

1. Introduction

This past year, alongside 2020, will be remembered as the pandemic years. We will leave them with great sadness for lost lives, with compassion and support to those whose livelihoods took a toll, and with determination to counter the challenges brought to light by COVID-19 in our societies, democracies, and neighbourhoods.

However, in the meantime, the Greens have not been resting. The number of Greens in government has increased by joining six EU governments and one non-EU. German Greens won an historical 14.8% of the vote, indicating that Europe's most populated country and biggest economy is not settling for the status quo but is demanding environmental and social transition, most likely under a government that will also include the Greens. We have also achieved historical and best-ever results in several local elections Europe-wide, putting cities at the heart of the transition, change and hope. Green parties across the continent have seen a surge in their membership, growing not only in numbers but also in diversity and competences.

Climate marches have continued to gain traction among EU citizens. Solidarity has been mobilised on many different issues, condemning attacks on media freedom, LGBTIQ and women rights, calling for action on migration issues, and improving the labour rights of essential workers. Connecting the struggles, making actions complementary, and sharing the responsibility for change among institutional politics, civil society and citizens has never been so needed, nor so present and inspiring.

We will continue to draw energy and inspiration from tireless Greens across Europe and, together with our Member parties and partners, will invest in actions that take us a step closer to our vision of a Greener Europe. We will continue to adapt to the post-pandemic world, combining what we have acquired as knowledge and experience during lockdowns, and will invest with enthusiasm in regaining ground for truly European Green political work.

2. Political priorities

- Climate crisis and green recovery – two topics that encompass almost every aspect of our lives today were instrumental in the campaigns the EGP conducted with its Member parties last year. Supported by the Green Group in the European Parliament and the Federation of Young European Greens, we built a bridge between national and European debates and provided structural and political support to the Greens Europe-wide. We will continue to do this in these two areas as they are not only topics per se but also provide a political framework to advocate for Green policies.

- Increasing policy leadership – with Greens rising in the polls and taking more responsibilities in both local and national governments, the Green agenda is also getting bigger with more and more of our principles being turned into concrete policies with ensuing actions. Together with other actors, like the Green European Foundation, we will continue to invest in harvesting and disseminating experiences and knowledge throughout the ‘family’. Moreover, we have seen that for some topics now moving up the legislative agendas, we as Greens do not yet have a common or final position. This is a great opportunity for the EGP to become the platform for safe-space discussions, and the advancement and refining of the Greens’ positions.
- Member parties’ relations after COVID-19 – the pandemic years have taken a toll and pushed us into an exclusively online working mode. While we have remained efficient, we also acknowledge that a lot of knowledge, initiatives and political momentum have been lost. We would like to invest more in building further relations both with and among Member parties, thereby diversifying the channels of cooperation. We see this as an important investment for the future, with growing Green movements, an enlarged European political space, and the upcoming European elections.
- Regional strategies and the [Local Councillors Network](#) – whereas we see a rise in the Green electorate and number of Greens in government at the national level, Greens are maintaining their stronghold at both the regional and local level. We will continue to invest in and support Local Councillors through the established and growing Network, making sure there is no Local Green organisation too small to feel European. We will advance common knowledge on policies, initiatives and available resources, and open the channels for mutual support within the Local Councillors Network while continuing to support the Green Cities concept as the recognisable political brand connected to the Green parties and politicians.

Part of our focus will be on the regions and cross-border cooperation, acknowledging and supporting the initiatives our Member parties conduct, and enriching them with a European perspective.

We will also maintain our active approach to supporting the Europe’s Eastern and Southern regions, investing in supporting the parties and partners through projects at the level of capacity building and political cooperation. We have been motivated by positive changes in some countries in these regions, proving that there is an appetite, support and commitment here for the Green agenda and politics.

- Relations with civil society – we will continue to provide and enlarge the platform for exchange and cooperation with civil society, activists and changemakers across Europe.

Looking for strong synergy in priority fields, based on the respect of the different respective roles, is essential to ensure that the Greens’ agenda is at the forefront, giving our policies and solutions a wide legitimacy. Having strong ties with civil society is an important element, especially in countries where currently there is no Green Party. We will also keep relations with progressive parts of society outside the EU, and beyond Europe, in line with our commitment to global solidarity and cooperation with the global Greens.

3. Tools – Mechanisms

- **Greens in government**

The number of Greens in national and regional governments is growing: six since October 2020, and one more in the pipeline. Cooperation among them is essential. This calls for a greater effort to establish consolidated and stable contacts.

Moreover, in order to maintain the internal cohesion of the family and improve mutual understanding, we feel it is particularly important to strengthen the exchanges between those parties who hold governing responsibilities and the rest of the Green family – especially with the growing European-wide public interest, what happens in one country has consequences for the perception of the Greens elsewhere. These exchanges are held very effectively in online meetings.

