

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[101081558] - [CEE BANKWATCH NETWORK] ([Bankwatch])
PIC number:	893274553
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens' Observatory For Green Deal Financing] — [Citizens4EGDFunding]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	7
Event name:	Citizens-Decision makers dialog week
Type:	Seminar
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Brussels, Belgium Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Date(s):	15-17 February 2023, 3 May 2023, 26-30 June 2023
Website(s) (if any):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' Observatory on Green Deal Financing advocacy and planning week (Article that covers the advocacy week, roundtable and public event) (26-30 June 2023): https://bankwatch.org/event/citizens-observatory-on-green-deal-financing-advocacy-and-planning-week • Three days of advocacy meetings in Brussels with the European Commission (15-17 February 2023): https://bankwatch.org/event/three-days-of-advocacy-meetings-in-brussels-with-the-european-commission • Fast-tracking the clean heat transition: leveraging private capital (21 June 2023): https://bankwatch.org/event/fast-tracking-the-clean-heat-transition-leveraging-private-capital • Meeting with the EIB complaints mechanism and advocacy meetings with MEPs and the European Commission on the EIBs role in financing the European Green Deal: https://bankwatch.org/event/meeting-with-the-eib-complaints-mechanism-and-advocacy-meetings-with-meps-and-the-european-commission-on-the-eibs-role-in-financing-the-european-green-deal
Participants	
Female:	24
Male:	22

Non-binary:	0		
Didn't provide information on gender:	139		
From country 1 [Austria]:	1		
From country 2 [Belgium]:	131		
From country 3 [Bulgaria]:	2		
From country 4 [Croatia]:	1		
From country 5 [Czech Republic]:	5		
From country 6 [Denmark]:	1		
From country 7 [Estonia]:	4		
From country 8 [Finland]:	1		
From country 9 [France]:	3		
From country 10 [Germany]:	4		
From country 11 [Hungary]:	1		
From country 12 [Ireland]:	1		
From country 13 [Italy]:	10		
From country 14 [Latvia]:	2		
From country 15 [Lithuania]:	1		
From country 16 [Luxembourg]:	3		
From country 17 [Netherlands]:	1		
From country 18 [Poland]:	6		
From country 19 [Romania]:	3		
From country 20 [Slovakia]:	3		
From country 21 [Spain]:	1		
Total number of participants:	185	From total number of countries:	21
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Three days of advocacy meetings in Brussels with the European Commission (Brussels, Belgium, 15-17 February 2023)</u> <p>The advocacy week was designed to bring national level input to EU decision makers, highlighting some of the ongoing issues as well as providing them with recommendations. Between 15 and 17 February 2023, campaigners from five environmental organisations from five central and eastern European countries met in Brussels to join a series of advocacy meetings with the European</p>			

Commission and to participate to the plenary of the European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECoPP), a platform set up by DG REGIO. The plenary took place on 16 February: after last year's online plenary, it gathered a wide range of partners (Managing Authorities, regional and local authorities, social and economic partners, civil society organisation, universities) from across the European Union. In addition to the plenary, five meetings with high-level officials from the European Commission were organised to take stock of the implementation of the recovery plans and cohesion policy programmes across the EU Member States, and to discuss the preparation of the REPowerEU chapters. The project partners and other NGO representatives met with over 30 representatives from the Cabinet of Vice-President of the Commission Frans Timmermans SG RECOVER, DG ECFIN, DG REGIO, DG ENV, DG CLIMA.

These meetings highlighted the role of civil society organisations as watchdogs of EU funds. Written exchange with authorities at the Commission followed the advocacy week, proving that the input provided during the in-person meetings is recognised by the EU Institutions as playing a significant role in helping the Commission to assess the situation on the ground. For example, during her opening speech at the plenary of EcoPP, the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira praised Bankwatch for its efforts on monitoring transparency and public participation in cohesion policy funds.

- **Meeting with the EIB complaints mechanism and advocacy meetings with MEPs and the European Commission on the EIBs role in financing the European Green Deal (Luxembourg, 2-3 May)**

Meeting with the Complaints mechanism

On 3 May Counter Balance and several members and partners of their network participated in a meeting with a significant number of staff of the EIBs Complaints mechanism of the European Investment Bank at their office in Luxembourg. The complaints mechanism presented its annual report and upcoming evolutions such as a change of management and an upcoming review of its policy and procedures. Counter Balance and the other present CSOs gave input on pending cases and gave constructive criticism and asked the mechanism to make more progress where needed. The participants discussed how the civil society wants the Complaints mechanism to improve. These points were noted and it was agreed to have further dialogue on the cases and when the review process starts.

