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ANNUAL REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE



FOREWORD

What a year 2020 has been! With all the bumps in the road, the EC truly still has much to feel proud of, as we managed to make the most out of this unprecedented situation.

As student leaders, being part of the EC has been one of the most transformative parts of our time at the Graduate Institute, and we hope the same for all those who pass through the EC. We hope that your time being an EC member challenged old habits, invited new reflections on the world, that you formed real and true connections, and that you leave with a renewed energy for change.

Sustainability and the climate crisis are cross-cutting issues, and this year the EC made a point to be inclusive. We collaborated on an environmental diplomacy conference, made a podcast about lithium with a professor, cooked delicious Asian vegan food with CEAS and SIA and started local partnerships. With a year that quickly turned hybrid or even virtual, the EC took every opportunity to bring people together, continue our projects and start new initiatives. We held our annual flea market, virtual movie nights and so much more, tackling new topics and collaborating with the Institute and other students initiatives.

We have loved to see the EC grow in 2020. We are equally grateful for everything that we learned during our time as President and Vice-President. Those who came before us were incredible leaders and we have all the faith in those who are coming after.

From Zaninka Ntagungira (President) and
Anna Ploeg (Vice-President)

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Acknowledgements

The Environmental Committee would like to express its genuine appreciation for the following people and partners:

All active Environmental Committee members for their continued support and participation in making the EC what it is. Thank you for always giving your time, energy, passion and camaraderie, even with all your other commitments as graduate students, especially during this particular year.

The Graduate Institute Student Association (GISA) for supporting and highlighting the activities of the EC and helping us to bring sustainability to the forefront of the Institute as a whole.

The Graduate Institute for their support through the Head of Sustainable Development, Vanessa Valerio, and their financial contribution to student committees and initiatives through GISA. Thanks also to the IHEID Library, the Career Services Office, and the Alumni Relations for your support and partnerships.

The IHEID cafeteria for their continued collaboration on the Save the Food project and their openness to adapt and work with us to better serve the IHEID community.

All our external partners, including all our past partners for Geneva Peace Week, the Perception Change Project, La Manivelle and others, for the opportunities they provided for EC members and the space they create for valuable student participation.

And to everyone who has been involved and has supported the Environmental Committee in any way, shape or form. Thank you.

To stay informed about the latest developments of the Environmental Committee:

Instagram: [environmental_committee](#)

Facebook: [IHEID EC](#)

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1. Executive Summary

The Graduate Institute Student Association (GISA) Environmental Committee (EC) celebrates a successful but yet challenging 2020, thanks to its dedicated members, students from various parts of the world and academic backgrounds, who demonstrated their shared commitment to promoting sustainability at IHEID and beyond. As a specialized committee of GISA, the Environmental Committee represents the needs and concerns of the entire student body, and operates numerous ongoing projects to improve and advocate for sustainability at IHEID.

Through various activities, the Environmental Committee seeks to fulfill its five core missions: Sustainable Lifestyle, Sustainable Institute, Sustainable Events, Sustainable Curricula & Sustainable Networking (see the Annex). To execute these, the Environmental Committee organizes a diverse range of events, from outdoor excursions to panel discussions and conferences. Of particular note this year, was the biggest Sustainability Challenge yet which saw around 70 participants, and built momentum for Geneva Sustainability Week (although this was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID). The 170 Series publication with the Perception Change Project at the United Nations Office Geneva was another highlight of the year.

The Environmental Committee continues to foster strong working relationships at IHEID, building new links with diverse student initiatives, and working with the administration, cafeteria, and library to promote a truly sustainable campus. The rooftop gardens and green roofs in the new student residence, for example, are a new opportunity for the EC to work with many members of our community, from the cafeteria Novae to external partners. Additionally, the EC has expanded its wings and sought out new partnerships, including La Manivelle and is currently working on a collaboration for clothing donation and upcycling with la Boîte à Fringues by coordination textile genevoise.

As we all know very well, 2020 was an extremely difficult year for many. From the COVID-19 pandemic to the brutality that we saw in the world, from the United States to Nigeria. The EC, knowing how interconnected the world's injustices are, joined our school community in advocacy, in mobilization and in sharing resources. In this transformative year, the EC learned the importance of inclusion and collaboration, values that we hope will define this committee in the years to come.

The annual elections of EC were held in November and Hugo Brandam will replace Zaninka Marianne Ntagungira as President, and Ryan Maia will succeed Anna Ploeg as Vice-President of the Environmental Committee in 2021. With the creativity, passion and teamwork of the committee members, the EC is sure to have an impactful 2021, creating meaningful ripples.

