

# ANNUAL REPORT

JESUIT EUROPEAN SOCIAL CENTRE

2025



JESUIT  
EUROPEAN  
SOCIAL  
CENTRE

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# President's message



The past year has proven to be a testing ground for the values we hold dear. Across Europe and the globe, we are witnessing a period of profound friction - where democracy, peace, and ecological integrity face significant headwinds. For the NGO sector, these are not just abstract challenges; the rising tide of political cynicism and the increasing difficulty of financial sustainability have created a demanding landscape for our mission.

Despite these pressures - or perhaps because of them - the role of the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC) remains vital. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our staff in Brussels. Their tireless dedication in navigating these "uncharted waters" allows JESC to remain a steadfast, value-based voice.

The Society of Jesus stands firm with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, our General Congregations, and the Universal Apostolic Preferences. These foundations consistently call us toward solidarity and justice, serving as a bulwark against the current patterns of isolationism. These commitments are the "North Star" of our work; they do not shift with the wind.

This report will be presented to the Jesuit Major Superiors of Europe and Near East at the General Assembly in Warsaw in April 2026. We look forward to their discernment and feedback, which will help us refine our advocacy within the EU and adapt the Jesuit mission to the evolving realities of Brussels.

Thank you for walking this path with us.

**Dalibor Renić SJ**

*President of the **Jesuit Conference  
of European Provincials**  
President of **JESC Board***

# Meet our Team



**Filipe Martins SJ**

Director



**Botond Feledy**

Deputy Director  
and ELP Manager



**Benoît  
Willemaers SJ**

Secretary for  
European Affairs



**Béla Kuslits**

Senior Ecology  
Officer



**Telmo Olascoaga  
Michel**

Ecology Officer



**Enikő  
Fehéreková**

Ecology Officer



**Colm Fahy**

Ecology Advocacy  
Officer



**Lucia  
Trubenová**

ELP Officer



**Stella Cheng**

Communications  
Officer

*Former team  
member*



**Martina Bianco**  
Communications  
Officer



**Angela Martinez**  
Comillas University



**Megan Crowley**  
Comillas University

*Interns  
in 2025*



**Tom Belderbos**  
University of  
Liverpool



**Giacomo Pisano**  
Seminary of Cagliari  
(Italy)

# Achievements in 2025

When looking back at 2025, mixed feelings emerge. On one hand, it was a quite productive and impactful year. Never was JESC so engaged with EU institutions, with our advocacy work on Future Generations and the close collaboration with the team of Commissioner Micallef and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Also the global “Jesuits for Climate Justice” campaign, led by the Secretary for Social Justice and Ecology and the first ever to engage Jesuit and partner institutions from all continents and several apostolic sectors, was quite a successful one, with two JESC members actively participating in and reporting from both Bonn and Belém climate negotiations. The JESC Carbon Initiative (JCI) kept expanding its range, with new partnerships both within and outside Jesuit circles. Apart from Ecology, also the European Leadership Programme (ELP) is now a well-established and trusted programme in Brussels, with frequent high-level speakers from the “EU bubble”. The same goes for the Europe Affairs Secretariat, which kept working closely with other allies who are concerned with the degraded situation of many of the values upon which the European project is supposed to be built.

On the other hand, 2025 was a difficult year in terms of finance. A systematic effort was dedicated throughout the year to mapping and exploring funding partners and opportunities, and several applications to different programs were prepared. But in spite of this effort, the outcomes were not what we wished for, and after registering a meaningful operational loss in 2025 (fortunately supported by reserves and financial applications from the previous years), we'll have to adjust in 2026. The current difficulties are not exclusive of JESC, but affect many other organisations of the civil society, and several grantor foundations as well. It's always painful to reduce projects and teams, and in our specific case it relates to seeing a couple of team members go, with their accumulated experience and trusted contacts nurtured along the years (both being very useful and not-quickly-replaceable assets for successful advocacy). So a word of thanks is due to the entire JESC team for one more year of commitment, especially in these challenging circumstances.

Another heartfelt word of thanks, finally, goes to our partners and funders, for their continued trust and support. A significant part of the work of JESC - advocacy in Ecology and sustainability, formation of young professionals, defence and promotion of European values with like-minded partners - does not provide quick results, and the results become visible only on a long-term basis. In spite of the adverse context, we kept working for change in 2025. And it's with the same spirit of commitment and resilience that we enter 2026.

**Filipe Martins SJ**  
Director of JESC

*“JESC seeks an engagement which authentically expresses Christian faith, analyses social reality with competence, and advocates for social and environmental justice in the European political structures and action”.*

*From JESC's Mission Statement*

# Engaging with the first-ever EU policy to protect Future Generations

[fitforfuturegenerations.eu](https://fitforfuturegenerations.eu)



The future generations' movement keeps growing worldwide, with the goal of promoting a long-term policymaking that assures socio-environmental sustainability and inclusion. It has been championed not only by the UN, which adopted in 2024 a Declaration for Future Generations, but also by several countries that already have future-fit mechanisms in place, and a whole constellation of organizations which keep exploring (and in some cases already implementing) new legal frameworks and economic tools "for the wellbeing of the present and future generations".

