

2022

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## Annual Report 2021

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# Annual Report 2021

2021 was a year of dense developments in environmental, climate and energy policy with important implications for achieving a just and sustainable future. For almost all sectors it was a year of transition and planning for the next steps, but this does not mean that new challenges did not arise, most notably the escalation of energy prices, with which the year ended.

In this context, the Green Tank maintained its dynamic role with policy interventions and recommendations in all its thematic areas of activity, as presented in the following pages, while the Green Tank team grew with the arrival of two new members.

During the same period the Green Tank maintained and created new partnerships with local, national and European environmental organizations and think tanks through the Europe Beyond Coal coalition, CAN Europe and the Think Sustainable Europe network, implementing joint actions, interventions and initiatives.

A special moment of the year was the honorary invitation that the Green Tank received from the President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellariopoulou to participate in the anniversary celebration for the Restoration of Democracy on 24 July 2021.

In 2022, committed to our vision and our goals we continue!

## Climate and Energy

The adoption of the European Climate Law making the new climate targets of the European Union (EU) legally binding and the subsequent announcement of the package of proposals for the revision of climate and energy legislation by the European Commission, known as 'fit for 55', show the commitment to the implementation of the European Green Deal and make 2021 a year of transition in energy and climate policy. These European developments have had important implications for Greece, where the debate on the adoption of a National Climate Law and the updating of the National Energy and Climate Plan has started.

With its analyses, informed positions and active participation in the public debate, the Green Tank sought to contribute to the interpretation of these developments and to the formulation of recommendations that enhance the green energy transition.

Monitoring of the progress of Greece's lignite phase out remained a stable focus of the Green Tank's work throughout the year. An important moment in this course was the publication of the decision of the Regulatory Authority for Energy in April 2021 for the definitive withdrawal of the Kardia I-II and Amyntaio I-II lignite units, with a total gross nominal capacity of 1200 MW, thus reducing the country's total lignite capacity by 27%. Subsequently, the Green Tank and ClientEarth withdrew the writ of annulment they had submitted to the Council of State against the extension of the operation of the Amyntaio units.

Furthermore, our analyses of the evolution of electricity production from different sources in the EU-27 Member States since the beginning of the century and the trends in electricity generation for the interconnected grid based on the available monthly data from the national IPTO (ADMIE) showed that electricity production from lignite in our country is declining, with renewable energy sources and fossil gas now competing for dominance in the country's electricity generation mix.

This competition also affects the country's climate performance, as revealed by the analysis of trends in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 to 2020 in the sectors covered by the European Union's Emissions Trading System (ETS). This analysis documented the contribution of phasing out lignite to reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions, but also the risk to meeting the national climate targets posed by the increased use of fossil gas. At the same time, the role of the ETS in emission reductions was highlighted, which is particularly important in view of its upcoming review as part of the fit for 55 package.

The future of the ETS, as the flagship of the European Union's climate policy, is an issue with which the Green Tank is already engaged and has become even more central to its action after the launch of the LIFE Emissions Trading Extra (LIFE ETX) project. LIFE ETX aims to shape an ETS that will make emissions trading work for the climate and the citizens. The three-year project is being implemented by 10 partners from different European countries, including the Green Tank, coordinated by Carbon Market Watch and funded by the LIFE Programme and co-funded by the European Climate Foundation.

PPC's decision to convert its last lignite unit "Ptolemaida 5" to another technology by 2025 is another important step in the country's process of phasing out lignite, as it brings the deadline

for the use of lignite from 2028 to 2025, three years earlier than originally planned. However, the preferred (though not final) option of converting it into a fossil gas plant is wrong. According to the comparative analysis of alternative technologies that could be applied to Ptolemaida 5 instead of operating as a lignite plant, its conversion to a green energy thermal storage unit emerges as a solution that is not only compatible with the European Green Deal and the country's increased storage needs, but also economically competitive. This is the conclusion of a report published by Green Tank in collaboration with ClientEarth and the energy consultancy enervis.

A notable development of the year was Greece's decision to proceed with the drafting of the National Climate Law. The Green Tank, as a member of the Scientific Committee on Climate Change and the drafting committee, contributed to the formulation of the text, arguing for increased ambition, at least comparable to that contained in the European Climate Law. At the same time, through public statements and interventions, the Green Tank helped to enrich the relevant public debate. Moreover, as early as the beginning of 2021, we published a review of the negotiations on the European Climate Law, which we closely followed developments up to its formal adoption. A draft of the National Climate Law was put out to consultation at the end of 2021.

At the end of the year, and especially in the last quarter, the evolving energy price crisis was the focus of our public statements and interventions, as it was understood that it could threaten the progress towards the green energy transition.

