

## 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] - [Counter Balance]
PIC number:	[939793231]
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens´Observatory For Green Deal Financing] — [Citizens4EGDFunding]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	20
Event name:	Final report and outreach to decision-makers around the European elections
Type:	trainings, webinars, report
In situ/online:	online
Location:	online
Date(s):	01/03/2024, 08/03/2024, 12/03/2024, 14/03/2024, 26/03/2024
Website(s) (if any):	<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment training sessions (1 March, 8 March and 14 March 2024):</b></p> <p>Article on the project landing page:  <a href="https://bankwatch.org/event/environmental-impact-assessment-training-sessions-1-march-8-march-and-14-march-2024">https://bankwatch.org/event/environmental-impact-assessment-training-sessions-1-march-8-march-and-14-march-2024</a></p> <p><b>Final report:</b></p> <p>Counter Balance website:</p> <p>Report: <a href="https://counter-balance.org/publications/beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-peoples-well-being">https://counter-balance.org/publications/beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-peoples-well-being</a></p> <p>Press release: <a href="https://counter-balance.org/news/beyond-profit-launch-of-report-on-eus-green-finance-challenges">https://counter-balance.org/news/beyond-profit-launch-of-report-on-eus-green-finance-challenges</a></p> <p>Project landing page:</p> <p>Report: <a href="https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024_03_12_Beyond-profit_How-to-reshape-the-European-Green-Deal-for-peoples-well-being.pdf">https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024_03_12_Beyond-profit_How-to-reshape-the-European-Green-Deal-for-peoples-well-being.pdf</a></p> <p>Press release: <a href="https://bankwatch.org/press_release/beyond-profit-launch-of-report-on-eu-s-green-finance-challenges">https://bankwatch.org/press_release/beyond-profit-launch-of-report-on-eu-s-green-finance-challenges</a></p> <p><b>Launch event / Webinar 1: ‘Beyond profit: How to reshape the European Green Deal for people’s well-being’ (12 March 2024)</b></p> <p>Counter Balance website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Event publication: <a href="https://counter-balance.org/news/report-launch-beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-peoples-well-being">https://counter-balance.org/news/report-launch-beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-peoples-well-being</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report of the event: <a href="https://counter-balance.org/news/launch-event-beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-peoples-well-being">https://counter-balance.org/news/launch-event-beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-peoples-well-being</a></li> </ul> <p>Recording on youtube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvAOw5MrD9g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvAOw5MrD9g</a></p> <p>Article on the project landing page: <a href="https://bankwatch.org/event/report-launch-beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-people-s-well-being">https://bankwatch.org/event/report-launch-beyond-profit-how-to-reshape-the-european-green-deal-for-people-s-well-being</a></p> <p><b>Webinar 2: Reclaiming Europe's climate agenda: Towards a just transformation (26 March 2024)</b></p> <p>Counter Balance website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Event publication: <a href="https://counter-balance.org/news/reclaim-europes-climate-agenda-towards-a-just-transformation">https://counter-balance.org/news/reclaim-europes-climate-agenda-towards-a-just-transformation</a></li> <li>- Report of the event: <a href="https://counter-balance.org/news/reclaiming-europes-climate-agenda-towards-a-just-transformation">https://counter-balance.org/news/reclaiming-europes-climate-agenda-towards-a-just-transformation</a></li> </ul> <p>Recording on youtube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es_2KMjLpmY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es_2KMjLpmY</a></p> <p>Article on the project landing page: <a href="https://bankwatch.org/event/reclaiming-europe-s-climate-agenda-towards-a-just-transformation">https://bankwatch.org/event/reclaiming-europe-s-climate-agenda-towards-a-just-transformation</a></p> <p>Published EDS: <a href="#">EDS_Deliverable-20.1_Counter-Balance.pdf</a></p>
<b>Participants</b>	
Female:	68
Male:	41
Non-binary:	-
Prefer not to say	7
Did not provide information	11
From country 1 [Austria]:	1
From country 2 [Belgium]:	35
From country 3 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 4 [Croatia]:	5
From country 5 [Czech Republic]:	16
From country 6 [Estonia]:	2
From country 7 [Finland]:	1
From country 8 [France]:	1
From country 9 [Germany]:	9
From country 10 [Greece]:	5

From country 11 [Hungary]:	7		
From country 12 [Ireland]:	1		
From country 13 [Italy]:	3		
From country 14 [Latvia]:	2		
From country 15 [Luxembourg]:	1		
From country 16 [The Netherlands]:	4		
From country 17 [Poland]:	9		
From country 18 [Romania]:	4		
From country 19 [Slovakia]:	11		
From country 20 [Spain]:	5		
From country 21 [Sweden]:	4		
Total number of participants:	127	From total number of countries:	21

### Description

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

The work package 20 `Final report and outreach to decision-makers around the European elections` included several online activities – 3 EIA online sessions, 2 webinars - and a produced final report.