With this focus in mind, JESC continued committed to leading the Future Generations Initiative (FGI) coalition, which reached 32 member and supporter organisations at the end of 2025. Throughout the year the team engaged directly with the EU Commissioner Glenn Micallef (responsible for the Future Generations' portfolio) and his cabinet, with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, and with a broad alliance of civil society actors. Our Senior Ecology Officer Béla Kuslits was invited to be part of the Knowledge Committee of the EU Citizens' Panel on Intergenerational Fairness, and attended 2 experts' meetings at the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna. Finally, JESC published several in-depth policy papers along 2025, which will contribute to informing the first-ever Intergenerational Fairness Strategy, expected to be published at the beginning of 2026.

Meeting of the Network of Institutions for Future Generations (to which JESC belongs) with Commissioner Micallef, Apr 2025

Intergenerational Fairness Strategy consultation led by the EC Joint Research Centre, Feb 2025



*"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. [...] Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. [...] An integral ecology is marked by this broader vision."*

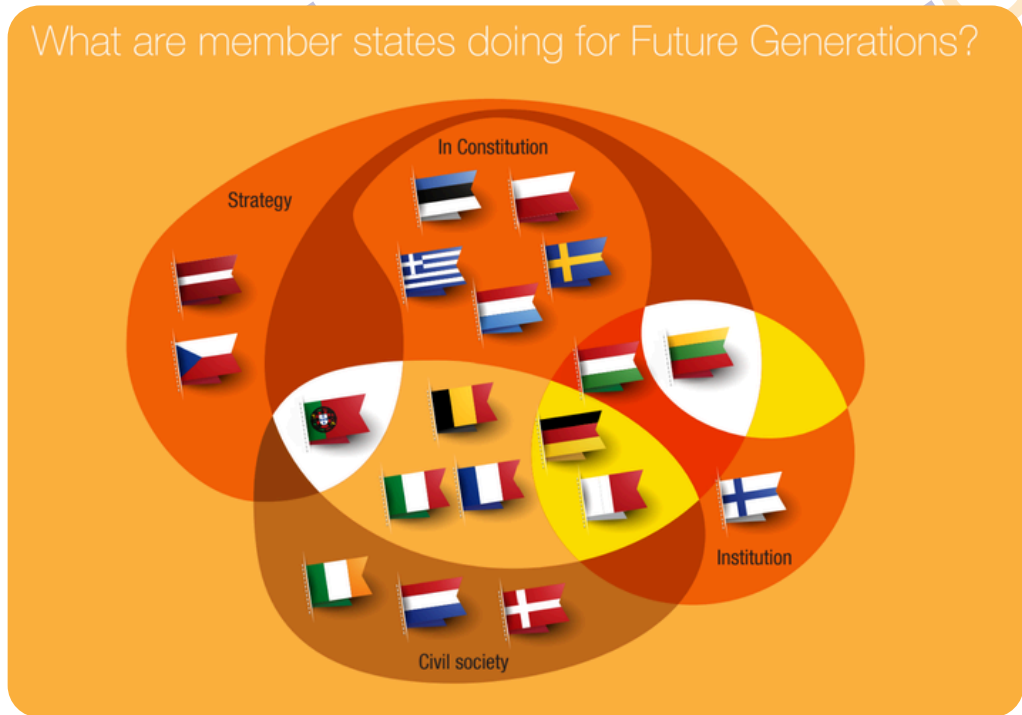
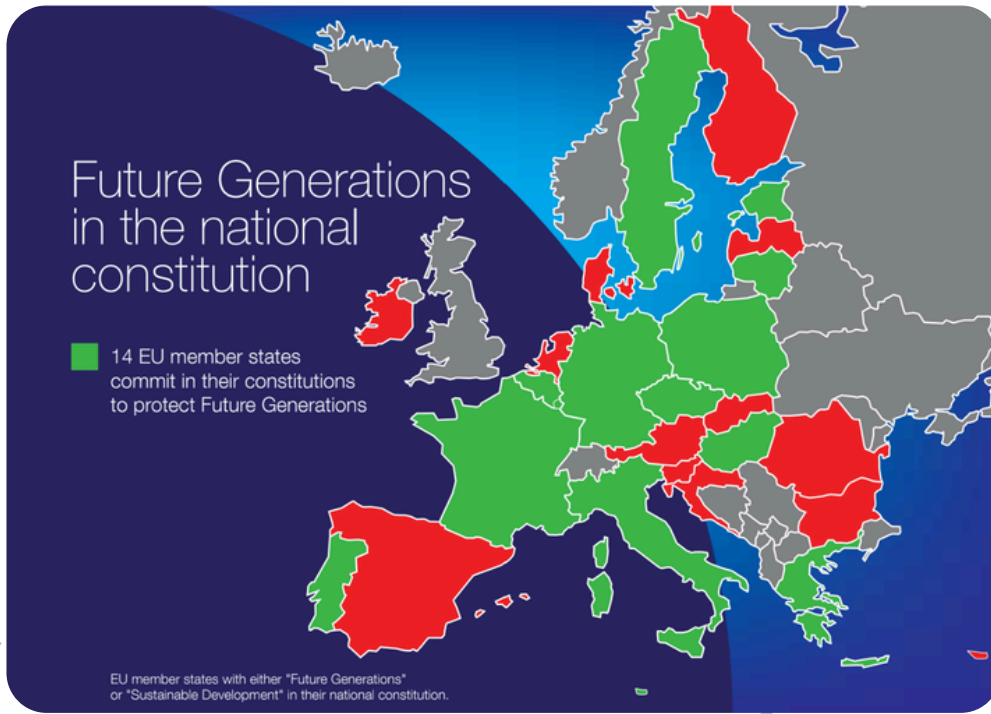
*(Laudato Si, n.159)*

