



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

Annual report 2021-2022



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 policy professionals composed of economists, scientists and lawyers produce evidence-based research and policy insight.

Our work spans five research areas and covers both short-term policy issues and long-term strategic studies. As a non-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](https://twitter.com/IEEP_eu) and [LinkedIn](#).

Contents

Foreword by the Executive Director.....	4
Foreword by the Chair of the Board.....	5
GOVERNANCE	6
EXTERNAL IMPACT	7
PROGRAMMES	
CAP and Food.....	11
Climate and Circular Economy.....	13
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.....	15
Global Challenges and SDGs.....	17
Climate and Land Use.....	19
INITIATIVES	
Think Sustainable Europe.....	21
Think2030.....	22
FINANCES	24
OUR PEOPLE	25

This report covers IEEP's activities between July 2021 and June 2022.

© Institute for European Environmental Policy, 2023

Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) AISBL
36-38 Rue Joseph II
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0) 2738 7482
www.ieep.eu

Foreword by the Executive Director

Like many organisations, 2022 was a year of emergence for IEEP, a year in which we started to return to in-person meetings, and rediscover how we had worked in the before times. As travel restrictions were eased across the continent, I took my first trip to Brussels. Cautiously mask-wearing and suspicious of anyone who may cough or sneeze, I made my way down to London, onto the Eurostar and into Gare Du Midi. It was the strangest feeling. Like an automaton, I sat in my 'usual' seat on the train, and my feet carried me to the Brussels metro line to take me to my office as my English mouth would utter the occasional French phrase as I bought a coffee or excused myself through a crowd. It was like walking through a dream, both familiar and unfamiliar at the same time.

Our bi-annual Think2030 conference, which took place in Paris in June, focused on "A future-proof European Green Deal - overcoming crises, increasing ambition" with recommendations for priorities in the upcoming EU Presidencies. Despite the changes in the world, our work had not slowed down. The financial, food and energy crisis across the continent has caused decision-makers to question the EU's Green Deal commitments, and the rhetoric of building back better. This was evident in the second edition of IEEP's Green Deal Barometer survey of sustainability experts.

IEEP's work has continued to champion the idea that putting sustainability and welfare at the centre of decision-making is the only realistic way in which we will move beyond these challenges and build a more resilient and inclusive society.

Structurally, IEEP has seen further change. In 2022 we re-established the UK entity of IEEP to play an increased role in the analysis, reflection and debate that will accompany the changes induced

by Brexit. The Think Sustainable Europe network grew to include 17 think tanks covering 18 European countries, broadening the reach and country-relevant work that we do. Our numbers at IEEP have also grown to more than 40, and at the time of writing I have resumed my role as Research Director after warmly welcoming Eero Yrjö-Koskinen to take up the mantle of Executive Director since November.

It is this growth and continued sense of purpose that gives me the most pride, beyond our individual achievements. When I took that first trip to Brussels and into our office, I was apprehensive. I was going to meet colleagues whom I had never met before in person, and at this point I was stepping in as the Executive Director (ad interim) and felt the responsibility that it carried. I needn't have been. What greeted me was the most smiling, kind, thoughtful, and passionate bunch of people I could hope to work with. Our annual reports mostly reflect what we have done as an organisation, our achievements over the year. Rarely do we acknowledge how hard it is to work on environmental or sustainability policy, let alone to have done so in isolation for so long. It takes a particular type of person to be resilient in response to the challenges we face, to work daily on understanding just how bad the impacts are on our environment and find the energy and positivity to see solutions. They are all heroes, and beyond our commitment to advancing sustainability policy in the EU, we will continue to invest in the people that really make those changes a reality.

Dr. Ben Allen

IEEP Interim Executive Director



Foreword by the Chair of the Board

Recently, I stumbled upon a book from Potomac Associates that I bought quite a few years ago for a modest equivalent of 2\$75. It is the report of a project, then called 'the Predicament of Mankind', by - indeed - the Club of Rome, published in 1972. The title of course: 'The Limits to Growth'.

