

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CAN) EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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“AS A CSO FROM A COUNTRY ASPIRING TO BECOME AN EU MEMBER, BEING A CAN EUROPE MEMBER HAS HELPED BUILD OUR CAPACITIES IN MANY SECTORS AND PROCESSES THAT HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED OR REACHED AN ADVANCED POINT IN THE EU, SUCH AS CLIMATE ACTION AND JUST TRANSITION. AS PART OF THE WORK IN CAN EUROPE’S CLIMATE HUB, WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE CLIMATE LEGISLATION AND PROCESSES IN DIFFERENT EU COUNTRIES AND LEARN BEST PRACTICES AND EXAMPLES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN NORTH MACEDONIA.”

ELENA NIKOLOVSKA, PROGRAM COORDINATOR CLIMATE, EKO-SVEST, NORTH-MACEDONIA

“CAN EUROPE IS ONE OF THE KEY NETWORKS THAT ALLOWS US TO DO OUR WORK EFFECTIVELY. IT KEEPS US ON THE PULSE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE EU AS WELL AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. A UNIQUE FEATURE OF CAN IS THE SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGION, WHICH INDEED REQUIRES A DIFFERENT APPROACH, ACTIVITIES AND NARRATIVES.”

I AM PERSONALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUAL EXCHANGES ON THE KEY CLIMATE POLICIES, PARTICULARLY NATIONAL CLIMATE LAWS, THE SUSTAINABLE ACCELERATION OF RENEWABLES AND ENERGY PLANNING THROUGH THE NECPS. IN THESE TIMES OF MULTIPLE INTERCONNECTED CRISES, WE TRULY BENEFIT FROM SUCH NETWORKING, COORDINATED ACTION ON EU LEVEL AND INSPIRED ACTION ON NATIONAL LEVEL.”

DANA MAREKOVÁ, CAMPAIGNER, KLIMA FOKUS , SLOVAKIA

MEMBERSHIP

“FOR CAN-UK, IT’S BEEN FANTASTIC WORKING WITH COLLEAGUES FROM CAN EUROPE ON OUR SHARED PRIORITIES THIS YEAR. THE JOIN UP ACROSS UK, EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS IN CAN ADDS ENORMOUS VALUE TO OUR WORK.”

CATHERINE PETTENGELL, DIRECTOR, CAN UK

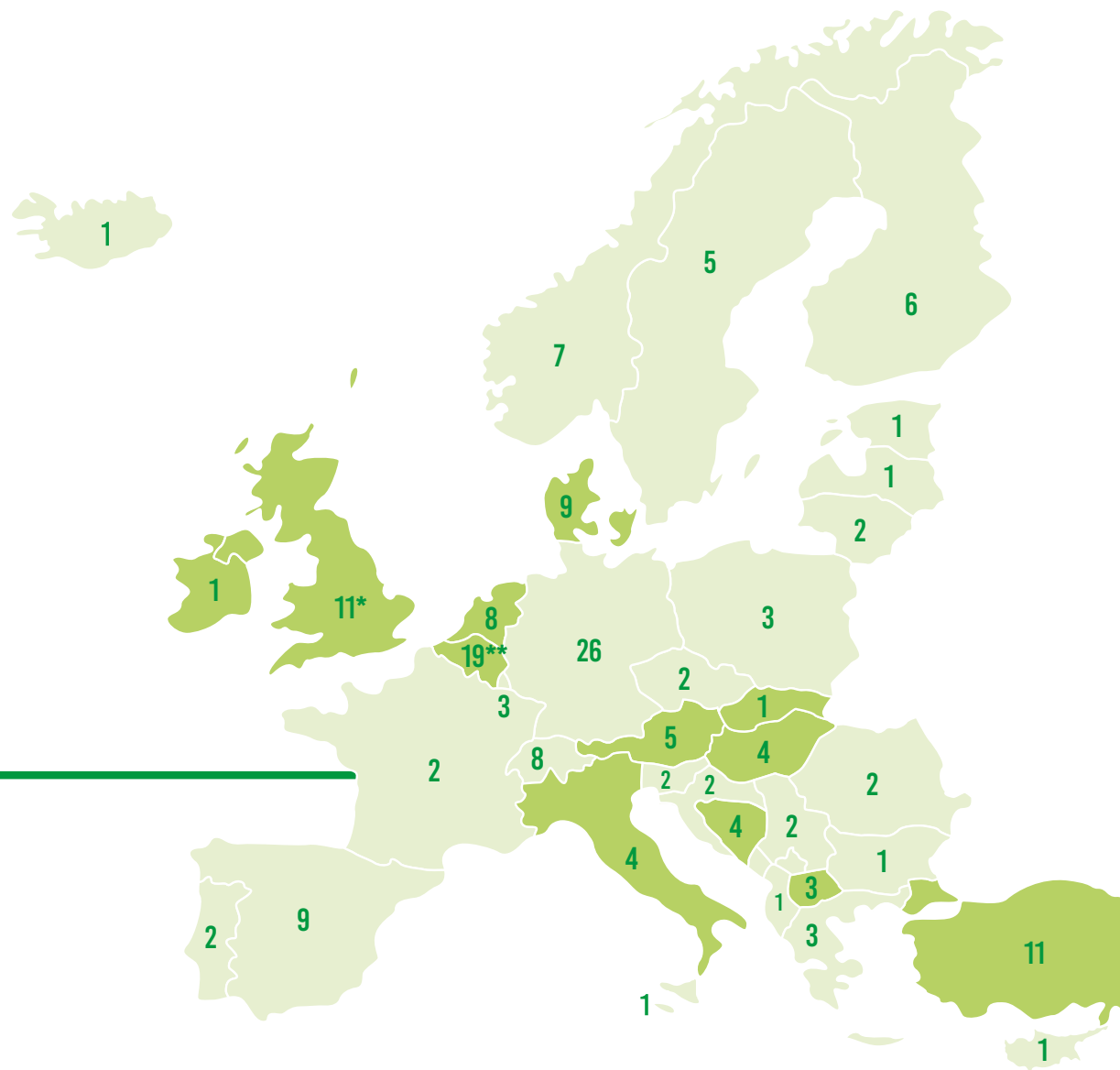
ELEVEN NEW MEMBERS

- + Four Paws, International
- + Association Resource Aarhus Center, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- + Human Development Foundation iNGEV, Turkey
- + ECCO Think Tank Foundation ETS, Italy
- + Global Focus, Denmark
- + WISE — World Information Service on Energy, Netherlands
- + CEEWeb for Biodiversity, Central & Eastern Europe
- + Green Thought Association / Yesil Düşünce Derneği, Turkey
- + Klima Fokus, Slovakia
- + Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Ireland
- + WWF CEE, Central & Eastern Europe

Numbers on the map refer to the number of members per country.
Countries marked green are those with new members.

