



Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe

IMPACT

REPORT

2025

More than

**5000**

citizens' calls made &  
emails sent for  
safe food & nature

Our Back to the Future  
demonstrators marched

**60**

kilometres for justice

We were featured

**+120**

times in key media



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

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# A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US

## Who are we?

Friends of the Earth Europe is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting more than 30 national organisations with thousands of local groups. We have spent decades fighting for a sustainable and just world.

Our Brussels' office coordinates our network's joint campaigns, and pushes for action by the EU to protect people and planet. We have won key battles on climate, food and farming, resource use and curbing corporate power at the EU level and beyond.

We are the European arm of Friends of the Earth International, a global federation uniting over 70 national member organisations, some 5,000 local activist groups, and over two million supporters around the world.

## Our Executive Committee 2025

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in Belgium in June. The following members to the Executive Committee (ExCom) have been elected or re-elected at that occasion:

Marilyn Eessalu from Estonia (Chair), Cathérine Mollière from France, Tihomir Dakic from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ákos Éger from Hungary, Zuzana Szabó Lenhartová from Czechia, Martin Galea De Giovanni from Malta, Sara Mariza Vryonidi from Cyprus, Ermelinda Mahmutaj from Albania, Saska Kocevaska from North Macedonia.



# HELLO FROM OUR DIRECTOR



## Let's not beat around the bush:

2025 has been a turbulent year. A year of ongoing wars, rising fascism, attacks on civil society, and destruction of protections for people and planet. But it's also been a year of sowing seeds for a brighter future and a socially just climate – in all its meanings.

**MATILDA FLEMMING**  
Director

Friends of the Earth Europe has held the line for human rights and environmental safeguards - from communities across the continent to the heart of the European policy-making system. We built a coalition to stop the EU's crackdown on protection for communities, workers, the environment – a.k.a. deregulation – by bringing together affected people, NGOs and trade unions. With this coalition, we created a space to discuss, exchange and strategise for the years to come, leading to a network of over 100 national and EU voices working on a green and socially just future despite the rising influence of anti-democratic forces aiming to silence us.

## Our major action?

Organising a three-day “Back to the Future” march from Maastricht to Brussels, which culminated in a massive event in front of the European Commission. Together with trade unionists, influencers and politicians we walked, we chanted, we spoke, we danced to activist-techno (yes, it exists, yes, you should listen to it). To make sure the message got through, we also sent a 470 signatures strong statement urging European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen to keep strong safeguards in place for people, nature and democracy.

The ominous deregulation train might still be in motion, but together we have helped to derail its course, and we continue to do so. Our advocacy, mobilisation and strategic communication efforts shaped a more critical public narrative.

Where the public debate in Brussels at the start of the year centred almost exclusively on misleading buzzwords like ‘simplification’ and ‘competitiveness’, we are now seeing growing scrutiny in the media, with increasingly influential voices ([exhibit A](#) and [exhibit B](#)) questioning the democratic implications of European decision-makers turning their back on social and environmental protection.

## **For each rollback we faced, we built power**

...through supporting communities on the ground, resisting and fighting for climate and social justice. In Bétera, Spain, [we brought dozens of activists and representatives of local communities from across Europe to stand with locals](#) suffering from the stench, noise and pollution of a nearby giant animal factory, More Holstein. We [helped expose the atrocities and lies behind LNG extraction in Mozambique](#), which has prompted the UK and Dutch governments to withdraw their funding from TotalEnergies’ Mozambique LNG project.

## **The power of solidarity and alliances**

As civil society’s space continues to be challenged and frontline defenders face increasing criminalisation, we believe, now more than ever, that international solidarity and alliances are our most important strength. From sharing the voices of the [amazing folks leading a Just Transition in the Palm Oil industry](#), echoing calls for the (successful!) release of [Ugandan human rights lawyer defending communities affected by EACOP](#), to fiercely condemning the ongoing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza and demanding an [end to Israel’s impunity](#). - we supported and strengthened our international network in preventing and confronting human rights and environmental violations.

A warm thank you to the amazing FoEE network – staff, members, volunteers – who work on an everyday basis for environmental justice to become reality, weathering manifold challenges! We continue to resist, to mobilise, and to transform. It’s what we are here to do, and it is more important than ever.

Matilda Flemming

Director

**Friends of the Earth Europe**

# CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

## CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENERGY



Our climate justice and energy team is campaigning for an energy system overhaul that will deliver clean, affordable and sustainable energy for all – especially the most vulnerable in our society. Our main goals are an end to energy poverty, to phase out of fossil gas - including LNG - as well as more access and support for renewable energy communities.

*Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Malta Slovenia, Spain*

## OPENING THE DOORS ON ENERGY POVERTY

We made the renovation wave more tangible for decision-makers in the EU and Portugal by giving them their very own DIY paper homes to renovate, which was a hit in the latter country, where it was presented to the national energy agency. This interactive project was organised through the Build Better Lives campaign, which is coordinated by Friends of the Earth Europe and Climate Action Network Europe.

Our photo exhibition, "Powerful Encounters" on energy poverty was part of a well-known photography festival in Rybnik, Poland. Over 200 people attended the opening event which included a speech by Friends of the Earth Europe.

# PHASING OUT FOSSIL FUELS

This year we have laid the foundations for climate efficiency and an energy system that does not break people, the environment or the climate. We have supported people's resistance against a [new gas project in Romania](#) that would produce 200 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over 20 years, making this project a threat to the EU's carbon neutrality target.

We launched a set of [striking visuals](#) in a joint-campaign with 6 Friends of the Earth Europe groups, aimed at the first 100 days of the second Ursula von der Leyen Commission, asking her climate and energy commissioners to deliver on the promises that were made for a socially just and climate neutral continent during her first term.

We co-organised the annual Beyond Gas conference in Brussels together with Food & Water Action Europe and the Fossil Free Politics campaign, bringing together grassroots activists, researchers, environmentalists, and campaigners representing 37 organisations and movements for two days of discussions and skill-sharing workshops on advancing the gas phase out.

# TOWARDS A FUTURE OF CREATING AND SHARING ENERGY

As interest in renewable energy community grows, so does the risk of corporate capture. To address this, we worked with partners across Europe to better understand the issue, identify key examples, explore the gaps that allow this to happen, and offer recommendations to protect citizen-led energy. We shared our findings in a [report](#), launched through a webinar attended by relevant stakeholders. This work helped our partners build capacity, secure meetings with key decision-makers, and shape the (now published) Citizens Energy Package as recommendations from the report were included in it.

In parallel, we continued coordinating the [Community Power Coalition](#), publishing on its behalf a [position paper](#) on the Citizens Energy Package, providing key resources on its implementation and a socially just energy transition.