## Biodiversity and Natural Resources

The widespread fires that occurred in the summer of 2021 in Greece and beyond, shocked us, confirming the state of emergency of our planet. At the same time, progress in the negotiations on a new global policy framework for biodiversity post 2020 has been only partial, with its final adoption postponed once more, to 2022. At European level, the Commission organized a public consultation on the new legal framework that is expected to make binding the nature restoration targets included in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The Green Tank participated in the consultation; however, the delay in announcing the Commission's proposal raised concerns about the ambition of the proposal, which we expressed in a joint statement with several European organizations.

While a wait-and-see attitude marks international and European developments, the Greek Prime Minister's statement at the IUCN World Congress in Marseille in September 2021 in favor of ambitious biodiversity targets for 2030 was significant, as he emphasis Greece's commitment to protect 30% and ensure strict protection of 10% of the Greek seas. In addition, he committed to the full implementation of EU nature legislation in Greece.

The adoption of national conservation targets for protected species and habitats, following an opinion of the Nature 2000 Committee, in 2021 is a first step in complying with the ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union against Greece over the lack of protection of Natura 2000 sites. However, it is by no means sufficient to implement the Prime Minister's commitments as local conservation targets and the institutions and management measures for Natura 2000 sites remain to be defined.

In fact, contrary to these commitments and while the Special Environmental Studies are being prepared, which will lead to the full designation of Natura 2000 sites as nationally protected areas and to management plans, in March 2021 a derogation was adopted in a law of the Ministry of Development and Investment in order to create sub-areas of protection within the protected areas to serve development activities. The provision led to an unprecedented rallying of environmental organizations, including the Green Tank, and an intervention by the Nature 2000 Committee.

The Green Tank, unfailingly participates as a representative of environmental organizations in the Nature 2000 Committee, contributing consistently to the formulation of its opinions, findings and interventions. Furthermore, the term of the working group for the preparation of the action plan of the newly established Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), in which Green Tank participated, was completed in 2021. The Action Plan contains a series of actions to implement effective governance in the country's protected areas while strengthening the executive and coordinating role of NECCA.

At the local level, with particular interest, the Green Tank undertook the implementation of the innovative Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) in protected areas methodology in the Evros Delta National Park with the participation of local relevant authorities and stakeholders. The meeting was co-organised by the Evros Delta and Samothrace Protected Areas Management Body, the Green Tank, the International Institute for the Environment and Development - IIED and the scientific supervision of the Universities of Warwick and

Cambridge. The positive response of those who participated highlighted the need for deepening participatory processes in the management and governance of protected areas in Greece.

In the framework of the project "Saving Europe's last free-flowing river" for the protection of the Aaos/Vjosa River in Greece and Albania, in cooperation with MedINA and Pindos Environmental, we implemented a series of actions aimed at strengthening the protection of the Aaos River, especially in the section from the outer limits of the North Pindos National Park to the Greek-Albanian border, which remains unprotected. The project will continue into 2022, when proposals for the protection of the river are expected to be presented by IUCN, another project partner. The Green Tank, through a consortium coordinated by ENTEGKRA I.K.E., will provide policy insight for the preparation of supporting studies for this area to be delivered to IUCN.

Observing the growing polarization in the public sphere around the development of renewable energy sources and especially wind energy, the Green Tank in cooperation with the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Greece - Thessaloniki Office organized an unusual online dialogue addressing the same four questions to six people from different backgrounds. The aim was to foster careful listening of the different positions in order to identify differences, highlight common elements and ultimately to come up with syntheses and solutions.

At the same time, we presented the analysis carried out by the Green Tank in collaboration with Nature Conservation Consultants (NCC) in which we examined the terms set in the environmental permits of wind farms and whether they fulfill their role in terms of protecting bird species. The analysis showed that the different approaches taken weaken the protection framework, create inequalities among investors and may ultimately lead to a disapproval of the protection rules themselves.

## Sustainable Development

Following months of negotiations, an agreement was reached at the end of 2020 on the amount of the new European budget, the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027: €1.2 trillion. An additional €800 billion from the European Recovery and Resilience Plan, which is an emergency aid package (NextGenerationEU) to rebuild the European economy after the COVID-19 pandemic, was added to the budget resources. With significant percentages of 30% for climate and 7.5-10% for biodiversity of the MFF and 37% combined for the two thematic priorities of the NextGenerationEU, green transition is a central commitment for the use of the available resources. With the adoption of the regulations of the individual European funds in 2021, planning for the use of available resources by Member States was re-launched.

