

ecdpm

Annual Report 2023

Contents

02 From our Board Chair

03 From our Director

About us

04 Who we are and what we do

06 What we offer

08 What sets us apart

08 Our workstreams

A snapshot of our year

10 Highlights in 2023

16 How does the EU's changing development policy 'land' in partner countries?

18 Do EU policies take migrants' decisions and behaviour into account?

20 Adapting our food systems to climate change

22 Exploring innovative ways to finance climate adaptation

24 Regional integration as a building block for continental integration

26 Building an African digital single market

27 Africa's governance landscape: From national to global repercussions

28 Understanding Islamic activism in West Africa, the Sahel and Central Asia

ECDPM in 2023

30 Outreach and impact

34 Finances

38 Our people

40 Governance

42 Our partners

44 Sustainability

In 2023, we witnessed a global surge in the use of artificial intelligence. In light of this trend, we embarked on an experiment to create our first fully AI-generated cover for this annual report, featuring a fictional city in Africa. What do you think?



From our Board Chair



Adebayo Olukoshi

Observers of contemporary international affairs may be forgiven if they feel a sense of profound concern about the state of the world and what it may portend for the future. Amid radical political realignments in many countries – some long considered pillars of political stability and domestic consensus-building – we are witnessing a redistribution of power on a global scale. This redistribution, furthermore, is feeding geopolitical rivalries that threaten world peace.

Old political balances and the assumptions underlying them are under immense pressure. In many instances, the unravelling of the existing order has ushered in violent confrontations or created conditions for conflict. In the course of 2023, on top of the Russian war in Ukraine, Sudan also descended into a civil war, violence escalated in the western Balkans and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and in the Middle East, a new war erupted in Gaza.

This environment of uncertainty and instability is not the most auspicious for nurturing trust and predictability in national and global affairs. It challenges institutions like ECDPM to think and act outside the box, to respond effectively to the interwoven challenges arising on the world stage. The relevance of the issues addressed, the pertinence of the instruments deployed, and ways of measuring impacts and results must all be recalibrated. There is also the question of how to retain trust and leverage it to serve the wider purpose of fostering dialogue, to bridge differences and advance mutual understanding in an age of fracture and fragmentation.

Such adjustments do not come easily to institutions, but the Board is pleased that ECDPM's management and staff swiftly recognised these evolving dynamics. They have taken decisive steps to recalibrate, ensuring that ECDPM remains at the forefront of its work on Africa-Europe relations and addresses broader global concerns impacting these relations.

This report provides a glimpse into ECDPM's activities in 2023 across a range of themes. It touches on topics at the heart of the Africa-Europe relationship while acknowledging the tensions and differences that have characterised the partnership. Substantial attention is also paid to broader shared global concerns, such as climate change and the future direction of development. In all, this 2023 report offers a rich menu of analysis. I enthusiastically commend it to readers interested in understanding the issues that define this period in world history, how they impact the Africa-Europe relationship, and what they mean for the future of development and international cooperation.

From our Director



Carl Michiels

The year 2023 presented a multitude of global challenges, from the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitical tensions and climate-related crises. Amid this complexity, ECDPM demonstrated resilience and adaptability, leveraging its expertise and networks to navigate uncertainty and drive positive outcomes in pursuit of sustainable development and constructive international cooperation.

We expanded the breadth of our research. In particular, we looked at the international community's commitments to Ukraine's reconstruction and analysed the potential innovations these might bring for aid and cooperation mechanisms and instruments. We also broadened our perspective on several key areas of interaction between Europe and Africa, such as food security and development finance, to encompass the global context.

At the heart of our mission lies the cultivation of strategic partnerships and collaborations. With these, we aim to amplify impact and nurture inclusive development. Throughout 2023, we deepened our engagement with a diversity of partners, including governments, regional organisations, civil society organisations and the private sector. These partnerships facilitated knowledge exchange, policy dialogues and innovative responses to the complex issues we work on.

We were delighted to host the first meeting with our nine institutional partners since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event allowed us to incorporate their evolving priorities into our five-year strategy while generating new energy to propel our mission. Furthermore, at the organisational level, 2023 marked a change of guard, as we welcomed Marie-Roger Biloa, Said Djinnit, Bience Gawanas and Roeland van de Geer as members to our Board of Directors, each distinguished as a respected expert and hailing from Africa or Europe. While we celebrated these additions, we also bid farewell to Jean-Claude Boidin and Alan Hirsch, two long-standing members whose invaluable contributions shaped the fabric of our organisation, as they concluded their second term with us.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, supporters and staff whose unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit played a pivotal role in our shared achievements. ECDPM remains committed to driving positive change, amplifying impact and building a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.

We are ECDPM – a leading independent ‘think and do tank’ that wants to make policies in Europe, Africa and beyond work for inclusive and sustainable development.

Who we are and what we do

Good policies are extremely powerful. They can tackle society’s biggest problems at the root, lay a foundation for change, and play a crucial part in making the global development agenda a reality for all. That is why we want to help institutions and governments in Europe, Africa and beyond create policies that work.

Our independent policy experts contribute sharp analysis, thorough research and fresh ideas. But making policies work requires stepping off the sidelines, too. It means working closely with the people who create, implement or are impacted by policies. We bring

different groups around the table, smooth the way for debate and make sure that everyone’s voice is heard. We provide advice and training, and design practical solutions together.

ECDPM has over thirty-five years of experience in Africa-Europe relations, international cooperation and development policy. Our focus is climate, energy and food, economy and trade, geopolitics and development, governance, migration and mobility, and peace and security.

Our partners include ministries and institutions, international organisations, think tanks, academia, and social and economic actors from Africa, Europe and beyond.

What we offer



Research & analysis
We provide thorough policy research, sharp analysis and fresh ideas.



Advice, training & support
We offer practical policy advice, training and support.



Events
We organise and speak at debates, conferences and workshops.



Partnerships & dialogue
We connect people, broker partnerships and create space for dialogue.



Expert information
We provide background information to our partners and the media.



What sets us apart

1

We are more than a think tank.

We are researchers and analysts, but we are also facilitators, advisors, evaluators and trainers. It's that combination of roles which sets us apart from other think tanks. To make policies work, we need solid knowledge of what works and what doesn't, but also to work with the people who are crucial in implementing those policies.

2

We are independent.

Our unique funding situation allows us to maintain operational autonomy and set our own, non-partisan agenda.

3

We look beyond promises.

Whether policy change is good, bad or absent usually depends on a number of factors and people. That is why we look beyond policy statements and analyse what drives or prevents change. That means looking at all political constraints and incentives.

4

We know the African and European policy landscape inside and out.

Africa-Europe relations is our main focus. For over thirty-five years we have worked with institutions, governments and partners across Africa and Europe. That has resulted in a broad network, a solid institutional memory of what has and hasn't worked before, and a knack to foresee how policy arenas will evolve.

5

We are in it for the long run.

Making policies work cannot happen overnight. We engage in policy processes from beginning to end and commit to long-term relationships with our partners, to jointly accomplish changes over time.

Our work-streams

Europe and Africa in the world

EU foreign and development policy

The EU is dealing with a number of challenges close to home while at the same time seeking to play a more significant global role. Our EU foreign and development policy team explores the implications of the EU's growing geopolitical focus and wants to contribute to a more coherent and integrated EU foreign and development policy.

Migration and mobility

Migration and mobility stimulate development as drivers of social and economic change, but they can also pose significant challenges. Our migration and mobility team wants to help maximise the development potential of migration and mobility while minimising risks. We work to promote effective and human-centred migration governance in Europe and Africa, and aim to contribute to improved Africa-Europe cooperation on migration.

AU-EU relations

The African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) have committed to building a different kind of partnership and moving beyond traditional North-South cooperation, but more so on paper than in practice. Our AU-EU relations team explores how both parties can create a mutually beneficial and interest-driven partnership.

Digital economy and governance

International cooperation on digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) is vital for sustainable development, for safeguarding free and open societies, and for protecting fundamental human rights. Without the right resources, policies and infrastructure, there is a risk of widening technological divides and misuse of digital technologies. Our digital economy and governance team wants to support more effective EU external action on digital technologies and AI, and explore how digital integration can advance Africa's development agenda.