# FOOD, FARMING AND NATURE



**Our Food, Agriculture and Biodiversity programme is campaigning for a fairer, healthier food system for people and nature based on food sovereignty, where local communities and farmers control the food we eat and how it's grown – not big corporations.**

*Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Czech Republic, Denmark,*

*England Wales and Northern Ireland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Switzerland*

## FIGHTING FACTORY FARMS

In May 2025, we brought dozens of activists and representatives of local communities from across Europe to Spain to protest against the More Holstein industrial dairy 'farm'. The demonstration was held to support local people in their resistance against the industrial exploitation and denounce its severe social and environmental impacts.

We also coordinated the first ever European Days of Action Against Animal Factories, turning the last week of November into a powerful and colourful moment to challenge the industrial animal production system through creative stunts, photo ops, rallies and more!

# PROTECTION FROM TOXIC PESTICIDES, IN THE EU AND BEYOND

This year we helped deliver 75 boxes of banned pesticides back to the European Commission in Brussels. Despite being banned in the EU, these dangerous chemicals can still be produced and exported by EU-based corporations – poisoning farmers, water, nature and violating human rights all over the world. From Brazil to India, Indonesia to South Africa, citizens sent a clear message: toxic trade must stop!

And when the European Commission launched an attack against Europe's hard-won protections from pesticides - in the form of a food and feed omnibus package – we counter-launched a mobilisation tool and call to action that enabled people to make their voices heard directly. In a short couple of weeks, with a push by various climate influencers, roughly 5000 citizens raised their voice for safe food and toxic-free environments.

For the skeptics out there, we also collected success stories from the field, from farmers and municipalities all over Europe, proving that food can be produced in a healthy, caring, fair and ecological way, while significantly reducing the use of pesticides.

## I CHOOSE GMO-FREE

For the first time in decades, a genetically-modified food for direct human consumption is being pushed to the EU market: "*The Impossible Burger*". We raised awareness and understanding of the current plans to authorise this lab-made, GM meat substitute, through a creative interactive tool and several webinars that we developed together with FoE Hungary, Denmark and Spain. We also organised a training in messaging to provide participants – Friends of the Earth Europe groups and other allies - with specific framing 'ingredients' for starting and maintaining conversations about GM food.

# RESOURCE JUSTICE AND NEW ECONOMIES



**Friends of the Earth Europe campaigns for resource justice and beyond growth policies to galvanise collective action by governments and people for an economy that serves the well-being of all people and our shared planet.**

*Friends of the Earth member groups involved: Austria, Belgium (Wallonia), Bosnia and Herzegovina,*

*Estonia, France, Germany, Norway, Malta, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands*

## RAW MATERIALS AND MINING

In 2025, we denounced the adverse impacts of mining on local communities and the environment by co-producing [factsheets on the socio-environmental risks of fast-tracking mining projects](#), which are not supported by the local population and show signs of flawed permitting or inadequate Environmental Impact Assessments. We also collaborated with the Business and Human Rights Center on a briefing that outlines [the challenges and local realities of the European Union's strategic mineral projects](#).

In addition to that we have raised awareness on Critical Raw Materials through [informative publications](#), a [webinar](#) and interviews with media outlets such as [Euronews Tech Talks](#). We also continuously expressed our solidarity with local communities, such as [Serbia](#) and [Armenia](#), and strengthened our collaborative efforts with grassroots activists in [Critical Zones](#).

# TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

We coordinated a Civil Society Organisation task force at EU level to collectively push for sustainable resources management, and collaborated with national members to bring their insights on the circular economy to EU policymakers through public consultation. We contributed to a briefing coordinated by the European Environment Bureau (EEB) that outlines 10 targets and measures to reduce energy and resource consumption, for a competitive and secure European economy. This gave us the opportunity to reach a wider audience to share and exchange knowledge with.

## BEYOND GROWTH

We co-organised the “Charting the Path to Sustainable Economic Development” conference to facilitate exchanges between EU decision makers and important representatives from the degrowth movement, especially those whose work involves wealth distribution, resource justice, a global perspective.

Throughout the year, we collaborated with the Wellbeing Economy Alliance to facilitate the collaboration and the delivery of successful conferences that create space for growth-critical economic thinking in Austria, Estonia, Norway, and Spain.

We also presented our work and vision at the International Degrowth Conference in Oslo where we discussed strategies to advocate for a new economy at the European institutions, together with EEB, WEAll and the European Youth Forum.

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE



**Our Economic Justice team is campaigning to hold European companies accountable for harms they are causing around the world, to expose and counter balance industry lobby power in Brussels and to keep European institutions and member states from entering or launching toxic trade deals.**

*Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work:*

*Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, England Wales and Northern Ireland, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Mozambique, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, The Netherlands (youth network), and Young Friends of the Earth*

## TRADE JUSTICE OVER [CORPORATE] PROFITS

With the European Trade Justice Coalition, we took over city squares and doused 'lawmakers' in toxic sludge to raise awareness for the way they are putting farmers, nature and people on the line for corporate profit. After a month on the roads of Europe, the 'Toxic Trade Tour' pulled up in front of the EU institutions in Brussels to expose the dangers of the EU-Mercosur trade deal. In parallel, we transformed the coalition's website into a mobilisation platform, providing supporters and allies with tangible actions and campaigning tools to join the movement for trade justice.

Together with investigative journalists, we exposed how sanctioned oligarchs exploit European investment treaties to sue Ukraine for hundreds of millions of euros. We also published a series of 10 new stories, showing how these old treaties still roll out the red carpet for investors to challenge EU policies, from sanctions against aggressive regimes to measures on national security, climate action and taxation.

# TOWARDS CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

We have been amongst the first organisations to point out the EU's botched process of their (first) Omnibus proposal, which led us to co-organise two public actions, an online press conference attended by 50+ journalists, and the launch of a successful complaint with the [European Ombudswoman](#).

We [organised a three-day march from Maastricht to Brussels](#), attended by a variety of people from across Europe, including three Dutch and Belgian decision-makers, which culminated in a massive event in front of the European Commission. [The event, which was attended by hundreds of people](#), featured speeches and a live concert. We managed to mobilise civil society, activists, affected communities, young people, influencers, policymakers, and journalists to come out on the streets with us and support our demand for a Europe that upholds safeguards for human rights and the environment, during our "*Back to the Future*" event.

# RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE, RULES FOR BUSINESS

We joined the 11th session of negotiations for a [UN Binding Treaty](#) to hold transnational corporations accountable for human rights violations in Geneva, Switzerland. We joined as part of Friends of the Earth International and the [Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples' Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity](#), to support their efforts in ensuring that the Treaty reflects the needs and the demands of affected communities.