May the Forest be with you!

2. 2020 Activities & Achievements

2020 began as any other year, as many of us were still oblivious to the year that was ahead of us. When February came, the EC was prepared for an exciting semester, with many awareness raising events prepared and outdoor activities to bring people together with nature. Very quickly, we were forced to adjust to the new sanitary crisis, with important events like Sustainability Week getting cancelled. However, with the support of GISA and EC members, the semester and the year of 2020 was not at all a total loss. Through online campaigns, internal mobilizations, great teamwork and planning, the EC was able to achieve many things that we are all very proud of.

2.1 GISA Mandate

The Environmental Committee is a specialized committee of the Graduate Institute Student Association (GISA). As such, it is differentiated from student initiatives in that it serves the entire student body. Accordingly, the entire student body has the right to vote in the annual Environmental Committee presidential and vice-presidential elections at the end of November, and all members of the student community are de facto members of the EC, benefiting directly from its projects and memberships.

In addition, the president of the Environmental Committee, together with the presidents of each of the other two specialized committees (the Welfare Committee and the Professional Development Committee) holds a seat on the GISA Board. All three committee presidents work as GISA Board members to help carry out the GISA mandate as it pertains to each respective committee's area of focus. During the summer of 2020, after many years of advocacy on the part of GISA and its committee presidents, the IHEID Administration agreed to award the committee presidents, like the other members of GISA, a full tuition waiver. Starting from Fall 2020, the EC president was (and will be) awarded a tuition waiver for the year that they serve.

The Environmental Committee's key responsibilities within GISA include:

1. Promoting sustainability at the Campus Maison de la Paix and in the student residences as well as encouraging sustainable lifestyles
2. Managing the cafeteria-student relationship as well as with the library
3. Supporting GISA events with not only sustainability issues but also whenever useful to the larger functioning and effectiveness of GISA

A Sustainable Campus

In its ongoing mission to promote sustainability at the Institute, the Environmental Committee works closely with the IHEID Head of Sustainable Development, Vanessa Valerio. Over the course of its 10 year existence, the impact of the EC's advocacy has been highly visible, especially around issues like mobility, water usage, recycling

systems and more. The progress on sustainability at the Institute, however, has not always been as impactful as members of the EC would have hoped. Although there exists an institutional committee and commission on sustainability, both organs have been dormant due to lack of resources, amongst other things. Another persistent issue remains the lack of available baseline data to understand the exact position of the Institute, in order for the EC to make relevant recommendations or to know where to focus its energy and attention. This year, all these issues have been one of the most important priorities of the EC, continuing dialogue with GISA, with Ms Valerio and other members of the community, on how to bring the sustainability agenda to the forefront of the IHEID vision and mission.

One important project that will also be a vital point for the EC in 2021 is working with the administration with the just opened residence, the Grand Moreillon. After many discussions with the head of construction, Pierre Guth, the EC will be implicated in the sustainability ambitions of the new residence, including the water consumption metrics, the rooftop food gardens and the green roofs. This collaboration will be the fruit of many years of advocacy from the EC and a show of solidarity from the administration, taking student voices and ideas into consideration for the longevity of these projects.

With the arrival of the new director in the Fall of 2020, the EC warmly welcomed the collective project launched by Director Marie-Laure Salles and mobilized to bring all of these issues to the table. The EC was successful in imprinting themes such as responsible procurement and a carbon neutrality agenda in the important issues to consider in reformatting of the IHEID mission and vision statements, as well as in its functionings in the next years. We hope to see these reforms take place, and for the committee and the administration to become true partners in making the Institute a role model in higher education institutions.

EC & Cafeteria and Library

The IHEID cafeteria is operated by Novae, with whom the Environmental Committee maintains a good working relationship. The EC appreciates the longstanding openness and willingness of the Novae management to engage in constructive dialogue with the student body, especially between representatives from the EC, Geoffrey Moreau and multiple members of the cafeteria staff. We especially appreciate their ongoing support with recurring projects such as Save the Food and Sustainability Week.

A recurring student concern is the level of prices in the cafeteria. While the Environmental Committee understands that Novae operates as a private restaurant, it continues to advocate for affordable options. The Environmental Committee has also expressed student requests regarding the availability of vegan and vegetarian meal options. On this topic, we thank the cafeteria for taking steps to address this

particular issue; the cafeteria instituted a one vegetarian/vegan day per month and rolled out the first day during the week that was planned as Sustainability Week.