To deliver on our strategy, we have organised our work into ten workstreams. These are grouped into three clusters: Europe and Africa in the world; peaceful societies and accountable governance; and sustainable African economies and climate action. We also have a number of departments for shared services, and we house the secretariat of the European Think Tanks Group (ETTG).

Peaceful societies and accountable governance

Peace, security and resilience

Recent years have witnessed a deadly pandemic, the rise of (geo)political instability, new conflicts and the undeniable effects of the climate crisis in much of the world. Our peace, security and resilience team promotes the transition of fragile and conflict-affected countries towards peaceful, well-governed and prosperous societies, and encourages a strategic peace and security partnership between Africa and Europe.

Inclusive governance and accountability

Democratic governance and accountable institutions are essential to ensure inclusive and sustainable development and respect for human rights. Our inclusive governance and accountability team wants to contribute to a context-specific and politically informed understanding of the drivers of governance and accountability.

Sustainable African economies and climate action

Economic recovery and transformation

Economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development have suffered major setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the Russian war in Ukraine. Our economic recovery and transformation team wants to contribute to effective European and African policies and instruments for a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and transformation.

African economic integration

Africa's continental free trade area aims to create a single market of goods and services on a continent of 1.5 billion people. Yet, achieving the goal of an integrated and prosperous Africa will be no easy task for policymakers. Our African economic integration team wants to bring the dynamics around regional integration into better focus and understand how policies can adapt to who or what is driving or blocking progress.

Climate action and green transition

The next few years will – and must – bring major changes in global climate action. Our climate action and green transition team wants to contribute to ambitious, fair and effective responses to the climate crisis, promote a green COVID-19 recovery, and explore the European and African politics of green transition and renewable energy deployment.

Sustainable food systems

Global food systems struggle to provide the growing population with affordable and healthy foods. They also create livelihood stresses and damage our natural environment. Our sustainable food systems team wants to support transitions to sustainable, resilient, equitable and inclusive food systems.

Highlights in 2023

These pages present our most memorable highlights from 2023. Pages 16 to 29 then zoom in on eight projects. These feature activities of our workstream teams during the year, demonstrating how we contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how all our work is connected.

Go to ecdpm.org/work for all our 2023 publications and commentaries; you can use the filters to narrow your search. For an overview of the events we organised, go to ecdpm.org/events.

January



Following on from our [analysis of the EU's global health strategy](#), the European Court of Auditors invited us to take part in an expert panel ahead of their audit of the European Commission's support to health systems in developing countries. Later, the European Economic and Social Committee asked us to speak at a hearing on the strategy, which informed [their position](#).

February



For the International Organization for Migration (IOM), we authored a report with guidelines for designing effective skills mobility partnerships – [published in early 2024](#) – and discussed our recommendations during a three-day workshop in New Delhi.



We launched a series of events and publications to [reflect on the state of the partnership](#) between the AU and the EU, marking one year since the last AU-EU summit. In spring, we hosted two closed-door meetings at our Brussels office, with [European and African policymakers](#), respectively. We also published several briefs and commentaries on the partnership, including on the [impact of geopolitical changes](#).



With ETTG, we hosted a [book presentation](#) with Len Ishmael, editor of 'Aftermath of War in Europe – The West vs. the Global South', published by the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS). In October, we also hosted a [book launch](#) with Dirk-Jan Koch, author of 'Foreign Aid and Its Unintended Consequences'. We [broke down the key elements of the book](#) and shared thoughts to build on the discussion, connecting Koch's ideas to our own work on 'thinking and working politically'.



We supported the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU throughout the year. We presented our papers on [anti-corruption and democracy, human rights and gender equality](#) to the Council Working Party on Development Cooperation and International Partnerships (CODEV-PI), and at public seminars organised by the presidency. In May, we spoke about [our work on women's economic empowerment](#) at a seminar organised by the presidency, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). Additionally, we discussed our [work on women, peace and security and the EU's gender action plan](#) with the EU Task Force on Women, Peace and Security.

March



With adelphi, we presented [our work on climate change and security in the Sahel](#) at a workshop for regional policymakers and experts in Dakar. In November, we organised an event with the European Institute of Peace (EIP) and TrustWorks Global to discuss peacemaking and climate resilience in the Sahel in times of political instability. Both events were part of the EU-funded CASCADDES project on cascading climate risks.



We facilitated a workshop on governance, with a focus on political economy analysis, for the EU delegation in Tunis. Later in the year, we travelled to Morocco to conduct a political economy analysis centred on the justice sector.



We moderated a panel at the NL@AU conference, organised by the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the AU. In the lead-up to the conference, the organisers shared a paper on [Europe-Africa relations in a multi-crises world](#) – an ETTG publication to which we contributed – with participants.

April



We moderated a high-level panel on the Global Gateway strategy and digital connectivity between Africa and Europe at the [Transform Africa Summit](#) in Victoria Falls, organised by the AU-EU Digital for Development (D4D) Hub and DG INTPA. Ahead of the panel, we were [interviewed by the D4D Hub](#).



We presented our [EU study on the links between humanitarian assistance, development and peacebuilding](#) – the humanitarian-development-peace nexus – that we carried out with Participo to a broad audience of EU policymakers. In May, we presented the study at an 'InfoPoint' event organised by DG INTPA.

May



For the EU-funded [Charter Project Africa](#), we created an [interactive map](#) visualising the African Governance Architecture organs and institutions. Later, we published a series of papers on the governance agendas of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), comparing their frameworks for civil society engagement. We also explored [Africa's framework against unconstitutional changes of government](#) in light of the growing number of coups on the continent. [See also page 27](#)



We moderated the first global meeting of the [EU-funded 'Partnerships for Sustainable Cities' project](#), for which we are leading the coordination facility team, and produced a [behind-the-scenes video](#). The event, in Brussels, brought together representatives of 57 sustainable cities partnerships and EU policymakers.



We explored [how EU partner countries, specifically Guinea, Kenya and Zambia, perceive the EU's support to human development](#). Later in the year, we examined the challenges partner countries face in the implementation of NDICI-Global Europe – the EU's financial instrument for neighbourhood, development and international cooperation – and the implications of the EU's [new political framework for international partnerships](#), drawing from case studies in Kenya and Cameroon. [See also page 17](#)



In an op-ed for EURACTIV, we argued that effective implementation of the EU's Global Gateway strategy requires a radical shift in the way the EU, its member states and the private sector work together outside the EU. In December, on the strategy's second anniversary, we assessed its [current status](#) and discussed opportunities for further progress.



We published a [paper](#) on the opportunities and challenges of new EU sustainability policies for the textile sector in Kenya and later released a companion [commentary](#). This marked the end of our project with Gatsby Africa on circular textiles in Kenya.



We launched a series of briefs analysing the [risks and opportunities of a green transition for African countries](#), following our analysis of how Africa can [expand its deployment of renewable energy](#). Later in the year, we assessed [South Africa's Just Energy Transition Partnership](#) two years on, authored an [interactive guide and paper](#) on Africa's battery value chain as an opportunity to drive green industrialisation, and delved into the [political economy of green industrialisation in Africa](#).



Zooming in on [data governance and digital industrial policy](#), we looked at the concept of digital sovereignty and what it means for different global powers and countries in the Global South.

June



With researchers from seven other institutes and universities across Africa and Europe, we took part in the first in-person team meeting of the EU-funded [DYNAMIG project](#) on migration decision-making and EU policies related to migration. Following the meeting, in Kiel, we organised a series of [policy workshops](#) with researchers and EU policymakers in Brussels. [See also page 18](#)



We presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the [EU strategic country evaluation of Somalia](#), which we undertook with Particip in 2022, to EU policymakers and civil society organisations at an [‘InfoPoint’ event](#) organised by DG INTPA.



We presented our papers on [climate and energy diplomacy between Africa and Europe](#) at an [informal briefing](#) in Brussels. Along with several media articles and a podcast series, these were part of our [project on Africa-EU climate and energy diplomacy in times of geopolitical crisis](#). We also explored how [Europe and Africa can find more common ground on climate and energy](#) – this time for the [‘Africa-Europe relations: A balanced narrative and reality check’](#) project, undertaken with PCNS, the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), with support from the delegation of the EU to the AU.