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment training sessions – 1 March, 8 March and 14 March 2024**

EIAs are a way for the public to become involved in monitoring projects and to allow their voices to be heard in a formal way. Hence by providing training to campaigners on how to better monitor investments, they can in turn use this knowledge to mobilise citizens and the public to do the same. With this purpose in mind, throughout March 2024, Bankwatch organised a series of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training sessions for internal and some external campaigners. The purpose was to explain what EIAs are, how they work, how to become involved in the process and use them as a form of campaigning to prevent financing of harmful projects.

The first session (01/03/2024) provided information about the purpose of EIAs, the second (08/03/2024) was dedicated to how these can be used as an important advocacy and campaigning tool, and the third (14/03/2024) on Appropriate Assessments, a separate but related form of environmental assessment. The overall aim was to equip campaigners with the necessary skills to better challenge, mitigate and prevent financing of harmful investments.

The sessions were divided into three parts and into a different thematic focus, and was presented by 5 different speakers, three female and two male. Considerable space and time were also dedicated to Q&As, where participants were able to ask questions and campaigning advice, for example, in cases where an EIA challenge has been ineffective, what alternative steps can be taken, and how to better mobilise the public around providing comments during a consultation.

The 3 online sessions were attended by 82 persons in total, many of them joining all three sessions. Out of these, there were 28 unique eligible attendees coming from 11 EU countries (19 female, 9 male participants).

#### **Final report: [Beyond profit: how to reshape the European Green Deal for peoples' well-being](#)**

As the final product of the project, a report highlighting the shortcomings of the current EU mechanisms for financing the European Green Deal, was prepared. As the EU elections approach, uncertainty surrounds the financing of the EU's climate agenda and the future of flagship initiatives such as the European Green Deal and the NextGenerationEU fund. Despite ambitious intentions, the report shows that progress on environmental sustainability and economic recovery is failing to improve

people's well-being. It shows that existing mechanisms lead to poor implementation and prioritise competitiveness through clean technology innovation over a just and inclusive transformation that leaves no one behind. The report advocates for a transformative public finance strategy that empowers citizens, civil society and local governments with access to information and resources for meaningful participation in shaping climate policy, recognizing their central role in both legitimising and implementing climate action at the local level.

Counter Balance and Bankwatch worked together on the drafting of the report, and all project partners contributed to its development, providing input for national-level examples that were then incorporated into the final text of the report. The two leading organizations also worked together on the layout of the report and its national translations, the promotion of the webinar, the launch of the report and its dissemination.

The report was published on 12 March 2024 and presented during the launch event described below – it was made available at the [project landing page](#) (in English) and is also available in [Catalan](#), [Italian](#) and [Bulgarian](#). It was pitched before its publication to 7 journalists from different EU outlets covering EU affairs, particularly the Green Deal. After the launch, the report was shared with 185 journalists from different outlets.

There was a wide distribution of the report so that its messages reach as many interested people as possible - it was shared with 239 decision-makers, including MEPs, European Commission officials in DG CLIMA, DG ENCFIN, SG RECOVER, DG ENER; officials at the EIB and the Belgian government, which now holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union; and distributed to 253 members of civil society organisations, including NGOs, trade unions, academics and research centers. We received positive feedback both from decision-makers, who on several occasions expressed their willingness to discuss the findings further in possible follow-up meetings in the coming weeks, and from CSOs. For the latter, the report has also been a useful tool for establishing new contacts.

The launch event and the publication of the report was advertised by a joint effort on the social media channels of Counter Balance (X and LinkedIn) and Bankwatch (X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn) with the publication of 28 posts altogether that reached collectively 221.464 people. Promotion of the report will continue also in the next weeks.