*(1 national node + 10 members)

** (6 national members + 13 working towards the EU)





THE NETWORK

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. We are a unique network, in which environmental and development organisations work together to issue joint lobby campaigns and maximise their impact.

With over 180 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

In 2022, 11 new members joined our Network. We are proud to extend our work to Slovakia and to strengthen our membership in the Western Balkans and Central and Eastern Europe. While the EU is at the core of our work, we also reach beyond its borders. We carry out advocacy work in non-EU European countries. We also unite members from across Europe via our activities on international climate negotiations. Having a committed membership base that is informed, engaged and well represented is at the core of CAN Europe's ability to succeed.

NETWORK ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

2022 saw a number of key moments and activities that were vital for reweaving human connections across our Network's organisations both in Europe and globally.

In April, we held the first In-person Spring General Assembly since 2019 and it proved to be a wonderful week of workshops, events, and social moments that offered a chance to see colleagues from across the Network in a face-to-face setting, with the option to join remotely via high quality video-streaming. This was a good test of the post-Covid hybrid approach to our General Assemblies, and one we look forward to building on for 2023.

Throughout the year, we developed our new five-year Vision & Strategy which will be finalised for the Spring General Assembly 2023. Bringing members into the process at every stage was vital to ensuring we co-develop a strategy relevant for the entire network, and one capable of being owned by the membership.

2022 also saw us make impressive strides in our collaboration and solidarity across the global CAN network where we strengthened our relationships and ties with Global South colleagues. We also developed our connection with other CAN Nodes, including making our first contribution to the Node Development Fund that supports Nodes of Climate Action Network with the objective of ensuring a more balanced distribution of resources across the nodes.

FACTS AND FIGURES



94,641

WEBSITE USERS

WITH THE HIGHEST
ENGAGEMENT AROUND
THE BEGINNING OF THE
WAR IN UKRAINE



5 JOINT FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND 28 WORKSHOPS FOR THE NETWORK



28

LETTERS TO
POLICY MAKERS

4

SUBMISSIONS TO
CONSULTATIONS

23

BRIEFINGS
& REPORTS

26,016
FOLLOWERS



9,154
FOLLOWERS



8,355
FOLLOWERS



UP 9.4% | UP 24% | UP 60%

FROM 2021

46,438 IMPRESSIONS



OF TOP POST ON TWITTER



6 MEDIA
EVENTS AND
3 STUNTS

4,630 MASS
MEDIA HITS



65 STRATEGY CALLS
AND

22 WEBINARS



WITH THE
NET WORK



1ST TWITTER SPACE ORGANISED

8 MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS WITH

900+ SUBSCRIBERS



BEGINNING OUR PODCASTING JOURNEY: EUROPE CLIMATE CONNECTION

In 2022, CAN Europe launched “Europe Climate Connection”, a podcast that gives a voice to CAN Europe’s members, bringing their areas of expertise closer to other members and audiences. The 20 minute episodes present climate and energy challenges in a dynamic and engaging way, taking the public on a journey around Europe as they listen. From the promises and expectations tied to COP, to Ireland’s building renovation and heating decarbonisation, we learnt more about our members’ work and about the hot topics discussed around the continent.

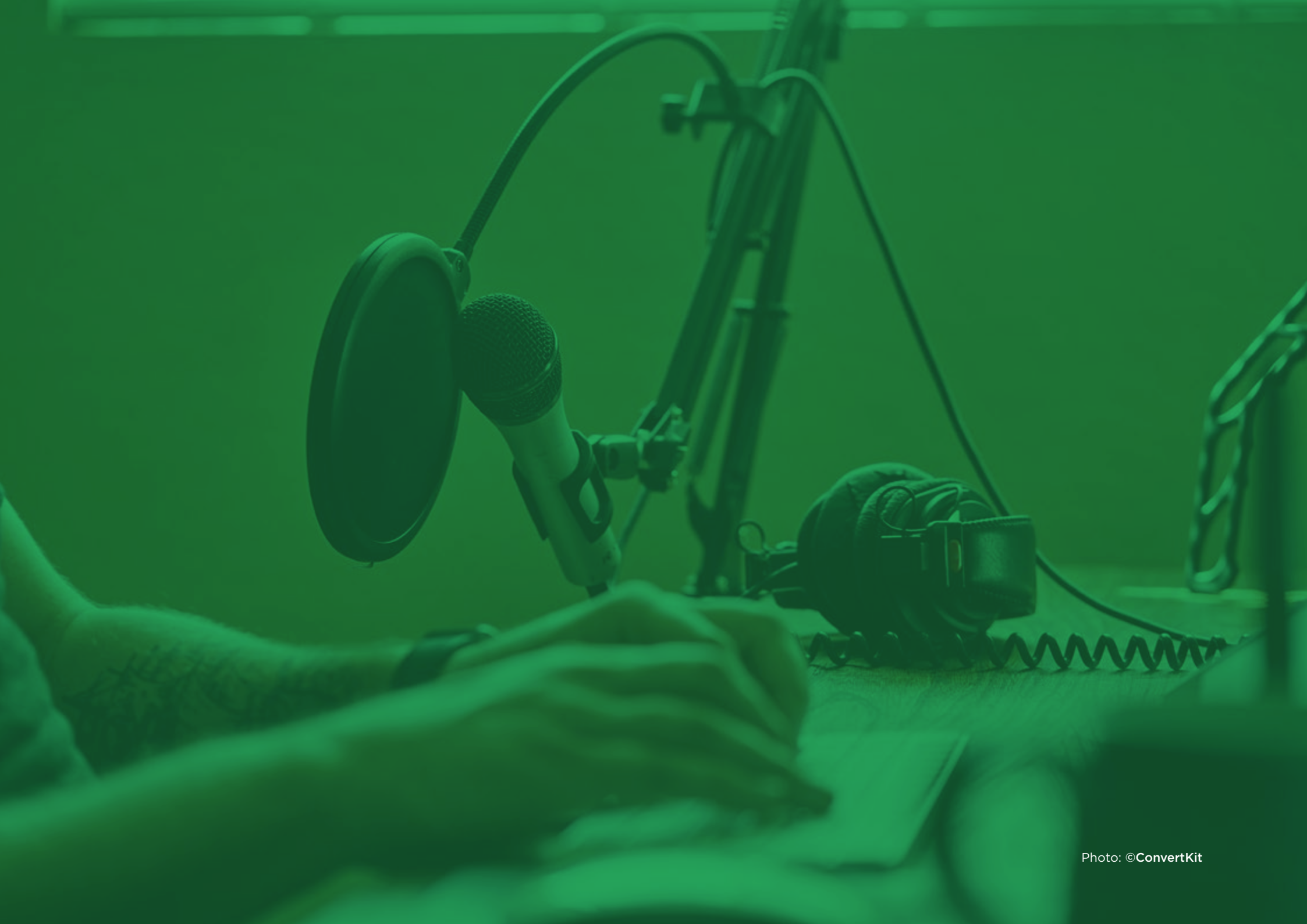
So join us in our latest project and listen to our episodes on:

[Spotify](#)

[Apple](#)

[Webpage](#)





ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERARCHING STORY | DEFENDING THE CLIMATE IN TURBULENT TIMES

At CAN Europe we kicked off 2022 with a very clear agenda to focus on influencing the 'Fit for 55', the climate and energy legislative package to operationalise the European Green Deal. We asked for much higher ambition — a 65% reduction in emissions by 2030 — that would allow the EU a greater chance to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C, keeping us all safer in a fit and fair way.

While we were still working on the aftermath of Covid on policy, funds and social impacts, trying to convey the many opportunities of a green recovery that reduces inequalities, Russia's unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine took place in late February.

After the absolute shock in the first days of the war, which was strongly condemned by civil society including CAN Europe, it was clear that the brunt of the invasion was borne by millions of innocent civilians in Ukraine, and its repercussions were global. The invasion of Ukraine exposed Europe and the globe's dangerous chronic addiction to fossil fuels. An addiction that not only jeopardises Europe's energy security, and pushes many Europeans into energy poverty, but also harms the climate and our future.

Mainstream news, and conversations in the street, featured the need for a fast energy transition to a system totally run by renewables like never before. The war, energy price and the climate crises are all interconnected and together they point to a solution that climate-concerned civil society has long been advocating for: fewer fossil fuels and more solar and wind energy.

While the dreadful war in Ukraine added more reasons for policy-makers in Europe to step up and present bold policies, including under the 'Fit for 55' and the 'REPowerEU' plan, there were many contradictions and loopholes in some of the tabled proposals, hindering the real, quick and climate proof solutions: phasing out fossil fuels and investing in the energy transition.

With support of our members and allies we decried false solutions, like Europe's focus on diversifying fossil fuel supplies and allowing Member States

to invest EU funds in fossil gas. CAN Europe continued to criticise the overall lack of ambition in the legislative proposals while suggesting clear science-based pathways to keep us all safer. We continued to work with our members and partners on underscoring the social benefits that climate action and climate justice can bring, by tackling the root causes of many inequalities, including those created by climate change.

By the end of 2022, we were proud to see some improvements in the EU's legislative proposals. However, there are still two big gaps: a lack of determination to phase out fossil fuels and end fossil fuel subsidies, and insufficient support for people during the fossil fuel crisis and in transitioning to renewables.

The EU's commitment to reduce emissions continued to be off track in 2022. This was compounded by upsetting developments in the international climate negotiations at COP27

where finance for adaptation and mitigation made poor progress. However, a historic win thanks to a massive push from civil society was achieved: an agreement to create a fund to address the impacts of climate change bringing justice to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Despite the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices, fossil fuels still dominated policy discussions and policymakers didn't dare to loudly and clearly blame them for the energy crisis. We need to ensure people are protected from energy price hikes in the coming winters and seasons to come. More and more of us are affected by devastating climate catastrophes such as droughts, wildfires and floods, but their impacts are not felt equally. Some regions are more vulnerable to climate impacts, and people who suffer more inequalities also bear the biggest brunt. The IPCC and other scientific reports remind us of the urgency to act now; 2023 must be the year of implementation at EU and state levels, with all hands on deck to secure a safe present and future for all.

REPOWERING FOR
THE PEOPLE



BOOSTING
AMBITION FOR THE
EU'S 2030 CLIMATE
FILES



THE EU FINALLY
AGREES TO A
HISTORIC LOSS AND
DAMAGE FUND



STRENGTHENING
WORK DRIVEN BY
OUR MEMBERS
ON NATIONAL
PLANNING



CONCRETE
PATHWAYS TO
REACHING CLIMATE
NEUTRALITY BY
2040



GROWING
MOMENTUM FOR A
MASSIVE ROLL OUT
OF RENEWABLES



HIGH AMBITION
FOR ENERGY
SAVINGS



THE NEED TO
PHASE OUT FOSSIL
FUELS, MORE
OBVIOUS THAN
EVER



EU FUNDS TO
GENUINELY
SUPPORT CLIMATE
ACTION — AND
NOT FALSE
SOLUTIONS



MASSIVE VICTORY
AGAINST THE
FOSSIL FUEL
INDUSTRY!



SETTING OUT
OUR IDEAS FOR A
TRUE INDUSTRIAL
TRANSFORMATION



EXPANDING THE
SPACE FOR YOUTH
AND ACTIVISM IN
CAN EUROPE



CONNECTING
PROGRESSIVE
STAKEHOLDERS
ACROSS CENTRAL
AND EASTERN
EUROPE



WESTERN BALKANS
INCHING TOWARDS
AN ENERGY
TRANSITION AND
CLIMATE ACTION



CLIMATE
COALITION IN
TURKEY: STRONGER
TOGETHER





REPOWERING FOR THE PEOPLE

In the first quarter of the year, CAN Europe launched the 'Repower For the People' briefing. Released before the European Commission published the 'REPowerEU' Plan in May, it was our response to the energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In the first quarter of the year, CAN Europe launched the 'Repower For the People' briefing. Released before the European Commission published the 'REPowerEU' Plan in May, it was our response to the energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

“IT IS ABOUT TIME THE EU ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE CRISIS WE ARE GOING THROUGH IS A FOSSIL FUEL CRISIS, FUELLING RUSSIA’S ATROCITIES, EXACERBATING EXISTING ENERGY POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES. THE COMMISSION’S INITIAL ‘REPOWEREU’ COMMUNICATION PUBLISHED IN MARCH WAS MISSING A SMALL DETAIL: THE PEOPLE. WITHOUT THE INTENTION TO EMPOWER THE PEOPLE, THE PLAN RISKS BEING A BAND-AID — TOO WEAK TO STOP THE BLEEDING ONLY TO CAUSE MORE COMPLICATIONS LATER.”

