



2021

Annual report



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) is a sustainability think tank.

Working with stakeholders across EU institutions, international bodies, academia, civil society and industry, our team of economists, scientists and lawyers produce evidence-based research and policy insight.

Our work spans nine research areas and covers both short-term policy issues and long-term strategic studies. As a not-for-profit organisation with over 40 years of experience, we are committed to advancing impact-driven sustainability policy across the EU and the world.

For more information about IEEP, visit www.ieep.eu or follow us on Twitter @IEEP_eu and LinkedIn.

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This report covers IEEP's financial reporting period from June 2020 to June 2021.

Foreword from the Executive Director

2021 proved to be an extremely challenging year for all of us. The threat of COVID-19 joined the persistent menace of climate change and brought the world's attention towards the debate on a green recovery and building back better. As the IPCC warned in August, the devastating effects of human activity on the Earth's climate system have already caused irreversible consequences that the next generations will be forced to face. In January 2021, Brexit officially became a reality, setting new social, political and economic rules for the relations between the EU and the UK.

In this context, even though the EU set ambitious goals for the next decades, among them the promise to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, the struggle to guarantee the handover of an inhabitable planet to future generations proves to be more and more difficult. This is why, during 2020 and 2021, IEEP continued to work to engage and inform EU policymakers and to provide them with evidence-based policy recommendations.

Think Sustainable Europe, IEEP's Membership network that was launched as a parallel dialogue platform to Think2030 in 2019, has grown to now twelve member organisations across Europe and is evolving into a strong network of think tanks and institutes devoted to sustainability. With them, IEEP will continue its dialogue with European and national institutional partners to contribute to the European Green Deal implementation until and beyond 2024.



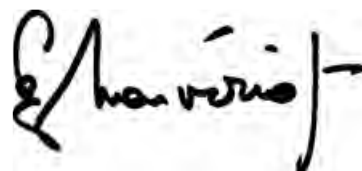
Céline Charveriat
Executive Director, IEEP

This is the spirit in which we will continue to work throughout 2022, that will see the publication of our next monitoring report of the **European Green Deal**, as well as the third edition of the Think2030 conference. The second edition of the Think2030 Conference took place online in November 2020, co-organised by the Ecologic Institute, IEEP and the TMG Think Tank. The focus of the conference was "Harnessing the European Green Deal to address the climate crisis: Anticipating risks, fostering resilience", and involved over 100 policy experts from European think tanks, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector, in all the 27 Member States. During the conference, IEEP and Think Sustainable Europe members published and presented 12 policy papers with concrete recommendations on achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal, from circular economy to biodiversity and nature-based solutions, from digitalisation to EU environmental sovereignty and security.

In light of this, the development of Europe's sustainability goals, which we actively and proudly contributed to shaping, continued to represent a symbol of excellence and trustworthiness for IEEP, which celebrated 45 years of activity in 2021. In the approach to European environmental policy, IEEP has recently decided to put people's wellbeing at the forefront. We have developed various projects to assess the societal and health-related (both physical and mental) impacts of climate change on European citizens, contributing to push for the inclusion of the concept of "wellbeing economy" in the EU 8th Environmental Action Plan – which will determine the steadiness, efficiency and implementation of the green transition until 2030. In the next years, IEEP will continue on this track to ensure that the transition to a cleaner,

greener and healthier society is not only efficient but also socially just, to encompass all of the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030.

These are our waypoints for the next years. Through an enthusiastic community, quality research and unwavering hope, IEEP and its network will continue to advise, influence and shape EU policymaking – and, through it, decision makers worldwide – to ensure that the sustainability agenda is advanced.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Harvati", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Foreword from the Chair of the Board

In many respects, the past year was, yet again, extraordinary for IEEP. The story is well known. COVID forced IEEP's staff, Board and partners to work remotely most of the time with the many challenges associated with it. Consequently, the IEEP Board was unable to meet in person. The Think2030 conference had to be held online, compromising the unique aspects of live events such as networking and social gatherings. This was the standard for most of us.

But COVID was not the only feature of 2021; it was also the year of a pivotal COP for the climate, the year of the actual kick-off of the Green Deal implementation with the launch of the Fit For 55 package, and the year of the adoption of the national recovery and resilience plans which are supposedly key instruments of the transition.

Despite the many challenges triggered by the pandemic, IEEP managed to foster the organisation's development at the EU level and to revitalise work in its UK office. This year was one of a kind.

This annual report offers a comprehensive overview of how IEEP managed to stick to its strategic objective to ensure that Europe is on track for the Green Deal and SDG implementation by 2030. It highlights major achievements in the past year, shedding light on some of our major research work, for instance, on the EU circular economy, trade and climate justice. Or again, I could mention the 'Building on Nature' action-oriented guidance, in



Hans Wolters

Chairman, IEEP

London Board & AISBL Board

cooperation with WWF, IUCN, the World Bank and UNDP, focusing on how conservation fosters the UN sustainability goals; and the European Green Deal Barometer offering sharp analyses on the barriers and opportunities for the Green Deal implementation.

Despite the difficulties and challenges, we were able to maintain our quality standards; continued to provide reliable information; collected, developed and presented scientific findings from European and international sources; disseminated the results of our work and developed further our Think Sustainable Europe network with new members from Spain, Poland, Greece and Switzerland (and four more by the end of 2021).

The IEEP Board is strongly convinced that sustainability think tanks such as IEEP and its membership network Think Sustainable Europe are needed to counterbalance misinformation, respond to the lack of political will and put new ideas to European and national policymakers. IEEP Board is

equally convinced that a strong presence in the United Kingdom with a dedicated office in London can help keep the United Kingdom as close as possible to the progressive European environmental policies and regulations, and vice-versa.

