featured at discussions and launch events throughout the year. Specifically, the webinar “Post-Growth Geopolitics - Europe at a Crossroads” took place on February 8th, followed by a panel in Brussels on March 6th, a seminar and roundtable in the Netherlands in June, and launch events in Sofia and Lisbon in November and December.

TBILISI SECURITY CONFERENCE

With the support of Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe

Continuing its work on geopolitics, peace, and security and with a specific focus on young people in Eastern Europe, GEF organised a one-day security conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, on August 11th. The event combined formal and non-formal education methods to explore green visions on European security, spotlighted GEF’s ongoing research and experts, and covered topics ranging from peacebuilding in practice, to environment and security, to green practice and proposals on European defence. It was accompanied by a series of articles and testimonies written by young people reflecting on different dimensions of security, some of which were also presented and discussed at the conference.

CRISIS CASCADES

With the support of Demokratijos institutas (Lithuania)

The term poly-crisis has become a central feature of the European public debate. From pandemic and supply chain disruptions to war, cost-of-living, and climate breakdown, today’s compounding crises feed insecurity,



instability, and distrust, with significant repercussions for EU integration and democracy. This two-day conference in Vilnius (11-12 November) gathered policymakers, academics, civil society and others to reflect on (in) security in all its facets – including social, ecological, and geopolitical – and to confront the crisis cascades with equally multiplying solutions, drawing in part from the particular lessons and experiences of the Baltic region.

CIVIL SOCIETY, PEACE, AND SECURITY

With the support of Cogito (Sweden)

In an era marked by complexity and conflict, civil society stands as a crucial pillar for fostering peace, stability, and sustainable development throughout Europe. These actors work tirelessly, creating hope, preventing violence, and strengthening communities. Yet, they face unprecedented threats - not only from rising militarisation and political polarisation but also through direct pressures such as budget cuts and restrictive policies. This hybrid event on December 9th focused on the role of civil society in fostering peace and societal resilience, and the dangers posed by their defunding and dismantling at the hands of (far-)right governments in Europe.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE HIPPIES GONE?

This podcast series, featuring two episodes in English and two in Spanish, explores the place of pacifism in today’s Europe and the Green movement. Each episode features an interview with an expert to deepen listeners’ understanding of pacifism, Green thinking, and how to make sense of our current geopolitical moment. Episodes were recorded in late 2024 and released early 2025.

NEW IDEALISM FOR A DISRUPTED EUROPE

Countries in Central and Eastern Europe are among the staunchest supporters of Ukraine in its struggle for survival. What can we learn from them when it comes to standing up for European values such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law? Can so-called 'neo-idealists' offer a compelling alternative to the might-is-right logic of great power realism? And what are their blind spots and contradictions that might benefit from Greens' awareness of planetary boundaries and global injustices? This project, launched in 2024 and continuing into 2025, seeks to answer some of these questions through a mix of research, interviews, expert meetings, and events. The resulting publication with political recommendations is expected in autumn 2025.

A JUST GREEN DEAL AND BEYOND

With the support of Oikos (Belgium), Visio (Finland), Cogito (Sweden), and Green Foundation Ireland

This project built on a 2023 exploration of the social dimension of the European Green Deal, seeking concrete proposals to strengthen it, while also examining its inherent limitations and highlighting transformational ideas for social and economic justice that could go beyond a typical compensation logic.

In 2024, that resulted in two publications. *Yellow Vest and the Green Deal* analyses the titular movement to confront a central challenge for Europe: how can we reconcile urgent ecological transformation with the demand for social justice? It features research, essays, and interviews that draw some lessons for a just and popular transition, in France and in Europe. *Enough: Thriving Societies Beyond Growth* takes a more forward-looking view. The authors, building on the work of visionaries past and present, explore a wellbeing economy beyond growth, and provide the keys to imagining a different Europe - one that ensures a good life for everyone within the planet's limits.

