



## 1. Introduction

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The COVID-19 crisis has brought all kind of unprecedented pain and difficulties, and it remains to be seen how it evolves. Nonetheless, at European level, after initial hesitations, we have also seen unprecedented action. Not up to the green level we would have wanted, but commitment to shared debt, the will to increase European own resources, and the clear green conditionality are unexpected very welcome European answers to this crisis, which we hope can bring us further in the development of the EU that we want to see.

The COVID-19 crisis has also merely caused a short pause to the system that is destroying nature and biodiversity and is warming the planet at an unprecedented pace. The current COVID-19 health and economic crisis call for even bolder European action. The Commissions' Next Generation EU Recovery Plan is an ambitious instrument that should also commit to a transition to a social and green economy, tackling the acceleration of the climate crisis.

The persisting COVID-19 pandemic created an environment of lockdowns and social distancing that severely impacted our lives the way we knew it; many lives are lost, our (mental) health, economy, jobs, education, social freedom, freedom of movement, unhinged democracy, postponed elections, ....

We want to adapt, we want to continue our political work, mainly working from home, holding meetings online, spreading our green values. Therefore, we will work towards strengthening our digital presence and competences.

## 2. Political priorities

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### **Climate Crisis – Green Recovery**

Throughout 2020, the European Greens played a crucial role in raising the ambition of the European Parliament, and we will continue fighting all together both at National and European level to ensure the European Commission and the Council align with this ambition.

Moreover, 2021 will be decisive in terms of climate ambitions because of the postponed COP 26 at the end of the year, the Green Recovery, Green New Deal, Next Generation EU, MFF; the implementation of the recovery budget will determine if we will be able to achieve the climate targets. Making sure the money is directed towards just transition should be a priority for the Greens.

### **Regional strategies and cohesion within the family**

We will continue prioritising the efforts to strengthen the green message in Southern and Eastern Europe and invest in supporting parties and partners through projects at the level of capacity building and political cooperation.



Corona makes it difficult to be on the ground, but with the online tools we manage to have very recurring contacts with member parties.

In order to keep the cohesion that has always distinguished our political family, we need to also increase the communication and understanding between the member parties; this will be done by joint work on specific policy issues and by increasing exchanges and learning experiences between Greens, especially, but not only, at local level, as past experience and feedback from parties show there is a strong request in this sense.

### **Increase Policy Leadership**

The new EGP Committee established this goal last year, and it's strengthened even more by the fact that the corona crisis imposes on us a collective reflection on how to strengthen our answers in some essential fields, like climate neutrality, work, health, trade and culture.

### **Relations with civil society**

We want to keep on strengthening our ties with the civil society and collaborate with them as we believe only through a strong synergy, based on the respect of the respective roles, with all the forces currently fighting against climate change and for a more just, equal and sustainable society, we can achieve the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves. Moreover, we believe having strong ties with the civil society can be an important element especially in countries where a Green Party is not present and to keep relations with progressive parts of the society outside of EU and beyond Europe as well.

## **3. Tools - Mechanisms**

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### **European Ideas Lab (EIL)**

We will kick off the year 2021 with an online European Ideas Lab, organised in cooperation with Greens/EFA in EP. The main goals of the event are to show what the Greens stand for in the debate around the Recovery Plans and show that the visions we have for a more sustainable future also offer solutions to the current crisis; we want to give space for civil society to give input to us Greens for how the future should look like after Corona.

If the health restrictions allow, we will organise a regional European Ideas Lab in Budapest, Hungary. With this project, we want to strengthen the ties between the European Greens and civil society in the Visegrád 4 countries, and raise awareness of the importance of the fight against climate change and the illiberal tendencies of governments in this region.

Later in 2021, in building up towards the COP26 mobilisation, we foresee setting up a European Ideas Lab within the framework of the climate campaign.

### **Greens in Government**



The number of Greens in national and regional Governments is growing, six since October 2020. This calls for an increased effort to establish consolidated and stable contacts. Cooperation among them is essential.

Moreover, in order to keep internal cohesion of the family and improve the mutual understanding, we consider especially important to strengthen the exchanges between the parties who hold governing responsibilities and the rest of the Green family: especially with growing European-wide public interest, what happens in one country has consequences for the perception of Greens elsewhere.

