

IED ANNUAL REPORT 2019

2007-2020



**SINCE 2013,
IED PUBLISHED**



**IN 13 YEARS,
IED ORGANISED**



MAIN TOPICS COVERED IN OUR EVENTS



EU GOVERNANCE



EU ELECTIONS



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT



EURO & ECONOMY



SOCIAL SECURITY



CULTURE & WOMEN



SMALL STATES & MINORITIES



REGIONAL POLICY



EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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IED Study trip to Sardinia, Meeting with the representatives of the City Council of Cagliari, 22 October 2019

FOREWORD

The Institute of European Democrats (IED) is a non-profit association based in Brussels and has been established in September 2007 as an independent Research Institute. As the political foundation formally affiliated to the European Democratic Party (EDP), the Institute of European Democrats is formally recognised and directly funded by the European Parliament.

To carry out its mission, the IED focuses on two key pillars: the organization of conferences and seminars and the coordination of research activities. In particular, the IED organizes international conferences and seminars where politicians, experts, EU and national officials, academics and civil society representatives share ideas and discuss concrete problems affecting citizens. Such events are mainly organised in the EU Member States, in order to discuss concrete issues closer to EU citizens and member organisations and to contribute to the national discussion with a European perspective ensured by the international dimension of the events.

At the same time, the Institute carries out research activities and publishes political documents and studies produced by associated researchers and external projects. The IED works in close collaboration with both European and national institutions, universities, research centers and international foundations.

Through a broad range of activities, the IED aims to play an active role in restoring and strengthening citizens' confidence in the European Union, and beyond this, in promoting a united and sovereign Europe.

Through the activities achieved in 2019, the Institute of European Democrats has underpinned and complemented the objectives of the European Democratic Party to which the IED is affiliated. Through many of its initiatives, the IED has given a solid and cultural basis to EDP activity.

Through this report, the IED wishes to share the topics and findings of these activities conducted in 2019.

We wish you a good reading!



Sea Level Rise is a crucial challenge for the future of cities and communities in Europe and worldwide (©iStock)

REMARKS ON EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2019

When drafting its 2019 Programme of Activities, the IED outlined the scenario that Europe was facing in that time: financial crisis and unemployment rates undermining trust of people in the European idea and in European institutions, national governments trying to cope with the unprecedented challenges with almost opposite approaches and political positions, Eurosceptic movements and leaderships defying the EU values and principles. As a result, the IED raised the concern that the time for the EU to reinvent itself was possibly running out. A profound change with a deeper political integration was essential to bring Europe back to its citizens, through a real re-foundation of the European institutions and by spreading the vision of a more supportive, more social and more democratic Europe. The IED intended to make its contribution in this regard.

A list of the priorities for 2019 was established, outlining the main areas of interest the Institute had to focus on, through conferences and roundtable discussions organised in the EU Member states and through research activities. The IED anticipated that additional topics and activities could be developed and implemented during the year depending on the political context.

Thus, the IED organized the activity through 2019 as it has been described in this report. Some announced events such as a conference in Cyprus on Energy and Geopolitical Challenges, and a seminar on the anniversary of the Fall of Berlin Wall didn't take place.

As it may happen, circumstances and changes which occurred in the meantime led to a marginal adaptation of the work programme.

However, most of the IED efforts were aimed at organizing events with regard to the outlined priorities.

These events continued to serve as forums for European and international experts, opinion makers, representatives of national governments and elected officials. Members of IED Scientific Committee took part in the preparation and/or in the realization of the events.

In addition to this range of events, the IED convened the meetings of the ruling bodies as initially scheduled, ensuring the effectiveness of all activities and ensuring to bring the European political debate closer to the citizens.

INITIATIVES CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE CARRY-OVER

As the Institute of European Democrats was allowed to use the unspent funding awarded for the financial year 2019 and integrated by the own resources carrying it to the first quarter of 2020, it has been spent to implement a part of activity 2019 that couldn't be accomplished in due time. That is:

An event on the 31 January, that has been held in Bilbao (Basque Country): "XII Bilbao Dialogues: Europe and Latin America. Protests and upheavals in the global era of social and political crises". The Conference was organized with the aim of diagnosing and analyzing the dizzying political and social changes that are being experienced in both Europe and Latin America, and which are of concern to our societies. It was attended by leading political representatives from Chile, Mexico and the European parliament, together with professors and experts.

Finally, considering the emergency of the situation and the necessity, especially for EU leaders, to act, protect populations and prevent catastrophic scenarios, the IED published a compendium of Research and Studies titled:

"Sea Level rise, a crucial challenge for the future of cities and communities, ecosystems and the heritage, in our world upset by the Covid-19 Outbreak"

The IED is convinced that countering and limiting the effects of rising sea and ocean levels is an important part of the crucial commitment of our time to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.