The Green Tank focused on national planning through the project "European funding for a sustainable future" co-funded by three foundations: the Cyclades Preservation Fund, the Ionian Environment Foundation and the Captain Vassilis and Carmen Constantakopoulos Foundation as well as on regional planning especially in the South Aegean, the Ionian Islands and the Peloponnese. In particular, it published a review of funding opportunities for the country and its regions for actions that combine the achievement of the Union's environmental and climate objectives with sustainable development. The report also presented the prospects for green transformation of selected sectors of the economy: energy, tourism and primary production, and highlighted how Greece's natural environment and rich biodiversity can be safeguarded. This includes Green Tank's proposal for the creation of a distinct brand identity for nature, Nature Greece, which was selected for funding under Greece's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

At the same time, the Green Tank, individually or jointly with partner institutions and organizations, submitted comments and proposals during the preparation of selected operational programmes for the new period 2021-2027, of Greece's Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2026. In addition, in view of the submission of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the European Commission, together with other civil society organizations, the Green Tank highlighted the need for broader and more participatory planning.

At the end of 2021, we were informed about the approval of the project "Alliance for Sustainable Local Development (SymATA)" under the Active citizens fund programme, to be implemented by MedINA the Green Tank as its partner for a period of one year. The aim of the project is to strengthen and network regional civil society organizations active in sustainable local development.

## Just Transition

2021 was a year of planning for Just Transition at both the European and the national level. After the formal adoption of the Regulation on an EU Just Transition Fund, the way was paved for the preparation of territorial plans for the regions in transition and the planning of the use of the available resources by the Member States. Greece was the first EU Member State to submit three territorial plans for the Just Transition for Western Macedonia, Megalopolis and the islands of North and South Aegean and Crete, as well as the Just Development Transition Programme for approval to the European Commission in October 2021.

The Green Tank has closely followed the developments, participating in the EU Just Transition Platform which operates in parallel with the Coal Regions in Transition Platform. Furthermore, the Green Tank has collaborated with organizations from different European countries, especially within the Europe Beyond Coal coalition, undertaking joint actions and interventions.

At the national level, the Green Tank was actively involved in all stages of the preparation and consultations organized, making recommendations related to both the governance of the Just Transition and the content of the funding priorities. The Green Tank was also an active member of the Regional Fair Transition Team in Western Macedonia. For all the developments of the Just Transition the Green Tank published a newsletter in June and December.

More specifically, with regard to governance, the Green Tank emphasized the need to ensure the participation of local communities, youth, various sectoral and civil society representatives in both the design and implementation of the Just Transition as it was observed that the design was quite centralized. In this direction, two participatory online workshops were organized with local stakeholders of Western Macedonia and a report on the Governance of the Just Transition was presented, drawing on the experience at European level.

Regarding the content of the financing priorities, the actions focused on the need to direct financing not to fossil fuel investments but to truly green, sustainable and cost-effective options such as renewable energy and electricity storage. In this context, the need for local communities and local government to support renewable energy communities was highlighted. The review on energy communities in the country and especially in the lignite regions published by the Green Tank further supports these points. The evidence from the review was also presented at the European Commission's Platform for a Just Transition. In cooperation with the Municipalities of Florina and Prespa, Green Tank contributed to the creation of such an energy community that will meet the needs of the two municipalities through the installation of a photovoltaic system. At the same time, the Green Tank maintained communication with active citizens of Western Macedonia who seek to create an energy community.

At the same time, the Green Tank emphasized the need to use the increased revenues from the auctioning of greenhouse gas emission allowances to secure additional national funding for the Just Transition through the Green Fund.

Moreover, the Green Tank continued its efforts to enrich the public discourse around the issues of Just Transition, with actions such as the co-organization of an informative web event with the

Greek office of the Heinrich-Boell Foundation, the participation in the Thessaloniki International Fair, as well as a series of speeches, interventions and articles.

Finally, we maintained and strengthened our partnerships with organizations in the Western Balkans, following the work of the Initiative to support the transition of lignite regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. In particular, drawing on the experience of the European Union that led to the creation of a distinct Just Transition Fund, in collaboration with CEE Bankwatch we completed a report highlighting the need for a Just Transition Fund for the Western Balkan countries and, using a specific model, explored how resources could be distributed as equitably as possible. The report was presented in early 2022.

## Partnerships and Coalitions

One of the main approaches that the Green Tank adheres to is to foster interaction and cooperation with organizations, institutions and other actors. In 2021, committed to this approach, we deepened existing partnerships and created new ones in Greece and abroad.