As we hoped they would, our donors supported us again this year. Our Strategic Advisory Council members and Associates continued working with us and our partners intensified cooperation. The IEEP Board wants to explicitly thank them for that. Also, we want to note that our Executive Director and the whole of IEEP's staff did a remarkably good job this year despite the difficulties linked to the pandemic. The Board acknowledges their exceptional resilience and work in a unique period, together with their enormous commitment, and intends to continue steering and supporting that work both in Europe and in the UK. Our hope is that all this work contributes to a greener, more sustainable and more socially just future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. W. K.', followed by a horizontal line.

Governance



IEEP AISBL and IEEP London Board

The governing and legal body of IEEP is the Board of Directors for IEEP AISBL and the Board of Trustees for IEEP London. IEEP AISBL and IEEP London boards meet jointly between three and four times a year to discuss priorities and make sure that IEEP delivers its mission effectively and respects financial sustainability criteria. The Directors and Trustees are all unpaid volunteers, each contributing with their substantial experience from their own walk of life.

The Boards of IEEP London and IEEP AISBL each have their own independent members, but also members who sit on both boards. Board members attend the meetings of both organisations but may vote independently as needed. In 2020 and 2021, IEEP had seven Board members. The Joint Board is led by the Chair, Hans Wolters, and the Vice-Chair, Tricia Henton, who are members of both boards.

The members of the Boards are:

- **Hans Wolters**, Chairman of IEEP London Board & AISBL Board
- **Tricia Henton**, Vice-Chair of IEEP London Board & AISBL Board
- **Dale Chadwick**, Member of IEEP London Board & AISBL Board
- **Natalia Danailov**, Member of AISBL Board
- **Roberto Ferrigno**, Member of AISBL Board
- **Adam Gillingham**, Member of IEEP London Board
- **Malini Mehra**, Member of IEEP London Board

IEEP Strategic Advisory Council

IEEP's Strategic Advisory Council was established to provide IEEP with accurate and diverse insights on European environmental policy. The Council consists of highly respected and accomplished individuals with a background in science, law, academia, and/or governance, who have been appointed by IEEP's management and board for a four-year term.

Members of this honorary assembly provide input and inspiration on new projects and activities and give feedback on the political and societal implications of the institute's pursuits. The Strategic Advisory Council is expected to advise on the institute's strategic priorities and external accountability issues linked to transparency and independence, as well as to evaluate IEEP's impact in line with its mandate.

The Council is headed by Sirpa Pietikäinen, Member of the European Parliament and former Minister of the Environment of Finland, who also serves as an Honorary Chair of IEEP.

Members of the Council include:

- Andrea Kohl
- Sandrine Dixon-Declève
- Christian Hey
- Tim Grabel
- Derek Osborn
- Yann Ollivier
- Domingo Jiménez Beltrán
- David Stanners
- Nick Molho
- Claudia Dias Soares
- Petros Fassoulas
- Ralph Hallo



Our strategy

In a European political context marked by the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, an acceleration in environmental degradation and increased political polarisation, the need for evidence-based policymaking is greater than ever. The year 2020-2021 was crucial for the kick start of the Green Deal implementation, the most ambitious, transformative and systemic agenda of the EU to date, with the publication of many key initiatives, strategies and legislative proposals, for which IEEP provided expertise, science-based analysis and capacity building.

The successful implementation of the European Green Deal requires organisations like IEEP to break silos and step up to identify issues and create cooperation across planetary boundaries and sectors.

At a time when the neutrality of scientists and experts is questioned, the voice of an independent sustainability think tank like IEEP working within the policy-science interface is critical to:

- Fill knowledge gaps by identifying key areas where the current EU policymaking process is failing to make progress and provide science-based analysis;
- Support policymakers in creating evidence-based pro-environmental reforms, emphasising broader social and economic benefits;
- Bring together key decision-makers to reach a new consensus on effective ways forward;
- Address time gaps between policymaking and the production of scientific knowledge;
- Raise awareness through strategic communications amongst key stakeholders.

Building on its achievements to date, IEEP expanded the scope of its programmes to focus on new, emerging issues in European environmental policymaking, for example actively engaging in the discussion on sustainable finance and supporting “trickle-up governance” through evidence-based consensus building among key sustainability change markers across Europe.

IEEP’s central contribution for the upcoming years will be to ensure that Europe’s post-2020 agenda is designed and implemented to foster a transition towards sustainable living within the means of our planet and in line with the SDGs, focusing on the following goals:

- **Prosperity** – by translating Europe’s vision for a new low-carbon and resource-efficient production and consumption model into action;
- **Nature** – by embarking on a post-2020 ambitious and credible pathway ‘of Europe’s ecosystems;
- **Well-being** – by promoting a European vision for a people-centred sustainability transition for better health, and social justice, which leaves no one behind;
- **Peace and security** – by ensuring the EU supports a worldwide transition towards greater sustainability



**Think
Sustainable
Europe
& Think2030**

Think Sustainable Europe

In 2019, IEEP AISBL became a membership organisation by creating a pan-European network of think tanks, Think Sustainable Europe (TSE), that supports evidence-based decision-making on sustainability in Europe and at the national level. As the first and only established European network of think tanks on sustainability, IEEP and its members complement debates and engage key decision-makers to increase the ambition of the Council and other policymakers on the European Green Deal.

The key strength of Think Sustainable Europe is to monitor the implementation of the Green Deal legislation in the Member States and beyond, providing scientific advice and policy recommendations on sustainability issues at both the national and Brussels level.

Members of the network are non-profit entities established in a European country, with a track record of excellent research in the field of environmental policy and a willingness to support the objectives of the membership.

