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# EU STAFF FUND for a Fair and Sustainable Future

Dear colleagues and friends,

[Last time we wrote](#), we presented you the new name of the fund – **EU Staff Fund for Fair and Sustainable Future** – and our new funding strategy. Now, after the summer spent in identifying and selecting projects, we are able to present to you **the very first group of grantees of our new course**.

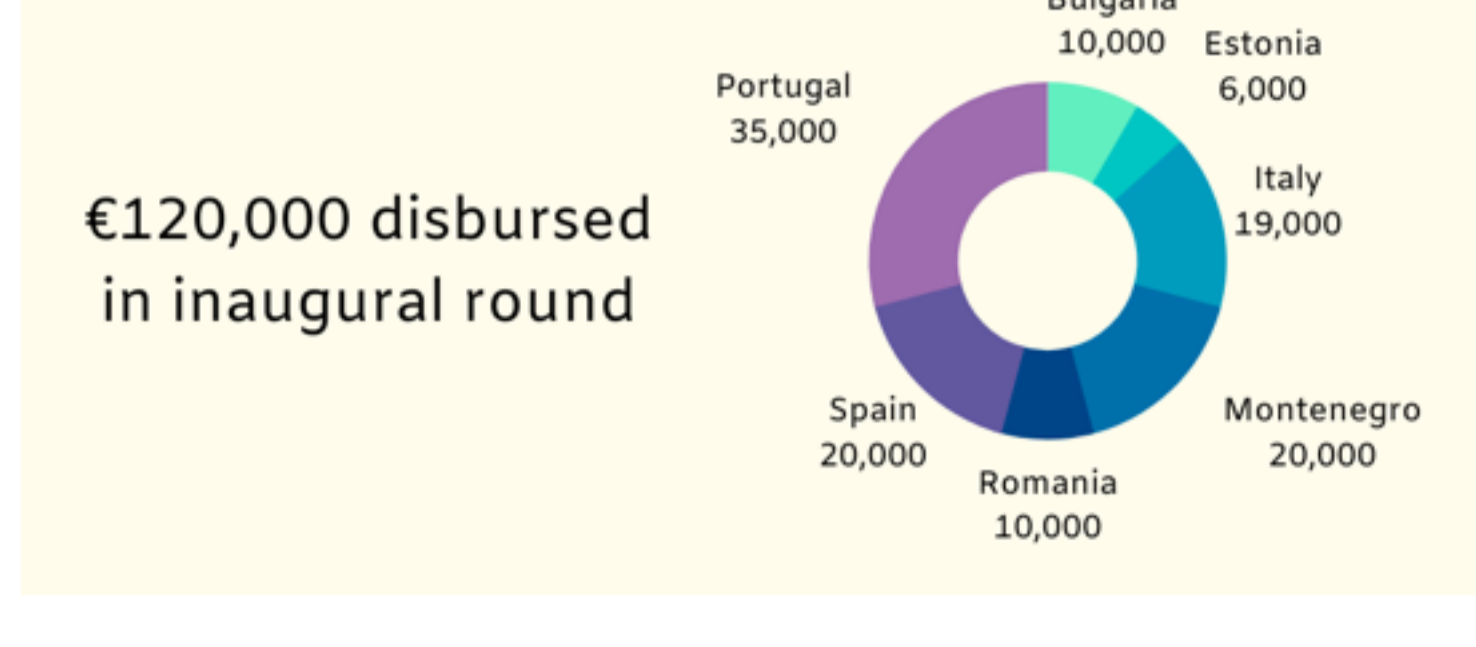


I am excited about this new direction and what we can do together as EU staff to actively support people who are building a greener and more just future for all.

Before summer we sent out a call for proposals to the organisations we supported in the emergency phase. Their response was enthusiastic: **many organisations in Europe are supporting vulnerable people while protecting the environment**, and they share our conviction that **the only way to build a fair and resilient society is by addressing these two issues together**.

In the first round of the EU Staff Fund for a Fair and Sustainable Future, we disbursed **€120,000 to 8 projects in 7 countries**.

These projects will work on **promoting social inclusion by providing environmental services** (Estonian Refugee Council, Centro Calabrese di Solidarietà, Prodis and Mission Wing Foundation), **extending the scope and environmental sustainability of social services** (Asociația Bunul Samaritean and Banco Alimentar Contra a Fome) and **improving waste management and upcycling practices to support vulnerable people** (Young Roma and Student Keep).



We were pleased to discover that **our support can really make a difference giving a fresh push and further visibility to valuable initiatives**.

In this and the following newsletters, we will present the projects we funded. Meanwhile, **we are searching for new projects that, with your continuous support, we will be able to fund already in November**.

In the meanwhile, our **special fundraiser for Ukraine goes on**: we recently funded 5 new projects.

The **energy crisis and high inflation** are worsening the situation for many people who were struggling to recover after Covid. **There is more need for our solidarity now than ever before**. We will not miss this new call.

In this newsletter, you will find:

- details on **2 projects supported in the first round of donations** from the EU Staff Fund for a Fair and Sustainable Future
- an update on the **special fundraiser for the people of Ukraine** and a **touching message from a coordinator** of an Odesa-based organisation we supported

**Bruno Mola** is one of the founding members of our staff fund and a member of its management committee. After many years in the solidarity sector, Bruno now works at DG REGIO at the Commission, on Administrative Capacity Building and Solidarity Instruments. Bruno is a strong believer in the link between human and planetary health.

Please note that you will see the old name of the fund on [the donation page](#). **Your donation will be allocated correctly** regardless of this. The page is in the process of being updated.