### **Party Leaders Meetings**

EGP will continue to organise regular online Party Leaders' Meetings on relevant issues on European agenda. These meetings play an important role in informing and consolidating different views and perspectives, and consequently building a stronger cohesion, within the European Greens. The shift to an online format has made them more effective tools in several ways: it allows for more flexible timing as and when the need arises because of urgent developments, and it has broadened the scope of participants compared to purely physical meetings.

### **Policy Lab**

In order to increase the EGP policy reflection around topics where Green answers are needed due to the corona crisis, and beyond, the EGP Committee will start policy labs on the following topics:

- Climate Neutrality
- Future of Work
- Culture
- Health
- Trade (*and the relocalisation of essential production sectors*)

We will also continue the Discussion Group on Climate neutrality in connection to the Climate campaign.

### **Research project**

EGP will commission research to acquire better instruments to understand the context of some member countries (especially in Southern and Eastern Europe) and possibly to support the work of the policy labs.

### **Climate Campaign**

The Climate Campaign will continue its development around its four pillars: supporting and developing the capacities of member parties; work with the local councillor project to continue the development of climate emergencies; cooperation with NGOs to root the EGP as a strong partner; and EU level action for a strong Green Deal. The main goal for 2021 is to have a strong presence (Green Hub) during the postponed COP26 in Glasgow.



## **Fundraising**

Fundraising activities will be tested and integrated within EGP's communications. The first ever EGP fundraising strategy is being finalised towards the end of 2020 and will be implemented in 2021.

## **Tilt! The Changemaking Network**

Tilt! will engage with the community of people who have taken part in its different campaigns, offering tailored content and activities related to the most successful campaigns. Moreover, Tilt! will further explore new tools to grow the database of signees, such as rapid response campaigns (fast-tracked campaigns on very specific issues high on the agenda) and non-featured campaigns organised by external partners and hosted by Tilt!

## **Digital Engagement**

A stronger pillar of our internal and external communication is going to be an enhanced online presence: with the redevelopment of the EGP website as well as increased and professionalised activities in social media channels we will be able to reach out to more people more effectively. This is not only a big step forward in ongoing Corona circumstances but it means that we will be able to engage more easily with communities that would be harder to reach otherwise (such as certain age groups, geographical spread).

## **Translations**

Overall, the EGP Committee wants to invest more into translations by developing a reliable network of freelance translators with the member parties to provide translations and proofreading in line with Green policies.

## **Networks**

Long standing: Gender, LGBTIQ, Local Councillors (Green Cities Conference), ENGS.  
More recent: Disability Network.

Through networks, we are able to enhance the involvement of Member Parties to strengthen the Greens at the national and local level, and provide, promote and transfer Green responses and concrete policies.

More specifically, a strategy towards 2021 is developed for the Local Councillors Network; it will work on two big pillars of the network:

The first is an online platform, where Local Councillors, aldermen, Local Councillor coordinators, find relevant information for their local work. The platform aims at offering them a virtual space where they can find and share information, local campaigns, inspiration, and also get to know each other.

The second pillar of the work of the Local Councillors Network are the exchanges and meetings. Due to the current situation, these will mostly be done online. The overarching theme of these meetings will be the climate emergencies as well as post-covid crisis management. We foresee, if the situation hopefully allows, an in-person event 'Green cities conference' in the second part of the year as a finale of the series.

The dramatically increased use of online exchanges brought upon by the Covid pandemic has led to easier access to and more varied formats of digital meetings and networking. Whilst also recognising their limitations, the EGP Committee sees this as an opportunity for enhanced exchanges between member parties also between Council meetings and encourages members to pursue issues of common interest at European level.

### **Working groups**

The WG Revision of the Allocation of Votes started in autumn 2020 and will continue its work in 2021. Hopefully a proposal can be presented at the first in-person EGP Council that can be organised in 2021, most likely in autumn. The intention is to report any significant findings at the spring Council.

Based on the built-up experience of the previous online Councils online, the Committee will set up a WG to develop a chapter or annex for the EGP Rule Book with meeting rules for online EGP Councils.

The EGP will, together with the delegates and the member parties, organise an exchange of views on the 2019 election campaign, as a starting point for the discussion with the delegates and member parties on the 2024 EU campaign strategy.

## **4. Statutory meetings**

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### **EGP Councils**

The EGP Committee proposes to hold the two Councils in 2021, online or hybrid in the spring, between 29-31 May, and hopefully in-person in autumn, between 3-5 December 2020 (dates and locations to be confirmed).