Enough was launched with a panel discussion in Brussels on June 21st and featured at other GEF events in Croatia and Belgium. The conversation on a European wellbeing economy continued with a book tour in Ireland and the UK in December 2024, followed by events in Sweden and Finland in early 2025.

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES – EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL IN ACTION

This project, originally launched in 2023, explored the potential and challenges of citizens' assemblies and deliberative democracy in enabling a green and socially just transition, with a particular eye on the European



Green Deal. In 2024, this included a study trip to Ireland from 13-15 March, where project participants met with several experts connected to citizens' assemblies on biodiversity and related topics. These and previous research and study trips culminated in a final publication - *Citizens' Assemblies and the European Green Deal: A Perfect (Mis)Match?* – published early 2025.

DISMANTLING THE GROWTH NARRATIVE

This project, launched in 2023, was undertaken to challenge the prevailing belief that economic growth is the sole path to prosperity. By encouraging society to critically examine the current growth narrative, GEF aimed to pave the way for alternative economic paradigms and foster green political thought, focusing on Spain as a GEF focus country with Europe-wide relevance.

Based on an extensive research phase and expert workshops where green actors from different fields reflected on potential alternate narratives, GEF published *On the Narrative of Growth: Unlearning Dogmas* in English and Spanish and held a launch webinar in March 2024.

POST-GROWTH FUTURE(S)

Despite mounting ecological and social crises, EU policy discussions remain locked in outdated economic paradigms. However, recent years have marked a turning point, with post-growth thinking gaining momentum in European institutions, civil society, and academia. GEF's publication *Post-growth Future(s): New Voices, Novel Visions* was published in the context of GEF's continued work exploring alternatives to economic growth and how to ensure the wellbeing of people and planet. It brings together 20 authors from across Europe to examine how post-growth ideas can reshape economic structures, social justice frameworks, and environmental policies for a green and socially just Europe.



GEF GREEN HORIZONS ACADEMY: GOOD FOR ALL

With the support of Polekol (Serbia)

GEF's Green European Horizons Academy aims to expand the imaginary of the green movement towards an alternative liveable future across Europe and beyond. This edition, which took place in Belgrade from 15-17 February 2024, addressed extractivist and neocolonial practices being enacted inside the territory of the EU, in candidate countries, and outside its borders, especially in light of the green energy transition and carbon neutrality targets. The event connected EU policymakers, campaigners, grassroots activists and others for mutual learning and frank debates on a green and socially just transition for all.

GREEN-RED DIALOGUES

With the support of Fundacio Nous Horitzons (Spain)

The Green-Red Dialogues was a series of three panel debates tackling Europe's hot topics and most pressing challenges from a green and social lens. Bringing together civil society, academics, politicians, activists, and more, these events focus on connecting Spanish and international audiences to the European debate. In 2024, topics spanned the future of the European Green Deal, climate adaptation, and the battle against disinformation. The event series was accompanied by a podcast episode – Tired, Rented, Isolated – that looked especially at the challenges faced by European youth, and how they can lead the transition to an eco-socialist future.

ECOPOLIS: HOPE NEEDS ACTION

In cooperation with Oikos (Belgium)

Ecopolis is an annual ecological festival in Brussels, co-organised by a wide consortium of civil society organisations and think tanks. As in previous years, GEF supported this event by Europeanising the debate – bringing together speakers, participants, and inspiring examples from across the continent to promote dialogue on collective action and addressing Europe's urgent climate and social crises. In this 2024 edition, GEF hosted a stream of "Green Talks with GEF" touching on our core interests including energy security, a post-growth Europe, and democratic participation.





GEF GREEN DAY IN POLAND

With the support of Strefa Zieleni (Poland)

Given its strategic focus on Poland and after two successful editions of the European Green Academy in Warsaw, GEF continued to invest in European debates in the country with a one-day summer school in Szklarska Poręba. Near the Czech and German borders, this event took place shortly after the European elections and provided a space to reflect on the possible future of the European Green Deal while also exploring innovative concepts around doughnut economics and Europe's energy transition, with a particular focus on cross-border cooperation.