MEETINGS OF GOVERNING BODIES

1. A meeting of the Board of Directors by electronic means was convened on the 20th February 2019, aimed at the validation of the 2018 financial statements prepared by BPO Accountancy, before their transmission to E&Y Company Auditors. It acknowledged the resignation of the President, Professor Jean-Claude Casanova, sent by letter on the 13 February 2019 and it approved the application of the Citizens' Platform (Cyprus) to become a member of the Institute.
2. A meeting of the Board of Directors was convened on the 13th May by electronic means aimed at the adoption of the 2019 financial statements prepared by BPO Accountancy and E&Y Company Auditors audit. The meeting decided on the 2019 membership fees and fixed the date of the following General Assembly.
3. A meeting of the General Assembly was held in Brussels on the 20th May 2019, aimed at the approval of the 2018 final budget and E&Y Company Auditors audit to be forwarded to the DG for Finance of the European Parliament for the closing of the accounts for the financial year 2018. Being held at the end of the 2-years term, it dealt with the renewal or termination of the directors' mandate. Two new Members of the Board, Mrs. Irene Mandole (Cyprus) and Mr. Piotr Krosnicki (Poland), were appointed, while Mrs. Marina Demetriou terminated her mandate. The IED activities and initiatives carried out in 2019 were approved and a discussion took place on the new envisaged initiatives.
4. A meeting of the Board of Directors was convened in Brussels on the 11th September 2019, aimed at the approval of the modifications to the 2019 programme of activities and researches of the first semester with its related budget and of the following programme of events. It dealt also with the new requests of membership, from Freie Waehler (Germany), Jan Nagel 50Plus Foundation (The Netherlands) and NYP50+ (Hungary), the programme of activities for 2020 to be submitted to the European Parliament for the next year grant and a communication on the membership fees. The date of the following meeting of the General Assembly was indicated in principle.
5. A meeting of the General Assembly took place in Paris on the 29th November 2019 aimed mainly at the appointment of four new members of the Board of Directors: Mr. Francesco Rutelli (Italy), Ms. Gabi Schmidt (Germany), Ms. Sarah El Hairy and Ms. Alexandra Leuliette (France). A round table discussion on the new activities to be scheduled for 2020 was also on the agenda.
6. A meeting of the Board of Directors on the same day to decide on the new appointments to the Board (Title IV of the Statutes): The President (Mr. Francesco Rutelli), the vice President (Mrs. Gabi Schmidt) and the Administrateur délégué (Mr. Mikel Burzako). A positive decision on Narodna stranka-REFORMISTI (Croatia) application for membership was also taken.



CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

2.1 EU CLIMATE POLICY: FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE BY 2050



IED CONFERENCE, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, 22 JANUARY 2019

The IED, highly committed to fostering a lively political debate at the EU level, has organized the conference “EU climate policy: from the paris agreement towards a climate neutral europe by 2050” that was held in Brussels on Tuesday 22 January at the premises of the European Parliament.

The conference aimed to bring together representatives from EU institutions, experts and relevant stakeholders to stimulate a debate, after the UN Climate Change Conference COP 24 | CMP 14 | CMA 3 on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and how the EU is delivering on its Climate goals and accelerating the low-emission transition. The discussion was opened by the welcoming speeches of Gérard DEPREZ, MEP Group Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe and Luca BADER, CEO Institute of European Democrats, who also moderated the debate.

During the introductory remarks Francesco RUTELLI, Co-President of the European Democratic Party, pointed out how Green Growth and Green Jobs could be a response to the social discontent and climate skepticism and Ulrike MÜLLER, MEP Group Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, AGRI, spoke about the Bavarian perspective on climate protection targets.

In the panel discussion, focused on “EU CLIMATE AND ENERGY AMBITIONS: A CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE BY 2050”, the participants were: António MARINHO E PINTO,

MEP Group Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe; Monica FRASSONI, Co-Chair of the European Green Party; Marzio GALEOTTI, Department of Environmental Science and Policy D.ESP, University of Milan; Alessandro LANZA, Member of the Board of Directors of the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development ENEA; Peter LIESE, MEP Group of the European People's Party; Simona BONAFÈ, MEP Group Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats.

During the conclusions, the participants were actively engaged in a lively discussion and exchange by the speakers.

2.2 COMBINING SOVEREIGNTY & SUBSIDIARITY AT A TIME OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES



IED SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE, REIMS, 4 MARCH 2019

Faced with the rise of demagogic discourse on the eve of the European elections in May 2019, this seminar demonstrated that true sovereignty could often only be exercised effectively in consultation and coordination with the various levels of governance (European, national, regional and local). The articulation between sovereignty and subsidiarity is at the heart of this reflection, which continues the one initiated in 2014 by the IED on « Sovereignty and subsidiarity in Europe: new perspectives? ». The seminar was organised jointly with the European Movement Marne and Sciences Po Reims.



The expert panel was composed of Rector Gérard-François DUMONT, geographer, economist and demographer; Michael COLLINS, Deputy Director, Directorate for Legislative Works I, from the European Committee of the Regions; Luke URIBE-ETXEBARRIA, EAJ-PNV Deputy in the Basque Parliament. The discussion was moderated by Jean-Marie BEAUPUY, President of the European Movement Marne, former Member of the European Parliament.