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' PANEL  
Intergenerational Fairness  
You can now make recommendations!  
Join the debate on the JRC Citizen's Platform



Citizens' Panel of 150 randomly selected EU citizens in support of the development of the Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness, Oct 2025

# Future Generations across Europe



(Source: FGI leaflet "Experience and best practices across member states")

## 2025 key data



3 Citizens' Panel meetings with 150 citizens from 27 EU countries



3 legal studies and 4 "building blocks" published

35 partner organizations



49 meetings lasting 104 hours



# Building pathways for the ecological transition in faith-based institutions

carboninitiative.eu



The JESC Carbon Initiative (JCI) continued supporting Jesuit Provinces and institutions in their ecological efforts during 2025. The European French-speaking Province (EOF) concluded its second carbon audit, highlighting progress across ecological transition-related indicators since 2022. A pilot project in the education sector has come to the end, involving three schools of the Euro-Mediterranean (EUM) and EOF Provinces and engaging around 2,000 students, staff and families. The experience was presented in November's webinar "Advancing Sustainability in Jesuit Schools: Insights from a Three-School Pilot", organised in partnership with the Jesuit European Committee for Primary and Secondary Education (JECSE). Other supported Jesuit institutions in 2025 were Campion Hall (University of Oxford), Jesuit Social Services (Australia), and the Jesuit General Curia in Rome. Engagement also expanded beyond Jesuit networks, e.g. through continued cooperation with Église Verte (the French Christian ecological network working with parishes and monasteries) and a new collaboration with the Claretian Missionaries. All these developments reinforced the growing momentum of JCI in accompanying diverse actors in their path towards greater sustainability, as a crucial dimension of social justice and the care for Our Common Home.

“

*"JCI provides a robust analysis of ecological impacts, attitudes and strategies which greatly helps to shape coherent transition plans and impactful actions. This project is an essential step toward scaling the transition across EOF Province schools in France."*

*Emanuelle Huet, Ecological Transition Officer  
EOF Province*

”

Lycée Privé Sainte Geneviève,  
Jesuit school in Versailles (France)