ELIF GÜNDÜZYELI, SENIOR ENERGY POLICY COORDINATOR, [RENEWABLE ENERGY MAGAZINE](#)

“INSTEAD OF GENUINELY REPOWERING THE EU, THE FINANCIAL LEG OF ‘REPOWEREU’ IS FUELING THE PERMANENCE OF THE EU’S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOSSIL FUELS, WHICH LED US TO THE CURRENT CRISIS.”

OLIVIER VARDAKOULIAS, FINANCE AND SUBSIDIES POLICY COORDINATOR, [EUOBSERVER](#)

By the end of 2021, awareness of the unprecedented increases in global energy prices was growing. The EU’s dependence on volatile fossil gas, mostly from Russia, was being exposed. Following Russia’s unjustified invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, historically high fossil gas prices caused a big increase in the cost of living for Europeans. In March 2022, the European Commission launched a communication on the ‘REPowerEU’ plan outlining a series of measures to respond to rising energy prices and to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030. The intention was to reduce EU demand for Russian gas by two thirds before the end of the year. Following the communication, heads of the EU Member States invited the Commission to flesh out the plan in May to phase out the dependency on Russian fossil fuels as soon as possible. CAN Europe produced a first paper with [recommendations](#) followed by a more comprehensive [REPower For the People](#) briefing to influence the drafting of the Plan. Our briefings outlined tangible short and mid-term recommendations to the Commission and Member States in order to put people and nature at the heart of ‘REPowerEU’.

Throughout 2022, CAN Europe advocated for a substantial revamp of EU funds and financial policies to accelerate and increase investments in the energy transition and climate action. We proactively [tabled ambitious proposals](#), and intensely campaigned [against climate regressive legislative proposals](#). Although the final legislation adopted by the EU institutions is unfortunately regressive, we managed to push through several damage control safeguards and will continue to fight for the exclusion of climate harmful investments within Member States’ spending plans for ‘REPowerEU’.



BOOSTING AMBITION IN THE EU'S 2030 CLIMATE FILES

Thanks to the persistent push of CAN Europe and its allies, we were able to improve crucial agreements across all climate files in the general revision of the EU's 2030 policy framework that is needed to put the European Green Deal in motion, the 'Fit For 55' package.

“ONLY WEEKS AFTER COP27 RANG THE ALARM BELLS THAT THE 1.5°C TARGET IS ON LIFE SUPPORT, EU LAWMAKERS MISSED AN IMPORTANT AND OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE EU ON TRACK. WHAT THEY AGREED LAST NIGHT FAILS TO PUT THE ETS IN LINE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT OBJECTIVE AND HENCE DOES NOT REPRESENT A FAIR CONTRIBUTION TO FIGHTING DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE”.

KLAUS RÖHRIG, HEAD OF CLIMATE IN CAN EUROPE, [EURACTIV](#)

Just before the end of 2022, European policymakers rubber stamped multiple revisions of key EU climate policies. In particular, they strengthened national greenhouse gas emission targets under the Effort Sharing Regulation, agreed to increase the EU’s natural sink capacity under the LULUCF Regulation and revamped the EU’s carbon market, the EU Emissions Trading System.

Thanks to the persistent push from our Network, we were able to improve several crucial elements of the framework, particularly strengthening the **rules for ETS revenue spending**, better compliance and transparency for land based carbon removals **and improving the trajectory for emission reductions in non-ETS sectors**.

By pushing the EU’s overall climate ambition to -57% net emission cuts by 2030, these agreements were a significant step forward. However, the **EU is still a far cry from the ambition levels necessary** to cover its fair share in the global fight against climate breakdown.



THE EU FINALLY AGREES TO A HISTORIC LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

At COP27 several EU Member States and the European Commission pledged loss and damage finance for the first time. This helped build momentum for the historic agreement to establish a loss and damage fund. Civil society's role was pivotal.

“THE WORLD IS WATCHING AND THE CLOCK IS TICKING. WE WILL BE HOLDING GOVERNMENTS TO ACCOUNT AT COP27 TO ENSURE THEY GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK. THE MONEY IS THERE – IT’S A QUESTION OF POLITICAL WILL.”

RACHEL SIMON, INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY COORDINATOR, [THE GUARDIAN](#)

Civil society around the world played a pivotal role in the historic decision at COP27 to establish a loss and damage fund.

The European Parliament’s COP27 resolution reflected some key inputs made by CAN Europe and its members on loss and damage which ramped up the pressure on the European Commission and Council ahead of COP.

In November through to the summit itself, a number of EU Member States and the European Commission pledged loss and damage finance for the first time.

After years of resistance, the shift in the EU’s position helped move other developed countries to reaching an agreement among the Parties.



STRENGTHENING WORK DRIVEN BY OUR MEMBERS ON NATIONAL PLANNING

The LIFE UNIFY project allowed the network to add pressure and improve national climate and energy governance and planning. Its achievements will live on in a key moment for national plans through the TogetherFor1.5 project.

Photo: ©Nina Tramullas, CAN Europe, 2022

“UNIFY’S FINDINGS ON FINAL NECP ASSESSMENTS WERE ECHOED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE PROJECT’S NECP TRACKER TOOL HAS HELPED NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS UNDERSTAND THE MISALIGNMENT BETWEEN NATIONAL CLIMATE OBJECTIVES AND THE PROPOSED PATHWAYS FOR MEETING THE OBJECTIVES.”

AUDREY MATHIEU, GERMANWATCH

An ambitious, robust and coherent climate and energy governance framework at the national level is essential to ensure that each European state does its part to help limit global warming to 1.5°C. It’s much more than just successfully adopting EU legislation: it’s about planning and implementing the transformative energy transition and the fair pathway that will ultimately lead each EU country to climate neutrality.

Thanks to several projects on the ground, such as [EUKI’s Green Deal in CEE](#), CAN Europe continued work driven by its members on national climate and energy governance throughout 2022. The [Unify project](#), which built an indispensable bridge between national and EU stakeholders for three years, came to an end. We are proud that it was promptly replaced by the [TogetherFor1.5 project](#), under which 13 national member organisations will be gearing up advocacy work for ambitious national climate and energy governance – starting with the upcoming NECP revision process.

Achieving the goals of the European Green Deal and reaching climate neutrality in a Paris-compatible way cannot be achieved without an active engagement of citizens, as well as their ownership of the process, ensuring its fairness and equity. Therefore, in 2022 CAN Europe started to engage with the [REAL DEAL Project](#). Together with other partners, we aimed to answer a key question: How can citizens (especially marginalised groups) be part of the deliberative and decision-making process in a meaningful way?