The experts discussed during a closed-door seminar, before holding a conference open to the public, attended by some 50 people.

On the eve of the European elections on 26 May 2019, this seminar aimed to clarify the terms of the democratic debate. In the face of the rise of nationalism, it seems important to demonstrate that sovereignty can only be exercised effectively in consultation and coordination with the various levels of governance (European, national, regional, local).

For those who present themselves as sovereigntists, sovereignty can only be national and can only be exercised in a domestic context. It seems impossible and unthinkable to them to transfer it to a supranational or transnational level. The seminar demonstrated that to be democratic, sovereignty must be subsidiary, and that it must be articulated between the different levels of governance: Europe, the national framework, and the regional and local levels.

Speakers at the seminar demonstrated that the competences attributed to the EU were less than what sovereigntist discourses suggest and that they were limited by the respect of two principles: the principle of subsidiarity and the principle of proportionality.

The seminar resulted in the formulation of several proposals to improve the articulation between sovereignty and subsidiarity in Europe.

2.3 TOWARDS A EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY: 40 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



IED SEMINAR BILBAO, BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN, 5 APRIL 2019

Around 40 experts in European politics have defended in Bilbao the value of the European Parliament “as an engine of political and democratic integration” and have defended that it is in this House that one can “find the seeds for the revival of European construction”.

The Institute of European Democrats (IED) brought together academics, politicians, former MEPs and institutional representatives, to analyze the past, present and future of the highest legislative body of the European Union, as reported by the Foundation.

The day began with keynote speeches by Claes H. DE VREESE, professor of Political Communication at The Amsterdam School of Communication Research -ASCoR-, and Igor FILIBI, professor of International Relations at the UPV-EHU, who valued European integration as “one of the greatest political experiments and, probably, the greatest achieved by peaceful means”.

In the first roundtable, the experience of two former Basque parliamentarians has been shared through the testimonies of Txema MONTERO, European parliamentarian between 1987 and 1990, and Josu ORTUONDO, between 1999 and 2009.

Antonio ARGENZIANO, Secretary General of the European Federalist Youth, and Petr MUCHA, from the Programme Committee of the 2000 Foundation in Prague, took part in the second round table.

According to MUCHA, who was one of the main student leaders of the Velvet Revolution in Prague, a peaceful movement by which the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia lost its monopoly of political power in 1989, “the perception of the European Union has evolved significantly in Central Europe since the fall of the Iron Curtain”.

“Beginning with a simple desire to ‘return to Europe’ from the Soviet yoke in the 1990s, these countries have faced different challenges posed by post-totalitarian reality. Although some of them seem to be currently retreating from European democratic ideals, there are also signs of hope,” he said.

Finally, Antonio ARGENZIANO noted that although national issues and balances in Italian politics have normally always prevailed in the public debate on the European elections, in recent years, something is changing.

2.4 ELECTIONS AND DISINFORMATION: FOREIGN INTERVENTION AS POLITICAL WARFARE



**IED SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE,
BUDAPEST, 29 APRIL 2019**

Europe has been hit hard by this new mode of international conflict: from Ukraine to the UK referendum and from the ‘Lisa’ case in Germany to #MacronLeaks

in France, there are indications that there are ongoing disinformation and influence operations in the continent. In view of the elections for the European Parliament in 2019, where 28 elections were to be organised in the course of a few days between 23 and 26 May, this event combined academic and policy-oriented research in order to contribute to the public debate over political warfare, disinformation and election interference in the cyber era.

The expert panel was composed of Philippe MICHEL-KLEISBAUER, French member of Parliament, member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly; Kamil GORYN, Researcher and lecturer at the University of Bialystok (Poland) specialist of national security issues combined with technology development; Andrzej POTOCKI, Vice-President of European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP) and Vice-President of Stronnictwo Demokratyczne, Poland; José Félix MERLADET, President of the Basque Union of European Federalists.

During this afternoon session, the experts were able to exchange on the current threats posed by fake news and manipulation of information in social media. They studied the mechanics of social media and how to draw attention and spread (dis)information to a large group of people. They demonstrated how users help to create tools used “against” them including creation of AI (precisely how they are aiding machine learning process used to improve gathering data).

Organized and wide aggression (which is disinformation) is possible between states without declaring war in the traditional sense. A special case of such aggression are attempts to influence the election and support candidates who are beneficial from the aggressor’s point of view. Such activities can be effectively hidden and, to some extent, secret, thanks to the tools provided by the Internet.

The seminar focused especially on the current situation in Ukraine and the manipulation of soldiers’ social media accounts when being on the front.

Finally, the experts evaluated the current response and tools put in place by the European Union to counter disinformation.



2.5 RADICALIZING EUROPE – REVIVAL OF RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM IN EUROPE



IED CONFERENCE, WARSAW, 6 MAY 2019

On 6 May in Warsaw, the IED organised at Lubomirski palace a seminar open to the public on the rise of the far right in Europe. Starting from a historical perspective with the Polish example, a session on the Greater Hungary project helped to understand the bridges between the right and the far right. A final roundtable was dedicated to Europe's far right and Kremlins sources.