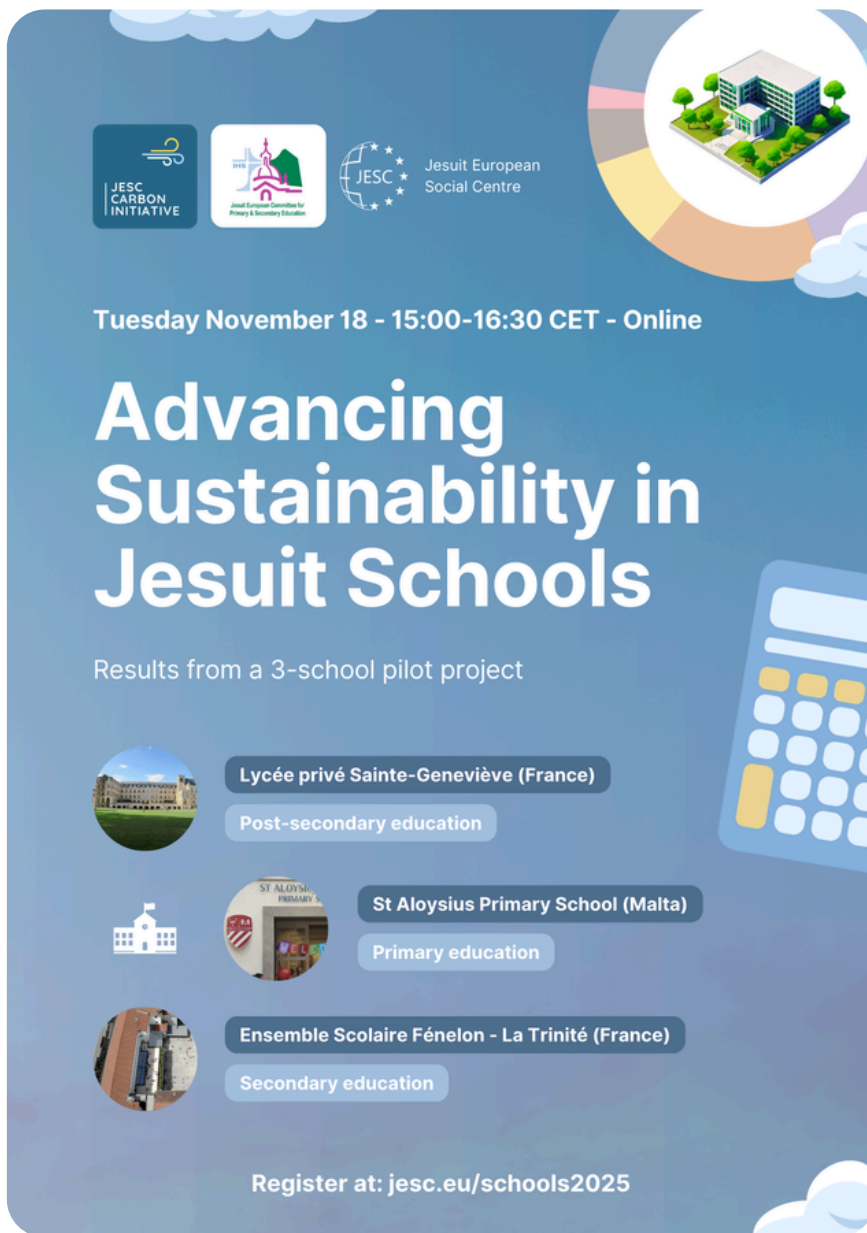


Developing a sustainability plan for  
Campion Hall, Jesuit British Province



Developing a sustainability plan for the  
Jesuit General Curia (Rome)

# The JESC Carbon Initiative (JCI) 2025 pilot with Jesuit schools






**JESC CARBON INITIATIVE**  
**Jesuit European Social Centre**

Tuesday November 18 - 15:00-16:30 CET - Online

## Advancing Sustainability in Jesuit Schools

Results from a 3-school pilot project

- **Lycée privé Sainte-Geneviève (France)**  
Post-secondary education
- **St Aloysius Primary School (Malta)**  
Primary education
- **Ensemble Scolaire Fénelon - La Trinité (France)**  
Secondary education

Register at: [jesc.eu/schools2025](https://jesc.eu/schools2025)



**2 Jesuit provinces**

Jesuit EOF province  
Jesuit EUM province



**1 Jesuit network**

JECSE



**3 educational communities**

**2058 students**

**Primary, secondary, post-secondary**

**351 staff**

**101 families**

## 2025 key data



Jesuit partners  
from 7 countries



2 new research areas  
(economic circularity,  
land use)

7 areas of work:  
communities, institutions,  
schools, events, parishes,  
monasteries, provinces



13 projects  
during the year



# COP30 Jesuits for Climate Justice, the first-ever Jesuit global campaign



[jesc.eu/ecology/climate-justice](https://jesc.eu/ecology/climate-justice)

It was in 2025 that the Society of Jesus promoted a first-ever “global campaign”, with engagement of Jesuits and partners from all the continents and several different apostolic sectors (social justice and ecology, primary and secondary schools, higher education, etc.). It was dedicated to COP30, the annual edition of the UN-promoted climate negotiations, which took place in November in Belém (Brazil). Having started their work in March, the campaign core team also attended the intermediate SB62 Bonn climate summit in June. Several materials were rolled out along these months, namely a Global Statement (jointly produced with all the female and male orders of the Catholic Church and sent to all the 195 governments of the world), a COP30 Prayer Guide (written with and disseminated by the Christian Life Community ignatian movement) and a “Letters to the Earth” educational initiative (that got almost 100 000 replies from schools from 30 countries). Our Ecology team worked intensively in this global effort, from drafting policy papers to reporting from Bonn and Belém, and participating in webinars and conferences dedicated to the topic. The campaign confirmed the growing call of the Society of Jesus for engaging in advocacy for systemic change, and showed that we can count on many available resources and allies with whom to collaborate for the sake of climate action, international development and global justice.



Conference on Climate Change and Climate Migration, SB62 Climate Summit, Bonn (Germany), Jun 2025



Retreat of European Laudato Si Alliance, a faith-based EU-focused coalition, Brussels, Feb 2025



Part of the Jesuit Delegation to COP30, Belém (Brazil), Nov 2025

BELEM CLIMATE SUMMIT

*“COP30 can be the turning point in climate action, guided by the principle of climate justice, away from the current trends that are leading the world towards an abyss. As members and collaborators of the Catholic Church, Religious Orders and Congregations stand united with all people of goodwill who advocate for a just future for all. Our collective voice carries weight, and we urge the delegates to COP30 and governments to the following calls...”*

**Intro of the Religious Life for Climate Justice  
COP30 Campaign Statement**

# COP30 Jesuits for Climate Justice campaign

## Produced resources

### Guide to COP30



### Policy Brief



### Religious Life for Climate Justice



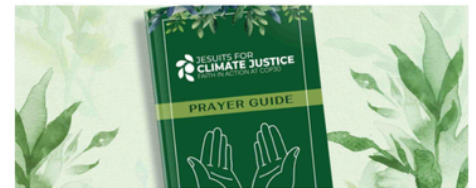
### Letters to the Earth



### Faith & Ecology Podcast



### COP Prayer Guide



## Social Media outreach



Ecojesuits Website	19,6K viewers
Facebook	11,1K viewers
Instagram	25,3K viewers
Youtube	4,1K viewers
COP30 Bulletin	13 editions, 600 subscribers
Podcast	9 episodes, 1,1K listeners