The launch of the "Know - Participate - Protect" project under the Active citizens fund programme, implemented by iSea and the Green Tank as a partner, is one such case. It is a project that while focusing on the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution from plastics, it crosses through our actions as its primary purpose is to empower citizens, especially young citizens, to participate in environmental policy making. In particular, this project provides opportunities to inform citizens, especially students, about scientific and policy developments around the selected themes as well as training on the tools and means of intervention available to an active citizen.

The list below includes the main actors we worked with in 2021 and the coalitions- networks we participate in:

- Action for Wildlife
- Aegean Wildlife Hospital
- AirClim
- ANIMA
- ARCHELON
- Arcturos
- ARION
- Association "TOULIPA GOULIMI"
- Association for the Protection of the Natural & Cultural Environment for the Corinthian and Patra Gulfs - Nireas
- Association of International Affairs (AMO)
- Basque Centre for Climate Change - bc3
- Bomiasto
- Bond Beter Leefmilieu
- Callisto
- Cambridge University
- CAN (Climate Action Network) Europe
- Carbon Market Watch
- CEE Bankwatch
- ClientEarth
- Cyclades Preservation Fund
- EBC - Europe Beyond Coal
- Ecocity
- Ecologic
- ECOMED
- EEB – European Environmental Bureau
- Eko-Svest
- ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage
- ENTEGRA
- Evros Delta and Samothrace Protected Areas Management Body
- Federation of Ecological Organization of the Corinthian Gulf – Alkyon
- Friends of Nature
- Friends of the Earth – Bulgaria
- Germanwatch
- Greenpeace
- Heinrich Boell Foundation – Greece
- Hellenic Ornithological Society
- Hellenic Society of the Protection of Nature
- IIED – International Institute for the Environment and Development
- Impact Hub Athens
- Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- Ionian Environment Foundation
- iSea
- Magnisia Environmental Initiative
- MEDASSET
- Mediteranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)
- MOm

- Municipality of Florina
- Municipality of Prespa
- Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA)
- Nature Conservation Consultants (NCC)
- Organization Earth
- PANDOIKO
- Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute
- Pindos Perivallontiki
- Polish Green Network
- Protect Aaos
- Recycling Ecological Society
- Region of Western Macedonia
- Society for the Protection of Prespa
- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability
- University of Warwick
- World Information Service on Energy – WISE
- WWF

### **Coalitions – Networks**

- Balkan Coal Network
- CAN (Climate Action Network) Europe
- EBC – Europe Beyond Coal
- Think Sustainable Europe

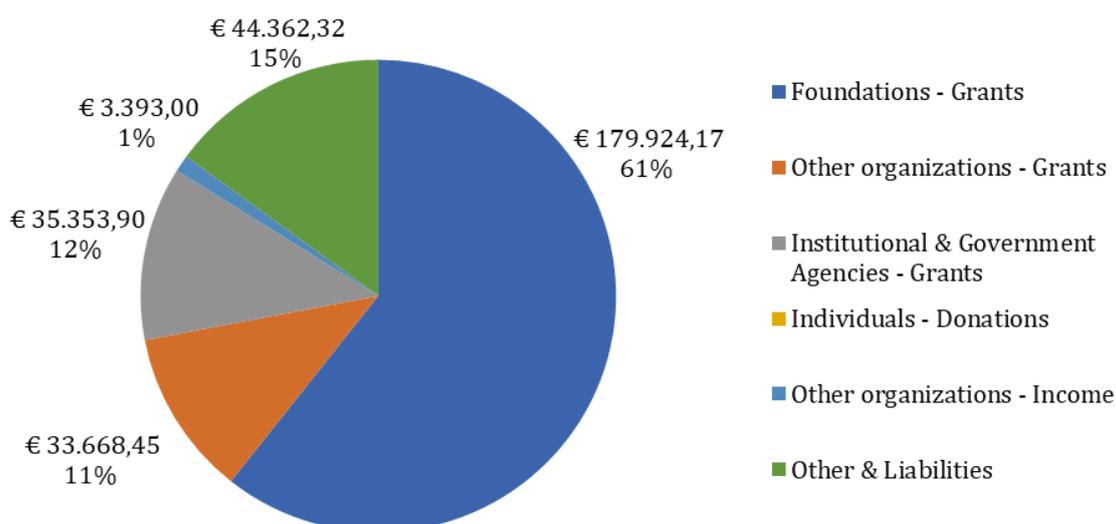
## Financial information 2021

The year 2021 started with a solid financial basis and with the prospect of starting new projects already approved the previous year. We also received positive responses to several of the grant proposals we had submitted and explored the possibility of new partnerships, and submitted new proposals for partnerships and project grants.