NEXT GENERATION GREEN ACTIVISTS

With the support of Megújuló Magyarországért Alapítvány (Hungary)

The Next Generation summer academy took place on the shores of Lake Balaton on 14-15 September. It gathered civil society representatives and green-minded activists for two days of lectures, workshops, and networking with a particular focus on green education and engaging the next generation. In a context of misinformation and Euroscepticism, GEF sought to offer a space for thoughtful insights, vibrant discussions, and seeds of change.



GREEN ACADEMY: STAY WITH THE TROUBLE

In cooperation with Institut za političku ekologiju (Croatia)

The Green Academy is a discussion and dialogue platform, established in 2010 as a space for advanced learning in political ecology. This 9th edition underscored that social and ecological justice go hand in hand, and we need to foster bottom-up democracy to make that happen. GEF supported the event by hosting three "Green Talks with GEF" – a panel discussion on democracy, centred around Enough: Thriving Societies Beyond Growth; a meeting of the Knowledge Community on European Wellbeing Economy; and another panel tackling time and climate adaptation, drawing from the Green European Journal edition on this topic.



EUROPEAN GREEN ACADEMY AND TRAINING

EUROPEAN GREEN ACADEMY

From 22-24 November, GEF hosted the third edition of its annual flagship event, the European Green Academy (EGA). Taking place in Brussels, EGA 2024 welcomed over 300 participants from 42 countries - civil society actors, activists, politicians and engaged citizens - to connect, debate, and build capacities.

Set against the backdrop of the post-EU election landscape, the Academy provided a timely space for critical reflection and forward-thinking exchange on the future of Europe. The programme centred on three thematic pillars: Green and Social Deal, Democracy, and Social Europe. Over 20 dynamic sessions, the programme tackled a range of critical issues – from the rise of the far right and environmental racism, to housing justice, media freedom, and peace and security. The Academy featured an impressive lineup of over 75 speakers, including Nicolae Ștefănuță, Vice-President of the European Parliament and MEP (Greens/EFA); Benedetta Scuderi, MEP (Greens/EFA); Rosa Martínez, Secretary of State for Social Affairs for Spain; Natia Gvianishvili, leading Georgian LGBTI+ rights activist; and Zoya Miari, Palestinian-Ukrainian storyteller and Peace Ambassador.

Spanning a diverse range of formats, from keynotes and plenaries, to workshops, training, cosy living room style conversations and networking activities, the Academy encouraged meaningful exchange across backgrounds, generations and geographies. The agenda was complemented with a vibrant cultural programme featuring artists, comedians and dancers, from Europe, Palestine and the Middle East.



ACTIVIST TRAINING DAY

EGA 2024 concluded with a dedicated Activist Training Day, taking place on Sunday 24 November and providing a space for young European activists to build skills and activation strategies to put their learning on European and Green topics into action. The Training Day brought together around 70 selected young activists from across Europe, and focused on themes such as building resilience, digital activism, and climate communication. Participants benefited from expert-led training and peer-to-peer learning, as well as having the opportunity to meet inspiring leading Green European actors.

EUROPEAN GREEN ACTIVIST TRAINING

GEF concluded the final edition of the European Green Activist Training programme, culminating in a Brussels Study Trip on 5-8 March 2024. The three-day study trip gathered 124 young activists from Croatia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Catalonia, Czech Republic, and Finland to explore the European political sphere first-hand by engaging in activist skills training, discussions on political ecology, visits to the House of European Culture and the European Parliament, peer-learning sessions, and meetings with European Green political representatives and young professionals working in Green-affiliated European organisations.