With the Dutch foreign ministry, we organised a [workshop](#) to reflect on practices, tools and mechanisms for promoting policy coherence for development across government departments. Civil servants from the Netherlands, Finland, Luxembourg, Austria, Poland, Sweden and the EU attended the event. Earlier in the year, we provided support to the Dutch government’s [evaluation of its policy coherence for development action plan 2018–2022](#).

July



At the invitation of the European Parliament, we shared our analysis of the implementation of NDICI-Global Europe at a [public hearing](#) which fed into a Parliamentary [report](#) ahead of the NDICI-Global Europe mid-term review. In August, we broke down the [2024 review](#) and what is at stake.



We provided inputs in preparation for two high-level sessions of the Fifth AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial [Conference](#) in Rome, focused on investment and climate resilience. In July, we attended the [UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) and shared our [recommendations](#) for expediting progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: ‘zero hunger’.



We looked at ways for [EU countries to mobilise investment](#) for Ukraine’s recovery efforts, arguing for a stronger joint ‘Team Europe’ approach by the EU, its member states and its development finance institutions. Later, we analysed the EU’s [plans for an additional financial package](#) – the so-called Ukraine Facility.



We looked at how to strengthen the [European financial architecture for development](#) through better coordination, and we edited an e-book on how the EU, its member states and their financial institutions for development can best respond to the multiple global challenges we are facing. Zooming in on European development finance institutions, we later looked at how to improve their [complaint mechanisms](#) and integrate a [human rights-based approach](#).



September



With AKADEMIYA2063 and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), we organised a [side event at the Africa Climate Summit](#) in Nairobi to discuss how African countries can mobilise and use climate finance for food systems. We shared our [reflections on the summit](#) in a commentary. [See also page 21](#)



We helped shape the programme of the Finace in Common Summit in Cartagena, participated in the discussions – including as a member of the summit’s Knowledge Advisory Group – and shared our [reflections on the event](#).



We published our work on [Islamic activism in West Africa, the Sahel and Central Asia](#), covering history and politics, gender and digitalisation, and the roles of external actors and foreign funding. [See also page 29](#)



October



We wrote a [paper on labour migration](#) for the Foundation of European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). We presented the paper in Brussels to representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission at the final meeting of the Progressive Migration Group, an initiative of FEPS and FES to which ECDPM has significantly contributed.



For the CASCADES project, we co-hosted a hybrid event on [EU finance for climate adaptation](#) in Brussels with experts from the EU institutions, European development finance institutions and multilateral development banks, sharing [key takeaways](#) afterwards. In October, we co-organised a [CASCADES conference on cross-border climate impacts and systemic risks](#) at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.



We analysed the consequences of the coup in Niger from different angles. We spoke to [La Libre Belgique](#) and [Deutsche Welle](#) about what the coup means for Europe and investigated related themes, such as the role of ECOWAS as a regional governance body, migration cooperation between Niger and the EU, the [economic consequences of the ECOWAS sanctions imposed on Niger](#), and the [expansion of the jihadist threat in the Sahel](#). Our work was picked up and republished by various organisations, and we received several requests for follow-up. [See also page 27](#)



We published our first analysis of [AI policy and regulation in Africa](#) and, in October, joined a panel on AI sovereignty at the [Internet Governance Forum](#) in Osaka. This led to the publication of a book on [AI sovereignty, transparency and accountability](#), to which we contributed a chapter on South Africa.



We explored the rollout of [interoperable digital payment systems in East Africa](#) and examined the growing focus on [digital ID systems across Africa](#). Regarding Africa’s digital single market, we looked at how the EU can support Africa in [rolling out digital public infrastructure](#). For the [‘Africa-Europe relations: A balanced narrative and reality check’](#) project, we analysed the importance of [digital infrastructure investments and continental policy frameworks](#). [See also page 26](#)



November



We addressed a [public hearing on the state of play of the EU-Africa Strategy](#), organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) in Brussels. Our contributions centred on food security, one of the hearing's three focus areas.



We presented the preliminary findings from our study on the labour migration pathways and systems of 23 EU member states for the European Commission's Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), to the MPF Labour Mobility Practitioners' Network. The study complements our [2022 work on Estonia, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal](#).



As part of a joint project with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and ICMPD, we analysed the development contribution of their labour mobility projects and presented our findings to GIZ and ICMPD staff in an online workshop.

December



With PCNS, ACET and ISS, we organised an 'InfoPoint' event on private sector engagement under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), hosted by DG INTPA as a public event. This followed a [high-level event organised by the same group in Addis Ababa](#) in November, attended by representatives of the AfCFTA Secretariat, international partner organisations and Addis-based officials. The work was part of the '[Africa-Europe relations: A balanced narrative and reality check](#)' project. **See also page 25**



We presented our food systems approach and lessons from its application in Kenya at the [Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development Annual Conference](#) in Dublin. We also briefed representatives of the Irish foreign affairs department on the links between food and climate and on food systems financing.



Drawing on several informal roundtable discussions with EU member state ministries of foreign affairs and finance, we identified three strategies for European policymakers to increase the use and scale of [debt-for-climate swaps](#). **See also page 22**



We hosted two food systems-focused side events during the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai. One of these events, with AU development agency AUDA-NEPAD and AKADEMIYA2063, focused on climate finance. The other, with the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, discussed local capacity, governance and finance. We also moderated a side event on [women building resilience in cities](#), organised by the Cities Alliance of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). We kept readers up to date on the event and its outcomes. Ahead of the summit, we published [analyses](#) of COP28-relevant topics, including the [military carbon footprint](#), [climate governance in North Africa](#) and [finance for climate and food security](#). **See also page 21**

COP28



How does the EU's changing development policy 'land' in partner countries?

In recent years, the EU has adopted a more geopolitical and strategic approach to its international and development cooperation. Significant changes in its foreign and development policy setup reflect this shift – but what are the implications of this new approach for partner countries?



The EU has made several major changes to its setup for foreign and development policy in recent years. NDICI-Global Europe is the EU's newest financial instrument for neighbourhood, development and international cooperation. Through the Global Gateway strategy, the EU mobilises investments in infrastructure-related projects and social sectors in partner countries, and with Team Europe, it wants to coordinate projects or activities jointly undertaken with its member states and development finance institutions. We analysed the early phases of these initiatives as they emerged. Now, as the EU rolls out their implementation, it is important to see the implications for the EU's partner countries.

In 2023, we analysed how these changes are perceived by the EU's partner countries and what challenges and opportunities they bring to the EU, its member states and its partners. Drawing on case studies in Kenya and Cameroon, we examined the main hurdles partner countries have encountered in the implementation of NDICI-Global Europe and the implications of the EU's new political framework for international partnerships. In particular, we focused on how those involved in these partnerships at the national level are adjusting to the new priorities and ways of working.

We concluded that these shifts require time for implementation at the national level. The EU institutions, member states and partner countries all need to make adjustments across multiple domains. Particularly at the EU level, better communication and increased capacity are essential to support partners during the transition. Our research has sparked interest among partner

countries and member states seeking similar analyses, and civil society organisations interested in understanding how the changes affect their collaboration with the EU.

Despite the EU's increasingly geopolitical orientation, human development remains a key area where the EU can add value. In 2023, we carried out case studies in Guinea, Kenya and Zambia on how the EU's offerings in human development sectors are perceived. We found that the geopolitical discourse prominent in Brussels' circles has not reached partner countries, which are more focused on the impact of the EU's support to human development sectors and whether the EU's support responds to their needs.

In 2024, we will continue exploring the implications of the EU's evolving development policy, for instance, by focusing on additional partner countries and delving deeper into key themes. We will also be organising events and producing podcasts featuring diverse perspectives from Africa and Europe. With these, we aim to complement the findings of the mid-term evaluation of NDICI-Global Europe and provide fresh insights for the transition in EU leadership later in the year.

Want to see all our work on EU foreign and development policy or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/geopolitics-and-development/eu-foreign-and-development-policy or get in touch with Alexei Jones, Amandine Sabourin or Katja Sergejeff via ecdpm.org/experts.