Funding sources for the Green Tank, in detail:

<b>Foundations - Grants</b>	<b>179.924,17</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ European Climate Foundation</li> <li>▪ Cyclades Preservation Fund</li> <li>▪ Ionian Environment Foundation</li> </ul>	
<b>Other organizations - Grants</b>	<b>33.688,45</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Client Earth</li> <li>▪ MedINA</li> <li>▪ University of Warwick</li> </ul>	
<b>Institutional and Government Agencies - Grants</b>	<b>35.353,90</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active Citizens Fund Greece – EEA Grants</li> <li>▪ European Commission (LIFE ETX)</li> </ul>	
<b>Individuals - Donations</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Income – Other organizations</b>	<b>3.393,00</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ College Year in Athens</li> <li>▪ Bodossaki Foundation</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b> (Partner fees COVID-19 measures, interest, etc)	<b>13.036,62</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>31.325,70</b>
<b>Funds Available (1/1/2022)</b>	<b>56.326,88</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 353.028,72</b>

The sources of (new) funding secured within 2021 of the Green Tank amount, i.e. excluding funds available on 1/1/2021, are shown in the following chart:

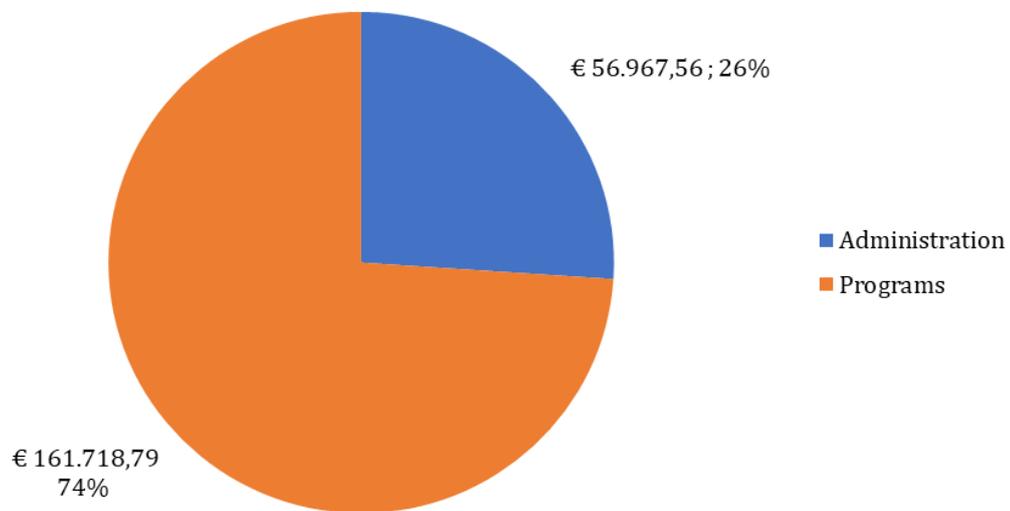


As far as expenditure is concerned, most of the expenditure relates to the implementation of Green Tank's programs, i.e. our projects and actions.

In more detail, our expenses:

<b>Administration</b> (Administrative Expenditure & Liabilities)	<b>56.967,56</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>0,00</b>
<b>Programs</b> (Projects)	<b>161.718,79</b>
<b>Funds Available 31/12/2021</b>	<b>134.342,37</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 353.028,72</b>

The breakdown of Green Tank expenses in 2021, i.e. excluding the balance available at 31/12/2021, is shown below:



# Annex – Green Tank Actions 2021

## Reports – Analyses

1. [Policy Brief: The European Climate Law](#), 11.2.2021
2. [Replacement options for Ptolemaida 5](#), 20.4.2021
3. [Environmental permit terms of wind farms: assessment of approaches and recommendations for improvement](#), 30.4.2021
4. [Financing opportunities for a sustainable future](#), 11.06.2021
5. [The course of Just Transition in Western Macedonia- Digital Consultation Workshops: Conclusions and Recommendations](#), 18.06.2021
6. [Trends in the Emissions Trading System in the EU and in Greece](#), 12.07.2021
7. [2005-2020: Analyzing the carbon market in the EU and Greece](#), Overview of the results of Green Tank's report, 12.07.2021
8. [The governance of Just Transition in Greece and in Europe](#), 19.07.2021
9. [Energy communities in the lignite regions of Greece](#), 22.11.2021
10. [Just Transition Fund for the Western Balkans](#), 11.01.2022