# FIREWALL AGAINST FOSSIL FUEL LOBBYISTS

Together with the [Fossil Free Politics](#) campaign we pressured [EU Climate Commissioner Hoekstra to exclude fossil fuel lobbyists from the EU delegation to COP30](#). And it worked! We successfully contributed to the [European Commission's move](#) to exclude fossil fuel lobbyists from their official delegations for the past two COPs.

In parallel, national groups in six EU Member States sent letters urging their governments to [exclude fossil fuel lobbyists from their national delegations](#). As a result, Germany and Austria made public commitments ahead of the COP, and a total of 18 EU governments ultimately refrained from bringing fossil fuel lobbyists into their delegations. In collaboration with CAN Europe, we also launched the [Civil Society Pledge for Fossil Free Politics](#), which has gathered signatures from 98 supportive organisations, committed to protect policy making from corporate capture by the fossil fuel industry.

# SOLIDARITY WORK



**We support grassroots activism by carrying out solidarity work with our member groups, grassroots organisations and impacted communities in Europe and around the world.**

There is no environmental justice without social justice. We utilised our international reach to expose injustices committed against social and environmental defenders from all around the world. In 2025 we stood in solidarity with Ugandan environmental defenders who faced imprisonment and unfair treatment for speaking out against the EACOP project. We amplified the voices of those demanding change in palm oil production in Indonesia and called for justice for Armenian eco-activists.

As part of global and EU-focused international efforts, we continued to demand justice for Palestine, calling for an end to the ongoing genocide and ecocide once and for all. We took part in the actions and amplified the calls for peace coming from Friends of the Earth International. We also helped the European network come together to uncover the lesser-known close links between EU energy projects and the genocide.

# YOUTH NETWORK



**Young Friends of the Earth Europe (YFoEE) is a grassroots network of young people and youth organisations working for social and environmental justice on a local, national and European level.**

*Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, England Wales and Northern Ireland*

*France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands*

2025 saw the big return of the Young Friends of the Earth Europe (YFoEE) network. With renewed energy, our youth network jumped straight into action: five new volunteer-led working groups, a strong statement against the deregulation agenda of the current EU leadership, and a very active participation in UN binding treaty negotiations.

An important moment for the reactivation was the **YFoEE Gathering in Budapest, Hungary!** This event was a crucial moment after which the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was organised in order to elect a new Steering Group, which now consists out of seven full members and three alternates.

2025 was also the first year the Youth Policy Academy took place, a pan European project aimed at building bridges between European youth and EU policy making. As a main event we held a summer camp in Budapest bringing together young people from all around Europe to connect and exchange.

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



## ARMENIA

### TACKLING MULTIPLE ISSUES AT ONCE

In response to growing environmental and public health challenges in Armenia, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) implemented a multi-level approach to address weak regulation and exposure to hazardous chemicals, plastic pollution, and limited gender inclusion. We mobilised national and regional stakeholders, through policy advocacy, international convention engagement, and civil society coordination with the support of IPEN, HEJSupport and GGF.

This strengthened Armenia's role in global chemical governance, contributed to frameworks on endocrine disruptors and hazardous pesticides, and advanced awareness and expert coordination nationally. As a result, AWHHE helped reinforce policy alignment, amplify civil society voices, and promote gender-responsive environmental governance, seeking a transition toward a toxic-free, equitable, and resilient future.

### "IT'S MORE BEAUTIFUL WITHOUT WASTE"

In the fight against resource waste, GLOBAL2000 staged a public protest: Our globe sinking into a pile of discarded clothing, symbolising the environmental devastation of ultra-fast fashion. Seven tons of used clothing was gathered/collected in Vienna's city centre, with the assistance of social organisations and amazing volunteers, using the moment to engage citizens and collect signatures for a petition.



## AUSTRIA

Organised around Black Friday, this raised awareness of the environmental cost behind 'cheap' deals from online platforms like Temu and Shein. Building on this momentum, Global2000 teamed up with other organisations to draft a proposal for a circular economy law. It calls for systematic change to save resources and reduce material footprint, including fast fashion and single use e-vapes - work that will continue in 2026 and beyond.



© Elian Juvel

## **BELGIUM** **(WALLONIA AND BRUSSELS)**

## **VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY**

In a world of stress, overconsumption and isolation, the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants is deteriorating on a daily basis. To take action and return to a sustainable and joyful way of life, Amis de la Terre (BE) proposes ‘voluntary simplicity’, an approach that encourages reflection and practical action. To honour their 20-year of commitment to the practice, they marked the occasion by organising a series of events throughout the year, including activities, publications, podcasts, and a major day of celebration including information stands, games, a conference, and performances).

And the public turned out in droves; ‘voluntary simplicity’ (whether we call it that or not) is gaining momentum and becoming a genuine solution for many people.

## **KLEKOVAČA MUST NOT BE TOUCHED!**

Mount Klekovača cannot be subjected to incomplete and partial environmental impact studies for projects that have no real perspective. This was ruled by the Republika Srpska Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology, which - following a District Court ruling in Banja Luka - rejected the investor’s environmental impact study.

The decision came after Center for Environment filed a lawsuit challenging study, showing it was flawed both in its data and its core assumptions about the project’s cumulative impact on the environment. The lawsuit followed Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina’s repeated warnings that the proposed tourist complex on Mount Klekovača, in its envisioned size and capacity in the disputed impact study, was unrealistic. This victory represents a significant step toward the formal protection of Klekovača.



## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**



© Save Kresna Gorge

## BULGARIA

## A MAJOR WIN FOR KRESNA GORGE

After 20 years of activism, legal battles, and relentless pressure, what once seemed impossible has been achieved: a historic agreement was reached between the Kresna Gorge coalition of NGOs and the Bulgarian authorities (the Ministry of Environment and Waters and the Road Agency). Za Zemiata and the other civil society groups involved in the Kresna Gorge campaign managed to ensure the destructive motorway will be built outside of this unique and biodiverse ecosystem.

This victory proves that citizen pressure, legal action, and persistence can stop harmful infrastructure projects and force real change. But the fight is not completely over. The billboard targeting activists is still there, the pressure on environmental activists too. But the group is not going anywhere. To everyone who supported, signed, shared, and stood with us through the years – thank you.

## A RECORD YEAR FOR LOCAL ACTION

Zelena akcija transformed citizen reports of environmental damage into organized action through their Green phone service and legal team. By providing legal and advocacy support, they empowered communities to fight for their rights. In 2025, Zelena akcija supported a record-breaking 16 citizen initiatives across Croatia, tackling issues from factory farming and coastal over-development to air pollution and waste management.