Finally, the Environmental Committee continues to work with the IHEID cafeteria and Vanessa Valerio to promote uptake of the Re-Box programme, as part of the common goal of eliminating single-use products in the cafeteria. During the week of Sustainability Week, the cafeteria also eliminated most of the single use items, and on October 1, to celebrate World Vegetarian Day, the cafeteria served only vegetarian dishes.

Another challenge that has emerged is the need for the cafeteria to replace cutlery and glasses on a regular basis, as many continuously go missing. The Environmental Committee pleads that all members of the IHEID community respect Novae's property and do not remove items from the cafeteria.

The EC works with the Library, specifically with the project of the Recycling Library, which is a project that collects printed syllabi, articles and other course materials that students taking the same course can reuse without printing once more. A project that was started some years ago, the Recycling Library is currently being reorganized and reimaged by the EC, to make it more user friendly and to make it more useful as well as known within the student community. The Library has been gracious to offer the Recycling Library many shelf spaces for the binders that keep the documents, as well as the spaces for students to leave their printed materials. The EC recognizes this support, and is currently working to clean up this space and reinvigorate the Recycling Library, by digitizing the inventory and making the service known more to students.

Support to GISA Events and Activities

The Environmental Committee actively supports GISA with the organization of its events. During this particularly challenging year especially, not only in terms of the pandemic but also with the global uprisings about civil rights and police brutality in the United States and around the world, the President of the EC as a member of the GISA board collaborated with GISA in its advocacy and awareness raising projects. The EC is aware of how crosscutting many social issues are, and continues to raise awareness about this intersectionality, with online campaigns, blog posts by members as well as support to existing initiatives. Environmental racism is a serious issue too, and we must always pay attention to how abuses to the planet can reflect or complement other social justice issues. The EC supports the initiative of GISA and the Welfare Committee around free access to menstruation products at the Institute. This project has as one of its goals to expand to menstrual cups at a certain point, and the EC fully supports this initiative.

2.2 Events

The Environmental Committee organized many events, virtual and in person, during the year of 2020. Below is an overview of the events hosted by the EC, many times in collaboration with other groups like student initiatives and external partners. Many of the events in 2020 were held online due to the pandemic, but whenever the sanitary crisis ameliorated in Geneva, the EC was able to plan in-person gatherings. The ban on social gatherings presented a challenge for the EC, which is naturally a very outdoor and socially-inclined committee with its values and the nature of the issues it addresses, but it also allowed the EC to grow and creatively adapt to the situation.

Spring 2020

Sustainability Challenge

Before the COVID-19 pandemic and its many restrictions arrived in Geneva, the EC was able to host the 17-day Sustainability Challenge to promote Sustainability Week. The 17-day challenge was inspired by the SDGs, and every day's challenge was based on each SDG; it ran from February 21st until March 8th, with Sustainability Week supposed to start on March 9th. For reference, the previous challenge was two weeks long and did not include the SDGs. The 2020 Sustainability Challenge was the biggest yet, with around 70 participants, who all picked up sustainable habits along the way and learned how to be more eco-friendly in Geneva.

Sustainability Week

Although Sustainability Week ended up being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SW team in the EC had put together a great agenda, including a workshop on circular economy, panels on sustainable businesses and on food consumption as well as many panels and a market organized by our counterparts at UNIGE, Etudiant-e-s pour le Développement Durable (EDD).

Movie: Chasing Coral with the Water Initiative

Switching quickly to online events to adapt to the pandemic context and the need to stay connected virtually, the EC organized a virtual movie showing with the Water Initiative on April 9th. Using Netflix Party, we watched Chasing Coral, a documentary about the rapid bleaching event of coral reefs which in turn have grave consequences on life below water ecosystems and all others that depend on it.

Earth Day and Screening of Virunga

The 50th Earth Day was on April 22 and the EC planned an instagram campaign as well as a movie screening later in the day. EC members sent in videos wishing the student community Happy Earth Day, which we compiled into a montage. Additionally, we asked people to post on Instagram their favorite photo of earth, a photo experiencing and enjoying the outdoors, something we were all missing a great deal of during confinement and pandemic restrictions. Later that same day,

the EC put on a Netflix Party showing of *Virunga*, a powerful conservation and conflict documentary based on a true story about park rangers protecting critically endangered mountain gorillas in the DRC.