In the first pages of this famous, and still impressive report, I found the following: "The intent of this project is to examine the complex of problems troubling men of all nations: poverty in the midst of plenty; degradation of the environment; loss of faith in institutions; uncontrolled urban spread; alienation of youth; rejection of traditional values; inflation and other monetary and economic disruptions," and a page further in the text, "it is the predicament of mankind that man can perceive the problematique, yet, despite his considerable knowledge and skills, he does not understand the origins, significance and interrelationships of its many components and thus is unable to devise effective responses".

Unable and/or unwilling? IEEP is aware that knowledge and expertise are not enough to curb climate change, safeguard biodiversity and protect people's health and wellbeing. We need the political will and a persistent commitment to avert the unfolding crisis that was so aptly predicted and illustrated in 1972 by The Club of Rome.

We believe that fact and science-based knowledge, genuine research, correct and fair information, play a vital role in tackling the urgent environmental challenges we are facing. But we need more:

we need to form a critical mass of thinkers, lawmakers, civil servants, industries, NGOs and influencers to collectively address the crisis.

With this in mind, IEEP:

- Produces research to bring the best, innovative and most recent insights to the table.
- Disseminates insights and information among lawmakers, civil servants and partners so that they can benefit from them.
- Advocates on the topics that IEEP has researched.

Builds a Europe-wide network of think tanks to ensure that information travels to the places where it can be most useful, wherever this may be.

This annual report documents what we did in the past financial year: the research we published, conferences, workshops, and roundtables we organised, the meetings with policymakers and high-level civil servants and the cooperation initiatives with our industry partners and NGO friends. In this way, we hope to contribute to the creation of a critical mass which we need to tackle the existential environmental crisis.

I want to thank our partners for the good cooperation and their support to IEEP. I also want to thank the IEEP team, our IEEP UK colleagues, my colleagues in the IEEP Board, as well as the departing Executive Director Céline Charveriat, the interim Executive Director Ben Allen and the new Executive Director Eero Yrjö-Koskinen. We are now looking forward to expanding our activities and hope to meet and cooperate with all of you on the important environmental agenda of 2023. Our work is more important and more urgent than ever before.

Hans Wolters

Chair of IEEP AISBL & UK Board



Governance

Board of Directors

The governing body of IEEP AISBL is the Board of Directors. The Board meets four times a year to discuss priorities and make sure that IEEP delivers its mission effectively and respects financial sustainability criteria.

In 2020 and 2021, IEEP had five Board members. The Joint Board is led by the Chair, Hans Wolters, and the Vice-Chair, Tricia Henton.

Members of the Board are:

- Hans Wolters, *Chair*
- Tricia Henton, *Deputy Chair*
- Malini Mehra
- Natalia Danailov
- Roberto Ferrigno
- Edmond Lefebvre

Strategic Advisory Council

IEEP's Strategic Advisory Council was established to provide IEEP with accurate and diverse insights on European environmental policy, to provide advice on the strategic priorities of the Institute and external accountability issues linked to transparency and independence, as well as to evaluate IEEP's impact in line with its mandate.

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 Council is chaired by **Sirpa Pietikäinen**, Member of the European Parliament and former Minister of Environment of Finland.

Members of the Council are:

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



External impact

The past year was marked by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic but most importantly by the unexpected invasion of Ukraine by Russia. This unprecedented geopolitical crisis impacted EU's current affairs management but also led to **an energy and food crisis, which have been used as a pretext to roll back on environmental regulations, in particular the European Green Deal ambitions around biodiversity and sustainable food.**

Most of our energy and efforts focused on using evidence and science to back our recommendations for ensuring that the European Green Deal and its various policy files' implementation timeline was maintained. We also continually use our own network to inform and promote these recommendations.

Despite external factors and internal changes, such as the appointment of Ben Allen as interim Executive Director in March 2022, we managed to turn IEEP into an even more relevant and influential sustainability think tank in the frame of the year.