GREEN FLOW

In 2024, GEF continued to advance its “green flow” strategic objective, positioning GEF as a leading hub for green ideas, discussion, training and networking within the broader Green family. GEF attended two European Green Party Congresses – in Lyon (February) and Dublin (December). These events served as key moments to amplify GEF’s work and forward-looking ideas and proposals, forge relationships and build visibility within the broader Green political landscape. The GEF network also continued to grow. In 2024, we welcomed six new full members to the GEF General Assembly and four new observer members (see statutory meetings section for details). Throughout the year, GEF convened three online Foundation Leaders’ Meetings, designed to provide a dedicated space for political exchange, strategic discussion, and peer-to-peer learning among Directors and representatives of European Green political foundations. GEF’s “green flow” approach also ensured continuous exchange with key green and progressive actors across Europe, connecting people, ideas, and content through strategic partnerships, expert contributions at major events, and by serving as a reference point for green knowledge and innovation. These efforts strengthened GEF’s role as a trusted convener and amplifier within the European Green ecosystem.

POLICY HUB

In 2024, GEF's Policy Hub continued its work on issues closely related to the Foundation's thematic priorities. It delivered internally-driven, EU-focused inputs to policy and political debates. This workstream, centred on the Knowledge Communities methodology, fosters networks for knowledge production, exchange, and dissemination, together with strategic experts and partners, such as the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union branch. It tackles key European issues, particularly the green transition, emphasizing the need for an equitable and systemic approach to ensure fair sharing of benefits and thus widespread public support.

GEF's Policy Hub has positioned itself at the intersection of green, social, and economic policy, bridging often siloed areas. This approach aims to create synergies and to deliver immediate as well as long term policy relevance at the EU level.

In 2024, GEF's Policy Hub held a total of 13 in person Knowledge Community and expert meetings, as well 18 online sessions. It also organised several "meet the expert"-sessions, bringing together experts and policymakers, and public launch events of its publications. 2024 also marked the first year of delivering GEF policy briefs and reports. Altogether, the Policy Hub published 12 policy briefs, of which some also appeared as chapter in one of the two policy reports published in 2024, as detailed under the below thematic streams.

THE EU'S ENERGY TRANSITION

In 2023, GEF had started its work on a systemic approach to the EU's energy transition, together with a core expert group consisting of Antoine Oger (Institute for European Environmental Policy), Jesse Scott (Hertie School), Benjamin Denis (IndustriAll), Joanna Maćkowiak-Pandera (Forum Energii) and Rosa Martinez (Green European Journal Editorial Board). This group, coordinated by the Policy Team, developed political proposals that were tested and submitted to larger groups of experts, practitioners and civil society representatives. In 2024, the final knowledge community meetings of this project were held online. GEF also held 2 in person meetings, one expert meeting in Budapest on 18 September, and one public debate in Siena on 13 September, entitled 'The future of the EU's energy project', moderated by Seden Anlar (Independent journalist and political

communicator) with speakers Camille Defard (Jacques Delors Energy Centre), Sandra Tzvetkova (E3G), Chiara Antonelli (Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), Massimiliano Montini (University of Siena) and Simona Suardi (Greens/EFA Expert).

Four thematic policy briefs were published online:

- Security Dimension
- Social Dimension
- Climate Dimension
- Democratic Dimension

These briefs were also bundled and published in the format of a policy report:

- The Future of the EU's Energy Project

Building on the abovementioned work delivered in 2023 and early 2024, GEF's Policy Hub started a new workstream, titled Boosting Participation in the Energy Transition. This work focuses in particular on the social dimension of the transition, and thereby on ensuring that every person and community benefits from it. The activities benefitted from the inputs of core experts Kalina Arabadjieva (European Trade Union Institute), Marine Cornelis (Next Energy Consumer), Béla Galgóczi (European Trade Union Institute), Jörg Mühlhoff (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union), David Ritter (Öko-Institut), Claire Roumet (Energy Cities), Hélène Sibilleau (Buildings Performance Institute Europe) and Taube Van Melkebeke (Green European Foundation).