The financial year 2021 was a year of expansion of the network; at the end of December 2021, TSE counted 13 members (IEEP included):

Ecologic Institute
Germany

TMG Research gGmbH
Germany

Asoc. BC3 Basque Centre for Climate
Change – BC3
Spain

Institut du Développement Durable et des
Relations Internationales – IDDRI
France

International Institute for Sustainable
Development – IISD
Switzerland

The Green Tank
Greece

Stockholm Environment Institute – SEI
Sweden

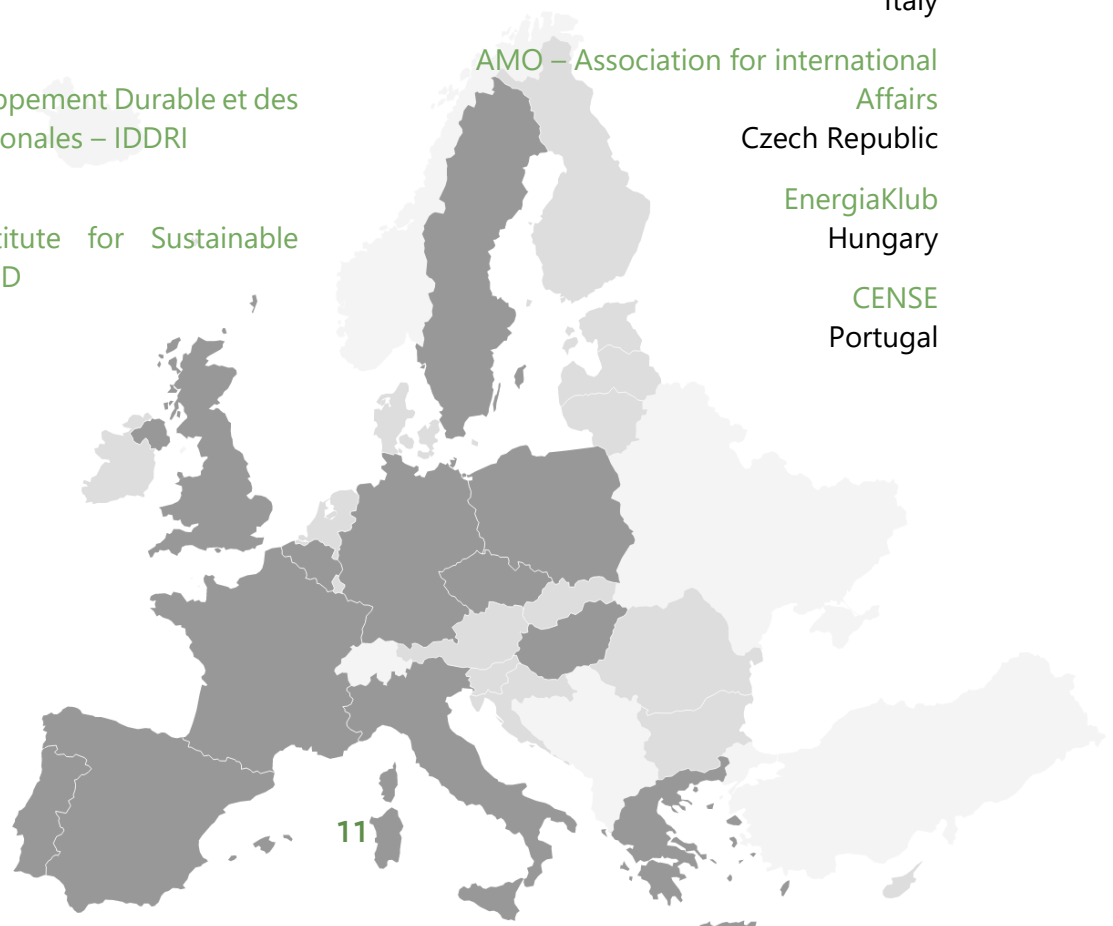
WiseEuropa
Poland

Fondazione per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile
Italy

AMO – Association for international
Affairs
Czech Republic

EnergiaKlub
Hungary

CENSE
Portugal



Think2030

Think Sustainable Europe is the idea generator behind Think2030, an evidence-based, non-partisan platform of leading policy experts from European think tanks, civil society, the private sector and local authorities. The platform meets once every two years and organises preparatory events toward the bi-annual conference (usually in the country of the rotating EU Council Presidency, with the support of the TSE member based in that country).

Through this platform, IEEP and the other members of the network share knowledge in the EU and produce evidence-based solutions on topics established by the network and related to some of the most recent and relevant concerns.



THINK 2030

Science-policy
solutions for a more
sustainable Europe

The 2020 edition of the Think2030 conference took place online and was co-organised by the Ecologic Institute, IEEP and the TMG Think Tank. The conference focused on “climate-neutral and sustainable planet for all” and involved more than 100+ policy experts from European think tanks, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector, in all the 27 EU Member States. IEEP and TSE members delivered 12 papers with recommendations on achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Today, Think2030 is engaging key decision-makers with a common goal to increase their ambition on the Green Deal implementation at the EU and national level. The European Green Deal Barometer survey report, launched in 2021, identifies the challenges to the Green Deal implementation and provides policy recommendations for addressing them. The new edition will be published in the summer of 2022. This publication builds on an EU-wide consultation of sustainability experts in governments, NGOs, academia, research institutes and the private sector.



Work areas





Area 1

Putting a clean planet for all at the centre of EU policies

To be successful, the EU 2050 Long-Term Strategy on climate and energy has to be at the centre of most of the policy frameworks of the European Union. The Strategy aims to make Europe a leader in global climate action by providing a vision of the economic and societal transformations necessary to achieve the transition to net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. For such a transition to happen, all sectors of the economy and society need to link with other environmental challenges. Building greater coherence between the Long-Term Strategy and other key environmental policy files will be crucial to ensure the success of the strategy.

