



# ANNUAL REPORT

Vision and Values for Europe

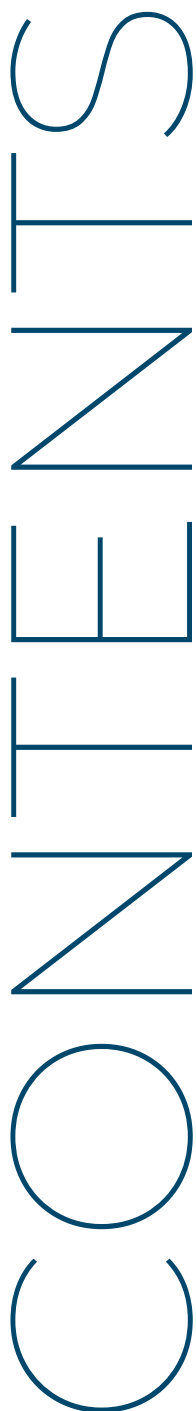
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# 2022



Jesuit European Social Centre

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# WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

Since its creation, the JESC has constantly renewed itself and adapted to a changing world and to a Europe facing new challenges. The year 2022 has not escaped the rule, as this annual report shows. Just to mention the launch of an ELP 2.0 enabling us to build stronger bridges with the higher education networks of the Society of Jesus; the remarkable development of reflection and action in the field of ecology with the implementation of the carbon footprint instrument and the creation of a network of European eco-delegates.



Franck Janin SJ

On behalf of the European Jesuit Provincials who support the mission of the JESC, I congratulate the Director and his team for their commitment and the high quality of the work done in full accordance with the mission of the Society of Jesus.

Franck Janin SJ  
President of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials  
President of JESC

# JESC

## Gratefulness and Hope

2022 has been a year of many changes at JESC. Some good people left the team, and other good people arrived, bringing their new talents, expertise and joy. This change included the Director position due to an end of mandate for Peter Rožič SJ. Peter was responsible for the current shape of this Centre (with the circles of Ecology, Leadership, European Affairs and Justice), and we wish him the best in his new dedication to Ecology. There was also a change in JESC's location, as we left the Foyer Catholique European, firstly to Schaerbeek for a few months and then settling in La Viale Europe, only a few steps away from the European Parliament.



Filipe Martins SJ

In regards to projects and activities, 2022 was the year when the long-dreamed Justice and Ecology Congress finally took place. About 160 people, coming from the five different social and ecology networks of Europe and beyond, gathered for a week in Loyola and forged a new impulse to the continental social sector. The European Leadership Programme (ELP) went through a detailed evaluation involving many people, and the so-called ELP 2.0 kicked off. In Ecology, the Carbon Footprint Project (rebaptised JESC Carbon Initiative) moved from the pilot phase to a well-established work plan. Also a stronger focus and more solid means for advocacy were set in place. Finally, the European Affairs circle was responsible for some meaningful events during the year, in partnership with other groups interested in the European project.

Looking back to the year gone by, gratitude is the feeling conferred towards so many people, members of the team and several funders and partners, whose commitment and collaboration enabled all the work you'll read about in the next pages. Lack of gratitude is always a lack of memory, therefore this recognition is very much deserved. It is with the same joy and hope that we look at 2023 as these solid foundations promise a fruitful new year.

Filipe Martins SJ  
JESC Director



JESC team at Peter's farewell party | September 2022



Loyola Congress participants | Loyola (Spain), April 2022



JESC office move | April 2022



JESC team celebrating Gianmarco & Soraia's farewell | April 2022



JESC's origins can be traced back to 1956 with the foundation in Strasbourg of the "Catholic Office for Information on European Issues" (OCIFE) which served the purpose of being a research, reflection and documentation centre on European issues. Later, OCIFE opened offices in Brussels (1963), Budapest and Warsaw (both in 1990), and it published several revues ("La Lettre de l'OCIFE," "Objectif Europe," "Europe Infos" together with COMECE) from 1959 until 2018. In 2012 each centre became autonomous, and JESC assumed the Brussels-based OCIFE mission.