To prevent pushback on environmental ambitions resulting from the war in Ukraine and its consequences on food, we refocused one of our Green Week side events on the consequences of the war on the European Green Deal implementation. We partially adapted one of our flagship projects, the European Green Deal Barometer, to collect over 300 experts' views on the consequences of the war on the Green Deal.

Throughout the year, *we strengthened our Think Sustainable Europe network* and its relevance, making it a useful channel for dissemination at national level. We organised our bi-annual Think2030 Conference in Paris at the time of the French Presidency of the EU and focused on the trio Presidencies. We also strengthened the private sector component of Think2030, which helped us target more conservative decision-makers.

Another successful activity relates to our work on the just transition and the Fit for 55 package of policy files. We produced a policy paper framing the issues around equity and fairness of the key Fit for 55 carbon pricing proposals (ETS/SCF and ETD), including key findings at EU and Member State level. This work had significant impact on the policy discourse within the EU institutions, particularly around the design of the Emissions Trading System for housing and road transport. This was demonstrated through a series of high-level meetings with Commissioners and MEPs, the circulation of the flagship paper in civil society, and notably a Commission non-paper prepared ahead of European Council meetings.

We successfully increased our relevance on social media and strengthened our relationship with different media outlets and our contacts with the European Commission officials and MEPs. We also used the numerous conferences, thematic workshops and debates we were invited to and our own events, as further channels to inform and disseminate our work.

Overall, for this financial year, our organisation proudly contributed to maintain the European Green Deal ambitions broadly afloat by bringing the evidence needed (from an environmental but also socio-economic perspective) for decision-makers. We also played an important role in providing the evidence needed for NGOs' advocacy work.

In November 2021, in one of her tweets, Greta Thunberg mentioned the report 'Carbon inequality in 2030' co-authored by IEEP and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) for a project with Oxfam.

Her post was re-shared 2,000 times, quoted 128 times, and received 5,432 likes on Twitter.

A few months later, in March 2021, the publishing company Penguin Books reached out to IEEP asking permission to use one of our graphs from April 2020 in Thunberg's 'The Climate Book', that came out at the end of 2022.

The team

Faustine Bas-Defossez, External Impact Director

Carla Coppola, Head of Communications

Mattia Bonfanti, Governance and Network Manager

Sarah Pepinster, Communications Officer

Clara Casert, Green Deal Adviser

Irene Chiocchetti, Membership Assistant

Ida Paraskeva, Communications Assistant

Susanna Li, Communications Assistant

Programmes



CAP and Food

Transforming the EU's unsustainable food system remains one of the top priorities if it is to meet its regional and global targets to limit global warming and reverse biodiversity loss. Yet, according to results from the European Green Deal Barometer, food system transformation has been highlighted by sustainability experts as a part of the European Green Deal where very little progress has been made.

This year, IEEP continued to undertake relevant research and present the scientific evidence to policymakers on pathways to a more sustainable food system in Europe. The key areas that we focused on were the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, the EU's proposal for a sustainable food systems framework, and the need for a just transition of EU agriculture. In addition, IEEP was also active in debates around the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which brought food security to the fore of EU policy debates. In particular, we published an overview of the scientific evidence on the current and future impacts of environment degradation (rising temperatures, biodiversity loss and soil erosion) on food production in Europe.

Regarding the CAP, in autumn 2021, IEEP published assessments of the climate and environmental needs of four Member States—France, Germany, Spain and Hungary, and held workshops in France and Germany to disseminate the findings with national ministries and stakeholders. In 2022, IEEP was involved in conducting the official assessments of Member States CAP Strategic Plans for the European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate Action). We also followed the approval process of these plans by the

European Commission, publishing a paper on measures that the CAP could fund to reduce fertiliser use and feed dependency. These needs had been brought to the fore by the fallout of the Ukraine War, which reduced synthetic fertiliser and feed supplies for EU farmers.