Amidst shrinking civic space, this surge in grassroots activism signals an awakening of public consciousness, proving that when people are equipped, they can effectively defend their environment and their future.



© Zelena akcija

## CROATIA



© Friends of the Earth Cyprus

## CYPRUS

## OPENING THE CONVERSATION ON MOBILITY JUSTICE

Friends of the Earth Cyprus helped to put mobility on a higher spot on the public agenda as an issue of accessibility, inclusion and spatial justice. By supporting the European Mobility Week in Limassol Municipality, the city ended up in the three European finalist cities for its activities, they created a space for wider conversation on the ways that streets and cities are designed, who they serve, and whose voices are often left out.

A connection was made between local action and national advocacy, including engagement with Parliament on barriers around micromobility and access. This contributed to a stronger campaign for more people-centred mobility in Cyprus and helped establish the organisation as a recognised civil society voice on these issues.

## PAVING WILDERNESS

National parks in the Czech Republic recently faced a severe threat from proposed amendments to the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection. Hnutí DUHA, which has defended nature for over 30 years, launched the Paving Wilderness campaign to stop these changes. The public response was overwhelming: over 24,000 supporters and 1,200 scientists and artists joined the call. Thanks to this pressure and a high-profile benefit concert, they successfully averted multiple harmful amendments.



© Hnutí DUHA/MajdaSlamova

## CZECH REPUBLIC

More than protecting the wilderness alone, Hnutí DUHA also achieved a major victory in energy policy by pushing through amendments to the Energy Act. Changes that prevent subsidies to go to coal-fired power plants and promote the development of wind energy.



© unwisemonkeys/NOAH

## DENMARK

## NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

NOAH exposed a critical flaw in Denmark’s so-called "green energy transition": the country imports vast amounts of wood from Estonia and Latvia, and burns it under the guise of green energy production, while the Baltic forests suffer. Protected habitats are disappearing, and carbon sinks are turning into carbon sources. Together with Save Estonia’s Forests and the Latvian Ornithological Society, they launched a documentary called *The Value of Forests*, as well as a report called *No Smoke Without Fire*, proving that Denmark’s sustainability law is failing to protect nature and climate as intended.

NOAH’s solution is clear: Denmark must phase out wood burning for energy, starting by immediately stopping Estonian and Latvian imports. The fight to hold Denmark accountable, ensuring it cannot greenwash its energy use while claiming climate leadership on the world stage, continues!

## IT’S NOT JUST BUSINESS

Last November, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) was able to send a delegation to COP30. The presence on the ground was an incredible opportunity to connect with sister groups and allies, and also allowed for sublime reactivity. By the end of the summit, director Asad secured 20+ pieces of media coverage, and was quoted in many national outlets.

The main focus for the climate conference was the Planet Over Profit campaign, looking at environmental harms and human rights abuses in supply chains and deforestation. In the run up to COP30, the *“It’s not just business”* film was released, calling for a new Business, Human Rights and Environmental law to hold UK companies to account for environmental and human rights harms throughout their supply chains. The short film was well received and not only won a Big Syn award, it is also currently nominated for a Smiley Award.



© Friends of the Earth (EWNI)

## ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND



## ESTONIA

## ENERGY IN COMMUNITY

Estonia Green Movement focused on community energy and decentralisation in 2025 with the goal to build capacity and awareness so that policy makers can make evidence-based decisions. The efforts have paid off in 'Just Transition' regions where the impact and understanding of the concept of 'community' energy has increased. The awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing was organised through publishing briefings, research and factsheets, as well as multiple citizens forums and

roundtables. Hopefully the National and Regional Partnership Plans of the next EU budget will include investments and policies towards increasing community energy.

## MOVING TOWARD A PHASE-OUT OF GAS

Les Amis de la Terre launched a major advocacy campaign ahead of the March 2026 municipal elections. The goal? To ensure that a commitment to a fossil gas phase-out is incorporated into election campaigns. A dedicated website ([sortonsdugaz.fr](https://sortonsdugaz.fr)) allows citizens to explore statistics on the impact of gas consumption in their municipality.



## FRANCE

Figures such as per-inhabitant costs (including the amount indirectly paid to Trump or Putin, from whom France purchases gas), or climate impact... have prompted website visitors to call on their local councils to commit to a transition away from gas. The campaign outreach has increased due to positive press coverage in local media and influencers on social media. This long-term campaign has gotten off to a very promising start!



© Friends of the Earth Georgia

## GEORGIA

## GOING WITH THE FLOW

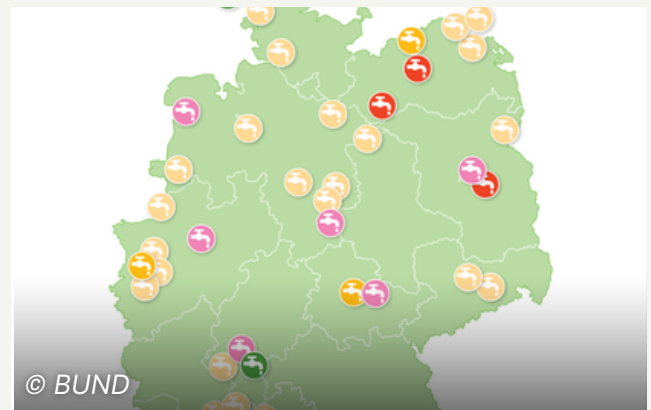
The Greens Movement of Georgia worked on strengthening public and institutional understanding of the new Water Law, which will enter into force on 1 September 2026. Limited awareness among local communities and municipalities posed a barrier to effective implementation. To address this, they engaged local residents, civil society, and local self-governments through a series of stakeholder meetings in the different river basin areas. Proving that through

dialogue, it is possible to promote participatory water governance and increase readiness for the upcoming regulatory changes. This work contributes to building public and political support for systemic environmental solutions in Georgia and was implemented with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Georgia.

## COMBATING FOREVER CHEMICALS, PROTECTING WATER

In 2025, BUND marked its 50th anniversary while actively shaping Germany's political agenda, with a strong focus on water protection and environmental governance. Amid coalition negotiations, BUND pushed for stronger commitments on groundwater protection and chemical regulation. A nationwide groundwater study and PFAS tests on

drinking water exposed widespread contamination and regulatory gaps, generating strong media attention and political pressure. By linking scientific evidence with targeted advocacy and public mobilisation, BUND strengthened support for systemic solutions to the water crisis and challenged industry influence delaying stricter standards. The campaign contributed to a broader shift toward precautionary water policies.