Between 23 and 26 May, 28 elections were to be held to appoint members of the future European Parliament. Forecasts indicated that around 150 far-right members would sit in the European Parliament. In view of these elections, parties have already initiated alliances: this is the case of the French National Rally, the Italian League...

Since 2017 in Austria and 2018 in Italy, the far right has been a government junior partner. This participation has led to a normalisation that allows these formerly marginalized parties to broaden their bases and build alliances. More than a normalisation, these parties dictate the political agenda and set the terms of the public debate.

What are extreme-right parties? Unlike the extreme right-wing movements of the first half of the 20th century, today's parties do not promote or support a totalitarian regime such as the Nazi regime or Fascism. Nevertheless, in their speeches advocating the unity of the people, one can recognize identitarian and xenophobic accents.

Following a Keynote speech by Prof. Kazimierz WÓYCICKI, University of Warsaw, the first panel discussion was dedicated to "Thinking History as a Mirror of Ideology. A Polish Perspective" and gathered Michał BRONIATOWSKI, Journalist at Politico.eu and Marcin CELIŃSKI, Journalist at Liberté. The panel was moderated by Andrzej POTOCKI. The second panel was dedicated to "Central European Mythology and Identitarianism -The Case of Great Hungary" and featured Ms Anita VELIC FABIJANIC, Spokesperson of the Young democrats (Croatia) and Istvan SERTÖ-RADICS, Mayor of Uszka (Hungary). The panel was moderated by Wojciech MAZIARSKI, Journalist at Gazeta Wyborcza. Finally, the third panel opened a discussion on "Europe's far right and Kremlins sources" between Tomasz GAJEWSKI, Foundation Po.Int, and Geert WEISSKIRCHEN, German politician, former member of the German Parliament (SPD) and was moderated by Kazimierz WÓYCICKI.

2.6 FUTURE FOOD – SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION



IED CONFERENCE, PODERE LESIGNANO, SAN MARINO, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

In order to contribute to the Climate change discussion on European level and to come up with practical solutions ahead of the UN Climate action summit on 23 September, the IED together with Repubblica Futura, has been organizing a Conference on 19 September in San Marino on "Future Food".

The FAO predicts a doubling in global meat consumption by 2050. 70 per cent of agricultural land worldwide is currently used for livestock, more than half of it for growing livestock feed.

It is now clear that this overconsumption of meat is fueling global warming.

Avoiding meat and dairy products is one of the biggest ways to reduce the environmental impact of food, according to recent scientific studies. Switching to a plant-based diet can help fight climate change, according to a major report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Cutting meat and dairy products from people's diet could even reduce an individual's carbon footprint from food by two-thirds, according to a recent Oxford study, published in the journal Science.

Academic keynote speakers included Dr. SC Stacy PYETT, Program Manager Proteins for Life (Wageningen University, The Netherlands) who spoke about 'Our future proteins' and Prof. Wender BREDIE, from the Department of Food Science of the University of Copenhagen, who explained how to Change Consumer behavior.

Sustainable food producers presented their projects: Giuseppe SCIONTI - Novameat (meat without meat) presented a Plant-based meat reinvented; Giulia TACCHINI – Entonot, presented edible insects; Luigi GALIMBERTI -from Sfera Agricola, presented hydroponic cultivation.

Changing consumer dietary behavior is a difficult task as food habits are formed slowly and difficult to change. It will require sophisticated behavioral change strategies beyond traditional information-based interventions. Such strategies could include 1) minimizing disruption to consumers, e.g. through smarter food choice architectures; 2) selling a compelling benefit, e.g. high sensory quality; 3) maximizing awareness, e.g. through iconic examples and public influencers; and 4) evolving social values and norms widening the boundaries of what we currently consider as food, e.g. in schools and at public events. From the producers' side, the development of low impact foods of the future will need a "senses-driven" consumer-guided innovation in order to create enough market pull. In such innovation insight in longer-term consumer acceptance and feedback is needed in order to create a durable more sustainable food culture.

2.7 PROMOTING EUROPEAN HERITAGE AND EXCHANGING BEST PRACTICES

IED STUDY TRIP FOR LOCAL LEADERS, 19-22 OCTOBER 2019, SARDINIA, ITALY

Following the Study Trip that took place in November 2018 in Munich dedicated to "Managing Climate Change: Sharing Best Practices", the Institute of

European Democrats organized this year a similar Study trip with the aim to stimulate local leaders through learning and knowledge of best practices. This year's Study trip took place in Sardinia from 19 to 22 October and was aimed to better promote the cultural heritage of local constituencies.



The Study trip was designed to allow a delegation of the IED to learn how some cultural operators of the Sardinian territory have equipped themselves to promote the cultural heritage of their territory. It was articulated around a rich programme of meetings with local authorities, visits of cultural sites, sharing of experiences and best practices in the field of sustainable tourism and the promotion of the territory and its historical and cultural heritage.