In this area, in 2020-2021 IEEP has worked towards:

- Ensuring that circular economy 2.0 fully supports the Long-Term Strategy;
- Promoting the transition of the EU agriculture sector towards a resilient and Paris-compatible future;
- Identifying synergies and dilemmas between the post-2020 biodiversity framework and the Long-Term Strategy;
- Helping cities and private sector companies identify synergies and dilemmas between different decarbonisation pathways and other planetary boundaries;
- Analysing the EU's climate and biodiversity budget tracking methodology and suggesting improvements.

The work in this area was led by Tim Gore, Andrew Farmer, Emma Watkins, Jesus Urios, Antoine Lucic, Thorfinn Stainforth, Martin Nesbit, Anna Lorant, Lisa Kopsieker and Erik Gerritsen.

Highlights



Study for the European Parliament (July 2020)

A deal on the budget and recovery plan is welcome – but will it deliver the promised 30% for the climate? This blog draws some lessons from IEEP's new report for the European Parliament on climate mainstreaming.

[Download the study](#)

Policy brief (February 2021)

This briefing provides an overview of the wide range of socio-economic benefits that nature-based solutions can achieve alongside addressing the intertwined climate change and biodiversity loss crises.

[Download the brief](#)



Launch event (March 2021)

A breakfast briefing to launch the Think2030 paper 'A low-carbon and circular industry for Europe' on the opportunities for the circular economy to reduce the EU's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with three of its most carbon-intensive sectors: the built environment, mobility, and food.

[Watch the event](#)

Policy paper (March 2021)

This paper draws lessons from cities in Poland about how they have implemented their climate policy planning to date, as well as the degree to which socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, health, and wellbeing are taken into account in this process.

[Read the paper](#)





Area 2

Making the EU the engine of innovation for sustainability

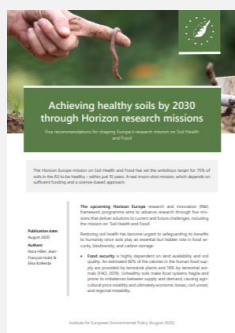
Innovation is a key component of a successful sustainability transition in Europe. Bolstering innovation for sustainability would enable the successful implementation of a number of current policies and would contribute to shaping policies to come, through a strengthened science-policy interface. Our main goal during the 2020-2021 period was to contribute to the sustainability proofing of research and innovation within Europe in alignment with the EGD and SDGs objectives.

In this area, IEEP has worked towards:

- Developing a stronger science-policy interface to create a policy demand for innovation;
- Supporting the emergence of a common, evidence-based narrative for innovation for sustainability, which addresses societal concerns, through our participation in the EC's high-level group ESIR;
- Contributing to the thematic creation of the EU Horizon Europe Mission on soil through the participation in the Mission Assembly;
- Ensuring coherent and robust sustainability criteria development for the EU Taxonomy through the work on the Platform on Sustainable Finance;
- Aligning agricultural research and innovation funding to sustainability

The work in this area was led by Anna Lorant, Gauthier Scheffer, Elisa Kollenda, Nora Hiller, Faustine Bas-Defossez, Ben Allen, Jean-Francois Hulot and Céline Charveriat.

Highlights



Recommendations (August 2020)

The Horizon Europe mission on Soil Health and Food has set the ambitious target for 75% of soils in the EU to be healthy – within just 10 years. A real moon-shot mission, which depends on sufficient funding and a science-based approach.

[Download the paper](#)

Policy paper (October 2020)

This paper examines the returns on investment in EU agricultural Research & Innovation (R&I), outlining the multi-faceted societal, economic, and environmental benefits as well as the current limitations of measuring returns.

[Download the paper](#)



Public consultation (May 2021)

Healthy multifunctional soils are key to put the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy into action. In light of the consultation on the new Soil Strategy, IEEP puts forward three main recommendations to ensure soils are adequately considered and protected in future EU initiatives. Launch event (March 2021)

[Download the paper](#)



Literature review (June 2021)

In creating a sustainable and healthy food system, reducing the pressure on the environment is key. As a non-chemical and targeted input, biocontrol can offer a systemic and balanced solution for sustainable agriculture. This new report explores the benefits of biocontrol and the role it could play in the implementation of the European Green Deal.

[Download the report](#)



Area 3



Supporting a Europe-wide transition towards sustainable food systems

The European Union must transform its food system to achieve the EU's long term sustainability goal of 'living well, within the limits of the planet' by 2050. Tackling production as a whole, across silos and policies, requires looking at policies affecting food choices.

On the production side, reducing the environmental impacts of the farm and food system requires more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, changes in production methods and a reduction of environmental risks by phasing out the use of harmful chemicals throughout the food chain. It also needs a new and sustainable approach to consumption.

The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) strongly influences the development of food and farming systems in Europe. In 2020-2021 it was going through intense negotiations, reaching a final political agreement at the EU level in June 2021. IEEP was active in providing analysis of the negotiations in support of putting strong accountability, governance and robust monitoring in place in addition to robust transparency rules around the drafting of the strategic plans at the national level.

In this area, IEEP has worked towards:

- Strengthening the environmental/ climate ambition and impact of the CAP;
- Changing mindsets for a genuine result orientated CAP in the Member States;
- Ensuring effective participation from stakeholders in the design, approval and implementation of the CAP Strategic Plans;
- Strengthening coherence among the laws directly or indirectly affecting our food system;
- Promoting a sustainable use of agricultural and forestry bioresources in a (bio)economy that fits within our planetary boundaries.

The work in this area was led by Faustine Bas-Defosse, Ben Allen, Stephen Meredith, Elisa Kollenda, and Kaley Hart.