(Source: COP30 campaign report, Jan 2026)

### 2025 key data



17 Jesuits and 14 laypeople from 4 Conferences and 12 Provinces in COP30



757 institutions signed the COP30 Global Statement

Full engagement in 2 climate summits for 22 days



98 000 responses to the "Letters of the Earth" initiative



# Promoting sustainable and healthy food systems in Europe



[ourdailybreadnetwork.eu](http://ourdailybreadnetwork.eu)

Our Daily Bread

As a result of the contacts and careful preparation work of the previous year, the Our Daily Bread (ODB) network, composed of 12 Christian members from different EU countries, came to light in January 2025, in a much-attended hybrid event in Brussels. As expressed in the science-based faith-inspired Manifesto, the goal is to gather Christian voices to research and advocate for fairer and more sustainable food systems in Europe, and promote change both in practice and in legislation. The coalition organised an Act for Lent 2025 campaign, where 200 participants engaged in a health- and sustainability-driven change of personal diets during the Lent period. A working group started accompanying and published a policy paper on the negotiations of the new 2028-2034 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which will have an extended impact on the EU budget (it accounts to almost 1/3 of it), mitigation of CO2 emissions, the conservation of the European soil and the generational renewal of small farmers in the continent. Two JESC elements participated in experts' meetings of the World Resources Institute (Lodz, Poland) and the Economy of Francesco (Rome). And in December the Zentrum für Globale Fragen, a Munich-based ODB member, presented to the European Laudato Si Alliance (ELSiA) audience its study on "Food security, climate protection and biodiversity", commissioned by the German Bishops in 2024. Together with ELSiA, ODB plans to present this report in the European Parliament by early 2026, if possible with co-hosting from different political groups.

Our Daily Bread (ODB) network summit, Brussels, Jan 2025



*"Our Daily Bread is a network of Christian Organizations advocating for sustainable food policy in the European Union. With our work rooted in the social teachings of Christianity, we envision a food system where caring for the health of our planet is strongly connected to solidarity with marginalised people"*

(from the ODB Manifesto)

## THIS LENT

I choose my diet to support people and the planet



@ourdailybreadnetwork

Will you join me?

**Social Media card for the Act for Lent 2025 campaign**

12

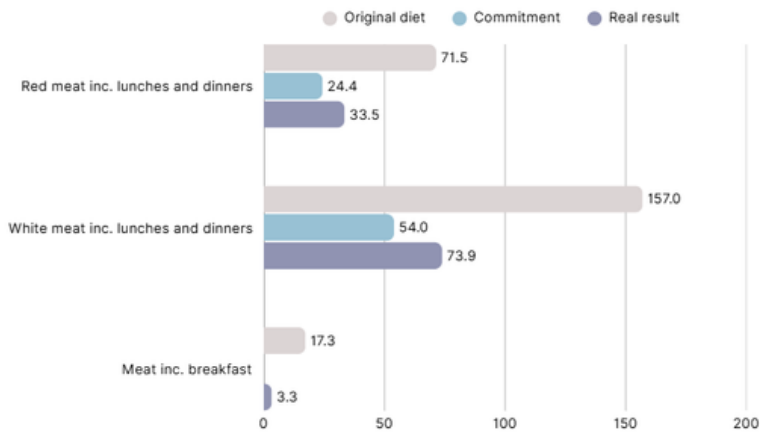
THIS LENT I CHOOSE THE PLANET



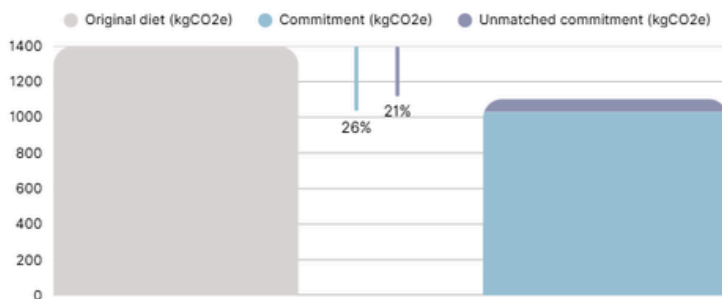
Launch of Our Daily Bread coalition, Chapel for Europe (Brussels), Jan 2025

# Impact of the Act for Lent 2025 campaign (200 participants)

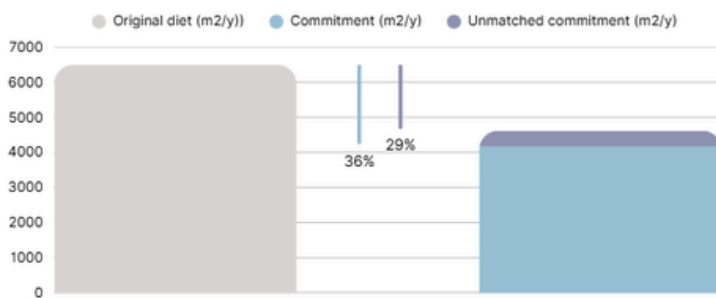
## Annualized meat consumption per person (total meals)