Summer & Welcome Month 2020

Seed Sharing / Growing Project (May)

Around May, while restrictions in Geneva were still in place, many people were taking up growing their own food, thanks to a sharing project that started at the Cite Universitaire student residence. With the support of the EC budget, we expanded this project, bought soil, seeds and pots, and shared them among all students who were interested in Cite as well as in Picciotto; as a fun green confinement project.

EC Evening Picnic (June 23)

As the weather began to lighten up and the sun returned to Geneva, as well as with the end of confinement, the EC organized an evening picnic at the end of June. This was a chance to enjoy some sunshine at the park and take a moment of rest. It was a much needed break for second years who were still working on their thesis and a time to reconnect for people who had not seen each other in a long while.

Hiking Saleve with SIA (Sept 19)

A hike (or hikes) to Saleve is kind of like a Geneva rite of passage, so it was fitting that it was the first welcome month event of the EC. This year we collaborated with the Student Initiative on Asia (SIA) and also visited the monastery that is located at the summit. Afterwards, those who joined us on the hike enjoyed a picnic at the top and enjoyed the incredible view of Geneva, despite the light drizzle on the day.

Annual Flea Market (Sept 21 and 22)

As in previous years, the EC hosted a successful by-donation flea market. As some students and residents of Picciotto leave and declutter and others fly in with low baggage allowances, it's the perfect occasion to get rid of neglected clutter and perhaps find new gems, reducing waste and creating a circularity within our community! Whatever wasn't taken, we donated to an organization in need. This year, we worked with Caritas and TEXAID and donated to them the leftover clothings, which thanks to these partners, will either end up in a local thrift shop and if not, will end up being upcycled into fabrics that will be used for another purpose.

Ferney Voltaire (Oct 3)

Every Saturday, the town of Ferney Voltaire in France voisine hosts a large open air market, where you can buy everything from fruits and vegetables, to delicious coffees and homemade juices, to incredible cheeses and artisan bread, to clothes and much more. Like other years, the EC organized a visit to this market during Welcome Month, where new and returning students joined us to buy the fresh produce, support small producers and enjoy this lively market and town.

Autumn 2020

The autumn semester started off in hybrid mode, meaning that students rotated on a weekly basis between attending class in person and attending only online. However, many first year students were not able to come to Geneva, and many restrictions still applied. This meant that online events and gatherings were still preferable in many instances, especially in the later months of the semester when COVID cases began to rise again. Luckily, the semester did begin with some in-person events in September and October that respected social distancing and sanitary guidelines. In these first few months, we saw the EC grow thanks to a number of energetic new members. The EC board grew as well, with the addition of a Communications team that has taken our graphics, website, and social media to the next level, an Events team that brings fresh ideas and great collaborations, as well as a team dedicated to strategic partnerships and long term agenda setting.

Environmental Diplomacy conference with JDI (Sept 18)

Every year, the Junior Diplomat Initiative (JDI) organizes an annual Youth Dialogue conference, and this year, JDI invited the EC to collaborate with them for the 2020 dialogue named “Environmental Diplomacy: Critical Voices”. JDI and the EC planned a day long hybrid conference with two panels and a workshop. The speakers included Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment & Climate Change Division at IOM, Marie-Claire Graf, Swiss youth advocate for sustainable development and climate action and Co-Founder of Sustainability Week International and with opening remarks from David Chikvaidze, Chief of Cabinet of the Director-General of the UN Geneva. The EC helped provide the workshop organizer, La Fresque du Climat and some of the speakers as well as with marketing the event. The conference was a very rewarding collaboration experience that the EC hopes and plans to have more often.