Regarding sustainable food systems, IEEP published a paper in 2021 on the sustainable food systems legislative framework. IEEP disseminated this paper with decision-makers and stakeholders and initiated a follow-up paper on the law's design with the Think Sustainable Europe network. This last paper was presented at a roundtable on sustainable food systems at the Think2030 conference in June.



Pathways towards a legislative framework for sustainable food systems in the EU

by Kaley Hart & David Baldock

October 2021

We also carried out wider work to shift narratives in the EU around food security, highlighting the negative consequences for food production of climate and other environmental degradation.

This transformation needs to bring along those who will be most strongly impacted by the required changes. IEEP has therefore advanced the idea of just transition for agriculture, publishing a paper on this in 2021. Until this point, the focus of the EU debate on just transition had been on those employed in the energy sector. IEEP therefore put forward novel thinking to kick-start a debate around how this could and should be applied to EU agriculture.

We also carried out wider work to shift narratives in the EU around food security, highlighting the negative consequences for food production of climate and other environmental degradation.



Environmental degradation: Impacts on agricultural production

by Estelle Midler
April 2022



Just transition in the EU agriculture and land use sector

by David Baldock and Allan Buckwell
January 2022

The team

Harriet Bradley, Head of Programme
Kaley Hart, Senior Policy Analyst
Estelle Midler, Senior Policy Analyst
Juliette Pagnon, Junior Policy Analyst
David Baldock, Senior Fellow

Climate and Circular Economy

The team engaged in a wide range of policy areas from climate to circular economy, the socio-economic impacts of those policies, health and well-being, marine pollution, and carbon inequality.

By far the most important aspect of climate policy at the EU level in 2021 and 2022 was the introduction and adoption of the Fit for 55 package in response to the revised EU 2030 GHG target and the European Green Deal. We have conducted relevant research on the revised Energy Taxation Directive, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, revised Emissions Trading System, Renewable Energy Directive and other Fit for 55 files, as well as conducting outreach to relevant stakeholders on these files to promote alignment between these policies and a successful, equitable and inclusive achievement of the Paris Agreement objectives. We identified the socio-economic impacts of the Fit for 55 package, including its impact on poverty, health, racial minorities, gender, and rural vs. urban citizens, and set out prioritised policy choices that EU decision-makers in the Council and European Parliament should support in order to secure a Fit for 55 package that ensures the EU delivers on its 2030 emissions reduction commitments while advancing social justice. This included an in-depth literature review of the diversity of socio-economic impacts of renewable energy in different regions of the EU.

Can Polluter Pays policies in the buildings and transport sectors be progressive?

by Tim Gore

March 2022



We also focused on the analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform the development of new corporate responsibility policies related to climate change at the EU level. This is because the area of corporate governance and social responsibility was very high on the European policy agenda, so our focus changed to advancing this agenda specifically through climate-related due diligence provisions for corporations active in the EU market, under the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence initiative.



EU Climate Change Due Diligence in the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence proposal

by Agata Meysner & Tim Gore

March 2022

Our work also continued our contributions to the public and policy debate on the EU's agenda to address overconsumption related issues in the EU that have spanned several years. IEEP published a report on unsustainable consumption levels in the EU and the need for mandatory EU material footprint reduction targets. The objective of the paper is to keep the conversation going on these targets for the European Commission's consideration in its upcoming legislative files concerning the circular economy.

We partnered in the Horizon 2020 research project CLAIM (Cleaning Litter by developing and Applying Innovative Methods in European Seas), which concluded in spring 2022 and provided inputs linked to mapping policies that support the clean-up of plastic marine litter. We also led the development of a policy brief with recommendations to EU policy makers, published in August 2021, that discusses how policy could better support the deployment of CLAIM's technologies. On top of this, we also continued to lead policy research on bio-based and biodegradable plastics within the SEALIVE Horizon 2020 project.