CONCRETE PATHWAYS TO REACHING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2040

In September, CAN Europe, Climate Analytics, and CAN Europe's member AirClim, published the "1.5°C pathways for the EU27: accelerating climate action to deliver the Paris Agreement" report, showing that the EU could reach net zero emissions by 2040.

CAN EUROPE “CALLED ON THE EU TO REDUCE EMISSIONS EVEN FASTER AND AIM FOR 63 PERCENT TO 73 PERCENT EXCLUDING LULUCF IN ORDER TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5 DEGREES. THE BLOC COULD DO SO (...) BY RAMPING UP ELECTRIFICATION, BY DEPLOYING RENEWABLES AND GREEN HYDROGEN MORE QUICKLY, AND BY TAKING MORE AMBITIOUS MEASURES TO REDUCE ENERGY DEMAND”.

CAN EUROPE, POLITICO

The 1.5°C pathways for the EU27 report reveals it is possible to achieve 65% cuts in greenhouse gases by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040 in the EU.

The study finds that to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C, the EU's fair contribution should be to reduce its emissions by at least 65% by 2030.

The report, based on the key assumptions of the Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) energy scenario (2020), displays how higher climate ambition is technically and economically feasible if the EU rapidly upscales renewable energy over the coming decades, with wind and solar as the cornerstone of the energy transition.

In the pathways assessed in the report, the EU27 can achieve close to 100% fossil-free electricity production by 2035. The transition to a more electrified and efficient energy system, coupled with behavioural and societal change, leads to strong reductions in final energy demand. This enables the rapid phase out of fossil fuels from the energy system, with renewables replacing it together with energy efficiency and savings measures.



GROWING MOMENTUM FOR A MASSIVE ROLL OUT OF RENEWABLES

In May 2022, the European Commission launched its long awaited EU Solar Energy Strategy, to ensure solar energy achieves its full potential. The strategy was supported by a legislative proposal for a solar mandate.

“BEFORE THE END OF THIS DECADE, WE WILL NEED A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF OUR ENERGY SYSTEM. IT SHOULD RECEIVE AT LEAST A HALF OF ITS SUPPLY PRIMARILY FROM SOLAR AND WIND POWER, WHILE ALSO PUTTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY AT ITS HEART. FOR THIS TRANSFORMATION TO BE A SUCCESS, IT WILL REQUIRE CLIMATE, ENERGY AND BIODIVERSITY POLICIES TO BE LOOKED AT HOLISTICALLY, AND TO REINFORCE EACH OTHER.”

SEDA ORHAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

Before the long awaited EU Solar Energy Strategy, CAN Europe and its members published a successful rooftop **solar PV country comparison report**. It showed that there are still significant barriers at national level which impede a higher uptake of rooftop solar PV, with many Member States still lacking the right regulatory framework and enabling environment.

The legislative proposal for a solar mandate, following the EU Solar Energy Strategy, was a concrete hook for CAN Europe to call for a quick and ambitious implementation of a mandatory installation of solar energy on buildings. Now more than ever, there is a strong public demand within EU countries to embrace a **solar revolution and to turbocharge rooftop solar**. As national governments are now scrambling to secure alternative energy sources, it is the opportune moment for them to engage with citizens, communities and businesses and tap into the large solar energy potential of buildings in order to accelerate the energy transition.

Together with members and partners, CAN Europe mobilised wider allies to call on EU policy makers to take the necessary steps to fight the energy price crisis and tackle climate crisis, and commit to **higher targets for our energy transition**: 50% renewable energy and 20% energy efficiency targets for 2030.

A stylized, isometric illustration of the European continent in a dark green hue. The map is populated with various icons representing sustainable energy and urban development: wind turbines, solar panels, modern buildings, and small human figures. In the upper right corner, a yellow icon depicts a hand holding a green circle with a white lightning bolt and an upward-pointing arrow. The background is a solid medium green.

HIGH AMBITION FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

CAN Europe pushed for higher ambition in the revision of the energy efficiency and buildings directives, and for a stronger role of renewable heating, aiming to reduce Europe's dependence on fossil fuels and tackle the climate crisis.

“TIME HAS COME TO TRANSFORM OUR HOMES. THE NECESSARY ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE BUILDINGS SECTOR IMPLIES A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND.”

MÓNICA VIDAL, HEATING CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR, [LA VANGUARDIA](#)

“A HIGHER BINDING EU ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGET WILL BE ESSENTIAL OVER THE COMING WINTER SEASONS AS HOMES AND INDUSTRIES LOOK TO REDUCE THEIR ENERGY DEMAND AND SAVE ON THEIR ENERGY BILLS”

VERENA BAX, ENERGY SAVINGS POLICY COORDINATOR, [ENDS EUROPE](#)

In 2022, CAN Europe advocated for the multiple benefits of energy savings including the renovation of leaky buildings. To achieve ambitious positions on the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, in line with the Paris Agreement, we successfully worked together with members and partners. Within our campaigns’ effort, we explored the **barriers to the deployment of renewable heating solutions** and hinted at possible solutions and key recommendations to accelerate buildings’ heating decarbonisation across Europe.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last year further exposed our dependency on fossil fuels. As a result, energy savings, buildings and renewable heating became more salient in political discussions and on the streets. Although short-term interventions have taken priority, long-term visions aiming at maximising energy savings and accelerating the fossil fuels’ phase out from our buildings were pushed by CAN Europe.



THE NEED TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS, MORE OBVIOUS THAN EVER

With the energy price crisis and geopolitical changes, fishing for new fossil gas and attempting to revive the coal agenda occurred even as fossil fuels are in their twilight and a just transition is kicking off.

“ANY SIGNAL ABOUT HAVING COAL COME BACK, NOT IN A TEMPORARY WAY, BUT FOR GOOD, WOULD BE A BETRAYAL TO THE PEOPLE WHO WERE PROMISED A JUST TRANSITION AWAY FROM A VERY DIRTY AND UNHEALTHY ENVIRONMENT TOWARDS GOOD AND PROSPEROUS JOBS AND A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEM – AS WELL AS A BETRAYAL TO THE INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY, SO I WOULDN’T THINK THAT THE EU CAN TAKE THAT RISK.”

ELIF GÜNDÜZYELI, SENIOR ENERGY POLICY COORDINATOR, [CGTN](#)

“WE CRITICISE THE COMMISSION’S PLAN FOR BETTING ON LNG IMPORTS AND HYDROGEN. WE CAN’T REPLACE DANGEROUS FOSSIL FUELS WITH OTHER DANGEROUS FOSSIL FUEL SOURCES.”