Two in person and 11 online knowledge community meetings were held and led to the delivery of five policy briefs:



- Just Transition governance
- Renovation and renewable heating and cooling
- Electricity tariff design
- Energy sharing
- Local management of a systemic transition

The briefs, also collected in the report *Boosting Participation in the Energy Transition*, describe practical steps that EU institutions should take to boost fair participation in the energy transition and have been prepared based on the expertise of a diverse group of experts.

GENDER EQUALITY AND ENERGY

In 2024, we also maintained our focus on the gender and energy nexus. Investigating the connections between the fossil fuel-based energy model and gender inequalities, we aimed to raise attention to this topic, in order to prevent replication of these inequalities in clean energy models. With expert Barbara Nicoloso (Director of Virage Energie), the Policy Hub has worked to determine the political conditions required to ensure that the fight to preserve the environment and the societal battle for gender equality go hand-in-hand and we strived to develop political proposals for decision-makers to enable this change. We held a Knowledge Community meeting in Brussels and one in Lyon to test our research and recommendations. The policy brief was published early 2025.

WELFARE STATES AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Policy Hub continued its work on the critical role of social protection in mitigating social tensions during times of transformation. In 2024 we published with core expert Philippe Pochet, GEF fellow and Affiliated Professor Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, a policy brief *Climate Emergency and Welfare States* and related opinion piece *Renewing the welfare state, Europe's green trump card*. This line of work also informed new 2024 initiatives of the Policy Hub (see below) on eco-social policies.

POLITICAL STEPS TOWARDS ECO-SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Working together with Matteo Mandelli, postdoctoral fellow at Sciences Po Paris, GEF started to explore elements for a political strategy to turn a theoretical ideal of an eco-social transformation into a politically successful reality. Specifically, we aimed at identifying institutions,

ideas and interests that can drive or hinder the adoption of transformative eco-social policies. In 2024 we held three Knowledge Community meetings (in Brussels and Lyon) to develop these ideas, giving way to a policy brief published in 2025. Additionally, linking this work with the abovementioned focus on Welfare States and the Climate Emergency, we published, together with the core experts, an article in the *Green European Journal*, *Sustainable Welfare: Social Protection in Times of Ecological Crisis*.

EUROPEAN GREEN CARE SOCIETY

We finalised the work started in 2023 on this topic, together with expert Céline Charveriat (Proto(to)pia). We laid out potential foundations of future European policies for a green care society in which caring for human and non-human life on earth is celebrated as the basis of the well-being for all, focusing on:

- Redefining prosperity;
- Reducing and redistributing the “burden of care”;
- Rewarding and empowering care-takers;
- Investing in care;
- Caring beyond EU borders.

A second Knowledge Community meeting was organised to test and further develop the discussed ideas and a policy brief was published: *A European Green Caring Society*. Additionally, we organised a launch event to discuss the policy brief in presence of representatives from the European Economic and Social Committee, United Nations Environment Programme, European Parliament, Social Platform and Sustainable Europe Research Institute Germany. A related article appeared in the *Green European Journal* *The Undervalued Politics of Care*.





WELLBEING ECONOMY

The EU, with its Green Deal, has taken significant steps towards a just and green transition, and in that sense towards well-being of its citizens. Nevertheless, contradictions between the objectives of different legislative initiatives remain. Although the goal of well-being is present in various EU official documents, it lacks a comprehensive approach for transitioning towards a well-being economy, where human and planetary well-being are central to EU decision making.

In collaboration with the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), we worked on advancing the European public and political debates on the well-being economy, identifying political ideas and proposals to ultimately enable the introduction of a strong EU policy framework on well-being. In 2024 seven online and one in person Knowledge Community meetings were held. Additionally, intermediary results and thinking were presented at a GEF summer school and at the 7th OECD World Forum on Well-being. The final policy report A European Wellbeing Economy was published and launched early 2025.