For policies to achieve their desired outcomes, it is crucial to know how they will impact the intended recipients. For that, the needs of those targeted have to be understood. The EU’s migration-related policies aim, among other things, to limit irregular border crossings, protect migrants’ rights, regulate access to EU labour markets and improve living conditions elsewhere. But do they take the decisions and behaviour of migrants into account?



Decades of research have improved our understanding of migration patterns between countries, but our understanding of why people decide to migrate remains limited. As a result, we still do not know whether the EU’s migration-related policies are effective in shaping migrants’ decisions and behaviour – or even the extent to which policymakers consider migrants’ decision-making process, preferences and behaviour.

Since 2023, ECDPM has been involved in the three-year Horizon Europe DYNAMIG project with seven other research institutes and universities in Europe and Africa. The project aims to better understand decisions around migration, to analyse the extent to which policy formulation considers migrants’ diverse experiences, and to explore the effectiveness of migration-related policies in shaping migrants’ decisions and behaviour. Acknowledging Africa’s pivotal role in EU migration policies, due to the strong migration aspirations on the continent, the project focuses on African migrants – those contemplating departure, those in transit and those who have returned – as well as policies in the EU and Africa.

ECDPM’s outreach and impact department and migration and mobility team work closely

together on this project. We undertake research and ensure that outreach and impact remain central throughout, to provide policy-relevant, timely and usable results. In 2023, we developed an outreach and impact strategy for the project, set up communication tools and guided the publication of papers on African migration trends and gendered migration decisions. In Brussels, we held three policy workshops with DYNAMIG team members and EU policymakers, focused on labour migration, development cooperation and border management. These events helped us to align our work with policymakers’ knowledge and priorities. Participants commented on their usefulness and continued to exchange ideas afterwards.

In 2024, we will maintain our active role in the project and organise a new series of policy workshops. Our objective is to foster a more nuanced, evidence-based understanding of migrants’ diverse trajectories and migration-related policies.

Want to see all our work on migration and mobility or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/migration-and-mobility or get in touch with Anna Knoll, Amanda Bisong or Jamie Slater via ecdpm.org/experts.



Do EU policies take migrants’ decisions and behaviour into account?

Adapting our food systems to climate change

Migration can be the result of climate-related disasters and food insecurity, which are closely interlinked. Food systems are a major contributor to climate change, responsible for up to 37% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions globally. At the same time, climate change is increasingly affecting food systems worldwide. The need to adapt our food systems to alleviate climate change impacts is increasingly pressing – especially in African countries, which bear the brunt of climate-related disasters and food insecurity.



To achieve food systems adaptation, significant additional public and private resources will be required, alongside intensified international cooperation. Much of our work in 2023, therefore, focused on raising awareness of the urgent need for food systems adaptation. We also explored ways to increase adaptation finance, to better use research and innovation, and to improve cooperation.

For instance, we looked at how the UN Rome-based agencies – including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – can strengthen climate adaptation in food systems. We organised a closed-door event with African and European delegations, the Rome-based agencies and, among others, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), to discuss the investments, policies and innovations needed to adapt food systems to climate change. The event served as an informal input to the Fifth AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome and led to our paper proposing three ways for the Rome-based agencies to strengthen adaptation and their coordination with AU and EU actors.

With the Netherlands Food Partnership, we explored opportunities for increased engagement between the Rome-based agencies and Dutch food system knowledge institutes, civil society and the private sector, aiming to accelerate progress towards SDG 2: 'zero hunger'. As part of this effort, we organised a roundtable on the connections between food systems and climate change and outlined options for joint action.

Beyond these partnerships, we assessed AU-EU research and innovation collaboration on agri-food systems and analysed the financing landscape for climate adaptation in Kenya. With AKADEMIYA2063 and UNDP, we organised a side event to the Africa Climate Summit on how African countries can mobilise and use climate finance. We shared our reflections on the summit in a commentary. We also hosted two side events focused on food systems during COP28 in Dubai. One of these events, with AUDA-NEPAD and AKADEMIYA2063, focused on climate finance, and the other, with SNV, discussed local capacity, governance and finance. When conference leaders announced a declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and climate action – marking a significant milestone – we proposed the use of special drawing rights to generate additional resources for climate-resilient food systems.

In 2024, we will continue our work in this area. We will support the Italian G7 presidency, focusing on enhancing finance and investment for food security and climate-resilient food systems. We will also continue our longstanding collaboration with FAO by supporting the rollout of their global roadmap 'Achieving SDG 2 Without Breaching the 1.5 °C Threshold', launched at COP28.

Want to see all our work on sustainable food systems or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/climate-energy-and-food/food-systems or get in touch with Cecilia D'Alessandro, Daniel Adeniyi or Koen Dekeyser via ecdpm.org/experts.

The finance gap for climate adaptation is enormous, amounting to US \$366 billion annually. Comparatively, just \$21 billion in public multilateral and bilateral funds was allocated for adaptation in 2021. Developing nations' climate adaptation finance requirements are 10 to 18 times greater than international public finance flows. To address this disbalance, we need innovative ways of financing climate adaptation.



We explored innovative approaches for financing climate adaptation in 2023. One option is debt-for-climate swaps. These have the advantage of directing investments towards adaptation efforts without adding to the debt burden of developing economies. We published a guest article on the [largest debt-for-nature swap to date](#), that of Climate Fund Managers for the Ecuadorian Galápagos Islands, and came up with three strategies for increasing the use and scale of debt-for-climate swaps, which we outlined in a [paper](#) and [interactive guide](#). We also held discussions with European government ministries, public development banks and African institutions to find ways to improve the implementation of these swaps at the European level.

Still focusing on developing countries' limited fiscal space due to sovereign debt, we zoomed in on concessional financing, which gives developing countries more favourable terms than market rates. Such financing can be used in part for climate adaptation. We organised an informal, closed-door event on how the EU can enhance its concessional financing, attended by representatives from the EU institutions, member states and public development banks.

We also looked at systematic barriers that prevent development finance institutions and public development banks from investing in climate adaptation. Such barriers relate, for example, to the 'bankability' of projects – as adaptation initiatives may be viewed as unappealing or unviable for investment or lending – and obstacles such as ineffective or lack of cooperation. In a [paper for the EU-funded CASCADES project](#), we explored how

European development finance institutions and public development banks can build a portfolio of viable projects, implement new financing mechanisms, enhance their use of blended finance (a strategic mix of public and private funds), and work better together and with implementation agencies – to improve the quantity and effectiveness of investment in climate adaptation.

Throughout the year, we facilitated several workshops for European development finance institutions, public development banks and implementing agencies, to better understand where interests converge and collaboration can be improved. These included an [event on European financing for adaptation to cascading climate risks](#), organised for the CASCADES project, focused on business models and climate risks mispricing. We [summarised key takeaways](#) from this event in a commentary.

In 2024, we will continue our work on ways to finance climate adaptation. We plan to look at debt swaps from a geopolitical perspective, explore the use of carbon markets to foster climate finance, and propose ways to increase concessional financing from Europe. We will also analyse how more capital can be mobilised from institutional investors, how to provide more financing in local currency, and how the European financial architecture for development can be harnessed to boost adaptation finance.

Want to see all our work on finance and investment or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/economy-and-trade/finance-and-investment or get in touch with Karim Karaki or San Bilal via ecdpm.org/experts.

Exploring innovative ways to finance climate adaptation



Regional integration as a building block for continental integration

Cooperation is essential to achieve the SDGs, spanning such critical areas as food security, climate action and economic growth. Regional blocs across Africa have pursued integration for decades, aiming to achieve economic advantages. Recent initiatives, such as the AfCFTA, represent a new push towards integration on a continental scale – and that push is gaining in political momentum.



The AU declared 2023 the year of accelerated AfCFTA implementation, and with this renewed focus, ratifications of the continental free trade agreement climbed to 47 of the 54 signatory countries. But alongside the AfCFTA, regional trade agreements still continue to be essential building blocks of Africa's integration. This underscores the need to understand how governments approach economic integration regionally and continentally, as well as the implications of Africa's trade bloc puzzle for policymakers and their international partners.