The presentation of the cultural project Monumenti Aperti was the common denominator of the IED Study trip 2019 in Cagliari. This specific project has evolved over time into a real model of territorial development and the interventions and testimonies during the study trip have made this aspect explicit. The theme of 2019 has initiated a further reflection on the importance of memory and its preservation in the future. The slogan of the current edition of Monumenti Aperti is 'Radici al Futuro' (Roots to the Future).

The participants were particularly impressed by this project and came back to their home countries with the aim to share and reproduce it in their own constituencies.

2.8 THE RULE OF LAW: A SHARED VALUE FOR CITIZENS IN EUROPE



**IED CONFERENCE, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA,
7 NOVEMBER 2019**

The Institute for European Democrats has organized a conference which aimed at discussing the importance of the EU rule of law framework for democracy and anti-corruption efforts, the impact of recent events in some Member States connected to rule of law deficiencies on the lives of EU citizens and entrepreneurs, the EU's tools aimed at enhancing rule of law and the new EU Commission's approach.

The Union's ability to deal with rule of law issues internally is also crucial for its successful values and norms promotion towards non-EU countries, both in the enlargement context and within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. If the EU wants to continue to be a coherent and credible external actor as well as a transformative power, it will have to put its own house in order before giving lessons to others.

At the same time, strengthening the rule of law is a complex and multi-faceted endeavor, which calls for actions on several fronts. Numerous studies have established the correlation between high democracy ratings, low levels of corruption, a healthy competition-based business environment and a strong rule of law framework. Ultimately, enhancing the rule of law will also require creating democratic resilience with a top-down as well as bottom-up approach independent on any structure or organization.

The first Panel was dedicated to "What is the rule of law and why it matters to Citizens in Europe?" and featured

Jakub JARACZEWSKI, from DRI-Democracy Reporting International and Alojz BARANIK, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. It was followed by a discussion with the political leaders and participants.

The second panel explored the "Strengths and limits of the current EU legal framework protecting the rule of law. Assessing the EU blueprint for action" with Mihai CORMAN, Researcher in European Law at Ghent University, and Ivan ŠTEFANEK, Member of European Parliament.

The final Panel discussed the issue of "Promoting a rule of law culture: what role can Democrats play?" with a Keynote by Andrzej POTOCKI, Fundacja Samorządność i Demokracja and Hristo IVANOV, Chairman of 'Da Bulgaria' Movement. It was followed by a discussion with the political leaders and participants.

The event was addressed to the wider public, sought to start a dialogue with citizens, especially young people, in Central Eastern Europe and brought together policy makers, civil society representatives, journalists, academics and students with an interest in discussing the importance of the rule of law for democracy and people's daily lives from a political, legal and economic perspective.

2.9 CLIMATE, CHALLENGE FOR DEMOCRACY

**IED WINTER ACADEMY 2019,
20 - 21 DECEMBER 2019, BRUSSELS**

The last event of the year was as usual the Winter Academy gathering young Europeans (under 35) from several European countries. The main purpose was to prepare young people to better understand the European political context and to take an active role in the democratic process. The IED-YDE Winter Academy 2019 took place on the 21 and 22 December in Brussels and was dedicated to "Climate, Challenge to Democracy".

It followed the launch in spring 2019 of a Call for Paper called "Young Europeans: how to act on the Climate crisis?". This external research project aimed at bringing new ideas and proposals to tackle the climate crisis at European level and received a positive feedback from young researchers from all over Europe. The IED and the Young Democrats for Europe (YDE) offered the participants of this Winter academy the opportunity to reflect on the challenge posed by Climate change from various perspectives, as they will have to engage about this issue with their fellow citizens for years to come.



The first Session was dedicated to the issue of “Climate change and democracy” and featured Yann WEHRLING, environmental activist, special Ambassador of France for environmental issues. The next day, a second session introduced the participants to “game theory and social choice theory, applied to the challenge of climate change” by Mathieu BAUDIER, Member of the Scientific Committee IED.

“What contribution is the multilateral political and financial process making towards climate justice?” was the main theme of the third session, led by Jonathan BARNES, Researcher in Environmental Policy and Development, Department of Geography and Environment (London School of Economics).

Mathilde VANDAELE, IED research fellow on Climate change then presented “A Scenario of Life for European Citizens in 2030” before a final Workshop was offered to the participants to explore “How to foster actions against climate change through social media” with the moderation of Asier AREITIO and Begoña GARTEIZAURRECOA, YDE.



3.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

3.1 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The research activities have involved both members of the IED Scientific Committee and young people under 35 through a Call for papers.

Two papers have been delivered by members of the Scientific Committee:

HOW THE KREMLIN IS MANIPULATING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

30/01/2019

by Antonio NESTORAS. This research paper examines how the manipulation of the refugee crisis by the Kremlin fits the wider strategic narrative of Russia confrontation with the West.

A MULTI-SPEED EUROPE. A VIEW FROM ROMANIA

30/12/2019

by Mihai SEBE. The debate around a multi-speed Europe is still looming at both academic and political level, as the Brexit process is not over yet. In the author's opinion it will resume after Brexit, depending a lot on the 2020 evolutions in major European countries and also after the fallout Brexit has on European politics.