THE EU SINGLE MARKET AND OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC EU POLICY

The EU's Single Market is a pivotal lever to enable and promote the environmental and social transition, while bolstering the EU's economic resilience. The Policy Hub has developed work to enable this potential to be materialised. Kickstarted in 2023, this thematic focus led to a policy brief A European Single Market for the Future: Towards a new social and environmental pact and an opinion piece How can the EU single market break out of its historical straitjacket?, both published in 2024. These outputs were fruits of our collaboration with GEF fellow Philippe Pochet and a Knowledge Community meeting held in Brussels. The developed ideas were also presented through a panel discussion at the European Green Academy in November in Brussels. This work will be further developed in 2025.

GEF's Policy Hub has in 2024 started working on other key socio-economic European policy items as well, ranging from the Clean Industrial Deal to the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Publications of briefs and other outputs will follow in 2025.



STATUTORY MEETINGS

In 2024, the GEF Board held 8 meetings to oversee the organisations' decision-making processes. Two General Assemblies (GA) were also held in 2024 in Brussels: one on 20–21 June and the other on 22 November.

These General Assemblies provided a valuable opportunity for GEF and its network to reflect on the post-EU election landscape, whilst also carrying out necessary statutory reforms.

In the June GA, we adopted a statutory reform package to enhance GEF's overall governance and ways of working. We also welcomed 6 new full members to the GA: Institut za Političku Ekologiju (Croatia), Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland), Brīvības un Solidaritātes Fonds (Latvia), Demokratijos Institutas (Lithuania), Instituto José Tengarrinha (Portugal), Institut Aktivního Občanství (Czechia), and one new observer member, Green House Think Tank (UK). On the second day, we organised a political exchange reflecting on what the EU election results signify for the upcoming mandate and future trajectory of the Green movement in Europe, followed by an interactive projects lab that gathered ideas and insights to shape GEF's 2025 Work Programme.

In the November GA, we welcomed four new Greens/EFA stakeholder representatives – MEP Sergey Lagodinsky, MEP Benedetta Scuderi, MEP Nicolae Ștefănuță, and MEP Kim Van Sparrentak – three new Observer members: Centar za zelene politike (Serbia), PolEkol (Serbia), and Sunrise – Association for Sustainable Social and Economic Development (North Macedonia), and we elected an Honorary President, Dirk Holemans. We also presented our 2025 Work Programme and budget and introduced the consultation process for the GEF 2025–2030 strategy.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COSTS