Highlights



Policy paper (September 2020)

This paper examines the role that the post-2020 version of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) could play in stimulating a transformation towards more sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, in line with the green growth ambition of the European Green Deal.

[Download the paper](#)

Blog (October 2020)

The environmental and climate ambition of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is increasingly under threat as the European Parliament and AGRIFISH Council finalise their positions on the legal texts. This runs counter to the clear progressive direction of travel set out in the European Green Deal which has been endorsed by both the Parliament and the Council at the highest level, write agricultural policy analysts from IEEP.

[Read more](#)

Launch event and policy paper (June 2021)

In 2018, in the context of the first Think2030 conference, we recognised that "A major transformation of the EU food and agriculture sector is necessary and involves the development of coherent and synergistic policies; a new contract between farmers and society; appropriate governance; alongside new approaches to addressing consumption as well as production". This updated Think2030 paper looks back at the recommendations made in 2018, to see whether they are still relevant today, if they have been addressed, and where greater coherence in policy development is still needed.



[Find out more](#)



Area 4

Changing the terms of debate regarding Europe's consumption patterns

In light of planetary boundaries, the ways that we consume today are not sustainable. The population of the EU would need almost three earths to support the global economy if European consumption patterns were replicated throughout the planet.

The IPCC's 1.5-degree report identified changes towards sustainable consumption and lifestyle as key enabling conditions for reaching climate objectives. This requires demand management policies to achieve greater efficiency but also explore sufficiency measures. The main areas of consumption that warrant priority are nutrition, mobility, housing and lifestyles. Reducing the material footprint associated with consumption in these areas can contribute to reducing emissions and therefore to the delivery of climate objectives.

In this area IEEP has worked towards:

- Creating policy and public debate about a new EU policy agenda to address Europe's overconsumption
- Bringing a consumption lens into EU's policy agenda for sustainable production

The work in this area was led by Tim Gore, Jesus Urios, Emma Watkins, Andrew Farmer.

Highlights



Policy brief (November 2020)

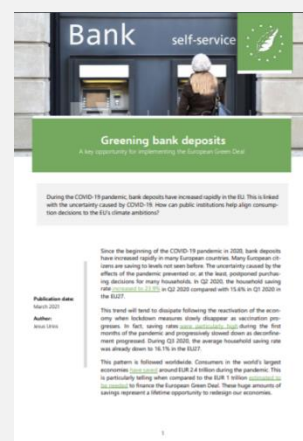
The COVID-19 crisis has led to major changes in Europeans' consumption habits. From the expansion of e-commerce and the predicted increase in car sales to the soaring consumption of coffee and hair colouring products – few, if any, sectors will remain the same in a post-pandemic world.

[Download the brief](#)

Policy paper (March 2021)

Bank deposits increased rapidly in the EU in 2020. This is linked with the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. How can public institutions help align consumption decisions to the EU's climate ambitions?

[Download the paper](#)



Blog (April 2021)

European tax systems today are neither fair nor green. But a new political grand bargain on tax is now possible that can help boost jobs, fight inequalities and bring Europe's economy back inside our planetary boundaries.

[Read the blog](#)

Event (April 2021)

To mark the launch of IEEP's latest Think2030 paper on EU sustainable consumption, the event provided space for stakeholders from the European Parliament, the European Commission, academia and civil society to debate the next steps needed to move from the Parliament's resolution on the CEAP towards the establishment of science-based EU material budgets and related material use targets.

[Read more](#)

Area 5



Towards a more effective protection of Europe's natural capital

Nature provides us with a wide range of essential goods and services including healthy food, clean air, safe water, climate regulation, and protection against health threats and natural disasters.

Effectively managing Europe's natural capital, including its biodiversity, plays an important role in supporting EU strategic objectives for a resource-efficient and climate-resilient economy and for innovation, business growth and job creation. Meeting biodiversity goals is therefore central to achieving the EU's objectives across the economy and society and requires coordinated action across policy areas and actors. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is very closely linked to a range of EU policy areas that depend on healthy ecosystems or contribute to the threats they face.

In this area IEEP has worked towards:

- Helping to ensure that key EU biodiversity decision making in 2020-2022 is based on sound and widely supported evidence, focusing on the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, the EU pollinators initiative and the proposal of the EU restoration law.
- Providing leverage to a more positive engagement with people about biodiversity using the new EU Biodiversity Strategy and the upcoming global biodiversity governance framework.
- Ensuring integration and coherence between EU biodiversity- and other policies, such as agriculture, fisheries, regional development, climate, the single market, and global trade

The work in this area was led by Evelyn Underwood, Lisa Kopsieker, Erik Gerritsen, Clunie Keenleyside, and Giulia Costa Domingo.

Highlights

Blog (November 2020)

Green Week opened with the publication of the flagship report on the state of nature in the EU. The report provides the most in-depth assessment of the health of European nature and reveals that, despite some improvements, biodiversity in the EU continued to decline in the period 2013-2018.

[Read more](#)



Policy brief (February 2021)

This policy brief provides an overview of the socio-economic benefits that nature-based solutions (NbS) can deliver, alongside supporting the achievement of the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives.

[Download the brief](#)

Launch event and policy paper (May 2021)

Nature-based solutions have been gaining attention as effective solutions to address important global challenges. As the world battles with the COVID-19 crisis, increased awareness on its link to the exploitation of nature is generating momentum towards improving our relationship with nature.