## Annual emissions from solid diet per person (kgCO2e)



## Annual land use from solid diet per person (m2)



(Source: Act for Lent 2025 campaign report)

## 2025 key data



200 participants in the Act for Lent 2025 campaign



JESC is present in 4 other food-dedicated platforms

12 ODB coalition members



110 people (in-situ and online) representing 60 organisations in the ODB launch



# Forming future leaders for the Common Good



EUROPEAN  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAMME

[jesc-elp.eu](http://jesc-elp.eu)

European Leadership Programme

Rooted in the educational tradition of the Jesuits and inspired by Ignatian spirituality, the European Leadership Programme (ELP) places reflection, discernment, and personal growth at its centre. During the 5 months of the programme, the Fellows are invited to reflect on their personal mission, values, and long-term aspirations — considering not only their careers in European affairs, but their broader vocation and contribution to society. This dimension of ELP remains among the most transformative, with effects that continue well beyond the residential period and create a bond among the entire ELP Alumni community. The ELP residential experience integrates other complementary pillars: community life, intellectual formation on European affairs, service to disadvantaged communities, and individual accompaniment through spiritual coaching and professional mentoring. All these elements form a holistic leadership journey which develops reflective, values-driven leaders committed to the European common good.

Open Days were introduced in 2025 - events for the general public organised by the current Fellows. These gatherings offer prospective candidates the opportunity to experience the spirit of the programme and connect with the Fellows. The first Open Day, held in February, featured Philippe Lamberts, former MEP and Von der Leyen's Special Advisor, who spoke about social justice and climate action. The summer edition focused on mental health, a growing concern among younger generations. And the third Open Day of 2025 explored the spiritual inspiration and religious background of the EU's founding fathers, with Victoria Martin de la Torre. Other guests in 2025 included Herman Van Rompuy (former Prime Minister of Belgium and President of the European Council), Valentin Dupouey-Sterdyniak (College of Europe), Ondrej Socuvka (Google EU), and Félix Fernández-Shaw (Director at the European Commission). Regular Alumni Talks were also organised, strengthening the bonds among current Fellows and ELP Alumni.

Open Day workshop, Spring 2025 cohort, Jun 2025



13th Cohort Graduation ceremony, Press Club (Brussels), Jun 2025



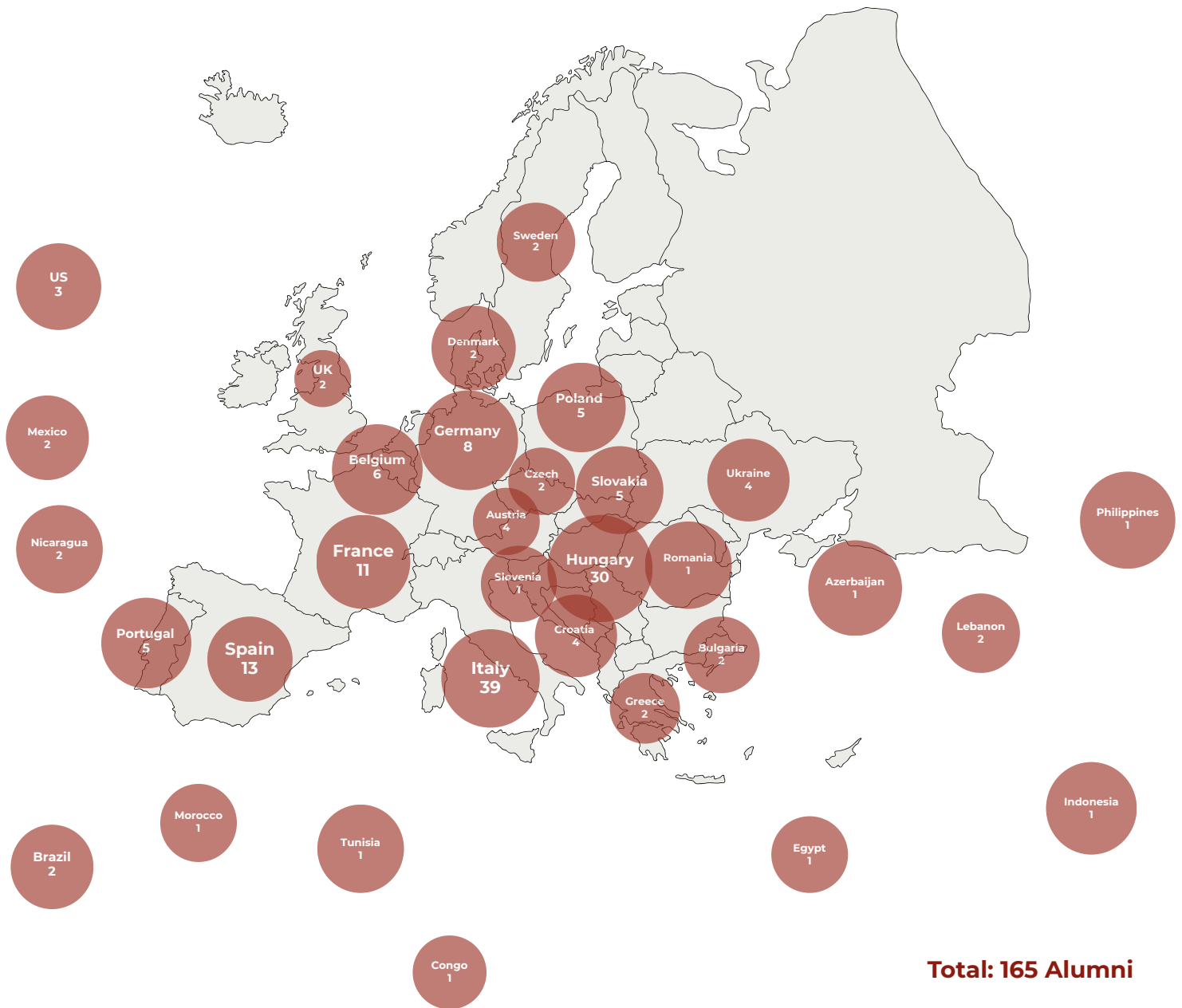
*Dear graduates, I have no doubt that you will all walk incredible paths in your lives. When we had dinner together the other day, I saw a room full of confidence, competence and compassion. A room full of energy and desire to make this world a better place. And a room full of commitment to conduct your professional lives in line with your strong personal values.*