In 2023, prior to Mozambique ratifying the AfCFTA, we drew lessons from Mozambique's integration into SADC, stressing the importance of national institutions in driving the implementation of trade agreements. This work guided discussions with the Mozambican government and its partners and helped shape considerations on whether to ratify the continental agreement. We also zoomed in on the DRC, which broadened its regional membership beyond SADC and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to also encompass EAC. To support TradeMark Africa's regional engagement, we examined the complexities of reconciling the DRC's national and regional political motivations, focusing on trade and transport corridors.

We also broadened our focus to climate change and governance and security. As part of a wider analysis of how to marry green economy and development objectives in Africa, we carried out a political economy analysis of greening trade and transport in East Africa. Moving to West Africa, we

analysed the regional economic consequences of the sanctions ECOWAS imposed on Niger as a result of the coup. This drew on past work carried out with ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Commission as part of the Trade Facilitation West Africa Program.

Our work on regional integration and its implications for continental integration helped shape discussions on the AfCFTA more widely. In the 'Africa-Europe relations: A balanced narrative and reality check' project, with PCNS, ACET and ISS, we organised a high-level event on private sector engagement under the AfCFTA, in Addis Ababa, attended by representatives of the AfCFTA Secretariat, international organisations and Addis-based officials. On the same topic, we organised an 'InfoPoint' event, hosted by DG INTPA. Finally, we touched on many of these larger issues in our contribution to the latest 'Yearbook on the African Union'.

In 2024, we plan to carry out a stakeholder analysis focused on the links between the AfCFTA and the regional economic communities. We will also continue our work linking trade and transport to the wider topics of economic development and industrialisation, and analyse trade and transport corridors in the context of both the AfCFTA and the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

Want to see all our work on African economic integration or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/economy-and-trade/african-economic-integration or get in touch with Bruce Byiers or Poorva Karkare via ecdpm.org/experts.

As Africa advances its continental free trade area, it is also seeking to create a digital single market, taking advantage of digital technologies to drive economic growth and development. Achieving this market, with accessible digital financial and government services, represents a fundamental transformation. The EU, which is looking to expand its global influence, can support Africa in getting there.



Building an African digital single market

Given African countries' smaller data economies and markets, a digital single market offers enormous potential for economies of scale and economic growth. A digital single market can help Africa achieve its development goals without leaving anyone behind. It can also increase Africa's influence in international fora. Key to achieving this will be the rollout of the AfCFTA digital trade protocol – which was adopted at the AU Summit in February 2024 – and the implementation of a range of continental and regional policies.

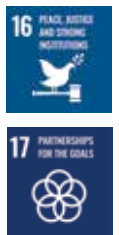
In 2023, we looked at essential aspects of the development of Africa's digital single market and how the EU can support it. We underlined the importance of digital infrastructure investments and continental policy frameworks in a paper produced for the 'Africa-Europe relations: A balanced narrative and reality check' project. We also explored how the EU can support Africa in rolling out digital public infrastructure, like digital identification, digital payment systems and data exchange infrastructure. We zoomed in further on the growing focus on digital ID systems across Africa and looked specifically at the rollout of interoperable digital payment systems in East Africa. Our digital sovereignty work explored Africa's approach to data sovereignty, and we published a first analysis of AI policy and regulation in Africa.

This work generated substantial interest and positive feedback from policymakers in Europe and Africa. We received invitations to speak at or moderate high-level events, including the D4D Hub's panel at the Transform Africa Summit, an AI sovereignty panel at the Internet Governance Forum and the AU's Data Governance and Innovation Forum. We were also interviewed by Oxford University on our work on digital sovereignty and invited to co-chair the Think 7 Italy 2024 Working Group on Science and Digitalization for a Better Future.

We will build on this work in the coming year, focusing on the AfCFTA digital trade protocol, the implementation of the AU's data policy framework and the release of its AI strategy, which is set for 2024. We will cover aspects of cross-border data sharing within the digital single market, and plan to set up a working group to support digital trade under the AfCFTA. Finally, we will be speaking at a host of events on AI policy and regulation in Africa.

Want to see all our work on digital cooperation or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/geopolitics-and-development/digital-cooperation or get in touch with Chloe Teevan or Melody Musoni via ecdpm.org/experts.

Beyond pursuing economic growth, Africa's regional blocs and the AU have complex governance challenges to address. Despite their efforts, they are struggling to contain the worrying trend of coups across the African continent, with their knock-on effects in domains such as security and the economy. The impacts of unconstitutional changes of government extend beyond African borders, also affecting, for instance, relations between Africa and Europe.



Africa's governance landscape: From national to global repercussions

In July 2023, Niger became the latest coup-affected nation in Africa, swiftly followed by Gabon in August. This underscored the significant challenge facing ECOWAS, as the regional bloc most frequently confronted with coups since 2010, prompting concerns about its governance credibility. We explored the implications of the Niger coup from different angles. We spoke to La Libre Belgique and Deutsche Welle about what the coup means for Europe and investigated related issues, such as the role of ECOWAS as a regional governance body, migration cooperation between Niger and the EU, the economic consequences of the ECOWAS sanctions imposed on Niger, and the expansion of the jihadist threat in the Sahel. Multiple organisations picked up and republished this work, and we received several requests for follow-up.

Later in the year, we spoke at a closed-door event on how the EU has responded to recent coups around the world, organised by the European Democracy Hub, and we contributed to an article on the same topic. We also took part in an event hosted by ETTG and UNDP in Brussels on the root causes of conflict and unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, including impacts on security and development, and on the role of the Africa-Europe partnership. This led to the publication of an ETT paper on the subject, to which we also contributed, released in early 2024.

More broadly, we examined Africa's governance architecture and the governance agendas of a number of regional blocs. Since 2021, we have been involved in The Charter Project Africa, which aims to support AU member states in fulfilling their commitments as outlined in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). In 2023, we launched an interactive tool mapping the different organs, institutions and regional economic communities of the African Governance Architecture, in both English and French. We also conducted political economy analyses of the governance agendas of three regional blocs – ECOWAS, EAC and SADC – comparing their frameworks for civil society engagement on governance. In addition, we published a brief analysing the AU's governance agenda. In it, we identified gaps in the African normative framework against unconstitutional changes of government and looked at what the AU and its international partners can do to reverse the trend of coups on the continent.

The state of governance in the Sahel is likely to remain a widely debated topic throughout 2024. We will continue to produce analyses on the issue, focusing particularly on how development partners can stay engaged in the countries in question.

Want to see all our work on governance or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/governance or get in touch with Nneka Okechukwu via ecdpm.org/experts.

Understanding Islamic activism in West Africa, the Sahel and Central Asia

To make decisions that are inclusive and representative of an entire population, governments need to engage with civil society organisations, including religious ones. Appreciation of the need to strengthen local civil society for more effective international development initiatives is not new. But historically, there has been a blind spot for religious organisations, particularly Islamic ones, which are often perceived solely through a security or counterterrorism lens.



Most international development partners understand the need to work with a range of civil society actors, including religious organisations. However, heightened security concerns stemming from the resurgence of the fundamentalist Taliban regime in Afghanistan and the rising presence of Islamist jihadist groups in West Africa and the Sahel have led to the framing of Islamic organisations predominantly through a security lens. Perceptions and understandings of Islamic activism – the way Islamic organisations try to shape their societies – are often lacking in depth, oversimplified or equated with extremism.

In 2023, we carried out a substantial analysis of the wide diversity of Islamic actors and their dynamics, focused on West Africa, the Sahel and Central Asia. We shared the results in a [paper](#) on the history and politics of Islamic activism, the roles of external actors and foreign funding, and how gender and digitalisation tie in. Our research also made recommendations for the EU institutions and EU

member states to guide their future engagement with religious actors. These insights are essential to craft more inclusive and effective policies, interventions, diplomatic relations and sustainable development in regions where Islamic activism plays an integral role.

We found that many development partners continue to apply a security lens when engaging with religious actors, informed by current and past approaches to counter and prevent terrorism – though these have not delivered the desired results. In 2024, we will continue to engage on this topic, as discussions on inclusive and accountable governance remain at the forefront, especially in contexts of heightened conflict and insecurity.