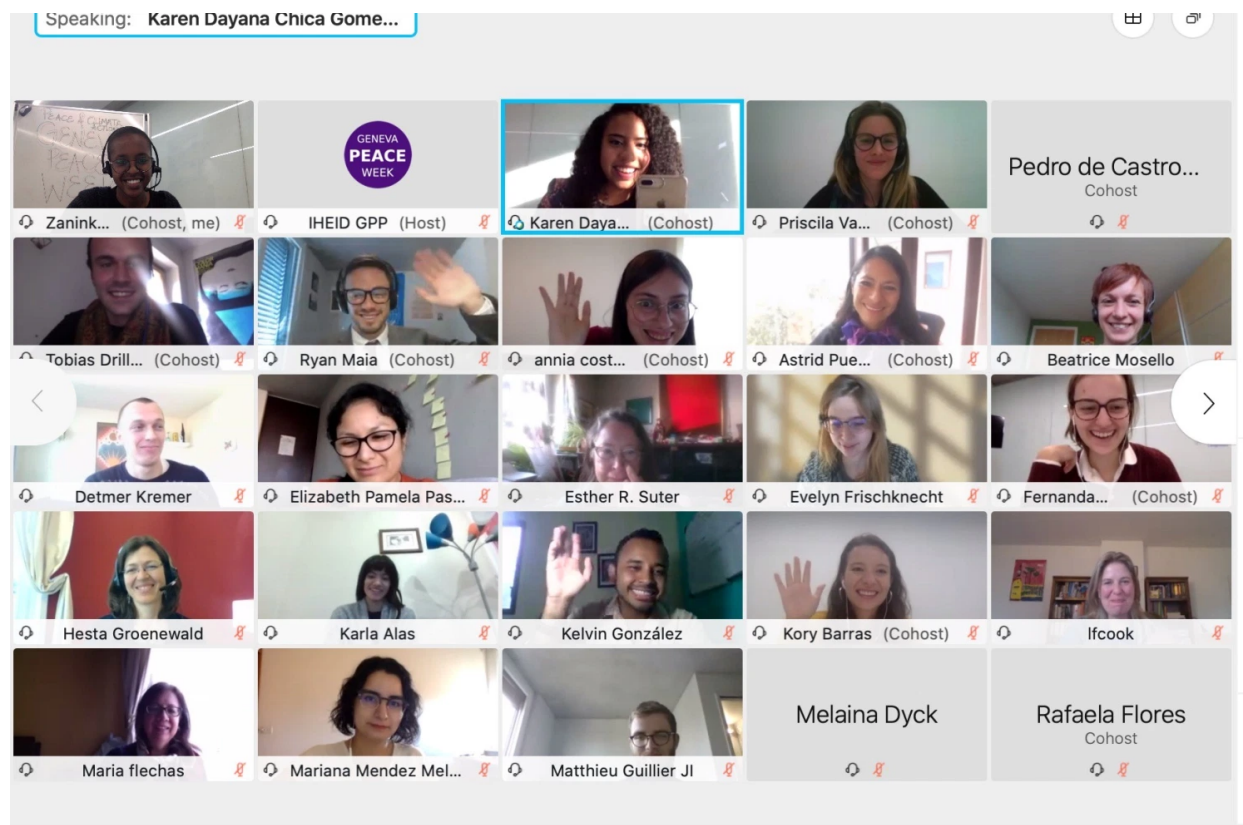


Movie: Seed (Oct 21)

Unfortunately, soon after the semester started, many things went back online as cases started to rise again and Geneva re-instituted several measures. The EC began to meet online again for its recurring meetings, as well as organizing movie screenings virtually. We watched SEED: The Untold Story, a movie about the battle for vital seeds against extinction and chemical companies.

Geneva Peace Week (Nov 6)

This year the entire Geneva Peace Week programme was exclusively online. The EC event was in collaboration with the Latin America Network Initiative (LANI), and was named “Peace and climate action: challenges and opportunities from Latin America”, with the support from our external partners PeaceNexus Foundation and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). To address the linkages between environment, climate action and peacebuilding, we were very pleased to welcome three distinguished speakers; José Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the United Nations; Yolanda Kakabadse, former Minister of Environment for Ecuador and former Director of WWF International and IUCN; and Astrid Puentes, Co-Executive Director of AIDA (Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense). The event was moderated by Karen Chica Gomez, student at IHEID and President of LANI.



Réconcilier l'homme avec la vie sauvage (Oct 28)

Due to the pandemic conditions, the annual *Salon du Livre de Genève* was unable to happen the usual way. Instead, it was organized as *Salon du Livre en Ville*, with many smaller events around Geneva. One of these events was a panel discussion around reconciling humans and wildlife/nature, with author and anti-speciesism activist Virginia Markus and oceanographer and diver Francois Sarrano. Zaninka Ntagungira, President of the EC, was invited to sit on the panel as well, with Professor Marc Hufty moderating the discussion. The EC also helped market the event.

Online Cooking Show with SIA (Dec 11) and CEAS (Dec 12)

As the year was coming to an end, during a time that the EC normally organizes an intimate fondue dinner with its members, we partnered with two student initiatives for a cultural two-night cooking show. The two initiatives showcased sustainable and vegetarian/vegan dishes, with SIA making an authentic curry and CEAS preparing fried potatoes and carrots and pan fried tofu. This was a great collaboration that allowed students to connect and learn sustainable dishes from around the world.