ESTHER BOLLENDORFF, SENIOR GAS POLICY COORDINATOR, [ENDS](#), MARCH 9TH, 2022

2022 should have been the decisive year for phasing out fossil gas as there was a clear political shift away from Russian imports into the EU, in addition to climate considerations. However a huge opportunity was turned into a daunting risk as Member States strongly betted on [gas diversification](#) or even coal revival. [New gas import deals](#) were arranged with the US, Norway but also Algeria, Nigeria, Azerbaijan and others. CAN Europe actively shaped public opinion on this risky fossil fuel push and hydrogen hype.

During the summer we put a lot of effort into massively [mobilising civil society](#) and other stakeholders against greenwashing [gas and nuclear as sustainable energy sources](#) eligible for private funding sources under the EU taxonomy. Unfortunately, our work trying to avoid dirty energy sources being classified as green will need to continue in 2023.

Reducing methane, a very powerful greenhouse gas, goes hand-in-hand with phasing out fossil gas by 2035. We strongly [pushed policy makers](#) with an independent [legal analysis](#) showing that it is possible to take ambitious action on reducing methane leakages from imported gas.

The long-awaited approval of the Territorial Just Transition Plans came at the end of the year, unlocking the Just Transition Fund for the EU’s coal and industrial regions. However, uncertainties remain on ensuring commitments to Paris-compatible coal phaseout dates in a period of energy price and security crises which has triggered a coal revival in certain Member States.

We monitored the threat of coal revival in the EU, showing the real picture to the media and the potential implications for the people and climate if the EU and Member States do not consciously take measures to avoid a structural return to coal.



EU FUNDS TO GENUINELY SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION — AND NOT FALSE SOLUTIONS

Climate considerations have made their way into the debate on the reform of the EU's economic governance. Meanwhile, scrutiny has been exercised with members to ensure EU funds are programmed through participatory processes and genuinely support climate action.

Photo: ©Callum Shaw, Unsplash

“IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REFORM OF THE EU FISCAL RULES IS A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER ENSURE DEBT SUSTAINABILITY WHILE ENCOURAGING PUBLIC SPENDING IN THE JUST AND GREEN TRANSITION. GOVERNMENTS MUST TAX WEALTH, STOP GREENWASHING, AND END FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES. BUT LET’S SAY IT LOUD AND CLEAR: IF WE DON’T ALSO CHANGE THE EU FISCAL RULES ON DEBT AND DEFICIT, WE CAN’T WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.”

ISABELLE BRACHET, FISCAL REFORM POLICY COORDINATOR, [EURACTIV](#)

CAN Europe and its member organisations advocated for increased climate action in EU spending plans. The team focused on **scrutinising the use of both cohesion policy and recovery funds for climate action**, with the objective of highlighting **positive examples** as well as climate-harmful investments and reforms to influence the debates and future legislation.

Keeping in mind that maximising the potential of existing funds for climate action is crucial, CAN Europe was equally aware that the “climate spending gap” remained large, and the risk of seeing austerity return high. This is why we were intensely advocating for a progressive EU fiscal framework that incentivises Member States to invest more in climate action while phasing out fossil fuel subsidies at national level.

Delivering a just transition, the “Fit for 55” package and ambitious ‘REPowerEU’ targets will require more resources from Member States, along with an alignment of their existing expenditures with climate, biodiversity and circular economy targets.



MASSIVE VICTORY AGAINST THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY!

CAN Europe and partners successfully campaigned for seven EU Member States to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The ECT is an international agreement that protects fossil fuel investments and is a tool to claim compensation when governments take climate action.

Photo: ©Nina Tramullas, CAN Europe, 2022

“THE OPTIONS THAT ARE BEING DISCUSSED ARE TOO WEAK TO MAKE THE ECT COMPATIBLE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT OR WITH EU LAW,”

“WE ARE NOT ADVOCATING THAT THEY BREAK INTERNATIONAL LAW.”

“EVEN IN THE ECT, THERE IS A CLAUSE ABOUT WITHDRAWAL. SO THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO BREAKING ANY LAW TO WITHDRAW FROM AN AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO THE RULES THAT ARE STIPULATED IN THIS AGREEMENT. AND THE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE IN ECT IS VERY EASY.”

CORNELIA MAARFIELD, TRADE POLICY COORDINATOR, [THE GUARDIAN](#)

CAN Europe and partners campaigned for the EU and European countries to withdraw from the climate-wrecking Energy Charter Treaty with success.

We managed to draw media attention to this obscure treaty and put pressure on policymakers to abandon it. We published multiple [briefings](#) explaining CAN Europe’s position: the reform of the treaty is pointless and the only way forward is to exit the treaty. We managed to convince Spain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Luxembourg and Slovenia to withdraw. This was a massive victory for civil society organisations!

The team also worked with Members of the European Parliament to pass a resolution calling for an EU withdrawal. Subsequently, the European Commission suggested that the EU and Member States exit the ECT jointly. In 2023, if the Council agrees, this would be the first time the EU withdraws from an international agreement because it is not climate-compatible and therefore it could be an important step to making the rules of the global political economy work for the climate, not against it.



SETTING OUT OUR IDEAS FOR A TRUE INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION

CAN Europe carried our transformation messages into many policy processes, and started to work to advocate towards concrete industrial regulations that are key to reducing Europe's emissions and changing the way we produce and consume.

“INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION IS CENTRAL TO THE EU MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. THE EU NEEDS POLICIES THAT RECOGNISE OUR OVER-CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES, AND WE NEED TOOLS TO ADDRESS THIS. THIS INCLUDES CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION PLANS, ECODSIGN OF PRODUCTS AND PRODUCTION PROCESSES, DEMAND-SIDE MEASURES, AND STRICT APPLICATION OF THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE.”

DOREEN FEDRIGO, TRANSFORMATION POLICY COORDINATOR

CAN Europe continued to push for industrial transformation that drives change through better designed products and for production processes that reduce environmental impacts from the start.

The team produced briefings on the transformation of the chemicals and steel sectors, and pushed back against a growing EU industry protectionist atmosphere.

Through our sustainable lifestyles work, we contributed to CAN Europe’s position on the EU’s ‘REPowerEU’ plan with the inclusion of the concept of sufficiency and energy use optimisation.

In parallel, the team contributed to the CAMPAIGNers project, which together with other partners aims to involve cities and their inhabitants in the just transition.



EXPANDING THE SPACE FOR YOUTH AND ACTIVISM IN CAN EUROPE

CAN Europe increased the provision of training and participation for young activists, who were instrumental in increasing the pressure on Loss and Damage around COP27.