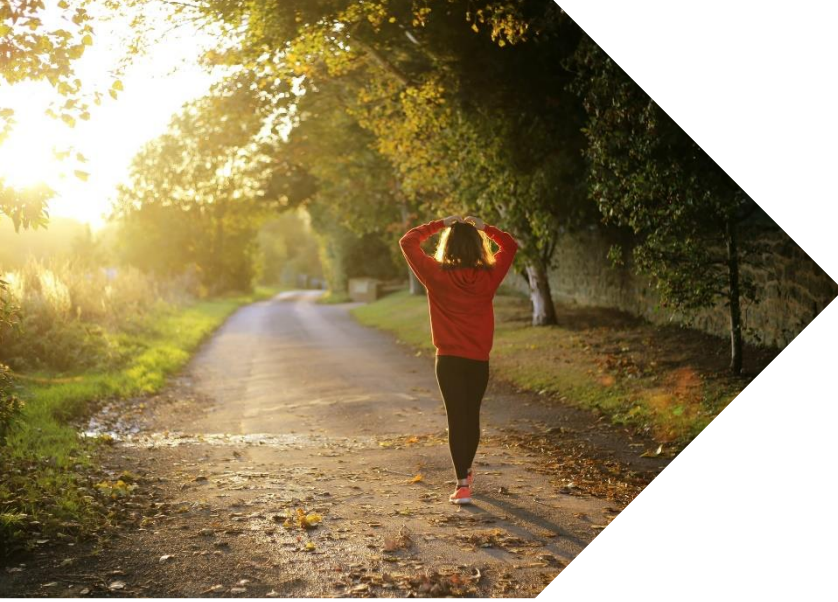
[Find out more](#)



Think piece (May 2021)

The new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, a core component of the European Green Deal, commits to protect at least 30% of the EU's land and sea by 2030. This is fully in line with proposals for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As part of this ambitious target, the strategy includes contributions from other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

[Read the piece](#)



Area 6

A people-centered European environmental policy

The EU institutions, and European policy, have in recent years faced an increased level of public distrust. Parties with an explicitly Euro-sceptic agenda have been increasingly successful electorally; and the relevance of shared EU approaches to key policy areas has been called into question. While the UK's proposed departure from the EU has to some extent caused an increased appreciation among citizens of other countries of the EU's relevance, it remains critically important to:

- Better understand how tackling environmental issues at the European level can contribute to the environmental outcomes that the European public supports;
- Identify trade-offs and synergies between environmental objectives and policy, and other outcomes, including economic growth and social cohesion;
- Improve wider public understanding of, and access to, policymaking processes on the environment.

In this area IEEP has worked towards:

- Understanding the social impacts of environmental policy
- Identifying policies options to improve environmental health and creating bridges between the health and environmental policy communities (through All Policies for a Healthy Europe)
- Better approaches to public participation and access to environmental justice
- Better addressing the priorities of young people and future generations
- Identifying pathways to move to a sustainable well-being economy (for instance through a reform of the European semester)

The work in this area was led by Céline Charveriat, Eloïse Bodin, Tsvetelina Filipova.

Highlights



Background paper (December 2020)

This background paper reviews available scientific evidence on the correlation between the environment and people's mental health and well-being in Europe, and identifies solutions for policymakers.

[Download the paper](#)

Briefing (January 2021)

Access to nature can have immensely positive effects on people's mental health, according to a growing body of evidence. Likewise, environmental degradation, including climate change and pollution, poses a serious threat to our emotional state and well-being. This briefing explores how European policies and the COVID-19 recovery efforts can better reflect the impact of the natural environment on people's mental health.

[Read more](#)

Policy paper (June 2021)

The EU faces an extremely challenging set of circumstances. Beyond immediate health concerns, the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures taken in response to it have seen the EU's GDP and employment go down by 11.4% and 2.7% respectively in the second quarter of 2020.

[Download the paper](#)



Policy paper (June 2021)

While the EU's ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050 is highly welcomed, further efforts are needed to layout concrete quantitative targets and indicators to track and enforce the enacted policies.

[Download the paper](#)

Policy paper (June 2021)

As clearly stated in Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (EU), the health & well-being of citizens should be protected across all areas of EU policy-making. To uphold this provision of the Treaty, the EU should systematically take into account the health implications of all policy decisions.

[Download the paper](#)



Area 7



Harnessing EU's environmental, security and trade policies for the universal achievement of SDGs

Europe needs a coherent policy that assesses security implications of both accelerated environmental degradation and policies, builds peace through the promotion of collaborative sustainable environmental and resource stewardship in and around Europe, while preparing military forces for new crisis and intervention conditions.

There is a need for an active push from the civil society actors' side to ensure the level of ambition needed to deliver results. IEEP's work on Global Challenges and SDGs focuses on the global dimension and external impacts of EU policies, supporting the development of environmental and environment-related policies with global implications as well as feed into relevant international processes and discussions. In particular, we aim to ensure that the EU will deliver on its commitments to the global climate and 2030 SDG agendas, both in terms of its internal and external policies.

IEEP promotes greater coherence between domestic and global policies, contributing to a more robust monitoring framework for SDG implementation and ensure adequate EU funding is mobilised in line with implementation challenges in developing countries.

In this area in 2020-2021 IEEP has worked towards:

- Advocating for an evidence-based approach to implement SDGs in Europe which contributes to sustainability globally;
- Supporting an EU level science-policy network and nexus on climate, trade and security;
- Support to policy influence to the UN International Resources Panel – addressing resource efficiency while delivering the SDGs;
- Identifying impacts of EU trade on SDG implementation globally/third countries and proposing solutions to address negative impacts>

The work in this area was led by Marianne Kettunen and Eline Blot.

Highlights



European Sustainable Development Report (December 2020)

The Europe Sustainable Development Report shows how the SDGs can be used as a roadmap for a sustainable and inclusive recovery inside the EU and highlights how the European Green Deal/SDG Diplomacy can help to achieve sustainable development worldwide and advance EU geopolitical interests.