[Donate now for a fair & sustainable future](#)

**How can I donate to the EU Staff Fund for a Fair and Sustainable Future?**  
You can [sign up for a regular donation](#) or [make a one-off donation here](#) (please see the **note below**).  
If you would prefer to make a bank transfer, you can [see the bank details here](#).

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## Greening social services



The first CLOSER project by Bunul Samaritean took place in 2020.

We'll present all of the 8 projects that received grants from the **EU Staff Fund for Fair and Sustainable Future** in this inaugural round. This time, we'd like to highlight two projects that aim to increase the quality and the environmental sustainability of services for local communities.

### Romanian association to green community projects

With the help of a **10,000-euro** grant from the fund, [Asociația Bunul Samaritean](#) will deliver a second edition of its community support project 'CLOSER' aiming to support older people in the community and to provide workshops for local children.

Bunul Samaritean will purchase two additional bicycles to help provide 40 older community members with help with:

- house cleaning
- personal hygiene and medical assistance
- food delivery supplemented with products from local producers and sellers aiming to reduce food waste

In addition, they will organise activities for 60 local children from both rural and urban communities, teaching the children about the importance of looking after themselves and the planet.

The planned activities include:

- creative upcycling workshops
- educational screenings about the environment, and
- sports with a focus on personal health

### Portuguese food bank to invest in a composting system and build a network of urban gardens

[Banco Alimentar Contra a Fome](#) came to us with a project called 'REFEED'. Our grant of **20,000 euros** will help this food bank acquire, install and run a composting system with an annual capacity of 120 tonnes.

This new large-scale composting system will allow Banco Alimentar to:

- start composting all of its unavoidable organic waste
- create a network distribution system to support urban agriculture initiatives in Lisbon - from community gardens to small individual plots

We'll present more of the projects in our future newsletters - stay tuned!

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## Ukraine fundraiser continues

Eight months into the war in Ukraine, about 6,000 people have died and more than 7.4 million have fled the country. The reports from the war zones speak of widespread violence and abuse of civilians while the need for material and psychological support keeps on rising.

Thanks to your donations, **we have already collected and disbursed about €380,000, funding 20 projects** in Ukraine and neighbouring countries welcoming refugees. In the last round of donations, in July, we distributed 5 grants of **€ 15,000** each to:

- **New Dawn**: rescue services for children and young orphans, distribution of medicines and food, support to the reconstruction of bombed hospitals.
- **Eleos Ukraine** and **100% LIFE Rivne**: evacuation services, shelters, food and hygienic packages, and psychosocial support, in particular for women victims of gender-based violence, HIV+, drug users, and other vulnerable groups.
- **Drop of Blood** and **Atina women against cancer**: support to individuals with cancer and leukemia to ensure continuity of treatment, access to public health services and drugs distribution.

**Julia Pogrebnaya**, the coordinator of [New Dawn](#) in Odesa, sent us a message of gratitude that we must share with you:

It is with an immense gratitude that we received your so generous donation!  
We will be able to buy supply on the local markets for aid packs for about 500 families!  
The purchase in our regional markets goes along with a strong support of our badly hit small businesses and avoids long transportation itineraries.  
These aid packs include basic food and hygiene products for a family with two children for 2 weeks. Your precious aid will be directly distributed to the extremely suffering population in the freshly freed villages in the northeast of Mykolajiv. These villages have been cut off from any supply sometimes even for months, and the living conditions of the population that for various reasons could not flee are unimaginable.  
The scale of the impact of your donation is difficult to express in words.  
Please spread our gratitude for any possibility to help the population that lost everything due to the atrocities of this war. The winter is approaching and we are very much afraid about how to further help, which is the very purpose of our organization.  
Just today one of our teams came back from some of the forgotten villages and even though used to war since months, was silent and speechless for hours.

**Julia Pogrebnaya**

Our solidarity is helping bring real help to people. This is why, **with your support, we will continue to pursue our initiative for Ukraine, while hoping for a quick and peaceful resolution of the conflict**.

You can donate [by card here](#). If you prefer, you can make a bank transfer to support the people of Ukraine with the following information:

IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404 (Fondation Roi Baudouin)  
Reference: +++ 623/3096-0096 +++

If making a bank transfer, use the reference to ensure correct allocation!

[Donate now to support the people of Ukraine](#)

**Want to know more about EU Staff for Climate or get involved?**  
You can read about **EU Staff for Climate** on [our website](#).  
You are very welcome to **join us for the climate march taking place in Brussels this Sunday (23 October)**! We are meeting at 13:00 on [Place Rogier](#) – look for the EU Staff for Climate banner!  
To stay informed about the group's activities through our newsletter, send an email with the subject line **'Please add me to the mailing list'** to: [EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu).  
To get involved with EU Staff for Climate and help shape its activities, please send a message to: [EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu).  
Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Thank you for your continued support for the initiative!

You can follow **EU Staff for Climate** on Facebook or [Twitter](#) for our latest updates on the fund and share our posts with colleagues who might be interested in the fund.

**Please consider having a chat about the fund with your coworkers or retired colleagues. With your help the it will have a much greater impact!**

**Best,**

**Bruno, Elena, Minna and Nikos**

**EU Staff for Climate**

**P.S. If you want to get in touch, please do NOT reply to this email. Use our functional mailbox address instead:** [EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu)



EU Staff for Climate is a bottom-up initiative led by EU staff in their individual and private capacity that brings together colleagues from across the EU institutions who are deeply concerned about the climate, ecological and social crisis facing our planet.



The mailing address for EU Staff for Climate is:  
[EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-staff4climate@ec.europa.eu)

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