**Otilia Dhand**, ELP mentor and Keynote Speaker at the 13th ELP Graduation

Personal Mission Plan presentation, Fall 2025 Cohort, Feb 2025



# Countries of origin of ELP Alumni (2019 - 2025)



## 2025 key data



28 mentors and coaches



165 Alumni from 33 nationalities in 14 cohorts so far

32 fellows from 11 nationalities



20 fireside chats with keynote speakers



# Keeping vision and values alive in a European Union under stress

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

2025 has been a remarkably stressful year for the EU. The European Commission introduced several “omnibus” legislative packages with the declared aim of “promoting competitiveness and simplification”, in a changed global reality marked by the new US administration’s policies. These initiatives came at the cost of rolling back key environmental and social regulations and protections, and were often carried in a rushed and opaque way, as signalled by a ruling of the European Ombudswoman in December 2025. A dispute between some political groups in the Parliament and the European Commission about the funding of civil society organisations created additional mistrust and confrontation, in a time when long-term vision and collaboration is more necessary than ever.

In this tense context, JESC reinforced its work of coordination and networking in Brussels with Catholic partners, CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) and trade unions, advocating for the preservation of key European values: fairness, accountability, participation, care for the most vulnerable. A weekend of debate and reflection, named Europe@Heart, was organised in September, bringing together speakers from different sides of the political spectrum to discuss on how to make the “green transition” move forward. The weekend was also an opportunity for joint engagement of all dimensions of JESC: Ecology, European affairs and Youth Leadership. We continued to invest on the usual longer-term work threads, such as participating in Christians for Europe (IXE) meetings to reflect (with other Christian organisations) on the challenges facing Europe, and organising with other Jesuit Social Centres the first Ignatian Social Teaching week in Lyon. Finally, May 2025 was the occasion to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Schuman declaration, with the publication of an article in La Civiltà Cattolica on the core of our mission: preserving the ideal of Europe as a community for the common good.



Europe@Heart group picture, Namur (Belgium), Sep 2025

Meeting of Catholic NGOs active in Brussels, COMECE, Mar 2025

“

*I left Namur grateful for the inspiring and open discussions, inspired by the diversity of contributions. I am convinced that Europe’s most precious asset remains the trust, engagement and ingenuity of its citizens. Sustainable change will only succeed if it is built with them, not for and upon them*