© BUND

## GERMANY



© Friends of the Earth Hungary

## HUNGARY

## GROWING BIODIVERSITY THROUGH EVERYDAY ACTION

The “*Our Diverse Garden*” campaign, addressed the loss of biodiversity by showing that everyone can support nature in their immediate surroundings.

Working together with 23 member groups, MTVSZ connected with 35,000 people through 500 different in-person events, in 93 communities. People were mobilised through practical, experience-based tools: a free travelling exhibition, modular garden

models, sample gardens, and interactive storytelling for children. The change that’s sought is a wider cultural shift towards biodiversity-friendly everyday practices, including small urban gardens and balconies.

## MARCHING FOR FASTER AND FAIRER CLIMATE ACTION

In what was the biggest climate march in Ireland in years, thousands of people, from all corners of the country, took to the streets of Dublin on November 15 to demand climate justice and systems change. This National Climate March, organised by the Stop Climate Chaos coalition - of which Friends of the Earth Ireland is the founding member - was

endorsed by 59 organisations and groups, and brought together a wide variety of civil society organisations, trade unions and community groups. A powerful reminder that the climate movement in Ireland is growing and becoming more intersectional, with stronger ties than ever between environmental and social justice movements. Together, they showed up in huge numbers and let the Government know that people across Ireland want faster and fairer climate action.



© Friends of the Earth Ireland

## IRELAND



© Friends of the Earth Malta

## MALTA

## A BIG CELEBRATION!

Friends of the Earth Malta (FoEM) celebrated their 40th anniversary, a big moment for one of Malta's earliest grassroots organisations. FoEM emerged at a time when environmental awareness was still limited, striving to cultivate a culture of care and responsibility for the local environment. Over the decades they've played a pivotal role in raising public awareness, mobilising communities, and advocating for environmental protection leaving a lasting imprint on both policy and practice in Malta.

From waste management and sustainable development to biodiversity conservation and climate action, its initiatives have often served as catalysts for broader change, inspiring other organisations, schools, and local communities to engage in environmental stewardship. The anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on such a rich history of activism, celebrate key achievements and the dedication of generations of volunteers and staff who have contributed to Malta's environmental movement.

## A MAJOR VICTORY AGAINST A MAJOR POLLUTER

After years of sustained pressure from Milieudefensie, Both ENDS, JA! (FoE Mozambique) and FoEE, a major victory against the 'TotalEnergies LNG Mozambique' project finally came through! The Dutch government decided to withdraw from a \$640 million export credit insurance policy for the controversial LNG gas project in Mozambique. The decision follows an investigation, lobbying, and legal pressure on the Dutch government due to violent conflicts and environmental damage in the region.



© Ike Teuling

## THE NETHERLANDS

Finance Minister Heinen also published two independent investigations into human rights violations and the security situation surrounding the project in Mozambique, following sustained calls from civil society and the House of Representatives. They confirm previous allegations of systematic human rights violations by Mozambican security forces – financed by TotalEnergies. However, it remains a cause for concern that the policy for carrying out work on the same project in Mozambique by dredging company Van Oord, worth \$213 million, remains in place.



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## POLAND

## LOCAL ENGAGEMENT: SPENDING TIME IN NATURE

PEC Gliwice's rounded off its Erasmus+ project called "*Nature of being in nature*" in which a series of lectures and educational trips was organised for local seniors. It was an opportunity to focus on local action, after years of having to focus the work on a much wider scale, due to funding and the pandemic. This project was an opportunity to engage with the local community again, which was met with an enthusiastic response, showing

a strong need for local engagement, which Friends of the Earth Poland hopes to continue in the future.

## NO TO FALSE PROMISES IN WASTE MANAGEMENT!

Slovakia Priatelia Zeme -(SPZ) succeeded in halting the construction of a potentially polluting plastic recycling facility in Prakovce! SPZ also addressed 15 high-risk waste incineration and chemical recycling projects through its 'Citizen Assistance Centre', which significantly helps affected communities to fight against false promises in the waste management field.

Thanks to systematic work with local governments, SPZ succeeded in

implementing an effective D2D textile collection program in Košeca, and carried out three nationwide campaigns: "*Plastic-Free March*" — in which over 80 schools, local governments, eco-stores, and organisations participated; "*Compost Awareness Week*" — in which nearly 60 schools and local governments participated, with more than 130 contest entries; and "*European Week for Less Waste (E-Waste)*" in which over 60 schools and local governments participated.



© Priatelia Zeme - SPZ

## SLOVAKIA



© Umanotera

## SLOVENIA

# BUILDING ALLIANCES FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Just Transition Network was established in 2025 as a platform to strengthen alliances, support bottom-up organising and foster connections between environmental, social, and labour organisations, so that they can address the climate and social crisis together. The informal network's aims to develop and advocate for social and climate policies that reduce emissions while addressing

social inequalities, and it envisions a just transition grounded in accessible public services, democratic decision-making, and resilient communities shaped by people's needs, within planetary boundaries. The network is coordinated by environmental NGO Umanotera with support from Focus, and advances its vision through joint advocacy, regional organising, and support for grassroots initiatives.

# A HISTORIC VICTORY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A historic victory for environmental justice has taken place in 2025: local governments now have the legal duty to act against environmental degradation that poses a threat to people's lives.

A community in Spain, supported by Amigas de la Tierra and many others, took legal action against industrial livestock pollution after years of political inaction.



## SPAIN

The Spanish court ruled that state and regional authorities have violated the human rights of residents, both under the Spanish Constitution and European Convention on Human Rights, by failing to manage the unprecedented pollution generated by hundreds of pig and poultry operations in the A Limia region. This victory is considered a legal first for industrial agriculture and fundamental rights – and a turning point for communities across Europe.



© Jordens Vänner

## SWEDEN

# ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION: DEFENDING FORESTS, DEMANDING CHANGE

In 2025, forestry company SCA received Jordens Vänner’s annual ‘Greenwashing Prize’ for misleading sustainability claims about its forestry practices. The award, together with coordinated campaigns by several Swedish environmental organisations, drew national and international attention. As pressure mounted, two global companies -

Nestlé and Zalando - chose to end their partnerships with SCA. In turn, this sparked a larger ongoing and long-awaited, debate about Sweden’s forestry in general. The case illustrates how change can be achieved, and how collective action can hold even the largest corporations to account.

## KEEPING OUR SOIL ALIVE!

Every single second, a single square metre of fertile soil gets destroyed in Switzerland. Booming infrastructure, inappropriate farming methods, pesticides and chemical pollution: they all contribute to the rapid depletion of this vital, though limited resource. While the Swiss government developed a national soil strategy a few years ago, they did not follow through with its implementation.