The IED has also published a thematic paper in view of the European elections in May 2019:

EU AT THE CROSSROADS: POPULIST PROPAGANDA VS. DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS

08/04/2019

with the cooperation of Adriana CIEFOVA. A thematic reflection paper to spark debate and help to fight populism, disinformation as well as Euroscepticism across the EU.



3.2 EXTERNAL RESEARCH PROJECT

With view to taking the climate challenge and supporting the solutions emerging from the younger generation, the Institute of European Democrats has launched in May 2019 an external research project called “Young Europeans: how to act on the Climate crisis?”. In this respect the IED intended to award in the course of 2019 several contracts for “Research Fellowships” to researchers and/or Students/PhD. The Institute of European Democrats awarded 21 contracts for the “Research Fellowship” on “Young Europeans: how to act on the Climate crisis?”, in 2019.

The young selected authors came from Poland, Italy, Spain, Romania, France, Belgium and Germany. Their research papers brought fresh and innovative solutions to tackle the Climate crisis at European level. The gathered proposals dealt with taxation and trade, agriculture, sustainable finance, litigation, circular economy, energy cooperatives, migration, local governance and many other fields.

View the 21 papers here:

www.iedonline.eu/publications/2019/climate-crisis.php

1. ADVANCING GREEN GROWTH IN EUROPE New approaches for sustainable finance

Research Paper by Nastasia DHOMPS

How to correct financial markets and provide them incentives toward a sustainable and better economic path? Transiting to a green economy requires mobilising massive resources including from the financial sector. After exploring whether green growth could be compatible with an ecological transition, this article investigates and proposes various policy recommendations regarding sustainable finance.

2. HOW THE EU COVENANT OF MAYORS AND CLIMATE ADAPT STRENGTHEN LOCAL CLIMATE POLICY-MAKING A Case Study of the City of Bruges

Research Paper by Bram DE BOTSELIER

A case study of Bruges finds that the Covenant of Mayors has been successful in putting climate policy on the local political agenda and in encouraging the drafting of climate plans. However, the Covenant and Climate-ADAPT lack the means to address the often practical concerns of local policy makers, which hinders the adoption and implementation of specific climate measures.

3. TOWARDS A EUROPEAN CHARTER OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF NATURE

Research Paper by Lea DI SALVATORE

The paper focuses on how climate change has drastically changed the landscape of international law and European law, inevitably leading to the urgency for a new global environmental governance and an in-depth remodeling of our institutional structures.

4. THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON MIGRATION FLOWS TOWARDS EUROPE The Role of the EU as a Global Actor Against Climate Change

Research Paper by Tommaso EMILIANI

It interrogates how the adoption of an EU Charter enshrining the rights of Nature could constitute a paradigm shift and what are the external and internal drivers pushing for the adoption of such instrument.

5. A SCENARIO OF LIFE FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS IN 2030 An Integrated Vision as a Psychological Tool to Accompany the Implementation of Stringent Environmental Policies in the EU

Research Paper by Mathilde VANDAELE

In the face of climate change, political tools such as legislations, taxations, and subsidies at a European level are essential. However, such measures would trigger social opposition if they are not accompanied by an integrative vision of the future society. Our new socio-economic model must include a basic security pack for all citizens, the reinforcement of equality and the revaluation of time.

6. CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENTS Salvation for the EU's climate trilemma?

Research Paper by Johannes-Christoph LEININGER

Border Carbon Adjustments (BCAs) are a policy tool that the European Commission (EC) could potentially use to incentivize third countries to reduce GHG emissions. This paper shows that this is the most effective method for incentivizing companies exporting to the EU to invest in low-carbon technologies.



7. THE CORRECTIVE POTENTIAL OF SUING CARBON MAJORS

An economic view on climate change litigation

Research Paper by Magdalena LOMACKA

Using economic theory and empirical evidence, this paper shows that the widespread development of legal liability of businesses for their past greenhouse gas emissions has the potential to directly deter carbon-intensive production, influence the pricing structure of goods and services (to better reflect their carbon footprint) and make its way into investment decisions.

8. TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNION How to reach the 2030 EU targets by rethinking the EU's agricultural system?

Research Paper by Angeline SANZAY

A research investigating how to reach the 2030 EU targets by assessing the different solutions that would reduce the share of greenhouse gas emissions for the agricultural sector. The recommendations drawn are directed towards the possible outcomes of the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy, aiming to better understand and adapt the European ecological transition ahead.

9. UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

Research Paper by Maja STAROSTA

Renewable energy cooperatives can serve as useful instruments for creating transformational change in Europe, as they can help reach the EU decarbonisation targets while promoting democratic values, providing prosperity and increasing local activism. The purpose of this research paper is to understand both the potential and the barriers to the development of renewable energy cooperatives in Europe.