In 2020, under inspiration of Pope Francis's (Re)Thinking Europe - a Christian Contribution to the Future of the European Project 2017 address and the new approved Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus, JESC redefined its identity. Its slogan and purpose is now presented as "Vision and Values for Europe," the mission corresponds to "Promot[ing] Faith and Justice by Rediscovering the European Common Good", and the vision is stated as "Implement[ing] the processes of the UAPs," with the 4 strategic goals/areas of work - Europe, Justice, Ecology and Leadership - deriving from the above.

With its Europe-focused mission, and the Director simultaneously serving as the European Social Delegate, JESC projects and work always apply a European dimension and openness to the 16 different European Jesuit Provinces/Regions. JESC also provides a platform of coordination to the current five social and ecology European networks - Social Delegates, Social Centres, Eco-delegates, JRS and Xavier Network (the last two have a specific coordinator) - while engaging with other intercontinental and/or international Brussels-based networks (such as the Global Ignatian Advocacy Network and the European Laudato Si' Alliance).



## Ecology

Accompany the European ecological transition towards sustainability, relying on ecological apostolates of Jesuits and partners.



## Leadership

Reinforce Jesuit and Christian networks through leadership formation.



## Europe

Give a voice to the excluded in the European political process and accompany groups committed to rethinking Europe.



## Justice

Bring closer, through "deeper renewal," the Jesuit social apostolates in Europe by means of service, advocacy, formation and research.

## Current team members



**Filipe Martins SJ**  
Director



**Botond Feledy**  
Deputy Director &  
Secretary for  
Leadership



**Eniko Feherekova**  
European  
Leadership  
Programme  
Assistant



**Eleonora Vitale**  
Development  
Consultant



**Telmo Olascoaga  
Michel**  
Ecology Officer



**Victoria Reynal**  
Sustainability  
Consultant



**Isabelle Verhust**  
Administration  
Officer



**Feblezi Huebi**  
Communication  
Officer



**Bela Kuslits**  
Ecology Officer

## Former team members in 2022



**Peter Rozič SJ** - Director



**Luciano Larivera SJ** -  
Secretary for European  
Affairs



**Adriana Opromolla** - Ecology  
Senior Officer



**Edmond Grace SJ** - Secretary  
for Ecology



**Soraia Ribeiro** -  
Communications Officer



**Gianmarco Palermo** -  
European Leadership  
Programme Assistant



**Daniela Fernandez Aguilar** -  
Communications intern

## **Steering Committee of the network of provincial Social Delegates**

Filipe Martins SJ (Coordinator)  
Katrín Morales (Xavier Network)  
Alberto Ares SJ (JRS Europe)  
Luis Arancibia Tapia (Social Delegate of Spain)

## **Steering Committee of the network of provincial Eco-delegates**

Filipe Martins SJ (Coordinator)  
Jose Ignacio Garcia Jimenez SJ (Eco-delegate of Spain)  
Xavier de Benazé SJ (Eco-delegate of EOF Province)  
Béla Kuslits (JESC Ecology Officer)

## **Steering Committee of the network of Social Centres**

Filipe Martins SJ (Coordinator)  
Giuseppe Riggio SJ (Aggiornamenti Sociali, Milan)  
Jose Ignacio Garcia Jimenez SJ (Cristianisme i Justícia, Barcelona)  
Kevin Hargaden (Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Dublin)

## **Advisory Council of JRS - Europe**

Alberto Ares SJ (Director)  
André Costa Jorge (JRS Portugal)  
Katrín Camilleri (JRS Malta)  
Luis Arancibia Tapia (Social Delegate of Spain)  
Filipe Martins SJ (European Social Delegate)

## **Xavier Network**

President of the Board: Franck Janin SJ, President of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials (JCEP)  
Coordinator of the Executive Committee: Klaus Vähöder SJ, Jesuitenmission Germany

(As of December 2022)

**ECOLOGY**

①

**LEADERSHIP**

②

**EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

③

**JUSTICE**

④

## WORK AREA 1

Under the scope of a new strategic plan and with the incorporation of new elements to the team, JESC Ecology strengthened two distinct lines of work; the carbon footprint measurement and the advocacy & networks. In this, significant advancements were achieved in terms of milestones, partnership-building, and impact performance.