Supporting wider uptake of marine litter clean-up technologies

by Emma Watkins

August 2021

In our work, we also focused on aspects of the circular economy other than those related to product policies. Given the delay of the publication of the Sustainable Product

Policy initiative by the European Commission (released in Q2 2022), we explored the link between the circular economy and the social economy. In this context, we have engaged in a number of projects focused on societal health and well-being, e.g. looking at the health implications of climate mitigation policy in the EU, the socio-economic impact of green space in cities, engagement with the Net Zero Cities Mission, and pioneering the EU Well-being Coalition of civil society groups.

The intersection of digitalisation, sustainability and environmental rights is under-discussed in the EU, and the environmental rights implications of digitalisation are generally only alluded to. We began an exploration of these issues with relevant stakeholders, primarily environmental and digital rights CSOs, through the hosting of an online forum.

The global climate and inequality crises are closely interwoven. Examining the link between social inequality and climate change is central to understanding solutions to climate change and growing inequality in Europe and globally. IEEP produced a high-profile report on the dynamics of global carbon inequality in 2021 ahead of COP26 that received a high level of media interest.

The team

Tim Gore, Head of Programme

Andrew Farmer, Senior Fellow

Emma Watkins, Senior Policy Analyst

Thorfinn Stainforth, Senior Policy Analyst

Jesus Urios, Policy Analyst

Agata Meysner, Policy Analyst

Krisztina Korpassy, Junior Policy Analyst

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The team worked on various aspects of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives. The main focus was the provision of evidence-based knowledge to support the Commission's proposal for an EU Nature Restoration Law.

We contributed to the support study that informed the Commission's impact assessment of the EU proposal. We also collaborated with the Think Sustainable Europe network in a policy workshop for Greek decision-makers introducing them to the EU nature restoration proposal, and to publish a discussion paper on the benefits and challenges that implementation of the proposal would bring, in the framework of the Think2030 conference 2022.

Nature restoration has huge potential to contribute to the EU's climate objectives, both to the objective of carbon neutrality by 2050 and to the urgent need to adapt to climate change in our ecosystems, habitats, and urban areas. IEEP published a study on the potential for restoration of Annex I Habitats (protected by the EU Habitats Directive) to contribute to climate mitigation, based on scientific studies and data from the European Environmental Agency (EEA).



Climate mitigation potential of large-scale nature restoration in Europe

by Giulia Costa Domingo, Lisa Kopsieker & Evelyn Underwood

February 2022



Restoring EU ecosystems: Recommendations for the successful implementation of the proposed EU Nature Restoration Law

by Evelyn Underwood (main author)

June 2022

Funding is key to scaling up nature restoration and biodiversity protection. In June 2022, the Commission published the Natura 2000 funding handbook, including work done by IEEP. The Interinstitutional Agreement for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) set the ambition to provide a minimum of EU annual spending to biodiversity objectives, starting with 7.5% in 2024 and at least 10% in 2026 and 2027. From 2022, the European Commission must report annually on spending for the biodiversity objective. We carried out a study with Trinomics to assist the European Commission in improving its methodology for tracking biodiversity-related expenditure and estimating the funding needs and gaps to implement the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030. IEEP's work was focused on a detailed analysis of the 2014-2020 Commission methodology for

biodiversity tracking in the EU budget, and of other biodiversity tracking systems, accompanied by recommendations for improvement. We convened a stakeholder workshop in November 2021, together with case studies, interviews, and correspondence. The results of the study were used in the EU draft budget estimate for 2023, which updated the methodology the Commission uses to track EU funds going to biodiversity objectives. The report's findings were presented in a hearing of the European Parliament's budget committee in June 2022.