- **Advocacy meetings with policy makers organised by Counter Balance (Brussels, Belgium)**

In the first half of 2023 Counter Balance had several meetings with advisors, assistants and MEPs from the BUDG, CONT, ECON and DEVE commissions to give input on the annual reports or opinions on these reports these commissions were preparing on the EIB. Counter Balance also had a meeting with the Commission on InvestEU and the EIB's role in implementing this mechanism that plays a crucial role to finance the European Green Deal as well as the EIB's own internal climate strategy, the Climate Bank Roadmap. All meetings took place in Brussels. The advocacy focused on increasing the banks' efforts to eliminate the indirect exposure of the bank to financing fossil fuels via its counter parties and improving the focus of the bank to give sufficient importance to climate finance with high social benefits both inside and outside the EU and ensuring all citizens have access to environmentally basic public services like energy, transport and housing. Many of Counter Balance's points were included in the reports that were approved by the European Parliament and the Commission noted the points on the need to better improve additionality of the financing of InvestEU and making more detailed information accessible to EU citizens.

- **Event 'Fast-tracking the clean heat transition: leveraging private capital' (Brussels, Belgium, 21 June 2023)**

On Wednesday 21 June 2023 CEE Bankwatch Network co-organised an event together with Euroheat and Power, with the title 'Fast-tracking the clean heat transition: leveraging private capital'. The session was held as part of the European Sustainability Energy Week organised by the European Commission, and took place at the Residence Palace, in Brussels. The event featured a diverse group of participants from the European Institutions, civil society organisations, and business associations discussing the attractiveness of renewable heating and cooling investments using private capital and public finance. There were 6 speakers (four women and 2 men) and 36 participants. We do not have information on their gender, as this question was not asked in the attendance sheet.

The focus of the event was to highlight best practices in private and public finance to accelerate the decarbonisation of district heating and cooling networks across the EU and at the national level, considering that district heating can have an essential role in reducing GHG in the heating and cooling sector. The panel touched upon several issues related to district heating and their transformation, from the importance of better financial schemes for fossil-free district heating system investments from public banks to how to integrate more private capital to accelerate this move.

- **Roundtable 'European public investments for a socially just transition' (Brussels,**

Belgium, 27 June 2023)

Counter Balance and the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Brussels Office organised a roundtable discussion 'European public investments for a socially just transition' on 27 June to bring together labour unions, civil society organisations and academics to discuss how EU public investments affect energy, housing, public services and industry. The roundtable aimed to connect different sectors of civil society, exchange points of view, identify shared concerns, and identify key areas of work to facilitate progress towards a democratic and just public investments agenda. We discussed how current EU investment programs address socioeconomic needs in Europe (and beyond), what should be the priorities of EU public finance and how our respective organisations can work together to ensure public investments contribute towards creating a more equitable and sustainable economic model. Around 20 participants attended the event, however we can report 9 people from this roundtable (4 female and 5 male participants).

- **Public event 'From the ground up - how citizens can transform Europe's recovery' (Brussels, Belgium, 29 June 2023)**

On Thursday 29 June Bankwatch and Counter Balance organised an event at Mundo-Matonge for the public. During the event, we promoted the work of the Observatory by presenting the findings of our report and by showing four virtual tours from Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Poland, with a testimonial from the colleagues that produced the videos. The videos stimulated a discussion among participants on the impact of the recovery projects and investments, with the interventions of the EUobserver's journalist and representative from the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS).

The event gathered a total of 21 participants (8 female, 9 male, 4 preferred not to disclose their gender).

- **Citizens' Observatory on Green Deal Financing advocacy and planning week (Brussels, Belgium, 26-30 June 2023)**

A total of 25 participants from environmental organisations representing 13 countries met in Brussels for an advocacy week, from 26 to 30 June. The advocacy meetings organised during this week covered a wide variety of topics, including public participation in decision making and transparency, problematic investments for biodiversity, weakening of environmental legislation, and climate and energy investments. The project partners met with a wide range of participants, from the European Commission's unit for the recovery funds, regional policy, environmental compliance, as well as Members of the European Parliament and their staff, and their Group's advisors, and finally Brussels-based civil society organisations.

As a result, partners were able to establish and further strengthen contacts from their respective countries. On several occasions, contacts were exchanged individually with follow up exchanges agreed on specific country-level matters. We were also able to promote the Citizens' Observatory during these various exchanges, bringing greater visibility to the project to the various EU level decision makers.

The EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values was sent to the participants of the roundtable on 27 June, public event on 29 June and participants of the advocacy week (26-30 June). We could not share the survey with targeted decision-makers and participants of the event on 21 June as this event was organised with partner organisations. Unfortunately, we have only received replies from the participants of the advocacy and planning week (26-30 June).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).