## Participation in Public Consultations

1. Participation in the online [1<sup>st</sup> Consultation on the OP Environment, Energy & Climate Change](#), 23.1.2021
2. Participation in the online [1<sup>st</sup> Consultation on the OP Transport Infrastructure](#), 23.1.2021
3. Participation in the [public consultation on the EU Emissions Trading System \(ETS\)](#) 05.02.2021
4. Participation in the public consultation on the [Preliminary draft of the Ten Year Development Plan of Hellenic Electricity Transmission System \(HETS\)](#), for the period 2022 – 2031 05.02.2021
5. Participation in the consultation on Integrated Territorial Investments, in the framework of developing the new Regional Programme (2021-2027) of the Region of Southern Aegean, 18.2.2021.
6. Participation in the consultation on the new Regional Programme (2021-2027) of the Region of the Peloponnese, 28.2.2021.
7. Participation in the prioritization of needs based on the SWOT analysis for the Common Agriculture Policy 2021-2027 Strategic Plan, 15.3.2021.
8. [Comments on the Territorial Just Transition Plan of Western Macedonia](#), 18.03.2021
9. [Contribution to the EU public consultation on biodiversity policy](#), 05.04.2021
10. [The Green Tank on the Greek Just Transition Development Programme](#), 26.4.2021
11. Participation in the electronic consultation on the Concept Paper on Regional Programme South Aegean 2021-2027, 08.06.2021
12. Submission of comments on the Concept Paper on Regional Programme Peloponnese 2021-2027, 08.06.2021
13. Participation in the consultation with submission of comments on the Concept Paper on Regional Programme South Aegean 2021-2027, 14.06.2021
14. Participation in the revision of the Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) of the Ionian Islands Region, specifically participation in the Business Discovery Workshops on the following

sectors: 1) Experience tourism and culture, section Thematic Tourism, 14.06.2021, 2) Blue Economy, section Maritime Tourism, 17.06.2021, 3) Agrifood sector, section Olive- Oliveoil, 23.06.2021

15. [The Green Tank's comments on the Greek Territorial Just Transition Plans](#), 25.06.2021
16. [Bill in Parliament: Support for lignite regions, weakening of Greece's nature and climate agency](#), Public hearing in the Permanent Committee of Production and Trade of the Hellenic Parliament, 16.07.2021
17. [Contribution to the EU public consultation on the revised Climate, Environmental protection and Energy Aid Guidelines](#), 02.08.2021
18. [Participation in the public consultation of the South Aegean Regional Program Plan 2021-2027](#) jointly with Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF), Common Press Release "European Funding 2021-2027: Make use of all the possibilities for a green transition in the South Aegean", 05.10.2021
19. [Comments on Ministry of Environment and Energy bill on energy issues and participation in the public hearing on the bill in the Hellenic Parliament](#), 11.10.2021
20. [Comments on the Ministry of Development and Investments bill on Just Transition](#), 19.10.2021
21. [European Funding 2021-2027: Towards a Green Transition in the Ionian Islands](#), Common Press Release with the Ionian Environment Foundation and joint participation in the consultation for the Regional Program for the Ionian Islands 2021-2027, 21.10.2021
22. [Comments on the interim text of the Consultation on the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) 2023-2027](#), Joint comments with the Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos, MedINA, 01.11.2021
23. [Comments on the Ministry of Development and Investments bill on Development](#), 17.11.2021
24. Participation in the call for evidence by the European Commission on Council Recommendation on addressing social and labour aspects of the just transition towards climate neutrality, 19.11.2021
25. [Comments by the Green Tank on the Ministry of Interior bill](#) "Civil Society Organizations, voluntary employment and other provisions", 22.11.2021
26. [Joint Statement and additional Comments on the Civil Society Organizations bill](#), Joint Statement and comments of 293 Civil Society Organizations, 24.11.2021
27. [Hearing for actors on Just Transition in the Parliament](#), bill of Ministry of Development and Investments, 07.12.2021
28. [Comments on the Interventions of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027](#), Participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> public consultation on the national Strategic Plan of CAP, 01,02,03.12.2021 and submission of joint comments with MedINA
29. [Comments on the bill on Civil Society Organizations](#), 10.12.2021

## Joint actions

1. [Joint request of 17 NGOs for a pre-2030 coal phase out of the Czech Republic](#), 24.2.2021
2. Joint press release of 30 NGOs: [Petition signed by thousands of people and a final appeal to the Prime Minister to protect nature](#), 3.3.2021
3. [Letter to the Commission about the Territorial Just Transition Plans](#), Joint action with other NGOs on the principles Territorial Just Transition Plans should follow, 19.3.2021