### JESC CARBON INITIATIVE

During 2022, the newly branded JESC Carbon Initiative (JCI) pursued its goal of accompanying Jesuit and like-minded institutions towards climate neutrality. In the context of this project and in partnership with the French-speaking Western European Province (EOF), JESC conducted a pioneer province-wide assessment of the carbon footprint of Jesuit communities in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The results of this wide-scoped audit, which involved surveying 74% of the province's Jesuits (317 Jesuits, 25 communities) will now underpin a provincial dialogue on integral ecology and serve to draft a data-driven provincial strategy of decarbonisation.

Within the same project, JESC produced the 2022 Loyola Congress Carbon Footprint event report, a symbolic development which underscored the evolving nature of the mission and the current centrality of the 4th UAP. JCI performed a similar carbon audit for the European Laudato Si' Alliance's (ELSiA) annual integral ecology retreat in November in Taizé. Aside from events, the project embarked on a new line of assessing the carbon profile of offices, with a pilot experience in the EOF Jesuit Curia in Paris. A fourth line connected with schools is expected to see the light in the second half of 2023.

Along this journey the JCI deepened working relationships with European Jesuit and other Catholic networks and institutions, engaged and developed ties with valuable scientific partners such as the World Resources Institute (WRI), and laid the foundations for expanded operations, engagement and impact in 2023 and the years to come.



*Working with JESC has enabled us to estimate and analyse the EOF Province's carbon footprint, giving us the benchmarks we needed to take a consistent approach to reducing our emissions*

Gabrielle Pollet  
Ecological Transition Officer, Jesuit EOF Province





## ADVOCACY & NETWORKS

2022 proved to be challenging for the JESC Advocacy & Networks staff. Nevertheless the guiding work plan produced earlier in the year enabled the achievement of relevant activities and influential impacts. In that, five webinars on different topics (EU taxonomy, COP 27, private sector and green transition, intergenerational ecological dialogue, and the EU Fit for 55 package) were organised by JESC or in partnership with others, with the first two being part of a wider advocacy and awareness raising campaign. The European Laudato Si' Alliance (ELSi'A), a network of Catholic organisations promoting ecological justice, greatly facilitated such with its role of bringing together relevant Brussels-based faith-inspired actors, thereby becoming an important platform for collaboration and exchange in the EU-oriented ecology work. A three days-long eco-retreat held in November in Taizé was another of the important ELSi'A's activities during the year.

In regards to the European context, the Loyola Congress revealed the importance of the Jesuit Provinces appointing Eco-delegates with clear mandates and responsibilities related to the ecological transition of the Provinces. This new network of European Eco-delegates began regularly meeting from the Fall period onwards with the purpose of exchanging ideas and good practices. There were also regular contacts and meetings with other relevant networks, such as the transcontinental Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) and the High Education for Social Transformation (HEST) cluster, which provided a stability that is paramount when it comes to advocacy effectiveness and impact building.

A new project about the feasibility study on a possible EU-related Future Generations Representative was also prepared in 2022, and is expected to be implemented in 2023. The legal pathway has proved to be an effective means to force governments and private enterprises to comply with the approved ecological regulations, hence the importance of such a project.



## WORK AREA 2

The year 2022 brought numerous advancements in the life of the European Leadership Programme (ELP).

At the beginning of the year, one of the longstanding dreams of ELP was finally made real; having all the 20 Fellows living in the same street, thus forging an even stronger ELP community. The new house at Rue André Fauchille 3A, facing the house at 6 on the same street, was a project co-developed with the local German parish, whose community is very supportive of the project.