| | | Budget | Actual |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. ELIGIBLE COSTS | | | |
| A.1. | Personnel costs | 1,165,000.00 | 1,108,248.13 |
| 1. | Salaries and equivalent | 820,000.00 | 831,727.85 |
| 2. | Contributions | 240,000.00 | 187,101.06 |
| 3. | Professional training | 22,000.00 | 10,315.00 |
| 4. | Staff missions expenses | 18,000.00 | 24,155.62 |
| 5. | Other personnel costs | 65,000.00 | 54,948.60 |
| A.2. | Infrastructure and operating costs | 146,000.00 | 131,959.33 |
| 1. | Rent, charges and maintenance costs | 90,000.00 | 86,832.40 |
| 2. | Costs relating to installation, operation and maintenance of equipment | 15,000.00 | 17,209.92 |
| 3. | Depreciation of movable and immovable property | 3,000.00 | 6,303.96 |
| 4. | Stationery and office supplies | 6,000.00 | 2,496.82 |
| 5. | Postal and telecommunications charges | 20,000.00 | 15,137.43 |
| 6. | Printing, translation and reproduction costs | 10,000.00 | 3,978.80 |
| 7. | Other infrastructure costs | 2,000.00 | 0.00 |
| A.3. | Administrative costs | 201,000.00 | 293,002.03 |
| 1. | Documentation costs (newspapers, press agencies, databases) | 3,000.00 | 3,646.49 |
| 2. | Costs of studies and research | 112,000.00 | 148,415.34 |
| 3. | Legal costs | 15,000.00 | 123,171.88 |
| 4. | Accounting and audit costs | 70,000.00 | 15,343.70 |
| 5. | Miscellaneous administrative costs | 1,000.00 | 2,424.62 |
| 6. | Support to third parties | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| A.4. | Meetings and representation costs | 119,000.00 | 91,321.62 |
| 1. | Costs of meetings | 70,000.00 | 59,618.03 |
| 2. | Participation in seminars and conferences | 20,000.00 | 7,633.09 |
| 3. | Representation costs | 25,000.00 | 19,086.17 |
| 4. | Costs of invitations | 4,000.00 | 4,984.33 |
| 5. | Other meeting-related costs | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| A.5. | Information and publication costs | 826,877.00 | 808,723.62 |
| 1. | Publication costs | 185,000.00 | 205,969.97 |
| 2. | Creation and operation of internet sites and social media | 50,000.00 | 53,136.28 |
| 3. | Publicity costs | 10,000.00 | 22,078.20 |
| 4. | Communications equipment (gadgets) | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Seminar and exhibitions | 580,877.00 | 527,539.17 |
| 6. | Other information-related costs | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| A.6. | Allocation to "Provision to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N+1" | | 242,954.28 |
| TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS | | 2,457,877.00 | 2,676,209.01 |

| | | Budget | Actual |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| B. INELIGIBLE COSTS | | | |
| B.1. | Allocations to other provisions | | |
| B.2. | Financial charges | | |
| B.3. | Exchange losses | | |
| B.4. | Doubtful claims on third parties | | |
| B.5. | Others (to be specified) | | 1,015.77 |
| B.6. | Contributions in kind | | |
| TOTAL INELIGIBLE COSTS | | 0.00 | 1,015.77 |
| C. TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 2,457,877.00 | 2,677,224.78 |

REVENUE

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| D. EP FUNDING | | | |
| D.1. | European Parliament funding | 2,334,983.00 | 2,551,325.78 |
| 1. | Dissolution of Provision from N-1 to cover eligible costs of the first quarter of year N | | 216,342.78 |
| 2. | European Parliament funding requested (budget) / final (actual) for year N | 2,334,983.00 | 2,334,983.00 |
| E. OWN RESOURCES | | | |
| E.1. | Member contributions | 63,894.00 | 141,825.14 |
| 1. | from member organisations | 63,894.00 | 141,825.14 |
| 2. | from individual members | | |
| E.2. | Donations | 40,000.00 | 18,750.00 |
| 1 | Individual donations | 2,000.00 | |
| 2. | Philanthropic foundations | 18,000.00 | 18,000.00 |
| 3. | National and European partner foundations | 20,000.00 | 750.00 |
| E.3. | Other own resources | 19,000.00 | 9,523.16 |
| 1. | Books sales and participation fees | 9,000.00 | 9,523.16 |
| 2. | Capacity building trainings and workshops | 10,000.00 | |
| E.4. | Interest from pre-financing | | |
| E.5. | Contributions in kind | | |
| TOTAL OWN RESOURCES | | 122,894.00 | 170,098.30 |
| F. TOTAL REVENUE | | 2,457,877.00 | 2,721,424.08 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| G. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FUNDING USED TO COVER 95% OF ELIGIBLE COSTS IN YEAR N | 2,334,983.15 | 2,542,398.56 |
| H. PROFIT/LOSS | 0.00 | 44,199.30 |

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (Co-President from 15 July 2024), **Vedran Horvat**, **Benedek Jávör**, **Dirk Holemans** (Board Member until June 2024), **Benoit Monange** (Treasurer), **Mar Garcia Sanz**, **Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart**, **Dagmar Tutschek** (Co-President), and **Claude Weinber**.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FULL MEMBERS AS OF NOVEMBER 2024