Want to see all our work on peace and security or learn more about what we do? Visit ecdpm.org/topics/peace-and-security or get in touch with Sophie Desmidt or Volker Hauck via ecdpm.org/experts.

Outreach and impact

Our outreach and impact department aims to strengthen the quality, policy relevance, practical usefulness and impact of ECDPM’s work. It consists of two teams: a communications team and a learning and quality team.

Communications team

Communication is crucial for ECDPM to perform its role as a strategic broker for informed policy dialogue. Our mission is to stimulate dialogue with our partners and get ECDPM’s work and ideas to the right people, in the right way, at the right time.

Our team is a multidisciplinary one. We bring together expertise in social media, press relations, online communications, website development, writing and editing, multimedia and print publications, graphic design, and content curation.

In 2023, on top of our regular activities to strategically plan, promote and monitor ECDPM

publications and events, we organised in-house training for staff on social media, media relations and podcasts. With the IT team, we organised training on AI usage and implications.

We worked closely with the migration and mobility team on the EU-funded DYNAMIG project on migration decision-making (see also page 18). We developed and implemented the project’s visual identity, website, and outreach and impact strategy, and provided guidance, training and support to the project team to enhance their communication efforts and maximise impact.

Box 1 Work and outreach in 2023

Work

 **29**
commentaries

 **25**
briefs

 **2**
books and reports

 **35**
papers

 **5**
(interactive) guides

 **37**
events (co-)organised

Website *

 **345,290**
page views

 **149,288**
visitors

* People who reject statistical cookies are not reflected in these numbers, so the actual numbers of page views and visitors are higher.

Most-read work in 2023



- 1) [Trouble in paradise: The EU-Africa partnership in a geopolitical context](#)
- 2) [The EU-Africa partnership: One step forward, two steps backwards](#)
- 3) [What does the regime change in Niger mean for migration cooperation with the EU?](#)
- 4) [Gender equality in EU external action: Leadership from the EU headquarters](#)
- 5) [The mid-term reviews of the NDICI and MFF: Navigating geopolitical consequences of the war in Ukraine](#)
- 6) [Africa-EU climate and energy diplomacy in times of geopolitical crisis](#)
- 7) [The EU’s carbon border tax can accelerate a low-carbon revolution if done right](#)
- 8) [Interactive tool: Mapping the African Governance Architecture](#)
- 9) [Global approaches to digital sovereignty: Competing definitions and contrasting policy](#)
- 10) [Russia’s war propaganda and disinformation: Recentring African agency](#)

Multimedia

 **7**
podcasts in total

 **5**
for the series ‘[Minding the gap: Conversations on gender](#)’

 **2**
for a mini-series on [AU-EU climate diplomacy](#)

 **2,063**
SoundCloud plays

Social media

 **2 X** threads by ECDPM staff
(**4,377** views in total)

 **4** LinkedIn articles by ECDPM staff
(**7,087** views in total)

 **9,287**
LinkedIn followers (+27.9%)

 **11,164**
X followers

 **9,762**
Facebook followers

Media hits

 **25**
media mentions and interviews

 Interviews and articles on our work appeared in Africanews, Deutsche Welle, Devex, EURACTIV, La Libre Belgique, POLITICO, The New Humanitarian and The Financial Times, among others

Data protection

To ensure compliance with the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we have implemented various policies and procedures, which we review and update annually. There were no data breaches at ECDPM in 2023.

See our [privacy policy](https://ecdpm.org/privacy) at ecdpm.org/privacy.

Learning and quality team

Our learning and quality team leads ECDPM’s strategic and operational planning and facilitates progress reviews of the work we do, considering our strategy and the evolving contexts we work in. The team strengthens the Centre’s monitoring and reporting approaches and systems. It also provides advice to elevate the quality of ECDPM outputs. Learning and review take place around theories of change. The team helps ECDPM’s workstreams and partners refine their research approaches and methodologies, including on [gender](#) ([see also box 3](#)), [political economy analysis](#) and [policy coherence](#).

In 2023, alongside our regular activities, we conducted a staff survey with the human resources team ([see also page 38](#)), to assess staff wellbeing and identify areas for improvement related to work-life balance, career growth and learning, diversity and inclusion, and our organisational structure. We analysed the results and formulated a number of recommendations, which will be implemented in 2024.

Towards the end of 2023, we initiated preparations for the mid-term review of our [2022–2026 strategy](#), scheduled for the first half of 2024. This review assesses the ongoing relevance of our strategy amid evolving work contexts, draw insights from past strategic decisions, and pinpoint areas that require adaptation. In the lead-up to the process, we asked our workstream teams to reflect on their theories of change, evaluate their contributions during the initial phase of the strategic period, reassess objectives in light of geopolitical shifts, and outline future directions.



Box 2 What we learnt in 2023

We track progress on a number of centre-wide priorities, using an internal monitoring tool that we developed in 2022. Our 2023 progress review also considered the findings from our internal staff survey, helping us to draw lessons for the future and highlighting what we did well in 2023 and what we can do better in 2024 and beyond. A few lessons stand out:

Organisational structure

Our new structure, effective as of January 2022, brought a shift from five programmes to ten workstreams, each assigned to one of three clusters. This structure has generated more energy and space for individual staff members and brought greater flexibility. However, the structure still needs to deliver on some of its ambitions, especially in promoting collaboration across teams to capitalise on the Centre’s diverse expertise. To address this, we organised an internal workshop to explore ideas from staff on how we can use our organisational set-up more effectively.

Gender equality, diversity and inclusion

In the past years, we have taken important steps when it comes to ensuring gender equality, diversity and inclusion. However, our staff survey in 2023 did highlight a few areas for improvement. We formulated a set of actionable recommendations, which will be further

reviewed by the works council and our diversity and inclusion working group in 2024 ([see also page 39](#)).

A corresponding ambition is to ensure that gender equality is incorporated throughout all of our research. We therefore introduced an ECDPM gender marker in 2022. A progress review of the marker in 2023 ([see box 3](#)) revealed that, although we have not yet reached our ambition, the number of our publications incorporating gender issues has increased.

Outreach and impact

In 2023, we tested an outreach and impact tracker to help the workstream teams strategically plan and monitor their work, with the aim of increasing our outreach and impact. Recognising the importance of showcasing ECDPM’s contributions, role and added value, we started using the tracker to capture impact narratives.

Box 3 Gender marker



ECDPM’s [gender marker](#), introduced in 2022, guides staff to improve the extent to which gender is addressed throughout our work. It promotes the use of a gender lens and helps staff rank their research according to five levels, from ‘gender blind’ to ‘gender transformative’. Our target is for all our work to rank at least ‘gender sensitive’.

Ensuring understanding and uptake of the marker is in the joint hands of our gender coordinator, our three cluster focal points, and the outreach and impact department. They encourage staff to consider gender and use the gender marker when planning their work, and support staff in doing so throughout all of their research and analysis.

We evaluate our progress in incorporating gender equality into our work on an annual basis.

In 2023, we saw a notable improvement compared to 2022, with an increase in gender aware, sensitive, responsive and transformative publications. Our gender aware publications, in particular, doubled, reflecting a significant improvement in our experts’ attention to gender in their research and in team meetings. We also introduced a podcast series dedicated entirely to gender, called [‘Minding the gap: Conversations on gender’](#).

In 2024, we will continue to promote the effective use of the gender marker, track its usage and offer feedback and recommendations to different teams within the organisation. We will also strengthen the visibility of ECDPM’s gender work, including through a [gender dossier on our website](#) and a second season of our gender podcast series.

Finances

Throughout 2023, Europe continued to face financial challenges, exacerbated by Russia’s war in Ukraine, the Israel– Hamas war, extreme weather events and reduced economic prospects. While the cost-of-living crisis began to ease, Europe’s economies continued to grapple with economic pressures. Several European governments reduced or redirected their official development assistance.

Following the high inflation of 2022, driven by the energy crisis, inflation rates in Europe normalised from a peak of 9.9% in February 2023 to 3.1% in November. However, the high inflation of 2022 and early 2023 continued to weigh on European economies. In June 2023, the eurozone entered a technical recession after experiencing two consecutive quarters of decline.

ECDPM was not immune to this economic turbulence. We faced heightened costs from various service providers and increased employee expenses, while the majority of our funders have maintained their funding at current levels. In response, we prioritised cost reduction in an effort to safeguard our financial stability.