[Download the report](#)

Policy report (April 2021)

This report conducts a comparative analysis of eleven EU free trade agreements and assesses EU's trade policy with regard to environmental integration in free trade agreements and their underpinning processes.

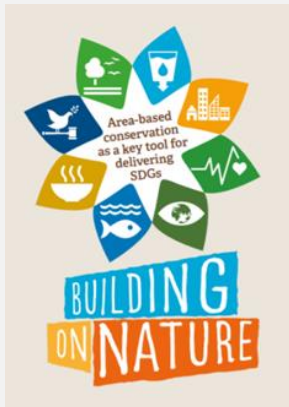
[Download the report](#)



Guidance document (May 2021)

Trade liberalisation introduces changes to economic sectors, increasing or decreasing demand – and therefore production – in trade partner countries. These changes can have an impact on biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide.

[Read more](#)



Report (May 2021)

Protected and conserved areas benefit sustainable development and can be effective tools to deliver SDGs around the world. This pioneering, action-oriented guidance demonstrates how the designation and effective management of protected and conserved areas can benefit sustainable development, playing a key role in delivering Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting the 2030 Agenda globally.

[Download the report](#)

Briefing (June 2021)

The European Commission is expected to present a formal proposal for the CBAM on 14 July. The mechanism carries substantial implications for countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, as their exports are likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the measure, and because of the likely knock-on implications for wider multilateral efforts to fight climate change. This briefing explores the potential implications of an EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) for climate vulnerable countries.

[Read the briefing](#)



UK programme

Having now left the European Union, the UK is gradually modifying aspects of its environmental policy and law and developing new governance arrangements. This is occurring in the context of very extensive devolution of powers over environmental and agricultural law to the four nations within the UK. It has been a period of extensive change, establishing foundations and new approaches with potentially long-term consequences. Amendments are being made to EU derived environmental laws that have been on the UK Statute book over the last 50 years of membership and further change is expected. The highly significant Agriculture and Environment Acts and counterpart legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, are the forerunners of developing priorities in key thematic areas of interest for IEEP including agriculture and food, land use and forestry, environment and climate change, transport and energy. In parallel new trade agreements are being negotiated and these too have environmental consequences.

The UK Government has stressed the opportunity to be bolder with their environmental ambitions, to make policies and laws more tailored to the UK context and be a world leader in environment and sustainability policy. At the same time policy goals to reduce legislative burdens and adopt more flexible approaches are becoming more prominent, with potential environmental consequences.

IEEP has maintained a presence in the UK in order to engage in some depth with elements of this new framework and policy architecture and potentially influence policy change in the UK as well as opportunities for future policy design and cooperation between the EU and UK.

In this area, IEEP has worked towards:

- Analysing and influencing the new forms of environmental governance systems in the UK and key items of legislation, including the Environment Act and Internal Market Act, the Agriculture Act, development of the Office of Environmental Protection and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU.
- Continuing its quarterly reviews of policy developments for the Land Use Policy Group in different parts of the UK and the EU with a particular bearing on future rural land use and agriculture.

Working with partners to assess the risks and opportunities associated with the twin UK Government ambitions of high standards for domestic agriculture and land management in the UK and the emerging trade policy and a rapid programme of new Free Trade Agreements

From the middle of 2021, IEEP in the UK will step up its efforts in analysing and scrutinising the governance changes brought about by the Environment Act in particular. It will do this by launching a project examining regulatory divergence between the European Union and the United Kingdom but also changes brought about within the Union of the four devolved nations. The project will track and monitor legislative changes, analyse their implications for environmental protection and use that to influence for higher ambition.

The programme is expected to grow in size in the year ahead and so we will expand our work on examining how the UK's new trade relationships can sit hand in hand with high environmental standards.

Underpinning this new work will be a new Strategic outlook for IEEP in the UK and this is expected by December 2021.

The work in this area was led initially by Tsvetelina Filipova and then latterly David Baldock.

Highlights

Briefing (January 2021)



Environmental standards can be expected to play a more prominent role in the coming decades as the food system adjusts to progressively more stretching sustainability requirements. The briefing addresses the need for a new approach to environmental standards in trade policy relating to agri-foods, primarily in relation to the UK which is now developing its own policy outside the EU.

[Read the briefing](#)

Blog (February 2021)

The UK is now developing its own trade policy outside the EU. This means there is a need to re-evaluate the UK's approach to environmental standards in trade, including relating to agri-foods. As the UK negotiates free trade agreements (FTAs) with partners such as Australia, New Zealand and the US, attention turns to the implication of these new trade agreements influencing the sustainability within the UK, and also more broadly globally.

[Read more](#)

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The trees are mostly dark green, but many have bright yellow-green foliage, suggesting autumn. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect. The word "Impact" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center-right of the image.

Impact

In 2020 IEEP completed its transition towards impact-driven work, and strengthened its engagement with policy makers and sector stakeholders, and the influence of its analysis on policy shaping. This shift entailed the production of more frequent blog posts and policy briefs with insights and in-depth knowledge sharing for the website, organising workshops, meetings and high-level conferences, and engaging more directly in policy processes.

Given the continuation and acceleration of the pandemic in 2020 and the consequent measures, many in-person events and happenings were cancelled, forcing everyone to shift more towards digital communications and different forms of outreach. Despite the large increase in online event offerings and communications campaigns, IEEP managed to stay relevant, representing an important voice in the European policy landscape. In several forum IEEP was described as the most relevant European Think Tank on the European Green deal.

14 online events
debates
webinars

Between July 2020 and June 2021, IEEP and its partners organised 14 online events, debates and webinars including events such as “Green taxation to build fairer, more resilient economies” (February 2021, with over 500 attendees), Think2030 Conference co-hosted with Think Sustainable Europe members the Ecologic Institute (November 2020, with 300+ attendees) and “Launch conference of the European Green Deal Barometer (April 2021, with 270+ attendees).

