



Draft

Title: **Draft EGP Activity Plan 2021**

Tabled by: European Green Party

Draft text

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1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

22

2. Political priorities

23 **Climate Crisis – Green Recovery**

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 **Increase Policy Leadership**

46 The new EGP Committee established this goal last year, and it's strengthened
47 even more by the fact that the corona crisis imposes on us a collective

48 reflection on how to strengthen our answers in some essential fields, like
49 climate neutrality, work, health, trade and culture.

50 **Relations with civil society**

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

59 **3. Tools - Mechanisms**

60 **European Ideas Lab (EIL)**

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

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

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

74 **Greens in Government**

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

78 Moreover, in order to keep internal cohesion of the family and improve the

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

83 **Party Leaders Meetings**

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

91 **Policy Lab**

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

- 95 • Climate Neutrality
- 96 • Future of Work
- 97 • Culture
- 98 • Health
- 99 • Trade (*and therealisation of essential production sectors*)

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

102 **Research project**

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

106 **Climate Campaign**

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

113 **Fundraising**

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

117 **Tilt! The Chagemaking Network**

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

124 **Digital Engagement**

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

132 **Translations**

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

136 **Networks**

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

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

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

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

149
150 The second pillar of the work of the Local Councillors Network are the exchanges
151 and meetings. Due to the current situation, these will mostly be done online.
152 The overarching theme of these meetings will be the climate emergencies as well
153 as post-covid crisis management. We foresee, if the situation hopefully allows,
154 an in-person event 'Green cities conference' in the second part of the year as a
155 finale of the series.

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

162 **Working groups**

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

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

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

173 strategy.

174

4. Statutory meetings

EGP Councils

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

EGP Committee meetings

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

- 184 • January 2021
- 185 • March 2021
- 186 • April 2021
- 187 • May 2021 (at spring Council)
- 188 • July 2021, retreat
- 189 • September 2021
- 190 • October 2021
- 191 • December 2020 (at autumn Council)

5. Support and cooperation with EGP partners

Greens-EFA Group in the European Parliament

193

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

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

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

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

206 **Green European Foundation – GEF**

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

211 **Global Greens**

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

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

223 **European Movement International (EMI)**

224 EGP is member of EMI since spring 2018. EMI is a key platform in the process of
225 European integration. It brings together civil society organisations, political
226 parties, trade unions and business organisations, local authorities and

227 academia. The EGP Committee continues to monitor the activities of EMI and
228 attends the annual congresses. The EGP Committee has put forward a candidate for
229 the election (November/December 2020) of the new board of the EMI.

230

6. Organisation

231 **European Political Party (EUPP)**

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

236 As an EUPP, the EGP must comply with the rules for financing its activities, as
237 laid down in legislation 1141/2014 and the multiple rules and guidelines adopted
238 by the Bureau of the EP.

239 For the main part, the ‘European’ character of all events and activities
240 organised by the EGP must be apparent, alongside its lead role in every activity
241 and event it organises. Scrutiny by both the EP’s Directorate-General for
242 Finances and the Authority for European Political Parties and European
243 Foundations increases every year.

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

252 **EGP Office**

253 Based on the increase in resources the electoral result in 2019 has provided,
254 the EGP’s political ambitions have grown. The EGP has enlarged its team in order
255 to implement the activities and projects that are planned in the best way

256 possible. This growth required a revised office structure, which was developed
257 in close cooperation between the EGP Committee, management, staff
258 representatives and the employees.

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

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