During the late Spring months, with the help of different focus groups composed of more than 60 stakeholders, extensive feedback and fresh ideas for the way ahead were gathered, thereby developing what is now known as ELP 2.0. The improvements incorporated from the Fall 2022 cohort were of different scale: from minor details up to the biggest transformations, allowing more space for personal growth, spiritual reflection, and understanding of the call and mission ELP aims to fulfil, "to form young Ignatian leaders to serve the European common good."

The accuracy of this basic intuition at the core of the programme was happily confirmed right before the end of the year, with the moving Christmas dinner and sharing held by Fellows and ELP team. In a city where thousands of young professionals work in EU institutions and international organisations for so many different reasons, ELP is touching the hearts and minds of young people who discover/confirm the joy of being guided by a vision and values of service to others.

## ELP IN NUMBERS

In 2022 we had...





Marton Hajdu speaking at the ELP house | May 2022



Spiritual retreat | March 2022



Final Paper presentation day | Antwerp, June 2022



Graduation day | June 2022



Leadership training with Dr. Dave Houghlum & Taireez Niswander | October 2022



Cooking workshop | July 2022

From the Final Evaluation forms, ELP Fellows

"I have nothing but gratitude and respect for everyone working in JESC/ELP. Apart from having the opportunity to participate in a world-class leadership program with generous circumstances, something one other thing that I will always appreciate is the friendly and family-like atmosphere you could create for us!"

"When I look back on my doubts about the program, I thank the day I decided to come to Brussels for the ELP. I'm not kidding: an experience that I will always remember! Thank you very much for your kindly push and availability!"

"Thank you very much for your work in these past 5 months, it has been a very challenging time for all of us, it's great that we could overcome it and you also played a great role in it!"



## WORK AREA 3

After several years of having a German Jesuit as Secretary for European Affairs, a new Jesuit arrived from Italy in 2021. Unfortunately he could not stay for long, and there has been a void in the position for the last months of 2022 (which still persists in the beginning of 2023). In spite of the short stay, this Secretary worked hard during the time spent in Brussels, with several articles published on different European themes, and through engagements with different groups dedicated to the study and promotion of the European project and values.

The main group working with the JESC Secretary of European Affairs is “Passion for Europe,” a group founded in 2017 which unites committed Christians of different European nationalities. This group annually organises a weekend session in La Pairelle during September (near Namur), and the 2022 edition “European democracy in a time of confusion” was attended by more than 60 participants from all over Europe, with a preparative online webinar having taken place in June. Another important group is the “Initiative of Christians for Europe” (IXE), which unifies 15 European Christian associations and meets twice a year to discuss and publish on a relevant European theme. “Securing peace, stability and prosperity in Northern Ireland after Brexit” was the chosen topic for 2022. The Secretary also accompanied the monthly meetings of the “European Sunday Alliance,” a Brussels-based alliance of institutions that seeks to promote the legal defence and respect for a common day of rest in the whole EU.

Finally, the Secretary organised, in partnership with Aggiornamenti Sociali (Milan) and the Jesuit Center for Faith and Justice (Dublin), the week-long workshop “Faith & Politics” during August in Venice. This workshop, which started in 2006 and has since been occurring every two years, aims to help young Christians interested in politics to reflect upon their vocation with the help of high-level officials, politicians and civil servants.



Passion for Europe members with Herman Van Rompuy | Namur (Belgium), September 2022



Justice and Peace Meeting participants | Assisi (Italy), October 2022



Faith and Politics Workshop participants | Venice (Italy), August 2022



Passion for Europe group discussions | Namur (Belgium), September 2022



Passion for Europe participants | Namur (Belgium), September 2022

ZEAL FOR EUROPE

## WORK AREA 4

After successive postponements due to the pandemic, the long-awaited Justice and Ecology Congress finally took place in 2022, bringing together directors and team members of the different social networks of Europe. The meeting took place between 28 March and 1 April in Loyola, the birthplace of Saint Ignatius (founder of the Jesuits), and gathered 160 participants from 26 different countries. With a first day dedicated to the spiritual roots of Jesuit commitment, the following days tackled the complex issues of migration and ecology, with the final days being dedicated to the sharing and discerning of possible joint answers. The Congress was jointly designed by the networks, with the JESC team taking responsibility for the whole practicalities of the event.