4. Joint press release of 70 NGOs: [Civil society demands that Greece's Recovery Plan prioritises making society greener and fairer](#), 23.3.2021.
5. [How the EU Modernisation Fund can be a driver for the fossil-free energy transformation](#), Joint Policy Briefing with CAN, EEB, Bankwatch, ZaZemiata and CDE, 26.4.2021
6. [Joint call for the protection of sharks in Greece](#), 27.04.2021
7. Joint press release of 17 NGOs: [Fine imposed for violation of environmental law on Elafonisos](#), 27.04.2021
8. Joint letter of 50 EU NGOs: [Stop the expansion of fossil gas infrastructure](#), 25.05.2021
9. Joint press release of 31 NGOs for the World Environment Day: [We unite our voices for the protection of the natural environment](#), 03.06.2021
10. Joint letter of 150 NGOs for the exclusion of fossil gas infrastructure from the EU Sustainable Taxonomy, [Fossil gas is not "green"](#), 23.09.2021
11. [Participation in the public consultation of the South Aegean Regional Program Plan 2021-2027](#) jointly with Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF), Common Press Release "European Funding 2021-2027: Make use of all the possibilities for a green transition in the South Aegean", 05.10.2021
12. [NGOs call ahead of COP26](#), CAN Press Release and participation in the 100%RES campaign, 20.10.2021
13. [European Funding 2021-2027: Towards a Green Transition in the Ionian Islands](#), Common Press Release with the Ionian Environment Foundation and joint participation in the consultation for the Regional Program for the Ionian Islands 2021-2027, 21.10.2021
14. [Fossil gas is not a sustainable investment](#), Joint letter to the members of the Modernization Fund Investment Committee by Green Tank, the European Environmental Bureau, CEE Bankwatch Network, Bomiasto, CAN Europe and Friends of the Earth Bulgaria, 25.10.2021
15. [Online discussion – Ionian Islands 2021-2027](#), online informational discussion in light of the preparation of the Ionian Islands for the new programming period 2021-2027 jointly with the Ionian Environment Foundation and with the support of the Special Managing Authority of the Ionian Islands Region, 10.11.2021
16. [Prospects for a green transition in the Ionian Islands](#), Common Press Release with the Ionian Environment Foundation on the conclusions of the online discussion "Ionian Islands 2021-2027", 12.11.2021
17. [Joint Statement and additional Comments on the Civil Society Organizations bill](#), Joint Statement and comments of 293 Civil Society Organizations, 24.11.2021
18. Joint letter of 150 EU NGOs to the European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans and the Environment Commissioner Viginijus Sinkevičius, [Nature restoration is crucial for a successful EU Green Deal](#), 14.12.2021
19. [Faster free emission allowances phase-out NGOs and think tanks demand](#), Joint letter to the Environment Ministers of the Council of the European Union by 6 organizations, 16.12.2021

## Press releases – Announcements

1. [Policy Brief – European Climate Law](#), 11.2.2021
2. [Joint request of 17 NGOs for a pre-2030 coal phase out of the Czech Republic](#), 24.2.2021
3. Joint press release of 30 NGOs: [Petition signed by thousands of people and a final appeal to the Prime Minister to protect nature](#), 3.3.2021
4. Joint press release of 70 NGOs: [Civil society demands that Greece's Recovery Plan prioritises making society greener and fairer](#), 23.3.2021.

5. [Comments on the National Recovery and Resilience Fund](#), 5.4.2021
6. [Official end for four of Greece's lignite units](#), 6.4.2021
7. [End of the road for super-polluting Greek lignite power plant](#), 9.4.2021
8. [Replacement options for Ptolemaida 5](#), 20.04.2021
9. [Joint call for the protection of sharks in Greece](#), 27.04.2021
10. Joint press release of 17 NGOs: [Fine imposed for violation of environmental law on Elafonisos](#), 27.04.2021
11. Joint letter of 50 EU NGOs: [Stop the expansion of fossil gas infrastructure](#), 25.05.2021
12. Joint press release of 31 NGOs for the World Environment Day: [We unite our voices for the protection of the natural environment](#), 03.06.2021
13. Joint press release with iSea: [Launch event for the new project "Learn-Participate-Protect the environment"](#), 28.06.2021
14. [Trends in the Emissions Trading System in the EU and in Greece](#), 12.07.2021
15. [Exploring the governance and social impact of the Evros Delta National Park](#), 05.08.2021
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1. [Just Transition Developments in Greece and in Europe](#), July 2021
2. [Just Transition Developments in Greece and in Europe](#), December 2021