## SWITZERLAND

To make things happen, Pro Natura organised a big conference in November 2025 to create a space for authorities, scientific experts, farmers’ unions and NGOs to explore ways to ensure our soil can continue to support food production, clean water and thriving ecosystems, with a joint-objective to stop soil loss by 2050. Roughly 160 participants took part in various workshops and agreed on a range of key follow-up steps, marking the start of a potentially long-term engagement by Pro Natura on this highly cross-topical issue.

# A FULL LIST OF OUR MEMBERS IN 2025

**Albania** - Eden

**Armenia** - Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)

**Austria** — GLOBAL 2000

**Belgium (Wallonia & Brussels)** — Les Amis de la Terre

**Belgium (Flanders & Brussels)** — Climaxi

**Bosnia & Herzegovina** — Centar za životnu sredinu

**Bulgaria** — Za Zemiata

**Croatia** — Zelena Akcija

**Cyprus** — Friends of the Earth

**Czechia** — Hnutí Duha

**Denmark** — NOAH

**England, Wales & Northern Ireland** — Friends of the Earth

**Estonia** — Eesti Roheline Liikumine

**Finland** — Maan Ystävät Ry

**France** — Les Amis de la Terre

**Georgia** — Sakhartvelos Mtsvaneta Modzraoba

**Germany** — Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)

**Hungary** — Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége

**Ireland** — Friends of the Earth

**Latvia** — Latvijas Zemes Draugi

**Lithuania** — Lietuvos Zaliuju Judėjimas

**Luxembourg** — Mouvement Ecologique

**Malta** — Friends of the Earth Malta

**The Netherlands** — Milieudefensie

**North Macedonia** — Dvizhenje na Ekologistite na Makedonija

**Norway** — Naturvernforbund

**Poland** — Polski Klub Ekologiczny

**Scotland** — Friends of the Earth Scotland

**Slovakia** — Priatel'ia Zeme

**Slovenia** — Focus Association for Sustainable Development

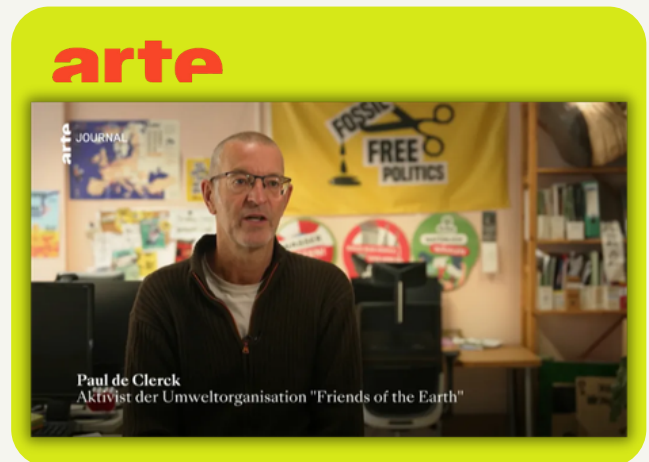
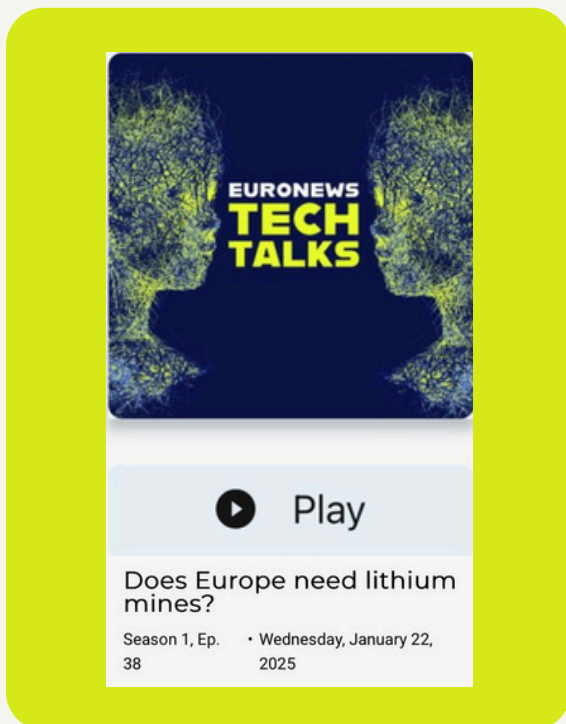
**Spain** — Amigas de la Tierra

**Sweden** — Jordens Vänner

**Switzerland** — Pro Natura

# FOEE IN THE NEWS

We work on **messages and stories that need to be heard** and we have been turning them into headlines! We hit the mainstream news at least **120 times last year commenting on EU legislative proposals** including in [The Times](#) on loosening rules around 'Frankenfoods', [The Guardian](#) on losing the environmental protections we secured in the European Green Deal and in [Reuters](#) on the disappointing EU ambitions for bringing down CO2 emissions.



Our spokespeople turned up in **podcasts, live TV, radio and video interviews** including Arte talking about the EU Green Deal backlash, RFI warning about the dangers of the EU-Mercosur trade deal, [Euronews](#) answering whether Europe needs lithium mines or not, on the [Dutch Argos/VPRO](#) podcast explaining how fossil fuel companies used the Ukraine war in their favour, and on the [Jolt](#) to talk about making energy affordable for the most vulnerable.

We made our stance clear in **opinion pieces** in the [Belgian Standaard](#) on the ways foreign investments hinder support to Ukraine and [Politico](#) covered our critique of the Omnibus 1 and the new GMOs proposals, [Euronews](#) our exposé on the countries still inviting Fossil Fuel lobbyists to COP, [Forbes](#) our joint-complaint to the Ombudswoman over the Omnibus 1 process, and [EUObserver](#) our march for safeguards.

# FOEE IN THE NEWS

The screenshot shows a news article from Euro News. The title is "Fossil fuel lobbyists outnumber most delegations at COP30 climate talks in Brazil". The author is "Euronews Green" and it was published on 14/11/2025 at 11:17 GMT+1. The article includes a sub-headline: "Analysis finds 1,600 fossil fuel representatives at UN climate summit in Brazil, outnumbering almost every country delegation." The main text states: "The EU appears to have taken note as the only people in its delegation that are not from an EU institution or its advisors were three journalists and film-makers." A quote from Kim Claes, a campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, says: "It is a strong signal from the European Commission to not bring fossil fuel lobbyists to COP for the second year in a row,". Another quote says: "Now it's time to enshrine this approach in EU policy and ensure that national delegations at COP follow suit." The article concludes: "Following the work of Fossil Free Politics groups, Germany and Austria also committed ahead of COP30 not to bring fossil fuel lobbyists to the talks."