#### **Webinar 1: 'Beyond profit: How to reshape the European Green Deal for people's well-being' – 12 March 2024**

The webinar was a launch presentation of the findings of the Citizens' Observatory Coalition's latest report on Green Deal Financing - [Beyond profit: how to reshape the European Green Deal for peoples' well-being](#) - which analyses key EU funding mechanisms such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and InvestEU (details above).

Bringing together civil society representatives and the Co-President of the Greens in the European Parliament as the speakers, the discussion focused on the report's findings, in particular the significant shortcomings in the strategic priorities and implementation of the EU's investment strategy.

During the hour-long discussion, several key themes emerged:

- The importance and complexity of green technologies and the need to integrate them into broader societal frameworks were assessed. Using the Swedish case study of Northvolt, discussions highlighted the need for a holistic approach that goes beyond technological advances, emphasising the importance of addressing societal needs such as housing, energy and transport.
- While initiatives such as the EU Green Deal and NextGenerationEU were praised for their potential, concerns were raised about the lack of a coherent strategy and the need for increased public investment. Participants discussed the role of wealth taxes and climate legacy taxes in financing environmental solutions and stressed the importance of redistributive measures.
- Attention was also drawn to the risks associated with financial instruments such as securitisation and the financialisation of nature, warning against repeating the mistakes of the past. Overall, the event underlined the interconnectedness of environmental, social and economic factors in achieving sustainable development goals.

The launch event was well attended, with 86 people including the panelists, 79 of them coming from 16 EU member states (41 women, 24 men, 5 preferred not to disclose this information and 9 people did not provide this information). With three female and two male interviewees, we aimed for a gender

diverse panel.

The participants actively intervened during the discussion with a series of questions. As reported in the EU survey shared after the event and email exchange with attendees, respondents were satisfied with the discussion and praised the balance of the exchange, the topics covered and the diversity of viewpoints as successful elements of the webinar. Following the event, the report was distributed to all the participants via email.

The event underlined the interconnectedness of environmental, social and economic factors in the implementation of projects such as the European Green Deal, which aim to pave the way for a truly equitable transformation that leaves no one behind.

A full recording of the discussion can be [accessed here](#).

### **Webinar 2: Reclaiming Europe's climate agenda: Towards a just transformation – 26 March 2024**

The 1-hour-long webinar, based on the Citizens' Observatory's report '[Green Deal Financing - Beyond profit](#)', convened a diverse panel of gender-balanced representatives from civil society and academia to scrutinize the EU's investment in industrial policy planning and public ownership of energy.

Panelists took turns answering two different questions from the moderator and the audience and the discussions centered on the inadequacies of EU public policy in ensuring a just transition that prioritizes community welfare over corporate profits. Panelists underscored the urgency of shifting investments towards clean electricity and away from fossil fuels, recognizing that private investment alone is not sufficient, particularly as renewable energy ventures may not yield immediate profits. Despite set targets, investment in the green transition remains insufficient, especially in peripheral regions, highlighting the need to decarbonize transport, housing, and invest in the energy supply chain. Key concerns included the role of public subsidies in driving the transition, austerity measures' impact on job creation, and the looming end of the Next Generation EU budget in 2026, posing challenges in meeting investment needs. This prompted calls for transformative approaches that address citizens' needs and move workers into sustainable sectors, emphasizing equity, justice, and community-based solutions. Building key public infrastructure and broader public services to support a just transition was seen as essential. Moreover, the discussion touched on the global perspective, questioning the EU's reliance on the Global South for raw materials and clean-tech competition, and proposed solutions included democratic industrialization plans that prioritize job creation and safeguard workers' rights. Suggested solutions included democratic industrialisation plans that prioritise job creation, support sustainable growth and protect workers' rights. Measures to reduce the lobbying power of corporations and to increase workers' participation in decision-making were advocated. Ultimately, there was consensus on the need to bolster state capacity to manage change effectively and channel investments efficiently in the face of neoliberalism's evolving role.

The webinar facilitated robust debate among 30 attendees including the panelists - 20 of them coming from 11 EU countries (8 male, 8 female, 2 that prefer not to say and 2 that did not disclose this information) who did not join any of the previous online sessions of this work package, engaging with questions from the moderator. The panel was gender balanced, with 2 male and 2 female interviewees, and there was 1 male moderator.

After the webinar, the recording of the session and the evaluation survey were shared with the participants. Unfortunately, no reply was received by the time of reporting hence we cannot provide a summary of their feedback.

A recording of the discussion can be accessed [here](#).

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