Alumni Roundtable on Sustainability & Entrepreneurship (Dec 15)

As part of the *Inspire Students* series organized by the Alumni Office, the EC collaborated to bring current students and alumni of the Institute around shared interests and to share experiences, and in this case around careers in sustainability and entrepreneurship. The EC helped with marketing the event, providing questions as well as suggesting speakers for the panel.



2.3 Projects

In addition to its various events, the Environmental Committee operates numerous projects on an ongoing basis to promote a sustainable lifestyle among the IHEID community. In 2020, new projects were launched, including the Ecologist podcast, the partnership with la Manivelle and others.

Publications:

170 Series

The EC partnered with the Perception Chance Project, a project based at the Office of the Director-General of UN Geneva, to produce a brochure for the organization's 170 series. This particular project comprises 10 actions for each of the 17 SDGs in relation to climate change. A group of EC members came up with an extensive list of sustainable actions to help mitigate risks of climate change and shortlisted places in the world which are already seeing the effects of climate change and a list of youth who are taking action. After extensive reviewing, editing and graphic designing, the brochure was published in June on World Environment Day.



ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Our planet is a beautiful place. We can easily forget how much it has to offer because we are constantly being reminded of the challenges we face daily, from inequalities to poverty to climate change. If nothing changes to stop, prevent or reverse these challenges, it will only get worse. That is why the United Nations exists.

Everything we stand for is to create a brighter future for every individual, where everyone can thrive and reach their potential. We want to preserve the good that exists in people, places and the planet and put an end to issues that take hope away from us. That is why world leaders came together in 2015 and mobilised the 2030 Agenda: a set of 17 goals for sustainable development.

This matters to each of us, because we are all responsible for being a part of the change. Our actions today affect our children tomorrow. Everyone deserves a fair and equal chance in life. Through the goals, we can reach far and wide because the goals are universal, they leave no one behind. It's also important to understand that these goals are interconnected. We cannot separate poverty from hunger, or education from women's empowerment and so on. If we can grasp that, we are closer to understanding the needs that must be met, and in turn we are closer to achieving the 17 goals. It's time to give back to the planet what the planet has given to us



Produced by the Perception Change Project in partnership with IHEID Environmental Committee. (Collaborators: Surabhi Agarwal, Olivier Flamand-Lapointe, Delphine Magara, Zaninka Ntagungira, Ted Paul, Anna Ploeg, Sarah Schoch, Pauline Seppey & Spencer Williams)

Pract-Eco

President Zaninka, with the precious help of Vice-President Anna and EC member Kory Barras crafted a new guide that contains everything one would need to boost their sustainable lifestyle by the lake. This guide, which was released at the beginning of the Fall semester, is meant to help seasoned Institute-goers and those freshly arrived in Geneva to be practically ecological (short: pract-eco), with recycling tips, restaurant recommendations and much more.

FALL 2020



Geneva Environmental Calendar

Throughout the fall semester, EC member Tobias Drilling worked hard to put together an updated weekly calendar of many events occurring around Geneva surrounding environmental issues, making it easy for those interested to join them.

Sustainable Guide to the Holidays

As the year was coming to an end, approaching a very busy and consumption-filled Christmas period, the EC wanted to raise awareness about how to be more sustainable during the holiday season. With the input of EC members, President Zaninka put together a *Sustainable Guide to the Holidays*, with the hopes that the community would make more ecological and intentional choices with the gifts they buy, paying attention to waste, local products and favor things that last.

The EC Blog

With the new and improved website thanks to EC member Pauline Seppey and later on Sonja Plüss, the EC made its blog space a priority. Members and students were encouraged to send in articles, opinion pieces, recipes and more to our communications team to publish on the blog. The blog now includes a recipe on how to make your own detergent, articles on vegetarianism and menstrual products, a hiking guide and much much more.

Projects:

Scoop

SCOOP is a food cooperative run by EC members for the IHEID community. Due to the pandemic, Scoop only operated in person for a little bit at the beginning of 2020, and thereafter switched online. Through an online order form we sell organic products from farms in and around Geneva, partner with small farmers and producers to deliver seasonal products, and sell without profit, to make local, organic, healthy food affordable to students. Scoop includes legumes like chickpeas and lentils, nuts, seeds, dried fruit and more.



Save the Food

The Save the Food project began out of demand for better food waste management at the Graduate Institute, and it is now one of the favourite programs of the EC among the student body. Every Friday when the campus cafeteria closes (normally at 17h but at 14h during the pandemic), we pick up leftover food that would otherwise go to waste and deliver it to students in the common room. Food is collected by students for free, on a first come, first serve basis.