### **EGP Committee meetings**

In principle, the Committee meetings for 2021 are scheduled every six weeks – retro planned respecting the deadlines for the Council decision making process. In addition, there are additional shorter Committee meetings to enable us to spread the workload and make it more manageable under Corona conditions.

- January 2021
- February 2021



- March 2021
- April 2021
- May 2021 (at spring Council)
- July 2021, retreat
- September 2021
- October 2021
- December 2020 (at autumn Council)

## 5. Support and cooperation with EGP partners

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### **Greens-EFA Group in the European Parliament**

The Committee is pursuing a strong working relationship with the enlarged Greens-EFA Bureau and Group in the European Parliament, seeking to complement each other's work. The EGP will continue to channel in-depth political content to the Member Parties.

### **Federation of Young European Greens – FYEG**

We will continue our enhanced cooperation with FYEG in 2021 and will promote youth issues – the Youth Platform – as a high priority in our political work and transversally through other topics.

The EGP is continuing its financial support to FYEG (as per the statutory agreement in Copenhagen, May 2012). Moreover, we will continue to cooperate with our very committed youth wing on joint activities. We appreciate the high level of campaigns, political debates and trainings they manage to organise.

### **Green European Foundation – GEF**

The Committee continues to build on the strong cooperation with the GEF on transnational activities and highly appreciates their valuable e-training and research capacity as well as the *Green European Journal*. The EGP Committee will continue to channel relevant information to the Member Parties.

### **Global Greens**

The EGP relationship with the Global Greens, with the four federations on four continents as members, will be politically engaged and continued through cooperation on specific European projects. The new (2020) EP rules on financing European political parties changed the way we can contribute financially to the Global Greens. An MoU between the EGP and the Global Greens establishes the new financial and administrative support to the Global Greens.

Preparations have started for the next Global Greens congress, to take place in South Korea and postponed to January 2022. The Asia-Pacific Greens Federation will host the event. The EGP Committee will take an active part in the planning process of this global conference from next year onwards, and will continue to channel relevant information to the Member Parties.



### **European Movement International (EMI)**

EGP is member of EMI since spring 2018. EMI is a key platform in the process of European integration. It brings together civil society organisations, political parties, trade unions and business organisations, local authorities and academia. The EGP Committee continues to monitor the activities of EMI and attends the annual congresses. The EGP Committee has put forward a candidate for the election (November/December 2020) of the new board of the EMI.

## **6. Organisation**

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### **European Political Party (EUPP)**

As an officially registered European political party, the EGP is entitled to apply for European Parliament contributions. The distribution of the total EP contribution to political parties was based on 10 parties. For 2021, the EGP has applied for a contribution based on 57 MEPs within the Green Group in EP.

As an EUPP, the EGP must comply with the rules for financing its activities, as laid down in legislation 1141/2014 and the multiple rules and guidelines adopted by the Bureau of the EP. For the main part, the ‘European’ character of all events and activities organised by the EGP must be apparent, alongside its lead role in every activity and event it organises. Scrutiny by both the EP’s Directorate-General for Finances and the Authority for European Political Parties and European Foundations increases every year.

The EGP Committee has expressed its opposition to and continues to oppose the interpretation of Regulation 1141/2014 which no longer allows the EGP to receive any kind of income (membership fees or donations) from member parties in or citizens of non-EU member states. We will join forces with the other EUPPs to amend this legislation. Despite this regulation, the EGP Committee insists on the pan-European character of the EGP and will continue to explore ways of transcontinental cooperation while respecting the financial rules and guidelines in relation to non-EU members.

### **EGP Office**

Based on the increase in resources the electoral result in 2019 has provided, the EGP’s political ambitions have grown. The EGP has enlarged its team in order to implement the activities and projects that are planned in the best way possible. This growth required a revised office structure, which was developed in close cooperation between the EGP Committee, management, staff representatives and the employees.

In particular, following the EGP communications strategy and more intense orientation towards strengthening our online presence, a full digital team was developed, gathering the competences and expertise necessary to its successful implementation. In addition it will be possible to strengthen in particular the policy work which will benefit all member parties.



## **EGP ACTIVITY PLAN 2021** as adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> EGP Council, 2-6 Dec 2020

The EGP has found new office space that provides suitable working conditions for a larger team. The office was moved to Rue du Taciturne 34, 1000 Brussels, in early May 2020. Though it must be pointed out that the meeting rooms currently most commonly used are provided by Zoom.