10. THE YOUTHS' PARTICIPATION IN THE EU CLIMATE POLICY How to enhance the representation of those who are most entitled?

Research Paper by Duccio Maria TENTI

In the EU, one-third of the population is under 30. Many of these 170 million young Europeans showed an extraordinary commitment facing the climate crisis, especially in the last two years. This paper aims at exploring how and to what extent the youths can influence the EU climate policy and how to increase the youth's participation in EU climate policy.

11. UNLOCKING THE CLIMATE MITIGATION POTENTIAL OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Research Paper by Cristina DANS IGLESIAS

This research paper explores the ways in which the circular economy can contribute to action on the climate emergency by addressing key industry sectors and analysing three particularly problematic materials: aluminum, steel and plastic. The paper includes policy recommendations supported by selected best practice examples.

12. FROM LINEAR TO CIRCULAR ECONOMICS How to help stakeholders of future ecological solutions thanks to the principle of interoperability

Research Paper by Olivier DUSSAUGE

This research paper explores the history of the principle of interoperability and how to use this legal instrument in order to accelerate the transition from the EU linear economy to a circular economy sustainable in the long term. It also recommends that this process be placed under the aegis of social justice, i. e. by encouraging European citizens to invent the democratic economy of tomorrow.

13. HOW SMART CITIES CAN HELP TO FIGHT CLIMATE CRISIS

Research Paper by Begoña GARTEIZAURRECOA AZUA

Today, cities consume approximately the 75% of world's energy and generate almost the 70% of the CO₂ global emissions. Public Administrations cannot face the fight against climate change alone and the cause needs the involvement of all the different stakeholders: political stakeholders, Administrations, companies and citizens. Although every citizen on the globe must fight climate change individually, it is important to foster joint actions and policies from the main decision centres.

14. AN EU CLIMATE LAW TO NAVIGATE BY

Research Paper by Romain LAUGIER

The EU must dramatically strengthen its climate governance framework if it is to stem the climate crisis. An EU Climate Law can provide the governance tools which are necessary to achieve the societal transformation into a climate-neutral economy as soon as possible. Legally-binding targets and a long-term strategy, mainstreaming provisions, science and public participation will be key.

15. CLAIMING DAMAGES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE A Law and Economics Perspective

Research Paper by Francesca LEUCCI

Climate change litigation is spreading throughout the world as a result of political failures. Yet, many issues still hinder its effectiveness. This paper focuses on how uncertain rules on damage assessment might influence the behaviour of polluters from a law and economic perspective. A possible solution would be to adopt harmonised guidelines on damage assessment based on ecosystem services.

16. PUBLIC OPINION AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS What does the Eurobarometer say?

Research Paper by Robin MAILLARD

The climate crisis could become one of the new dividing points in our democracy. With Eurobarometer data, we show in this paper that the respondents from the north and west of Europe, the more educated citizens, the managers, the students and the youngest individuals, those with a positive view on the economy and a positive attitude toward the political institutions declare climate change more often as one of the main issues.

17. AN EU SUPPORTED HOME EQUITY SCHEME To accelerate energy renovation of the private housing stock

Research Paper by Romain SU

Though being an important source of GHG emissions, residential buildings are not being renovated at the pace required for the EU to reach climate neutrality by 2050. This paper argues for the creation, at the level of municipalities, of EU-supported home equity release schemes in order to accelerate renovation, densify housing areas and provide support to low-income, aged homeowners-occupants.

18. WHEN ART MEETS CLIMATE CHANGE Towards a Model Involving Youth Actors in EU-funded initiatives

Research Paper by Domenico VALENZA

This paper enquires into the nexus between art and climate change. It argues that creative works such as documentary, videogames or virtual reality installations can make climate change emotional, visible, and visceral. The EU lacks today an explicit recognition of the role that art and creativity have to address climate change. This should be corrected.

19. YOUNG EUROPEANS: HOW TO ACT ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

Research Paper by Raluca ABASEACA

This paper examines the social costs and social acceptance of the policies aiming to combat climate change crisis, focusing on the case of Central and Eastern Europe.

20. HOW TO ACT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE? Consciousness, Commitment, Co-deciding – three Cs for combating climate crisis

Research Paper by Katarzyna KLIMCZAK

Climate change will not be combated while enforcing one clear-cut solution. It is a long battle, a process in which all need to be involved. It can be called a very “democratic” threat as it affects all citizens, irrespectively of where they live or their social status. The aim of this research paper is to show that enhancing three Cs: consciousness, commitment, co-deciding can make a difference.

21. HOW TO ACT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE? Youth movements and electoral behavior

Research Paper by Georges Vinicius ZARDO

The paper offers an analysis of the results of the European elections with particular attention to the results of the green parties. It shows that the European elections were the opportunity for an environmentalist push, but that this was significant only in a limited number of countries. An observation of youth movements shows that the countries where young people have been most mobilized are those where ecologists have scored the highest.



A NEW PRESIDENCY FOR IED

The Institute of European Democrats held its general assembly on 29 November 2019 in Paris. The members of the board have elected Francesco RUTELLI at the head of the Institute.