The Ecologist

As a part of the Institute's new Podcasting Initiative, EC members Anna Ploeg and Olivier Flamand-Lapointe created an environmental segment called The Ecologist. Once a month, and in the spirit of bilingualism, they released an episode in English or French, discussing topics in relation to environmental issues such as urban farming, biodiversity, and other thought provoking subjects such as the impact of a vegan versus a vegetarian diet. Available on all streaming platforms, episodes include a variety of perspectives from students, professors and practitioners on many different topics from tourism to lithium!



Cutlery Rental System

For many years, the issue of single use plastic and other materials has been a concern for the EC. With all the events normally taking place within our community, this generated a lot of waste. In 2020, the EC expanded and officially launched its tableware and cutlery rental system. In order for events hosted by initiatives to be more sustainable, the EC purchased plates, bowls, cutlery, coffee canisters and more with its budget, so that all initiatives can rent them and return them to be used again. A user-friendly system was created by EC member Ruben Nicolin, and was successfully used by initiatives and has now been incorporated under GISA Events.

Community Garden

A collaboration between the Institute and the City of Geneva was underway to create a community garden up the hill from Masion de la Paix, next to the tram stop Nations. Before the pandemic, a building was being taken down to make space for this project, but all of it was postponed. The EC, however, was able to participate in visits to the site, consultation for the garden charter, and remains an integral part of the shared project although it is currently on standby.

3. Environmental Committee Relations

The EC has a wide network of relationships within the Graduate Institute and around local and international Geneva. The aim of these relationships is to build synergies and facilitate and expand the work of the committee, as well as provide networking opportunities to its members. The EC aims to maintain a good relationship with all its previous partners, while fostering new relationships, especially with local initiatives and small businesses.

3.1 Relationships within the IHEID Community

Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES)

The EC continues to work with CIES, partnering to share about the research outputs of the Institute, share open academic and research positions with our members and bring professors, PhD students and Master's students together on shared interests for sustainability and environmental questions. Although the CIES lunch briefings were not happening in 2020 due to the pandemic, and we were unable to host our usual joint event during Welcome Month, we maintain a good working relationship with Andhina Kusumawidjaja, senior coordinator at CIES, with the hopes that 2021 will allow for more fruitful collaboration.

IHEID Career Services

The Career Services is a very beneficial partner for the EC, as they connect EC members with professional and experiential experiences in Geneva related to sustainability. The EC partners with Career Services for every SW, including the planned SW 2020, to bring professionals and organizations working in the environment and climate to discuss and offer opportunities for students. We maintain a good relationship with the two career counselors, Alizé and Aline, particularly Alizé who is especially interested in environmental questions and sustainable entrepreneurship.

IHEID Communications Department

The communications department continues to promote EC activities and projects in their monthly newsletters, including events hosted by the EC, updates in leadership and more. For example, the comms department reached out to the EC to do a story on the students organizing Geneva Peace Week 2020, which was then featured on the platforms of the Institute. With Katy Orell and Sophie Fleury in the comms department, the EC is able to showcase its work and invite the entire Graduate Institute community to live more sustainable lifestyles.

GISA Advocacy Council

2020 was a year of many ups and downs, with more downs for many people around the world. This year also saw GISA become more socially engaged as advocates for our student community, as we were outraged by many things happening in the world, in our backyards and far, and realizing that there was something we could do with our voices, our mobilization and our resolve. The Advocacy Council was created to bring together all student initiatives engaged in advocacy for a particular cause, to share best practices, encourage each other and present a united front in our efforts towards the administration and other stakeholders. The EC is a member of the AC, with the President or other members representing the committee during their recurring meetings, with our main focus as carbon neutrality and waste reduction.

3.2 Relationships beyond IHEID



La Manivelle

In an effort to enhance sustainability and encourage our community to enjoy the great outdoors without breaking the bank on new equipment, the EC invested in a year membership with La Manivelle – a local cooperative that rents sporting equipment, trekking gear, kitchen tools and so much more! This membership

makes the EC a cooperator in La Manivelle and because all Institute students are members of the EC, they get access to their inventory through our membership. All students need to do is visit La Manivelle's warehouse (after checking their online inventory), bring their student ID to show they are EC members and get to go home with what they need for their next adventure, whether that's making a piña colada or going camping.