When it comes to Green coordination on the European institutional agenda, the EGP contributes to strengthening exchanges under the steer of the Green/EFA group in the EP.

- **Party leaders' meetings**

The EGP will continue to organise regular online party leaders' meetings on relevant issues on the European agenda. These meetings play an important role in informing and consolidating different views and perspectives, and consequently building stronger cohesion within the European Greens. Organising them online has made them more effective by enabling more flexible timing in response to urgent developments and broadening the scope of participants compared to in-person meetings. However, if the need arises to address more sensitive topics, which require more time and in-person presence, the meetings may be organised physically.

- **Local Councillors Network – Green Cities Conference**

Historically, Greens have always been strong at the local level. With the Green wave sweeping through Europe, it is even more important to tap into this rich resource of local knowledge. There is so much to learn from each other.

The [Local Councillors platform](#), which was launched in spring 2021, is designed to exchange information, inspiration and resources around the work of local councillors. The platform offers various features, such as a live feed, topical groups, share your projects, and basically informs how to find fellow local councillors; it is also available as the 'European Green Councillors' app. In 2022, the activities on this platform will be further developed together with Green local councillors.

The Network will host regular meetings with Green Local Councillors using, among others, the Green Cities Conference project, and will contribute transversally to other EGP events. There will also be a special focus on supporting and organising exchanges among Green mayors.

- **Policy labs**

To increase EGP policy reflection around topics where Green responses are required, the EGP Committee will continue the policy labs – providing an online Green space for discussion among the Green family tackling relevant topics.

This is a way to engage and reach out to harvest the knowledge and expertise from the Member parties.

While policy labs provide a platform for internal debate on and development of Green policies, they also feed into the Green Talking Heads project which has a more external focus.

- **Campaigns**

- **Climate Campaign**

A new strategic period for the campaign will open (post-COP26) alongside a new operational stage – with an opportunity to organise physical classical campaign events more regularly. The strategic direction will be developed once the results of COP26 are known, and a possible climate resolution will be adopted at the 34th Council, although the stakeholder-based approach (Member parties, civil society organisations, Local Councillors Network) will be continued along the existing strands of the campaign.

The EU institutional agenda, in particular the evolution of the Fit-for-55 package, will also inform the direction of the campaign.

- **Green Recovery Campaign**

In the current EU recovery implementation phase, several Member States have received their first instalments and the Commission is set to scrutinise the implementation progress and compliance on a regular basis until 2026. This provides a long-term opportunity not only to continue with the existing promotional and policy-support activities, but also to gain a real-time insight and provide effective support where it is needed most. To stay on top of the debate, the EGP will continue to follow this work and cooperate with the Greens/EFA Recovery WG.

In 2022, the Green Recovery Campaign will continue to build and strengthen relationships and cooperation with interested Member parties, especially in the south and east of Europe, by providing an opportunity to enrich their work on the post-pandemic ecological, social and just recovery, offering communication and content support to concrete projects and nurturing the EU-level perspective and Green narrative where needed and requested.

As a first step, the project can commission studies on the social dimension of recovery spending to evaluate if and to what extent the national plans are addressing the crucial need for a just transition and are moving away from an established economic paradigm towards more socially oriented governance. The initial exploratory possibilities are already in progress.

- **Trans-inclusive Feminist Campaign**
The EGP Council adopted the resolution on trans rights in 2020, agreeing on an ambitious action plan to support them. In 2022, we will build a feminist campaign based on that resolution which aims to include a trans rights focus. Together with our Member parties, through the Gender and Queer network and in cooperation with expert advocacy NGOs, we would like to enlarge the scope of Green political support in the field.
- In addition, as part of the SOLIDAR network, the EGP will engage in their **Just Transition** campaign to the benefit of Member parties and the Green agenda.
- **Research project**
The EGP will continue carrying out and commissioning research to acquire better tools to understand the context of the Green political space in Europe in an effort to better support its Member parties and to prepare for the 2024 European elections.
- **Fund-raising**
Fund-raising activities will be tested and integrated within the EGP's communications. Experimentation will continue and will open up to a new type of activities (in-person activities) along with the continued work on donors' engagement.
- **Tilt! – The Changemaking Network**
Tilt! will engage with the communities who have taken part in its different campaigns, offering tailored content and activities related to the most successful campaigns. Moreover, Tilt! will further explore ways to support Member parties and their aims by running campaigns on key Green topics in various parts of Europe and cooperating closely with Member parties around key moments. The Network continues to use the existing tools – such as rapid-response campaigns and Tilt! By You – to engage with a broader community of citizens and push for Green policies.
- **Cooperation events with Member parties**
The dramatically increased use of online exchanges brought about by COVID-19 has led to easier access to and more varied formats for digital meetings and networking. The EGP Committee sees this as an opportunity for enhanced exchanges among Member parties as well as between Council meetings and encourages members to pursue issues of common interest at the European level:
 - Online and in-person training, capacity events; within the remit of EP rules.