A former mayor of Rome and former Minister of Culture of Italy (2006 – 2008), he currently leads many international initiatives in the fields of culture, creative industries and Cultural Diplomacy. He is the President of “Priorità Cultura” (“Culture First”) which is a Member organisation of the Institute of European Democrats.

He founded in 2004 the European Democratic Party (EPD) together with François Bayrou – as the leaders at that time of the Italian ‘Democracy is Freedom-La Margherita’ and the French UDF. In 2007 he contributed to the establishment of the Institute of European Democrats, which is the political foundation affiliated to the EPD

The Members of the IED Board also elected Gabi SCHMIDT, member of the Bavarian Parliament and representative of the Freie Wähler Party, as Vice-President of the Institute.

Mikel BURZAKO has been elected Administrator délégué of the Institute. He is currently Member of National Committee, in charge of Foreign Affairs, in the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), which is a member organization of the IED.

The new team intends to focus the activities of the Institute on the key challenges which will shape the EU agenda and match the preoccupations of the citizens across Europe.



5.

**MEMBERS
2019**

Following the IED general Assembly in November 2019

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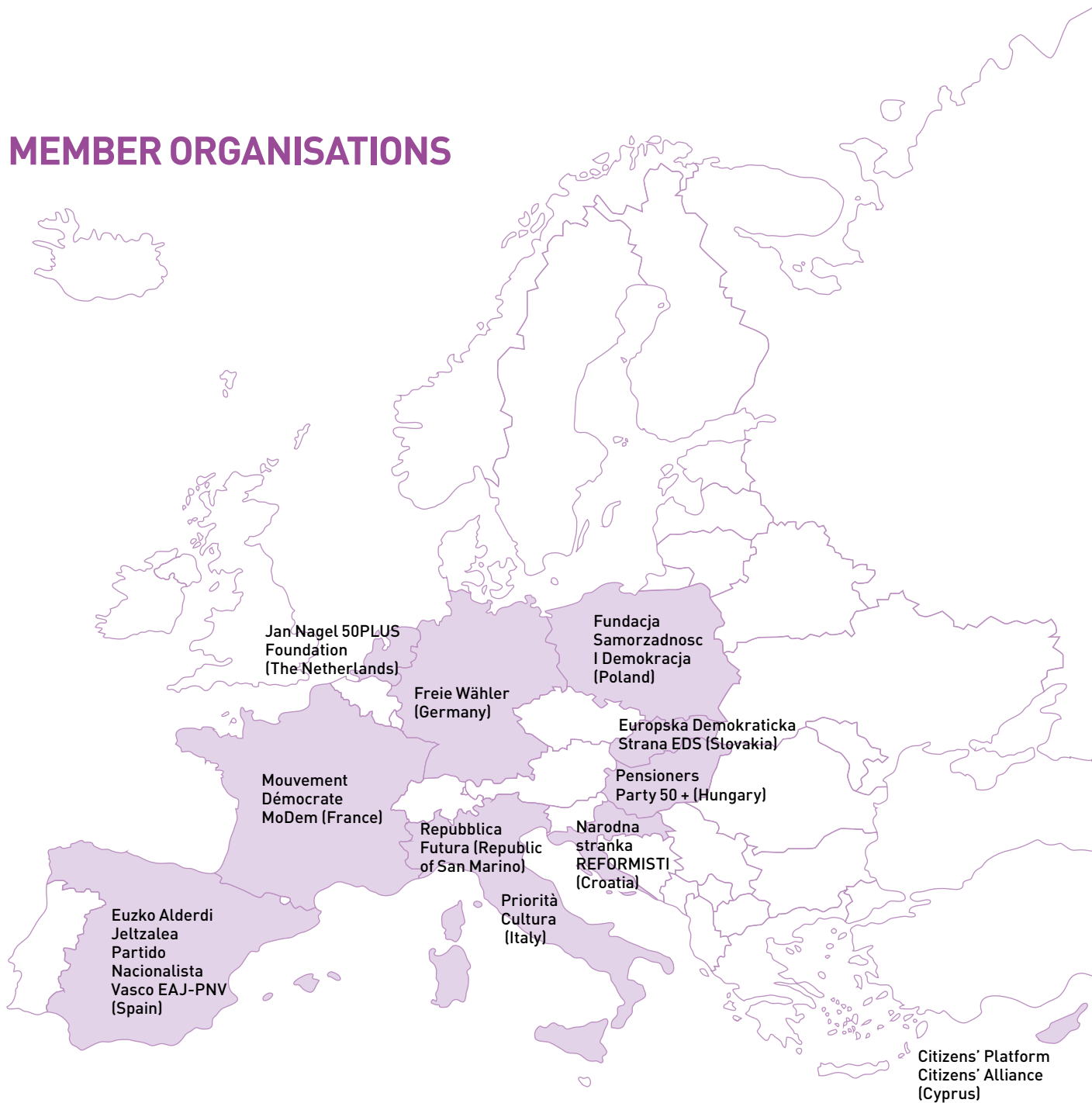


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