The screenshot shows a news article from The Guardian. The title is "EU rollback on environmental policy is gaining momentum, warn campaigners". The author is "Ajit Niranjani" and it was published on Thu 26 Jun 2025 at 06:00 CEST. The article includes a sub-headline: "Observers shocked at scale and speed of deregulation drive they say is watering down European Green Deal and laws". The main text states: "Paul de Clerck, a campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, said the scale of the cuts in the first omnibus proposal in February showed that the simplification argument was 'basically bollocks'." The article continues: "The Commission's plans postpone corporate sustainability reporting requirements by two years and reduce the number of companies in its scope by 80%; delay corporate due diligence rules by one year; remove a requirement to conduct in-depth impact assessments; scrap a civil liability clause that would make it easier to sue companies; and exclude about 90% of businesses from the carbon border adjustment mechanism. Member states on Monday proposed reducing the scope even further." A quote from De Clerck says: "This is highly relevant because it's the first proposal under the simplification agenda that's been put forward and ... it's not just weakening it a little bit, it's slashing it. The heart of the proposal has basically been taken out."

# FOEE IN THE NEWS

euobserver



## Activists lead three-day march on Brussels against EU's 'deregulation wave'

By [Hannah Kriwak](#), Brussels, 24 September 2025 06:51

“People over Profits” and “Climate Justice” are painted on shields and written on flags. Protesters gathered on Tuesday (23 September) near Place Schuman in the heart of the European Quarter in Brussels. Right in front of the protesters is the headquarters of the European Commission and the seat of the European Council.

## Le Monde

ENVIRONMENT

### EU proposes to allow pesticide use without time limits

The European Commission, the Union's executive arm, presented an omnibus legislative package on Tuesday that would overhaul the current system for approving plant protection products.

By Stéphane Foucart

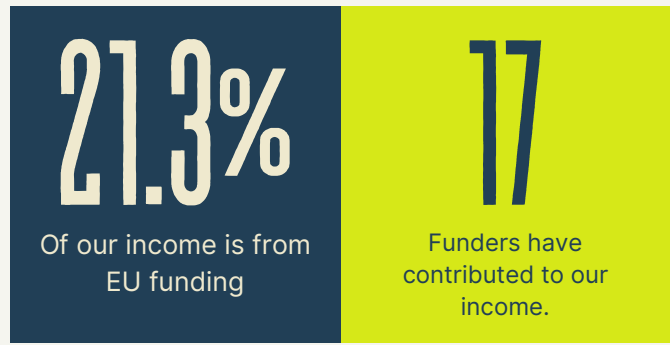
December 17, 2025, at 10:47 am (Paris)



A vineyard plot in Villeneuve, France, December 2, 2025. UGO AMEZ FOR LE MONDE

The European Commission unveiled its proposal to simplify food safety regulations on Tuesday, December 16. The omnibus legislative package, the 10<sup>th</sup> of its kind, marks the most significant change to the European system for regulating pesticides since the 2009 directive. The European Union's executive arm argued the bill would allow a more flexible approach, targeting the most

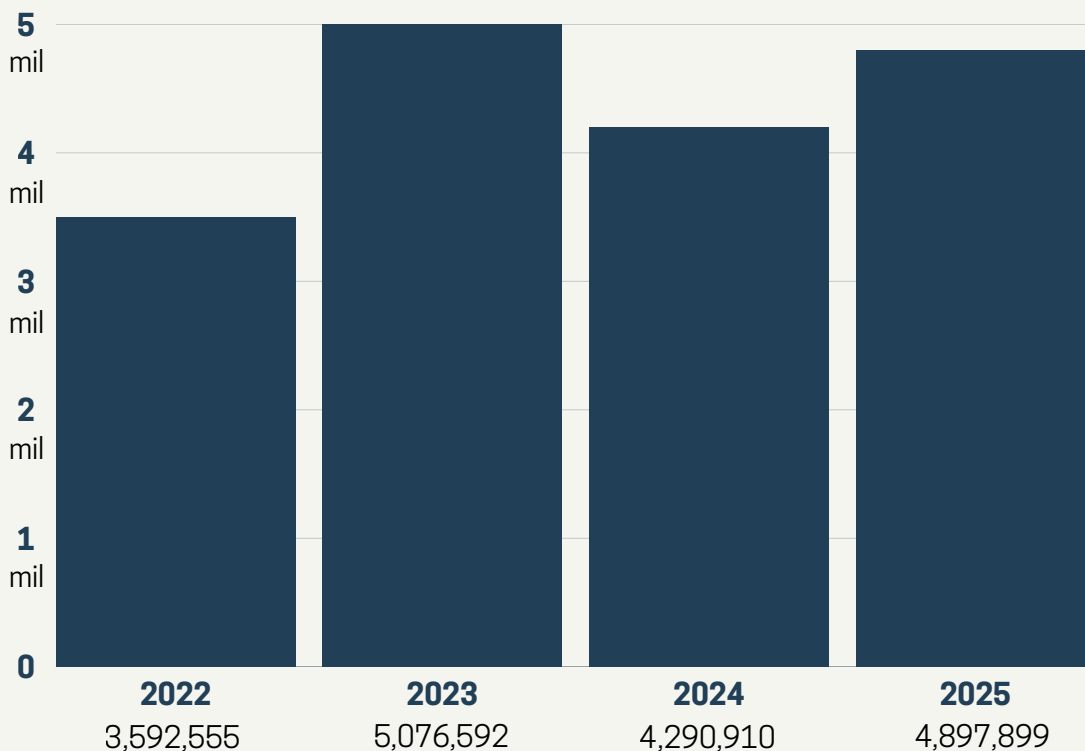
# A LOOK AT OUR FINANCES\*



In our ongoing efforts to diversify and stabilise our financial resources, we have successfully cultivated a balanced approach to funding. This strategy is essential not only for sustaining our current operations but also for enabling future growth and innovation. By ensuring that EU funding constitutes 21,3% of our income, we have tapped into a vital source that aligns with our mission and objectives.