Swiss Association of Student Organizations for Sustainability (VSN/FDD/FSS)

The EC is a member of VSN, the umbrella association of Swiss student organisations for sustainability. The EC has been a member for many years, with varying degrees of participation over the years, but towards the end of the year, we decided to become more involved, attend meetings and participate in this great national initiative. VSN organizes Sustainability Week Switzerland, and in 2020, EC member Simran Sinha became the Geneva core person for SWS. Additionally, the EC will be organizing and hosting the National Opening Event for the whole SWS.



4. Looking Ahead to 2021

Despite a deeply tumultuous year, the Environmental Committee grew tremendously in 2020, with the addition of many first years with a real passion for environmental issues and an outlook towards change and solutions. The EC's annual elections were held online, on November 26th, 2020.

The new *President* of the Environmental Committee for the year 2021 is:

Hugo Brandam

The new *Vice-President* of the Environmental Committee for the year 2021 is:

Ryan Maia

The Environmental Committee has outlined a number of ambitious goals for the year ahead, including:

- Sustainability Week Geneva (March 22-26) – the first online SW, filled with exciting workshops, events, screenings and talks. The last three days of the week will be organized exclusively by the EC with the help of its networks and partners. The EC will also be hosting the National Opening Event, quite a large undertaking.
- Working with the newly open Grand Moreillon student residence on its sustainability projects including the water consumption metrics, the rooftop food garden and the shared living spaces.
- Working with the IHEID administration to revive the sustainability committee and on a greater carbon neutrality agenda.
- Advocating for the first ever environment-related MINT workshop
- A Boîte à Fringues in the student residences to reduce textile waste
- More collaborations between the students initiatives

For a more detailed plan of the Environmental Committee's activities in 2021, please contact the current president, Hugo Brandam at gisa.ec@graduateinstitute.ch.

To keep up to date with the activities of the EC and all upcoming projects and events, follow our social media accounts and keep an eye out on our website, which keeps track of all our activities.

Annex : Mission Statement of the Environmental Committee

Environmental issues are increasingly presenting an immense challenge to the entire world, issues that “leaders of tomorrow” will especially need to engage with. This is why the Graduate Institute lends a great focus to such subjects as to adequately prepare its students to take on these challenges. The Environmental Committee, founded in 2010, is the students’ environmental association that brings together students interested in sustainability and environmental issues to give voice to these issues within the Institute. All students are encouraged to get involved, regardless of program, semester or level of experience.

Sustainable events

The Environmental Committee aims to be a major forum for environmental discussions both at the Institute and in local and international Geneva. We organize debates, panel talks, excursions, film screenings and other events that raise awareness about environmental issues and provide opportunities for constructive dialogue and networking. The EC has been engaging students in numerous activities since its start, including participating in Sustainability Week, Geneva Peace Week and more. Over the years, a wide range of international experts and leaders in the environmental field have participated in EC events. Furthermore, the EC offers incoming students welcome activities in Geneva, for example an organic wine tasting tour or a visit to an outdoor food market.

Sustainable institute

We work for a greener campus together with the administration, the city of Geneva and the cafeteria services. Our projects include improved recycling, the installation of proper bicycle racks, and continuous dialogue with the cafeteria to accommodate sustainability standards, i.e. proper food waste management and eco-friendly menus. Top-universities across the globe are already well aware of their own footprint, IHEID should be no exception.

Sustainable curricula

The EC works towards making sustainability a greater focus in the curricula of Masters programmes and in individual courses by working collaboratively with professors, academic directors and the Center for International Environmental Studies. Climate change and other environmental issues pose numerous threats to future generations and many courses at the Graduate Institute are only starting to, for example, highlight the connections between economic activities and the environment. Still, there is a need for students to have greater exposure to sustainability issues and relevant concepts and theories.

Sustainable lifestyle

With the hopes of engaging everyone, we seek to raise awareness about everyday behaviour and activities that concern our own health, wellbeing and ecological impact. The Environmental Committee advocates for responsible lifestyles, through activities such as the One World Challenge, but also through sustainable food and clothing initiatives like flea markets. SCOOP, for example, is an EC food cooperative that brings organic foods at reduced prices from local farmers directly to campus, once a week.

Sustainable networking

Living in Geneva can be a great opportunity for anyone interested in sustainability, and the Environmental Committee continues to connect people from different backgrounds to share experiences and learn more about Geneva as an environmental hub. Moreover, the Environmental Committee is part of the Swiss Association of Student Organizations for Sustainability. The umbrella organization offers an opportunity for students at the Institute to travel across Switzerland and connect with other students with similar interests.