Biodiversity tracking in the EU budget and financing the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

*by Evelyn Underwood, Gabrielle
Aubert, Kaley Hart & others*

June 2021



The team also supported the CAP and Food and Land Use programmes on biodiversity aspects of their work and contributed to the assessment of the draft CAP Strategic Plans potential to deliver for Natura 2000 and biodiversity. Through the team's involvement in two Horizon Europe projects, one on pollinator conservation, and one on the Trans-European Nature Network, we are convening policy events and providing policy inputs on the science-policy interface. Through our partnership with the N2KGroup of nature expert consultancies, we provided analyses, case studies, guidance, and presentations on aspects of the EU nature directives implementation, including co-leading a study on the implementation of the EU strict species protection rules in agriculture in Ireland and other Member States. Though this work is unpublished, it directly informs the Commission's nature unit and their dialogues with Member States, and potentially decisions on whether to commence infringement proceedings.

The team

Evelyn Underwood, Head of Programme
Laura Baroni, Senior Policy Analyst
Giulia Costa Domingo, Policy Analyst
Gabrielle Aubert, Junior Policy Analyst
Clunie Keenleyside, Senior Fellow

Global Challenges and SDGs

The Global Challenges and SDGs team explores the global dimension and external impacts of EU policies, to support the EU in delivering on its commitments to the global climate and 2030 SDG agendas.

The Global team contributed to the European Sustainable Development Report 2021 and 2022 which signalled that “further effort is needed to align Europe’s domestic transformations with its external relationships and cooperative endeavours” since “European countries generate sizeable negative spill overs outside the region – with serious environmental and socio-economic consequences for the rest of the world.” This happens notably through trade, an observation at the heart of our team strategy.

Our main activities in 2022 thus pertained to the capacity of EU trade policy to foster sustainability globally. We were very active in the debate preceding the publication of the European Commission on its new approach toward Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters of its Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Eventually, our constant engagement with policy makers at various levels of the European Commission with support of likeminded partners at the European Parliament yielded some fruits as the final document published proved to be

more ambitious than initially believed and included several of our recommendations.

The Global team also supported the efforts to promote a just transition towards a circular economy looking at how various trade frameworks could be conducive to such a transition. IEEP produced a policy report as well as four case studies analysing trade relations with different countries and regions, assessing their impact on the CE transition.



Trade in support of Circular Economy

by Eline Blot, Antoine Oger & Emma Watkins
April 2022

As the war in Ukraine unfolds, IEEP remained active against strong currents that tended to utilise such fearful contexts to advocate for a pause in our green transition. IEEP coordinated the development and publication of a briefing explaining why doubling down on the Green Deal is the best strategy.

IEEP has coordinated the Green Trade Network (GTN) since the end of 2021. This collection of green trade experts aims to provide a single-entry point to decision makers on trade issues and to steer the



Enhancing sustainability in EU Free Trade Agreements

by Eline Blot & Antoine Oger
April 2022

debate toward sustainability considerations over Business As Usual (BAU) approaches. IEEP with the support of the GTN was involved in the policy development process of most EU trade-related autonomous measures such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the Deforestation free Product Regulation (EUDR) or the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

Our recommendations for the non-exemption of smallholders from the EUDR for instance which emanated from an exchange with the chair of the ENVI Committee at the EP was eventually retained in the final text. That being said, and although, we systematically proved efficient in reaching out and advocating to relevant policymakers at the European Commission and at committee level of the European Parliament, we still lack entry points at the European Council and lack capacities to address latest developments before EP plenary votes. This may result in some form of dilution of our recommendations in the final legislations (such as in the CBAM text).



Securing the position of smallholders in zero-deforestation supply chains

by Nora Hiller & Eline Blot

October 2022

The team

Antoine Oger, Head of Programme
Pierre Leturcq, Senior Policy Analyst
Basile Chartier, Senior Policy Analyst
Eline Blot, Policy Analyst
Nora Hiller, Policy Analyst

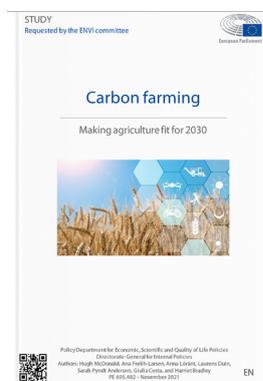
Climate and Land Use

If the EU is to meet its climate objectives, in particular the climate neutrality objective by 2050 as well as the target for climate neutrality in the land use (Agricultural, Forestry, and Other Land Use – AFOLU) sectors by 2035, substantial reductions in GHG emissions and a transition towards on-farm mitigative practices will be required within the agricultural sector.