The Congress gave a strong impulse to the work of the networks that had been less active, and new steering committees were elected after the summer. It was also in September that Peter Rožič SJ was replaced by Filipe Martins SJ both as JESC Director and as European Social Delegate. Fr. Filipe already worked in JESC as Justice Assistant and Congress Officer, thus facilitating a smooth transition of roles.

*"For many of us, this is the first time we've attended an event of this nature. We all have important work that demands much of us, so it is natural that our attention is captured by what is in front of us. The connection that we might have to people doing similar work in another nation may not be immediately obvious, nevermind the link that might exist between us and those who are pursuing what seems like entirely different work. Yet as we all make our way to Loyola, the fact is that we travel in the same direction. The Congress will be a success largely to the extent that we can share openly about the place we occupy, about the challenges we face, and the possibilities that might emerge when we find partners in mission we did not know about"*

"Towards Loyola" preparatory document



Speakers at the Loyola Congress  
| Loyola (Spain), April 2022



Participants at the Loyola Congress  
| Loyola (Spain), April 2022

*"We heard here in Loyola a concrete invitation, both to our networks and to our church communities: to help our societies urgently to reimagine our idea of the good life through teaching and concrete examples, based on our experience and witness of sustainable living and proximity to the poor. Such a reimagining calls us also to promote and live a relational anthropology in which women and men are understood as being part of nature, in constant interaction with it. This new vision calls us also to reimagine power as service, for the sake of others, to be shared in collaboration, cooperation, and co-responsibility"*

"Called to Conversion", final document of the Loyola 2022 Justice and Ecology Congress

*"With this congress and the way it was structured and prepared, I realised how Ignatian inspiration and pedagogy remains fresh and contemporary in tackling urgent social questions. What remains after is GRATITUDE, for having been able to experience this and for having the privilege of being part of such inspiring networks!!"*

Evaluation, participant to the Congress



Visual narrative of the Loyola Congress  
| Loyola (Spain), April 2022





## JAN

## FEB

- Initiative Christians for Europe (IXE) online meeting
- Fall 2021 cohort Graduation
- Interfaith Youth Convention of the European Green Deal report

## MAR

- Spring 2022 Inauguration
- Retreat (Quartier Gallet)
- Loyola 2022 Justice and Ecology Congress)

## APR

- Loyola 2022 Congress Carbon Footprint report

## MAY

- Webinar "Business and the Earth: A dialogue on the private sector's role in the green transition"
- New European Eco-delegates network
- ELSiA Laudato Si' Reflection Day "Two generations, One Journey"

## JUN

- Spring 2022 cohort Graduation
- Passion for Europe webinar "European Democracy in a time of confusion"
- ELSiA webinar "EU Taxonomy: A discussion on Green Investments in Energy Sources for Climate Neutrality"

# 2022

## JUL

- ELSiA EU Taxonomy campaign

## AUG

- Faith and Politics week (Venice, Italy) “A call to public life in a wounded world”

## SEP

- ELSiA retreat
- ELSiA webinar “FitFor55”
- Passion for Europe weekend (La Pairelle) “European Democracy in a time of confusion”
- New JESC director