67 publications
blogs

In addition to producing 30 publications, including reports and studies, the IEEP knowledge and research team engaged in writing 37 blog posts covering a variety of topics relevant to the 8 areas IEEP is actively working on.

The IEEP website is the first communications channel and depository of the institute work. In the period between July 2020 and June 2021, it counted nearly 110K users from major European countries and overseas and a total of 325K page views.

IEEP’s social media strategy of amplifying the information published on the website, promoting internal events and participation in external ones, as well as reacting to external conversations, has been proven successful. IEEP’s LinkedIn account collected 4.5K new followers for a total of 12,898 followers.

IEEP's Twitter counts 9276 followers, between July 2020 and June 2021, 557 tweets were published gathering an acquisition of 1326 new followers, 1189 mentions and 1.1M impressions. The most successful posts and conversations were around events, trade, taxation and the Think2030 conference (which has the specific hashtag #Think2030).

22K followers
on social
media

71 articles

In terms of external outreach, between July 2020 and June 2021, 101 articles mentioned IEEP's work. These articles were split across 71 different publications from 17 different countries, 12 of which are EU Member States. These articles were published in 10 languages, with English being by far the most common followed by German, Spanish and Italian.

The work in this area was led by Faustine Bas-Defossez, Bartosz Brzezinski, Sarah Pepinster, Eloise Bodin, and Mattia Bonfanti.

Our staff



Executive management

Céline Charveriat, Executive Director

Ben Allen, Research Director

Faustine Bas-Defossez, External Impact Director

Tijana Tufek, Head of Operations

Current Staff

Land use and Climate

David Baldock, Senior Fellow

Clunie Keenleyside, Senior Fellow

Julia Bognar, Senior Policy Analyst

CAP and Food

Harriet Bradley, Head of programme

Kaley Hart, Senior Fellow

Estelle Midler, Senior Policy Analyst

Juliette Pagnon, Policy Analyst

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Evelyn Underwood, Head of Programme

Laura Baroni, Senior Policy Analyst

Giulia Costa Domingo, Policy Analyst

Gabrielle Aubert, Policy Assistant

Low-Carbon and Circular Economy

Tim Gore, Head of Programme

Andrew Farmer, Senior Fellow

Emma Watkins, Senior Policy Analyst

Thorfinn Stainforth, Policy Analyst

Jesus Urios, Policy Analyst

Agata Meysner, Policy Analyst

Krisztina Korpassy, Policy Assistant

Global Challenges and SDGs	UK Environmental Policy
Antoine Oger , Head of Programme Pierre Leturcq , Senior Policy Analyst Eline Blot , Policy Analyst Nora Hiller , Policy Analyst	Michael Nicholson , Head of Programme
External Impact	Operations
Carla Coppola , Head of Communications Mattia Bonfanti , Membership and Governance Officer Clara Casert , European Green Deal Adviser Sarah Pepinster , Communications Officer	Sandra Mootoosamy , HR Manager Fruszina Csepi , Project Finance Officer Andrea Bambi , Income Development Officer Mike Majebelle , IT Officer

Thank you to all the staff!

Full list of staff who worked at IEEP between June 2020 and June 2021:

Adrienne Evans	Éloïse Bodin	Mia Pantzar
Anastasia Giadrossi	Emma Watkins	Mike Majebelle
Andrea Bambi	Erik Gerritsen	Nora Hiller
Andrew Farmer	Evelyn Underwood	Paolo Petrini
Anna Cosp Garcia	Françoise Tran Dai	Quentin Monsieur
Anna Lorant	Fruszina Csepi	Rachel Hu
Anna Tosetto	Gauthier Schefer	Sandra Mootoosamy
Anne Maréchal	Giulia Costa Domingo	Sarah Andersen
Antoine Lucic	Greta Isola	Sarah Pepinster
Bartosz Brzezinski	Jesus Urios	Stephen Meredith
Clunie Keenleyside	Juliette Pagnon	Thorfinn Stainforth
Dale Chadwick	Kaley Hart	Tim Gore
Daniela Russi	Krisztina Korpassy	Tsvetelina Filipova
David Baldock	Laura Baroni	Victoria Ganea
David Mottershead	Lisa Kopsieker	Zac Stoor
Eline Blot	Marianne Kettunen	
Elisa Kollenda	Mattia Bonfanti	



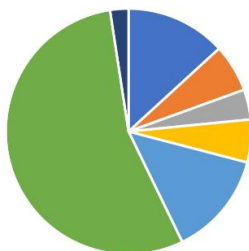
Finances

Financial information for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

In the period covered by this annual report, we started **45 projects** and have currently **99 active projects**, with a total value of **2,071,130 EUR**. Our funding was mainly project related, with 68% acquired through open public-procurement procedures and the remaining 32% through grants from public and private sources.

Sources of funding

Sources of Funding



■ Foundation ■ National ■ NGO ■ Horizon 2020 ■ LIFE ■ EU service contracts ■ Private sector

Our research was funded by the following governmental institutions, as well as international and non governmental organisations:

Bio-Based Industries Consortium, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canadian Mission to the EU, CIWF-France, CIWF-EU, European

Commission DG Clima, European Commission DG ENV, EC EEAS, European Climate Foundation, EEA, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, ENOPS, European Commission, European Commission DG AGRI, European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, Eurostat, GOPA, GV, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, IBMA, Institut for Okeologische Wirtschaftung, Johnson & Johnson, JRC, Korea Foundation, Ministère de la transition écologique, National Audit Office of Finland, OXFAM, Scottish National Heritage, SITRA, TMG, UKCEH, UNEP-WCMC, World Bank, WWF EU, WWF UK.

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