Accountability and transparency

We continue to strive for the highest standards of accountability and transparency. Annually, an external auditor reviews our finances, financial procedures and internal control mechanisms. For the 2023 financial year, we changed external auditors to EY, who confirmed that our 2023 financial statements give a true and fair overview of the Centre’s financial position. The detailed financial report is available for review at our Maastricht office.

Since 2014, Transparify has evaluated the financial transparency of think tanks around the world. ECDPM has been consistently awarded its maximum five-star rating.

For more information, visit transparify.org.

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS	COUNTRY	FUNDING
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs*	Netherlands	€2,934,661
Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation*	Belgium	€799,034
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs / Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)*	Sweden	€588,214
Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs*	Luxembourg	€321,697
Irish Aid, Irish Department of Foreign Affairs*	Ireland	€320,000
Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs*	Finland	€240,143
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*	Denmark	€205,125
Austrian Development Agency (ADA) / Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs	Austria	€204,037
Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*	Estonia	€8,000
*Also includes medium- and short-term funding. For a breakdown of institutional, medium-term and short-term funding, see our detailed funding overview .		
OTHER FUNDERS		
European Commission - Particip	Belgium	€731,964
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	United States	€540,879
OSF Services Berlin - Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI)	Germany	€302,504
European Commission - International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	Belgium	€285,817
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Italy	€221,792
European Commission - Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)	Belgium	€179,638
European Commission	Belgium	€158,991
European Commission - Delegation of the EU to the AU	Belgium	€135,930
UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA)	Ethiopia	€113,762
European Commission - European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)	Belgium	€109,630
European Commission - Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)	Belgium	€89,656
European Climate Foundation (ECF)	Netherlands	€81,336
European Investment Bank (EIB)	Luxembourg	€58,569
Center for Global Development (CGD) Europe	United Kingdom	€41,868
Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP)	Netherlands	€38,605
European Commission - DAI Global Belgium	Belgium	€35,276
European Commission - Altair Asesores	Belgium	€33,968
Gatsby Africa	Kenya	€32,204
Nuffic - Maastricht School of Management (MSM)	Netherlands	€30,352
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Germany	€28,900
European Commission - Ecorys	Belgium	€27,550
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Italy	€25,000
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation	Netherlands	€24,873
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs - Embassy of France in the Netherlands	France	€21,996
Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP)	Italy	€20,000
Elcano Royal Institute	Spain	€14,650
Foundation to Promote Open Society (FPOS)	United States	€14,310
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - GRADE	Italy	€13,961
United Nations - International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Switzerland	€12,126
Enabel	Belgium	€10,998
Biodiversity International	Italy	€10,700
King Baudouin Foundation	Belgium	€7,950
OSMOS Global Partnerships	Lithuania	€6,612
Institute of International Affairs (IAI)	Italy	€4,658
Alliance2015	Belgium	€3,260
Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana	Ghana	€3,200
University of Birmingham	United Kingdom	€2,728
Various other funders < €2,500	Various	€12,301
GRAND TOTAL		€9,109,426

Balance sheet

As of 31 December
In thousands of euros

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Fixed assets		
Intangible fixed assets	99	108
Tangible fixed assets	1,979	2,037
Financial fixed assets	4,669	4,340
<i>Investment portfolio</i>	4,669	4,327
<i>Participation in EDCS share fund</i>	-	13
Total fixed assets	6,747	6,485
Current assets		
Receivables	1,706	1,253
<i>Payments in advance</i>	257	118
<i>Trade debtors</i>	1,449	1,135
Taxation contributions	20	31
Cash	2,854	2,812
Total current assets	4,580	4,096
TOTAL ASSETS	11,327	10,581
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	507	449
<i>Trade creditors</i>	114	97
<i>Employee-related creditors</i>	83	59
<i>Employee-related taxation due</i>	310	293
Other liabilities	2,525	2,164
Provisions	390	170
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,422	2,783
EQUITY		
Retained reserves	7,905	7,798
TOTAL EQUITY	7,905	7,798
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	11,327	10,581

Income and expenditure account

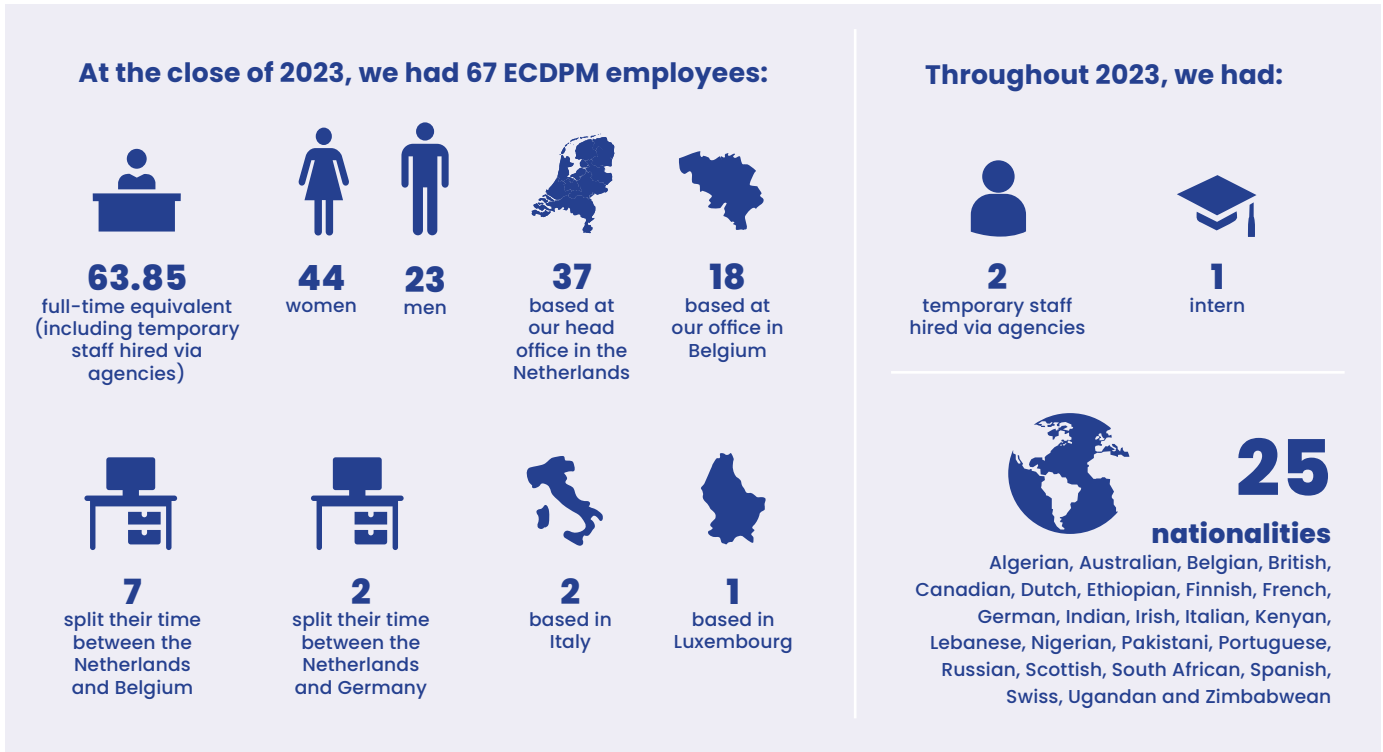
From 1 January until 31 December
In thousands of euros

	2023 actual results	2023 budgeted results	2022 actual results
INCOME			
Institutional funding	5,266	5,162	4,844
Other funding received	3,843	3,736	3,751
Other income	53	-	9
TOTAL INCOME	9,162	8,898	8,604
EXPENDITURE			
Direct operational expenses	(922)	(850)	(1,333)
Salaries and other personnel costs	(7,115)	(7,380)	(6,627)
Accommodation expenses	(570)	(340)	(288)
General and administrative expenses	(395)	(280)	(305)
Information technology related expenses	(148)	(160)	(137)
Depreciation	(162)	(170)	(148)
Other miscellaneous items	(113)	(20)	(10)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(9,425)	(9,200)	(8,848)
OPERATING RESULTS	(263)	(302)	(244)
INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO			
Interest and dividend income	91	*	45
Result of sales	(14)	*	26
Result on market value	317	*	(716)
Banking costs	-	*	(26)
Interest expense	(24)	*	(9)
TOTAL RESULT OF THE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	370	*	(680)
TOTAL RESULT	107	(302)	(924)
ALLOCATION OF RESULTS			
Contribution to retained reserves from prior periods	107	(302)	(924)

* The investment portfolio results are not taken into account in ECDPM's budgeting process.