## OCT

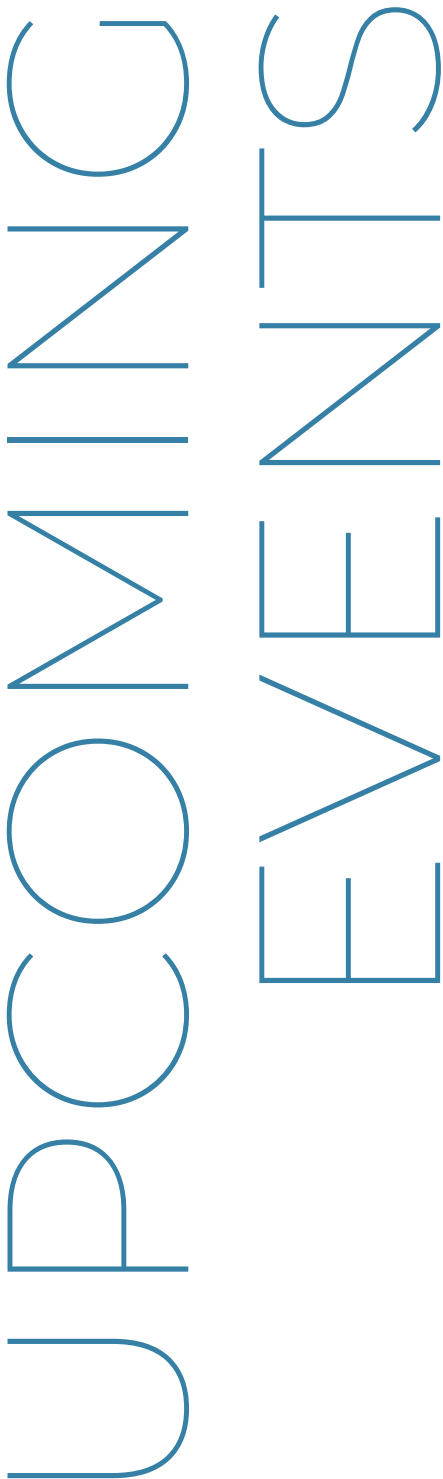
- Justice & Peace Europe weekend (Assisi, Italy)
- Initiative Christians for Europe (IXE) meeting (Belfast, Ireland)
- Retreat (Quartier Gallet)
- Fall 2022 cohort Inauguration

## NOV

- JESC in HEST Ecology meeting (Madrid, Spain)
- ELSiA webinar “COP27 and Catholics' role in climate action”
- ELSiA Eco-spirituality weekend (Taizé, France)
- COP27 campaign

## DEC





## **JAN**

- Travel to Luxembourg to visit Cardinal Hollerich

## **FEB**

- Start of JCI in the Irish Jesuit province
- Fall 2022 cohort Graduation
- IXE meeting on the “One year of war in Ukraine”

## **MAR**

- Start of the “Future Generations Representative” project

## **APR**

- Ecology-focused meeting of European Provincials (Dublin, Ireland)
- Passion for Europe panel “What hope for Europe? Rethinking the Christian contribution”

## **MAY**

- Meeting of European Social Delegates (Lisbon, Portugal)

## **JUN**

## **JUL**

- Spring 2023 cohort Graduation

## **AUG**

- Faith & Politics workshop in the WYD 2023, Lisbon

## **SEP**

- JCI’s pilot for schools
- Passion for Europe weekend (La Pairelle)

## **OCT**

- Start of the Fall 2023 cohort

## **NOV**

- COP 28 campaign

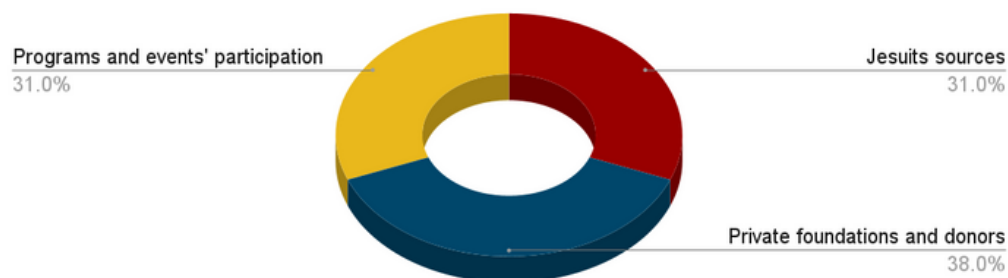
## **DEC**

## Income 2022

Jesuit sources	210 000 €
Private donors and foundations <sup>1</sup>	256 487 €
Programs and events' participation <sup>2</sup>	206 223 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>672 710 €</b>