The agricultural sector is also in a unique position in that land used for agricultural purposes can act as a carbon sink to remove greenhouse gas emissions through carbon farming practices such as restoring and re-wetting peatlands, conversion of grasslands, agroforestry, as well as the use of catch crops, cover crops, and conservation tillage. The agricultural sector has greater exposure risks towards the impacts of climate change, as a rising global mean temperature will increase the occurrence of extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts.

However, unlike the energy, industry, and building sectors, which have reduced their overall contributions to GHG emissions in the past decade, emissions in the agricultural sector have remained stable. In its current form, the EU climate policy framework has made little progress in facilitating the large-scale change needed within this sector. Thus, we continued to focus on mainstreaming climate mitigation and adaptation in EU agricultural policy. The key areas we looked at were the reduction of livestock emissions, the use of carbon farming practices, and the increase of the climate resilience of the agricultural sector.

Over the year, the team engaged various stakeholders and EU policymakers in a workshop as well as a conference on the lack of specific actions regarding methane emissions within the agricultural sector and how emissions from the livestock sector can be addressed through various existing policies. Regarding carbon farming, IEEP co-authored a study with Ecologic Institute, which identified opportunities and constraints for carbon farming, options for financing and addresses questions on how to scale up carbon farming in a way that can deliver on the EU's Green Deal objectives. Regarding climate adaptation, IEEP published a report identifying the key building blocks for increasing the resilience of the EU food system against exogenous shocks caused by climate change.



Carbon farming: Making agriculture fit for 2030

*by Anna Lorant, Sarah
Pyndt-Andersen & others*

February 2022

The team also supported the CAP and Food by contributing to the assessment of the draft CAP Strategic Plans potential to contribute to the EU's climate objectives under the Effort Sharing Regulation and Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation. In particular, the team published a report identifying the major climate needs in Hungary, where the agricultural sector makes a significant contribution to GHG emissions findings with their national ministry.



CAP Strategic Plans shadow assessment of environmental needs – Hungary

by Anna Lorant & Juliette Pagnon

December 2022

The AFOLU sector also has a unique position in the EU's objective to decarbonise its energy system, in that the bioeconomy can play a role in replacing fossil fuel-based products. However, this unique role requires a cautionary approach towards the management of such resources.

IEEP has thus continued promoting the sustainable use of agricultural and forestry resources that fits within our planetary boundaries. We published a meta-review of the use of biomass within biophysical limits in the context of the Green Deal. The report explores the uncertainty and divergence of opinion on the role of biomass for energy (and wider bioeconomy) in the context of supply and demand estimates and provides policy recommendations to narrow down the role of biomass within the EU's decarbonisation agenda.

IEEP also developed its work around the sustainable finance taxonomy with Ben Allen as co-rapporteur on the technical working group of the platform, aiming to provide support to the development of criteria to guide green investments in agriculture, forestry and bioenergy and support the engagement of civil society organisations, which will have implications for public policy beyond private investments.



Biomass in the EU Green Deal: Towards consensus on sustainable use of biomass for EU bioenergy?

by Anna Lorant & Juliette Pagnon

December 2022

The team

Julia Bogнар, Senior Policy Analyst

Anna Lorant, Senior Policy Analyst

Ben Allen, Research Director

Sarah Pyndt Andersen, Senior Policy Analyst

Nora Hiller, Policy Analyst

THINK SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

In 2019, IEEP 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 national and Brussels levels.