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12. [Joint position by L.Ioannidis, L.Tsikritzis, M.Petrakos and N.Mantzaris on renewables](#), Chronos Kozanis, 17.06.2021
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2. [Hydrogen technologies: challenges & outlook](#), Online event by the Institute of Alternative Policies ENA entitled «Possibilities and outlook for green hydrogen», 18.1.2021
3. [The green path to Just Transition in Western Macedonia](#), 26.1.2021
4. [Environmental permit terms of wind farms: an evaluation of approaches and recommendations for improvement](#), Joint presentation with NCC during the online dialogue organized by EPLO and the Convergences Greece Forum, 11.2.2021
5. [Renewable Energy Sources or Biodiversity? A real dilemma?](#), online event organized by the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN), 22.2.2021
6. [Just Transition, Sustainable Development & Green Entrepreneurship](#), online event “Sustainable Development & Green Entrepreneurship” in Western Macedonia organized by the Florina Active Youth Group (OENEF), 3.3.2021.
7. [Wind Turbines: yes or no?](#), talk at the Postgraduate Program “Environmental, Disaster and Crises Management Strategies” at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens within the course “Anthropogenic Environment”, 06.03.2021.
8. [Financing for a Just Transition](#), online event organized by the International Sustainable Finance Centre – ISFC, entitled “Filling the Just Transition finance gap: The role of Private capital”, 10.3.2021.
9. [Western Macedonia at the post-lignite era: Are there ways to ensure sustainable prosperity for everyone?](#), online event organized by the Green party, entitled “Western Macedonia at the post-lignite era: Are there ways to ensure sustainable prosperity for everyone?”, 11.03.2021.
10. [Invasive alien species: Global and EU developments](#), 5th Regional Meeting, INVALIDIS, 31.3.2021.
11. [Elements of a National Climate Law](#), EPLO 8.4.2021
12. [Funding and de-lignitization in Greece](#), MEP's Kokkalis debate 22.04.2021
13. [Empowering civil society organizations](#), Social Dynamo, Bodossaki Foundation, 27.04.2021
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18. [Just or ‘Fast’ Transition in North Macedonia?](#), Environmental Charter Meeting Series, co-organized by Eko-svest and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 16.6.2021
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20. [Climate Crisis, Legislation and Policy](#), postgraduate course “Environmental Legislation, Environment and Administration” of the Department of Biology at the University of Athens (UoA), 02.07.2021
21. [Towards a zero emissions climate resilient future: Introducing a Climate Law in Greece](#), British Embassy Athens and WWF Greece, 20.07.2021
22. [Participation in Energy Talks #1](#), Impact Hub Athens, 15.09.2021
23. [The Green Tank on Just Transition at the Thessaloniki International Fair \(TIF\)](#), TIF, ESPA, 14.09.2021
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25. [Participation in the Montenegrin “National Conference on Just Transition”](#), Eco-Team, 29.09.2021
26. [The youth shape the future of Southeastern Europe](#), 19th Youth International Conference of the NGO Youth Alliance – Krusevo of Northern Macedonia, 03.10.2021
27. [RES and social acceptance – Participation of local communities](#), 3rd Conference organized by energypress “Renewable & Storage #3 Forum”, 13.10.2021
28. [Energy communities: an essential tool for a truly equitable transition](#), event “Scaling up energy communities in Bulgaria” co-organized by Energy Cities, EnEffect, Center for Energy Efficiency, Greenpeace, EcoEnergy and the Center for the Study of Democracy, 21.10.2021
29. [The role of RES in Western Macedonia’s post-lignite future](#), online meeting of the programme “DeCarb: Supporting the clean energy transition of coal-intensive EU regions” on the “Introduction of renewable energy sources in the mix of energy resources of transition regions”, 08.11.2021
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31. [Online discussion – Ionian Islands 2021-2027](#), online informational discussion in light of the preparation of the Ionian Islands for the new programming period 2021-2027 jointly with the Ionian Environment Foundation and with the support of the Special Managing Authority of the Ionian Islands Region, 10.11.2021
32. [The Energy Communities in the Just Transition Platform](#), European Commission, Just Transition Platform meeting, 17.11.2021
33. [Climate Change: Science and Data](#), speech part of the project “Learn-Participate-Protect the environment”, operated by iSea, 23.11.2021
34. [Climate and biodiversity](#), lecture at the class on “Climate Diplomacy” at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the NKUA, 25.11.2021
35. [The impact of emissions trading on the Greek energy policy](#), talk as part of the LIFE ETX project, 29.11.2021

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37. [The “principles” of Climate Neutrality](#), 2nd annual policy conference “Ne to. 0!”, RES Foundation Servia, 01.12.2021
38. [Greece on the road to climate neutrality](#), Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the National Kapodistrian University of Athen, 16.12.2021
39. [After COP26: Challenges and open questions](#), online event of the Hellenic branch of the International Law Association (ILA), 16.12.2021

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2. Initial response to the biodiversity projects included in the Greek National Recovery Plan. [Central News](#) EPT1, 31.3.2021
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