<sup>1</sup>Leopold Bachmann Stiftung, Porticus, Renovabis, UCSIA, other private donors

<sup>2</sup>ELP, Loyola Congress, and other events' participation



## Expenditure 2022

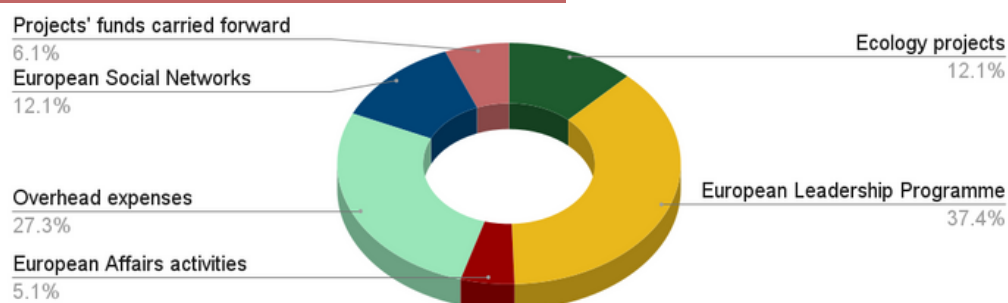
Ecology projects <sup>3</sup>	83 454 €
European Leadership Programme	249 553 €
European Affairs activities <sup>4</sup>	32 503 €
Overhead expenses <sup>5</sup>	184 025 €
European Social Networks <sup>6</sup>	83 298 €
Projects' funds carried forward	39 877 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>672 710 €</b>

<sup>3</sup>Jesc Carbon Initiative and Advocacy&Networks

<sup>4</sup>Passion for Europe weekend, Faith & Politics week and others

<sup>5</sup>Includes salaries not directly assigned to the projects

<sup>6</sup>Coordination and Loyola Congress



## Brussels-based institutions

**caritas europa**

**CIDSE**  
Together for global justice

**FAFCE**  
FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS IN EUROPE

**Chapel for Europe**  
Chapel of the Resurrection

**ERSTE LESUNG**

**UCL SIA**  
UNIVERSITAIR CENTRUM SINT-IGNATIUS ANTWERPEN

**JUSTITIA ET PAX EUROPA**

**LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT**  
formerly Global Catholic Climate Movement

**DBI**  
DON BOSCO INTERNATIONAL

**EUTECH**

**serve the city.**

**PASSION FOR EUROPE**  
Rediscovering the European common good

## Networks

**ecojesuit**  
connecting jesuits, people and ecology

**xavier**  
EUROPEAN JESUIT NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

**IXE** INITIATIVE OF CHRISTIANS FOR EUROPE

**ELSiA**  
European Laudato Si' Alliance

**EUROPEAN SUNDAY ALLIANCE**  
WORK LIVE TIME TOGETHER

**JRS** EUROPE  
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

## Funders

**J suites Europe Occidentale Francophone**

**LEOPOLD BACHMANN STIFTUNG**

**King Baudouin Foundation**  
Working together for a better society

**PORTICUS**

**Jesuits in Europe**

**Renovabis**  
Solidarit tsaktion der deutschen Katholiken mit den Menschen in Mittel- und Osteuropa

## Other associations

**ECJA**  
EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF JESUIT ALUMNI/AE

**WUJA**  
WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI

**Uniapac**

## Universities

**COMILLAS**  
UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JESUIT UNIVERSITIES**

**KIRCHER Network**  
Jesuit Higher Education in Europe and the Near East

**Universidad LOYOLA**





**Support our work**

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April 2023*

[www.jesc.eu](http://www.jesc.eu)

Chaussée de Wavre 205, 1050 Bruxelles

Tel: +32 (0)4 653 899 34

Email: [info@jesc.eu](mailto:info@jesc.eu)



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