“WE ARE GRADUALLY BUILDING A DYNAMIC SPACE FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH YOUNG ACTIVISTS. THIS STRENGTHENS THEIR ACTIVISM AND OUR WORK ”

SAMUEL MARTÍN-SOSA, SENIOR NETWORK DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

CLICK IMAGE TO PLAY VIDEO

CAN Europe held several meetings with young mobilisers with whom we shared some of our policy work (climate finance, industry, etc.).

The team developed a training programme for young activists on advocacy towards EU institutions, campaigning and communication.

We involved young activists in our work towards COP27, including through a [**video on Loss and Damage to EU Finance Ministers**](#), participation in a climate justice camp and mobilisations in Sharm El-Sheikh, where the climate summit was held.



CONNECTING PROGRESSIVE STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

CAN Europe created new exchange platforms to engage various CEE progressive stakeholders. We discussed how to build narratives for an ambitious energy transition that would focus on specific regional concerns — energy security and social aspects of climate action.

“IT WAS A PLEASURE FOR MTVSZ TO HOST THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY ENERGY UNDER A JOINT EUKI PROJECT WITH CAN, CDE (CZECHIA) AND ISD (POLAND) IN BUDAPEST IN JUNE 2022. WE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EMERGENCE OF NEW COOPERATION INITIATIVES AMONG PARTICIPANTS”.

ALEXA BOTAR, CLIMATE & ENERGY PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF MTVSZ — NSC — FRIENDS OF THE EARTH HUNGARY, GREEN EUROPEAN JOURNAL

In 2022 CAN Europe organised two CEE stakeholder workshops: in March we addressed the “socio-economic benefits of the ‘Fit for 55’ package for CEE” and in June we met in Budapest to discuss the “climate neutral business initiatives in the context of the ‘Fit for 55’, with special regard to community energy”. During these events, we worked on ways for enhancing coordinated responses and inputs to the national and European climate and energy debates. In May we published a joint reaction to ‘REPowerEU’ in an open letter on rooftop solar PV, and in September, together with NGO CDE, we published a “CEE Energy Security Statement” targeting the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. The statement called on the Presidency to prioritise ambitious climate policy “as a way towards a peaceful, affordable, clean, and secure supply of energy for Europe”. We also created regular opportunities for our CEE members and partners to meet key EU stakeholders and strategically discuss specific regional energy and climate policies, related concerns and needs.



WESTERN BALKANS INCHING TOWARDS AN ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ACTION

While the 2030 climate and energy targets were adopted on the Energy Community level, CAN Europe showcased the pathway to reaching them and going beyond through delivering on ambitious and credible National Energy and Climate Plans.

Photo: ©Energy Community, 2022

“UNLOCKING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF CROSS-BORDER AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLANNING IS CRUCIAL. THEREFORE, THE REVISED AND NEW PLANS MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION REGIONAL ASPECTS, PRIORITISING SYNERGIES AND OPTIMISING COUNTRIES’ CAPACITIES”

FROSINA ANTONOVSKA, CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY OFFICER FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS, [BALKAN GREEN ENERGY NEWS](#)

CAN Europe focused on making sure the Western Balkans countries stayed set on ambitious 2030 climate and energy targets, in a time when disinformation and insecurity prompted countries to keep their fossil fuel-oriented mindset. Therefore, delivering on credible and ambitious National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) in the region prompted us to evaluate Albanian and North Macedonia NECPs, the only two drafted plans so far in the Western Balkans. The [NECP report](#) highlighted the limited ambition in the drafted plans, and emphasised the gaps in delivering credible plans. Our recommendations provided crucial insight to other countries in the Western Balkan region, currently drafting their NECPs, as well as to our members and partners who will use them for their national work.

Building on the [2021 Lazarevac report on the Just Transition](#), we engaged a local community in Serbia to join the advocacy for a Just Transition, resulting in a [mural at an elementary school](#) in Belgrade, based on our [#EnergySuperheroes comics](#).



CLIMATE COALITION IN TURKEY: STRONGER TOGETHER

Climate NGOs are collaborating to build a net zero and resilient future
for Turkey.

“WE NEED TO AIM TO REDUCE EMISSIONS IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, MEANING ‘FROM TODAY’. ACCORDING TO TURKEY’S CALCULATION, THE COUNTRY’S EMISSIONS BY 2030 WILL INCREASE. THIS TARGET IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE LAST COP ‘TO SET STRONGER 2030 TARGETS’”

ELIF CANSU İLHAN, TURKEY POLICY EXPERT, [BIANET](#)

CAN Europe and its Turkish partners and members kicked off the 2030 climate target campaign with the motto “ambitious climate target for the resilient future of Turkey”. A strong coalition of local civil society organisations united in this campaign, advocating for a target of a 35% absolute reduction in emissions by 2030.

The coal phase out from the power sector and the push for a just transition to a sustainable future in Turkey was spearheaded by a progressive climate movement, actively engaged in various initiatives such as coal exit finance, and green economic development at the local level. CAN Europe and its partners actively contributed to the coal phase-out agenda and just transition initiatives, including a groundbreaking [study](#) exploring the potential for developing an olive-based manufacturing industry in Milas, a region that has been reliant on coal plants and open pit lignite mines for over four

decades. Additionally, CAN Europe collaborated with local trade unions and WWF Turkey to bring together local anti-coal movement representatives and trade union representatives for the first time to discuss the coal phase-out agenda.

FINANCE

INCOME	2022
CAN EUROPE	4,260,450.85
EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION	2,049,047.63
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	1,420,752.78
MEMBERSHIP FEES	142,635.00
KR FOUNDATION	140,789.23
GERMAN GOVERNMENT	136,260.46
ENVIRONMENT DEFENSE FUND	106,679.84
NPT UK	47,250.62
FUNDERS FOR FAIR TRADE	50,163.97
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT	44,815.00
ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND	43,020.01
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	30,473.00
SCHWAB CHARITABLE	19,165.41
OTHER INCOME	29,397.90
CAN INTERNATIONAL	65,794.67
EUROPE BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN	1,622,922.33
EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION	1,010,692.25
SCHWAB CHARITABLE	239,318.06
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	229,498.38
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	143,483.64
TOTAL	5,949,237.85

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

CAN Europe has a Board of Directors, which is appointed by its General Assembly. Elections for new Board members will take place in April 2023. In 2022, the Board was comprised:

JOSIANNE GAUTHIER

Secretary General at CIDSE

TORE BRAEND

Advisor, Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, Norway

JEAN-PASCAL VAN YPERSELE

Independent Scientist (Former Vice-President of IPCC), Belgium

ALISON DOIG

Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, UK

ZSOLT BAUER

European Branch Manager, Climate Reality Project

TIM GORE

Head of the Low Carbon and Circular Economy Programme, Institute for European Environmental Policies (IEEP)

ESTER ASIN

Director of WWF-EPO

MALTE HENTSCHE-KEMPER

Deputy Managing Director and Advisor for climate and energy policy at Klima-Allianz, Germany

MURATCAN İŞILDAK

Head of Board of Genç Düşünce Enstitüsü (Turkey)

TIJANA LJUBENOVIĆ

Member of Young Researchers of Serbia (a member of YEE)

OUR TEAM

DIRECTOR



CHIARA MARTINELLI
Director



DORA PETROULA
Deputy Director

CLIMATE POLICY



KLAUS RÖHRIG
Head of Climate



ERICH CASTRO DIAS
Land Use & Carbon
Dioxide Removal
Policy Officer



ULRIIKKA AARNIO
Senior Climate &
Land Use Policy
Coordinator



ROMAIN DIDI
Climate Governance
& Human Rights
Policy Coordinator



BRIGITTA BOZSÓ
TogetherFor1.5
Project Manager



SILVIA VALENTINI
Climate Policy
Officer

ENERGY POLICY



ELIF GÜNDÜZYELI
Interim Head of
Energy



VEERLE DOSSCHE
Energy Policy
Coordinator



SEDA ORHAN
Renewable
Energy Campaign
Coordinator



MÓNICA VIDAL
Heating Campaign
Coordinator



VERENA BAX
Energy Savings
Policy Coordinator



**ESTHER
BOLLENDORFF**
Senior Gas
Policy Coordinator



MARTA ANCZEWSKA
Energy Policy
Coordinator



EVA BRARDINELLI
Buildings Policy
Coordinator



FLORA WITKOWSKI
Gas Policy Officer



DIMITRIS TSEKERIS
Energy Scenarios
Project Manager

FINANCE, INTERNATIONAL & TRADE POLICY



SVEN HARMELING

International
Climate Policy
Coordinator



RACHEL SIMON

Climate &
Development Policy
Coordinator



**OLIVIER
VARDAKOULIAS**

Finance and
Subsidies Policy
Coordinator



ISABELLE BRACHET

Fiscal Reform Policy
Coordinator



**CORNELIA
MAARFIELD**

Trade Policy
Coordinator



ANUNA DE WEVER

Trade & Investment
Policy Campaign
Officer

EUROPE IN TRANSITION POLICY



ELIF CANSU ILHAN

Turkey Policy Officer



ÖZLEM KATISOZ

Policy Coordinator
for Turkey



VIKTOR BERISHAJ

Western Balkans
Energy & Climate
Policy Coordinator



**FROSINA
ANTONOVSKA**

Climate & Energy
Policy Officer for
Western Balkans

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION POLICY



DOREEN FEDRIGO

Industrial
Transformation
Policy Coordinator



BORIS JANKOWIAK

Steel Transformation
Policy Coordinator



GIULIA NARDI

Industrial
Transformation
Policy Officer



ADAM LECKIUS

Lifestyle Policy
Officer

COMMUNICATIONS



NINA TRAMULLAS

Interim Head of
Communication



CRISTINA DASCALU

Communication
Coordinator



JAMES O'CONNOR

Communication
Coordinator



DORUNTINA BASHA

Communication
Coordinator



MAŠA PEROVIĆ

Communication
Coordinator



**LAURA
FRANCESCHIN**

Communication
Officer

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT



TOM BOYLE

Head of Network Development



SAMUEL MARTÍN-SOSA

SPARK Project Manager



FEDERICO MASCOLO

Together for 1.5 Project Policy Coordinator



JOE INWOOD

Network Development Coordinator



KASIA UGRYN

Network Development Coordinator



OLIVIA SAXER

Fundraising & Network Development Coordinator



KRISTINA NAUNOVA

Network Development & REAL DEAL Project Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION



LIONEL DEHALU

Head of Operations



MARIA RADIKOV

Finance Coordinator



CÉSAR CHANTRAINE

Human Resources Coordinator



REINHILDE STINDERS

Senior Finance & Admin Coordinator



WINFRIED HOKE

Office and IT coordinator



CLARISSA SPENCER

Finance & Admin Coordinator

EUROPE BEYOND COAL

CAN Europe strongly supports the phase out of coal by both hosting the 'Europe Beyond Coal' campaign secretariat and by integrating the coal debate in our regular policy work as well as by supporting our members and allies in Turkey and the Western Balkans through [CAN Europe's coal team](#).

In 2022, 'Europe Beyond Coal' transitioned towards a broader campaign focus, 'Beyond Fossil Fuels', launching in 2023 and with the objective to free us from all fossil fuels and transition to a renewables-based European electricity sector.

We also gratefully thank the following staff members that helped us implement our work in 2022, but have since left us:

Dylan Underhill
Rachel Brabbins
Jessica den Outer
Tatiana Shauro
Edoardo Concari

Giuseppe Costanzo
Harriet Mackail Hill
Nicolas Derobert
Elli Tessier
Jörg Mühlenhoff

We would also like to thank our interns who joined the team in 2022:

Eliot Primault
Jada Kennedy

Ruta Zulpaite

CREATING A NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

In June 2022, CAN Europe set up a Management Team in order to ensure the smooth running and management of CAN Europe's Secretariat and Network. The team has concrete objectives to 1) strengthen information sharing across departments and teams (internal communication); 2) improve collective strategising and implementation of activities; 3) guide prioritising and de-prioritising of objectives and workstreams. The Management Team is made up of:

Chiara Martinelli, Director

Dora Petroula, Deputy Director

Lionel Dehalu, Head of Operations

Nina Tramullas, Interim Head of Communication

Tom Boyle, Head of Network Development

Klaus Röhrig, Head of Climate

Elif Gunduzuyl, Interim Head of Energy





Photo: ©Sami Dellah

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 180 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe. CAN Europe is a regional node of Climate Action Network, the world's largest environmental network with over 1,700 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) active in more than 130 countries, driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice by convening and coordinating civil society at the UN climate talks and other international fora. CAN Europe members work to achieve this goal through joint actions, information exchange and the coordinated development of NGO strategy on international, regional, and national

climate issues. CAN Europe members place a high priority on both a healthy environment and development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Commission). CAN Europe's vision is to protect the atmosphere while allowing for sustainable and equitable development worldwide.



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