- Networks – through networks, we are able to enhance the involvement of Member parties to strengthen the Greens at both the national and local level, and provide, promote and transfer Green responses and concrete policies.

Long-standing EGP Networks: Gender, LGBTIQ, Local Councillors (Green Cities Conference), ENGS, and more recently, the Disability Network.

- Working Group – EGP Rule Book comprehensive update
The EGP Rule Book (2011) needs to be modernised and better suited to our current profile and the Party's political capacity and performance. Changes will be thoroughly discussed with Member parties through the working group that the Committee will call for.
- Outstanding task – the extensive evaluation of the 2019 campaign was postponed due to the pandemic. In 2022, we will pursue this task to find out the lessons to be learned in order to be better prepared for the 2024 campaign.

- **Outreach events:**

- EILs: European ideas labs continue to be our strongest tool for reaching European civil society. EILs provide the opportunity for direct contact and exchange between Green politicians, activists and NGOs. They help to increase the understanding of shared struggles at the local and European level, demonstrating the innovation and inclusiveness of the methodology. EILs are platforms for cooperation which contribute to the change in the attitude/perceptions of activists/civil society – increasing the trust – towards Green politicians/parties and planting the seeds for future cooperation.

In 2022, the EGP will organise regional EIL events, connected to the regional strategies, in cooperation with our partners GGEP and GEF, and with the Member parties. Their focus, size and scope will be determined according to the interests, capacities, and political priorities of the stakeholders mentioned.

- Green Talking Heads: Inspired by the work in the policy labs to equip the Greens with new skills in targeted policy areas, the Green Talking Heads project was launched in June 2021, aiming to enhance the perceived competencies in certain areas towards external audiences. In 2021, roughly 10 Policy Lab-related packages are being published on the topics of health, future of work, culture and climate, the main outputs being podcasts, articles and social media material on relevant topics.

In 2022, this project will continue to rely on the policy labs but will also strive to explore policy areas beyond its current scope in order to offer the targeted audiences a broader variety of proven resources. It will remain a platform for policy deliberations in the internal EGP and Member parties' context and an established and relevant outlet for Green politicians and supporters across Europe to promote their work and best practices at the European level and with EGP branding.

The ambition for 2022 is to become a go-to-source for Green actors looking for quality content, information on the latest developments in the respective policy areas, a Green perspective, and an optimistic, non-conventional and forward-looking approach.

- The Green Screen: This project was launched with the aim of promoting the key messages of the EGP resolution [Coronavirus Recovery: let's build a better tomorrow](#), adopted at the 31st EGP Council in June 2020. Between July 2021 and March 2022, eight virtual movie screenings are planned covering the main topics of the resolutions, and each followed by a debate.

After finalising the series on Coronavirus Recovery, other themes will be explored to foster political discussions inspired by cinematic experiences. This will enable us to continue contributing to European debates in a creative and original way, and to reach new audiences. Through this project, we are supporting filmmakers, artists and cultural-sector workers who have been hit hard by the pandemic. At the same time, we are sending a message that culture and art are important in our daily lives and can bring about social change.

- 50th anniversary of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment: We will use this anniversary to highlight the importance of international conferences and cooperation needed to address the current climate emergency. Although environmental struggles have never been so necessary, they are still far from being prioritised as the urgency demands.

- **Digital engagement**

A stronger pillar of the EGP's internal and external communication is an enhanced online presence, following the redevelopment of the EGP website as well as more professionalised activities on social media channels, enabling us to reach out to more people more effectively:

- Website: the development of the new website and the integrated digital strategy will continue after the consultation phase at the end of 2021. The goal is to have the new website launched in S2 2022 which will ready us for the next European election campaign.
- Community management and engagement: as laid out in the Communication Strategy adopted in September 2020, EGP communications should seek to be more two-ways and participatory, developing our approach from the purely one-way broadcast model. The work to explore and experiment with active community engagement will continue into 2022.
- Press work: a new press action plan was adopted by the Committee in July 2021 and will be followed by the recruitment of a full-time press officer in charge of its implementation. It focuses on new innovative ways to involve journalists in particular in cooperation with Member parties during visits and missions.
- Cooperation with Member parties at the communication level will be reinforced by relaunching the Communications and Network meeting in 2022, as well as more regular bilateral exchanges.