Carlo Back – Zukunft denken asbl (Luxembourg)
Carlos M.G.L. Teixeira – Instituto José Tengarrinha (Portugal)
Christine Stufferin – Fondazione Alexander Langer (Italy)
Dirk Holemans – Oikos (Belgium)
Jonathan Piron – Etopia (Belgium)
Juliane Alton – Freda (Austria)
Justine Pantelejeva – Brīvības Un Solidaritātes Fonds (Latvia)
Katja Alvoittu – Visio (Finland)
Kevin Puisieux – Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique (France)
Kuba Bilski – Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland)
Lana Pukanic – Institut za Političku Ekologiju (Croatia)
Martina Duskova – Institut Aktivního Občanství (Czechia)
Miriam Kennet – Green Economics Institute (United Kingdom)
Noortje Thijssen – Wetenschappelijk Bureau GroenLinks (Netherlands)
Raúl Gómez – Transición Verde (Spain)
Roderick Kefferpütz – Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Germany)
Sandra Cruz – Fundació Nous Horitzons (Spain)
Siri Bergerud – Cogito (Sweden)
Tomas Tomilinas – Demokratijos Institutas (Lithuania)
Tommy Simpson – Green Foundation Ireland (Ireland)
Benedetta Scuderi – Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament
Kim van Sparrentak – Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament
Nicolae Ștefănuță – Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament
Sergey Lagodinsky – Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament

Benjamin Bibas – European Green Party
Emma Nohren – European Green Party
Małgorzata Tracz – European Green Party
Rasmus Nordqvist – European Green Party

OBSERVER MEMBERS AS OF NOVEMBER 2024

Aleksandar Gjorgjievski – Sunrise – Association for Sustainable Social and Economic Development (North Macedonia)
Cinta González Sentís – Federation of Young European Greens
Elisabeth Kittl – Grüne Bildungswerkstatt Wien (Austria)
Magnus P. Wåhlin – Green Forum (Sweden)
Melisa Kutluğ – Yeşil Düşünce Derneği (Turkey)
Peter Sims – Green House Think Tank (United Kingdom)
Predrag Momcilovic – Centar za Zelene Politike (Serbia)
Žaklina Živković – PolEkol (Serbia)

STAFF

Alessia Gonfroid (Events Intern) as of June 2024
Alexandra Huber (Project Coordinator) until May 2024
Alice Hubbard (Strategy Manager)
Alina Zmuda Trzebiatowska (Events Intern) until March 2024
Alessio Giussani (Editor-in-Chief)
Amir Hashemi (Editorial Assistant) as of June 2024
Amira Salama (Events Consultant) from August until December 2024
Anthony Msika (Finance and Administrative Intern and Project Assistant) as of August 2024
Antoine Préel-Dumas (Events Coordinator and Senior Project Lead-EGAT) until June 2024
Cécile Grebet (Finance Manager)
Celia Fernández (PR and Outreach Associate) until December 2024
Clara Luz (Policy Intern) from July until August 2024
Friederike Möller (Policy Intern) as of November 2024
Giovanna La Marca (Executive Assistant and Office Coordinator) until September 2024
Giovanni Dal Pra' (Finance and Admin Intern) as of September 2024
Kel Nkondock (Senior Communications Officer) until June 2024
Laurent Standaert (Director)
Maria Dìos (Communications and Outreach Manager)
Marie Eenens (Communications and Editorial Intern) as of September 2024
Sien Hasker (Programme Manager)
Taube Van Melkebeke (Policy Manager)
Xenia Samoultseva (Communications and Editorial Intern) until August 2024
Yasemin Arpağ (Project Management Intern) until September 2024





GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

Address: Rue du Kiem 96
8030 Strassen, Luxembourg
Brussels Office: Mundo Madou
– Avenue des Arts 7-8, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

t: +32 2 329 00 50
e: info@gef.eu



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