Members of the network are non-profit and independent 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 was a year of expansion of the network; at the end of December 2022, TSE counted 17 members (IEEP included) covering 18 European countries:

Ecologic Institute — Germany

IDDDRI — France

TMG Think Tank — Germany

BC3 (Basque Centre for Climate Change) — Spain

Energia Klub — Hungary

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) — Sweden + *Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania through SEI Tallinn*

WiseEuropa — Poland

The Green Tank — Greece

Italian Sustainable Development Foundation — Italy

AMO (Association for International Affairs) — Czech Republic

IEEP UK — United Kingdom

CENSE (Centre for Environmental and Sustainability Research) — Portugal

DOOR (Society For Sustainable Development Design) — Croatia

CONCITO — Denmark

IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development) — Switzerland

THINK2030

Led by IEEP, Think2030 is an evidence-based, non-partisan platform of leading policy experts from European think tanks, civil society, the private sector, and local authorities.

For the third edition of the Think2030 bi-annual conference, experts and policymakers from the Think2030 platform met in Paris at Sciences Po to discuss the state of the European Green Deal and the role of the Trio Presidency and Spain in its implementation.

The discussions built on the results of the second edition of IEEP's European Green Deal Barometer, and on the draft policy briefings prepared by experts from the network of sustainability think tanks, Think Sustainable Europe.

As the von der Leyen Commission had reached the halfway point of its mandate and that France had passed the torch of the Presidency of the Council to the Czech Republic, this was a good time to take stock of the implementation of the Green Deal and examine together what efforts are still needed to turn its flagship initiatives into concrete action.

That is precisely the objective of the European Green Deal Barometer, now at its second edition: to track progress on the Green Deal files, to reflect with sustainability experts on how the implementation is developing in the current geopolitical and economic context, and to make recommendations on what can be adapted and improved moving forward. IEEP and IDDRI, co-organisers of the conference on 29 and 30 June, welcomed high-level EU and national policymakers, experts, representatives of civil society and the private sector looking to make a difference in sustainability in Europe and to help carry the ambitions of the Green Deal beyond 2024.



Think 2030

Science-policy
solutions for a more
sustainable Europe



Finances

In the period covered by this annual report, we started 49 new projects and have currently 73 active projects, with a total value of 3,279,789.19 EUR (GROSS), 2,531,983.53 (NET). Our funding was mainly project related, with 52% acquired through open public procurement procedures and the remaining 48% through grants from public and private sources.

Our funders and clients for the period July 2021 to June 2022 were:

Private funders

- European Climate Foundation
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Laudes Foundation
- Bio-based Industries Consortium
- Changing Markets Foundation
- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- IDDRI
- UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Institutional clients

- European Commission (DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG RTD, DG AGRI, Horizon2020 & Horizon Europe programmes, JRC)
- LIFE Programme (CINEA)
- European Parliament
- European Environment Agency
- PBL (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)View Account Hierarchy
- Finnish Innovation Fund (SITRA)

We are grateful to our funders and partners for their support in our work and research.

Our people

Thank you to all people who were part of IEEP's staff for the year 2021-2022.

Adrienne Evans

Agata Meysner

Andrea Bambi

Andrew Farmer

Anna Lorant

Antoine Oger

Basile Chartier

Ben Allen

Céline Charveriat

Carla Coppola

Clara Casert

Clunie Keenleyside

David Baldock

Eline Blot

Emma Watkins

Estelle Midler

Evelyn Underwood

Faustine Bas-Defossez

Fruzsina Csepi

Gabrielle Aubert

Giulia Costa Domingo

Harriet Bradley

Ida Paraskeva

Irene Chiocchetti

Jesus Urios

Julia Bognar

Juliette Pagnon

Kaley Hart

Krizstina Korpassy

Laura Baroni

Lisa Kopsieker

Mike Majebelle

Mattia Bonfanti

Nora Hiller

Pierre Leturcq

Sandra Mootoosamy

Sarah Pepinster

Sarah Pyndt Andersen

Susanna Li

Thérèse Geortay

Thorfinn Stainforth

Tijana Tufek

Tim Gore



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