**Peter Hefele, Wilfried Martens Centre**

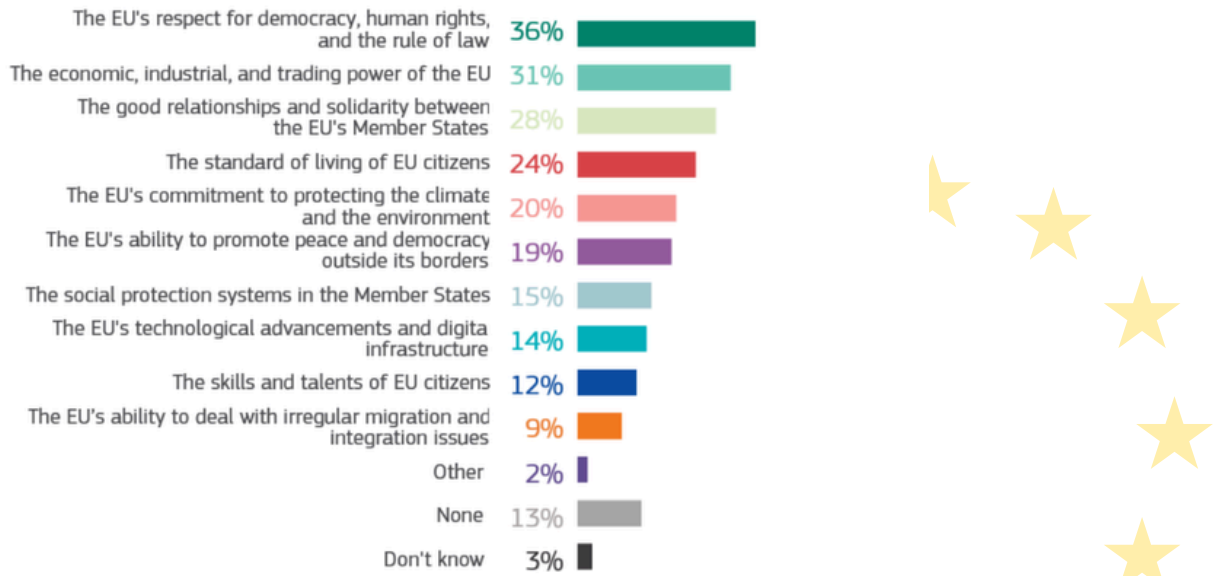
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Eamon Ryan, former Irish Minister for Environment, Ignatian Social Thinking Week, Lyon (France), Jun 2025

# The main strenghts of the EU, and the values it embodies

**Q2** In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the main strengths of the EU?  
Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]



(%) Base: n=25 893 – All respondents

**Q3** For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally?



(%) Base: n=25 893 – All respondents

▼ ▲ Trend 2025-2024 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 550, June-July 2024)

(Source: Flash Eurobarometer 569, EU challenges and priorities, Sep 2025)

## 2025 key data

35 participants in the Europe@Heart weekend



1 article in La Civiltà Cattolica, 5 extended analysis in the website



Presence in 5 networks



35 participants from 14 organisations in the Ignatian Social Teaching week

# Finance

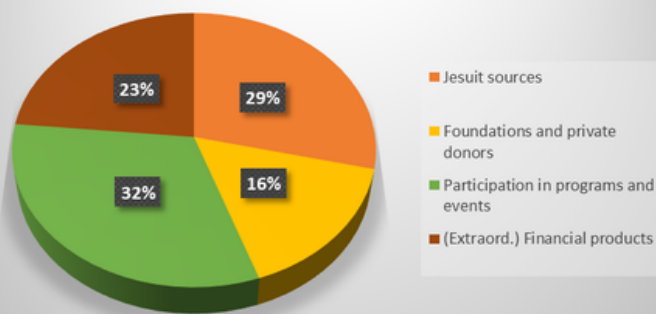
## Income 2025

Jesuit sources	180 966,00 €
Foundations and private donors <sup>1</sup>	100 620,20 €
Participation in programs and events <sup>2</sup>	200 609,20 €
(Extraord.) Financial products	147 895,60 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>630 091,00 €</b>

<sup>1</sup> European Climate Foundation, UCSIA, Renovabis, other private donors

<sup>2</sup> ELP, Ignatian Social Teaching week, Europe@Heart weekend and other events' participation

Income 2025



## Expenditure 2025

Ecology projects <sup>3</sup>	269 298,64 €
European Leadership Programme	259 079,25 €
European Affairs activities <sup>4</sup>	10 600,62 €
Overhead and other expenses <sup>5</sup>	65 122,75 €
European Social & Ecology Networks <sup>6</sup>	17 784,33 €
Projects' funds carried forward	8 205,41 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>630 091,00 €</b>

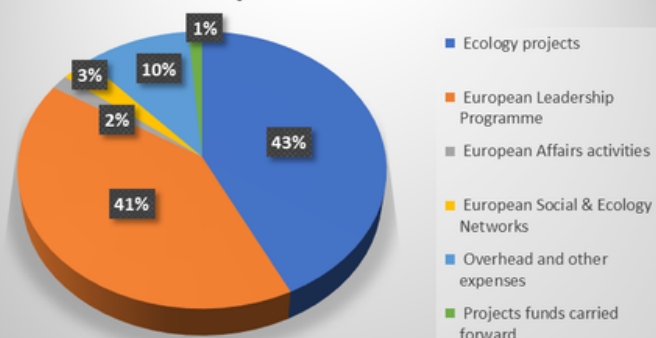
<sup>3</sup> Jesc Carbon Initiative, Future Generations Initiative, Our Daily Bread network, and Climate Justice campaigns

<sup>4</sup> Ignatian Social Teaching week, Europe@Heart weekend and others

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

<sup>6</sup> Coordination and meetings accountancy

Expenditure 2025



# Partners & Networks

## Brussels-based organisations



## Universities



## Funders



## Networks



## Other partners





## Support our work

[jesc.eu/donate-now](https://jesc.eu/donate-now)

*“JESC seeks an engagement which authentically expresses Christian faith, analyses social reality with competence, and advocates for social and environmental justice in the European political structures and action” (from JESC’s Mission Statement)*

*The partial or full use of information in this report is authorized as long as a mention of the original source is included.*

*April 2026*

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