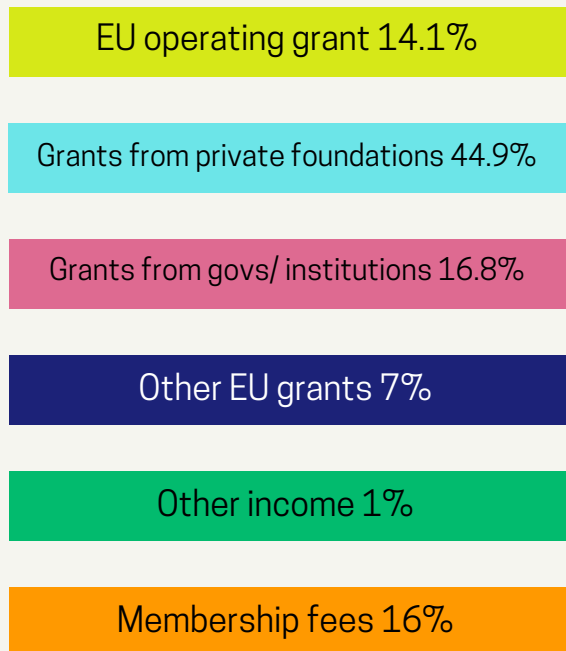
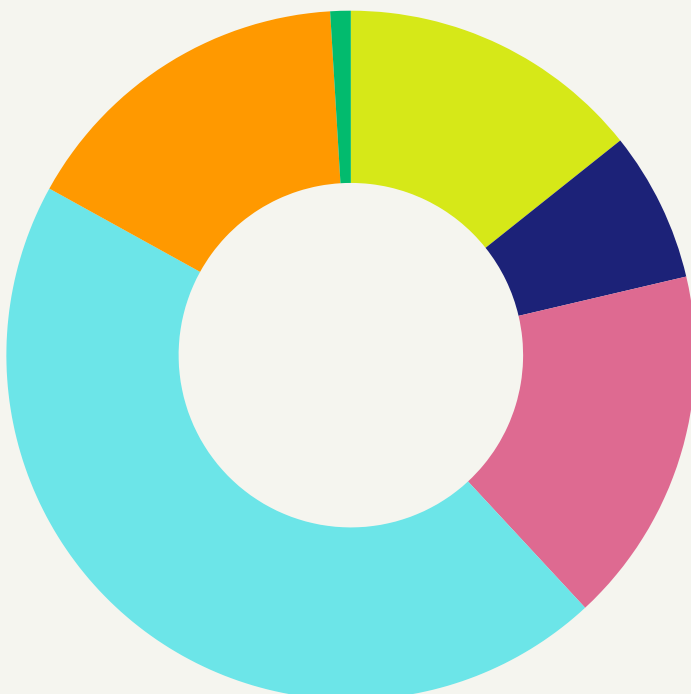
A total of 17 funders, including private, institutional, and EU sources, along with our member groups, have contributed to our income, ensuring that we do not rely heavily on a limited number of funding sources. The majority of our funders have sustained their support for our efforts, enabling us to strengthen our dedication to collaborative initiatives that serve the broader community. FoEE expects ongoing partnerships and collaboration in 2026.

## 2025 INCOME TRENDS



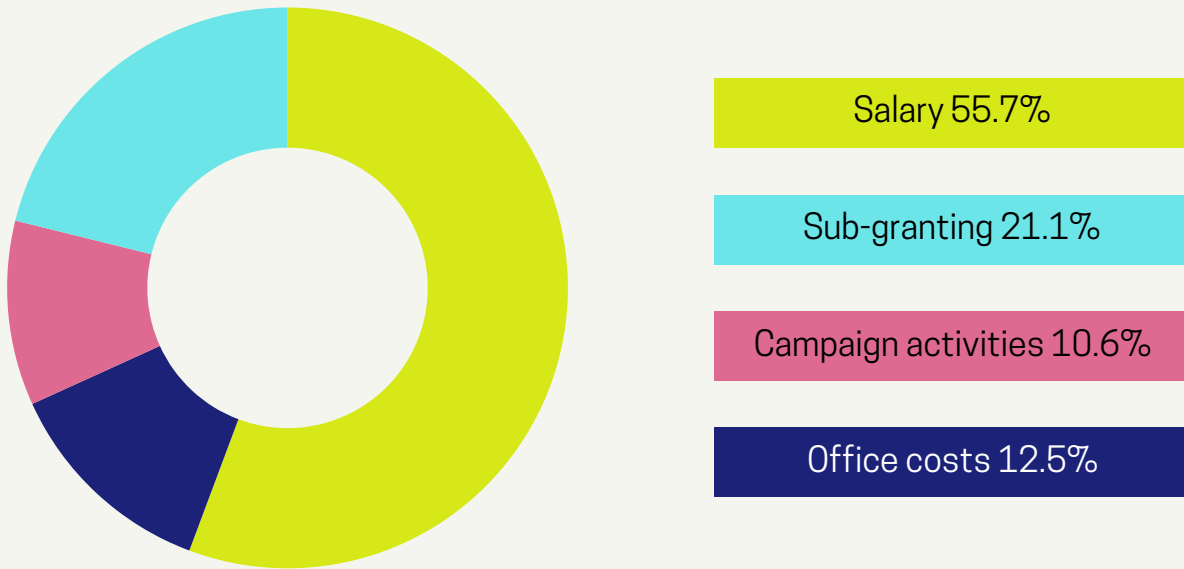
# 2025 INCOME BY SOURCES

Source	Amount	%
Grants from private foundations	€ 2,201,115.51	44,9%
EU operating grant	€ 700,000.00	14,3%
Grants from government/ institutions	€ 821,255.00	16,8%
Membership fees	€ 783,630.00	16,0%
Other EU grants	€ 344,583.10	7,0%
Other income	€ 47,315.83	1,0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	€ 4,897,899.44	



# 2025 EXPENSES BY TYPE

Expense	Amount	%
Salary	€ 2,723,774.28	55,7%
Office costs	€ 612,434.94	12,5%
Subgranting	€ 1,034,270.84	21,1%
Campaign activities	€ 520,839.30	10,6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	€ 1,034,270.84	



**EU Transparency Register no. 9825553393-31**

\*Figures are rounded to the nearest Euro and may not add up due to rounding.

Full copies of Friends of the Earth Europe’s accounts are available from the Belgian national bank [here](#). Quote company number 1027.957.696. Details of our funding can be found [here](#).

# A NOTE ON OUR FUNDING

**Friends of the Earth Europe**  
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www.friendsoftheearth.eu

Friends of the Earth Europe's work would not be possible without the support of our donors. We would like to thank the following institutions and foundations for helping fund our work:

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



Co-funded by  
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Co-funded by  
the European Union



## GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS



Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag

## OUR SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

Adessium Foundation  
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Funders for Fair Trade Foundation  
Isvara Foundation  
KR Foundation  
Marin Community Foundation  
Murmur Foundation  
New Europe Foundation  
New Venture Fund  
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Tides Foundation  
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**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
A FRIEND OF THE EARTH, & TO OUR  
STAFF & MEMBERS & ALLIES**



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