- Data analysis: with a data analyst in the EGP office now, we have the means to become a more data-driven party. With data collected and analysed from our political communications, events, projects and Tilt!, we aim to further increase our understanding of how to boost the EGP's political impact based on such data. This is a long-term process that we are starting to explore.

- **Translations**

Overall, the EGP Committee wants to continue investing in translations by developing a reliable network of freelance translators with the Member parties to provide translations and proof-reading in line with Green policies.

4. Statutory meetings

- **EGP Council – EGP Congress**

The EGP Committee proposes to hold its 35th Council in spring 2022, between 3-5 June, and its 6th Congress in autumn, between 4-6 December 2022. Hopefully, the COVID-19 pandemic will remain sufficiently under control to enable both events to be held in person (venues to be confirmed).

The Council is the EGP's highest decision-making body and will decide on its policies and resolutions, as will the EGP Congress, which is an enlarged Council.

The 35th Council will elect a new EGP Committee for the period spring 2022 to autumn 2024. The new Committee will be charged with organising the 2024 election campaign.

The 6th Congress will be the largest gathering of the European Green family before the European Greens go into election-campaign mode. In particular, after the pandemic-induced online councils, meeting up with the whole European Green family again will be a special experience.

- **EGP Committee meetings**

In principle, the Committee meetings for 2022 are scheduled every six weeks – they are retro planned, taking into account the deadlines for the Council and Congress decision-making process. In addition, the Committee arranges shorter Committee meetings which enable them to spread the workload and to deal with urgent matters. Provisional dates (to be confirmed):

- 21-22 January 2022
- 11 February 2022
- 4-5 March 2022

- 1 April 2022
- 22-23 April 2022
- 13 May 2022
- 2 June 2022 (at the spring Council, 3-5 June)
- 1-3 July 2022, retreat of the new EGP Committee
- 16-17 September 2022
- 30 September 2022
- 21-22 October 2022
- 18 November 2022
- 1 December 2022 (at Congress, 2-4 December).

5. Support and cooperation with EGP partners

- **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 the FYEG in 2022 and will promote youth issues – the Youth Platform – as a top 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.

- **Green European Foundation – GEF**

The Committee continues to build on the strong cooperation with the GEF on transnational activities, e-training and research capacity as well as on the *Green European Journal*. It will continue to channel all relevant information to Member parties.

- **Global Greens**

The EGP's relationship with the Global Greens, with the membership of four federations on four continents, will be politically engaged and continued through cooperation on specific European projects.

The Global Greens' congress, originally planned for 2022, has been postponed again until spring 2023 when it will be held in Seoul, South Korea.

To bridge the gap between the previous congress (Liverpool, 2017) and the event in 2023, the Global Greens are organising an event in February 2022: 'Connecting for Green Action'. This 24-hour virtual event will span all continents, with the four Green federations expected to take responsibility for parts of the programme. The EGP will be active in the organisational aspects of the conference as well as sharing knowledge on the

organisation of online conferences. This close cooperation will continue throughout the year as preparations for the 2023 congress progress.

- **European Movement International (EMI)**

The EGP has been member of the EMI since spring 2018. The EMI is a key platform in the process of European integration, bringing together civil society organisations, political parties, trade unions and business organisations, local authorities and academia. The EGP Committee continues to monitor its activities. The EGP will actively participate in EMI statutory meetings and events while supporting Greens on the EMI board and political committees.

6. Organisation

European Political Party (EUPP)

As an officially registered European political party, the EGP is entitled to apply for European Parliament contributions. In 2021, the distribution of the total EP contribution to political parties (EUR 42 million) was focused on 10 parties. For 2022, the EGP has applied for a contribution based on 59 MEPs within the Green Group in the 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 EP Bureau.

For the main part, the 'European' character of all events and activities organised or co-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 is very thorough and tends to increase every year.

In previous years, the EGP Committee expressed its opposition to certain provisions in Regulation 1141/2014. In view of a possible reform of the said regulation, the EP will adopt an evaluation report on it this year. We have given our input via the Greens/EFA in the EP as to which provisions should be kept and which should be changed.

EGP Office

Following the electoral success of the Greens in the European elections in 2019 and the growing budget for EUPPs, the EGP's resources continue to increase, enabling further growth of our political ambitions. The EGP has consolidated its unit teams in order to implement the planned activities and projects in the best way possible. Special emphasis has been placed on enlarging both the communication team and the programme unit in charge of our events.

Adhering strictly to the official Brussels COVID-19 measures, EGP staff continued to telework (state of play in November 2021). With the pandemic situation gradually improving, we are preparing a working mode which will allow employees to combine telework with work in the office. Efforts have been made to equip the EGP office and meeting rooms for hybrid meetings, and once again we are now ready to receive on our premises visitor groups and working groups from the Greens/EFA and our European Green family, thereby developing our office into the Green hub in Brussels.