Our people

ECDPM is home to policy, communications and support staff from more than 25 countries around the globe.



Investing in our people

We encourage our staff to grow professionally. To facilitate this, we allocate a yearly budget per staff member. This year, our staff took part in a range of training programmes to improve their skills and efficiency in a number of areas, including:

- Languages
- Writing
- Social media, media relations and podcasts
- Information and communication technology
- Artificial intelligence
- Confidential advisers
- First aid
- Finance and fundraising
- Leadership and personal coaching
- Project management
- Occupational health and safety
- Human resources
- Mental wellbeing

Staff also participated in training to broaden their thematic knowledge, for example, on political economy analysis; decolonising knowledge; religion, radicalisation and resilience; and quantitative methods for social science.

Our junior staff are assigned relatively high levels of responsibility, which allows them to quickly gain relevant experience.

Staff satisfaction

In 2023, we conducted a staff survey to assess staff wellbeing and identify areas of improvement related to work-life balance, career growth and learning, diversity and inclusion, and our organisational structure (**see also page 32**). The survey was a joint initiative by the human resources department and the learning and quality team, incorporating insights from the works council, confidential advisers, and the diversity and inclusion working group. The survey achieved a good response rate, at 81%, and the feedback was generally positive. We shared the results within the organisation and formulated recommendations for improvements. In 2024, we will monitor progress towards these with a follow-up survey.

Diversity and inclusion

We believe that a gender-balanced and diverse group of staff from Europe, Africa and beyond encourages new ideas and different ways of thinking and working. We aim to be an equal opportunity employer and promote diversity and inclusion among our staff and candidates – irrespective of gender, age, nationality, race, culture, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or disability. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is detailed in our [strategy](#) and action plan, and it was actively implemented and monitored throughout 2023, supported by a dedicated working group. Our staff survey in 2023 collected and analysed diversity and inclusion-related data, resulting in a set of actionable recommendations. The works council will further review our analysis and recommendations on these.

Hybrid working

The COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed the way people work. During lockdowns, we saw that working from home in no way compromised staff commitment, productivity or the quality of ECDPM's outputs. In 2022, we therefore introduced a new policy on office presence and working from home. In general, staff members have a large degree of flexibility in terms of where and when they work – provided that some basic conditions are met. A small share of staff members is present at our offices on a regular basis, to ensure adequate support and office management.

Staff have expressed overall satisfaction with the opportunities that hybrid working offers for work-life balance. However, the policy has presented some practical challenges when it comes to ensuring team functioning, organisational cohesion and mental wellbeing. To address these, we made some changes in early 2023, and management and the works council continue to monitor the policy to balance staff and organisational needs.

Safety, health and wellbeing

In 2023, no serious incidents or accidents occurred at our ECDPM offices. We continue to take all necessary steps to maintain a safe and healthy workplace, in addition to the procedures and safety measures already in place:

- Both of our offices feature ergonomic office furniture and equipment to minimise occupational hazards associated with computer use. Staff members working from home can also request ergonomic equipment.
- We have a team of emergency response officers who are certified on an annual basis.
- In line with the Dutch Occupational Health and Safety Act, staff can request an evaluation aimed at

preventing or limiting, insofar as possible, health-related risks at work.

In the past few years, we have also made the mental wellbeing of our staff a priority. In 2022, we launched an internal campaign aimed at mitigating work-related stress and preventing mental health issues in the workplace. In early 2023, we partnered with the OpenUp platform to provide our staff with a range of online tools to support their mental wellbeing. Over the course of the year, six employees engaged in confidential one-on-one sessions with a psychologist, ten used mental health check-ins, and 22 participated in masterclasses covering various mental health themes – all facilitated by OpenUp.

To promote social connectivity and wellbeing, we initiated a task force dedicated to organising events that bring our staff members together outside the work environment. Additionally, we introduced yoga classes aimed at reducing stress and enhancing overall wellbeing.

Sick leave at ECDPM

In 2023, our sick leave was 10.16% in the Netherlands, 5.18% in Belgium, 2.53% in Luxembourg, 3.60% in Germany and 0% in Italy. The Netherlands experienced a higher sickness rate due to the extended absence of a few colleagues, resulting from unforeseen events like accidents and medical procedures requiring longer recovery periods.

Our works council

Our works council, created in 2014, represents staff on a variety of matters, especially personnel policy and employment conditions. In 2023, the works council had constructive dialogues with the management team and informed the Board on a range of topics, including:

- ECDPM's office space in Brussels
- ECDPM's (parental) leave and hybrid working policies
- Split contracts for staff dividing their time between different countries
- An assessment of the 2021-2022 process aimed at making ECDPM 'fit for future'

As the formal two-year term of the works council ended in December 2023, we organised elections towards the end of the year. In January 2024, a new five-member works council was elected for a two-year period.

Staff confidential advisers

In 2023, we had two confidential advisers whom staff could approach to discuss any concerns or difficulties they faced.

Governance

Members of our Board




Adebayo Olukoshi *Nigeria*
Chair of the Board
Distinguished Professor at the Centre for the Advanced Study of Democracy and Development (Wits School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand), Senior Associate Fellow at the Nordic Africa Institute, and Honorary Professor at the University of Edinburgh




Koos Richelle *The Netherlands*
Vice-Chair of the Board
Member of the Dutch Advisory Council on International Affairs and Chair of its Commission on Development Cooperation, and former Director-General at the European Commission in the areas of development, employment, social affairs and inclusion




Ruth Jacoby *Sweden*
Former Director-General for International Development Cooperation at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, member of the UN High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, former Executive Director of the Board of the World Bank, and former Ambassador of Sweden to Germany and Italy




Jean-Claude Boidin* *France*
Former EU Ambassador and former Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development




Alan Hirsch* *South Africa*
Research Fellow at the New South Institute, Emeritus Professor at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance (University of Cape Town), Research Associate at the Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies (SOAS University of London), and Economic Advisor to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa




Richard Dohmen *The Netherlands*
Director at Grouwels Vastgoed, member of the Board of Stichting de Weijerhorst, and former financial auditor at PwC




Bience Gawanas *Namibia*
Former Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the UN Secretary-General, former Special Advisor to the Namibian Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and the Minister of Health and Social Services, and former AU Commissioner for Social Affairs



Marie-Roger Biloa *Cameroon*
Chief Executive Director of the Africa International Media Group and its branch MRB Productions, editorial writer, and consultant on public policy and economic intelligence




Roeland van de Geer *The Netherlands*
Advisor to several think tanks and non-governmental organisations across Africa and Europe, former EU Special Representative to the African Great Lakes Region, and former Ambassador to South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, the East African Community and Afghanistan



Said Djinnit *Algeria*
Senior Advisor to the European Institute of Peace and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and Head of the UN Office for West Africa, and former AU Commissioner for Peace and Security

* In November 2023, Jean-Claude Boidin and Alan Hirsch stepped down as members of the ECDPM Board. The ECDPM Board, management and staff thank them for their years of outstanding service, dedication and commitment.


Honorary advisor to the ECDPM Board of Governors on European external affairs




Dieter Frisch *Germany*
Former Director-General for Development at the European Commission




Members of our management team




Carl Michiels *Belgium*
Director




Mariella Di Ciommo *Italy*
Associate Director of Europe and Africa in the World



Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw *Ethiopia*
Associate Director of Peaceful Societies and Accountable Governance




San Bilal *Switzerland*
Associate Director of Sustainable African Economies and Climate Action




Andrew Sherriff *Scotland*
Associate Director of Institutional Relations and Partnerships



Virginia Mucchi *Italy*
Head of Outreach and Impact



Riaan Paul *South Africa*
Head of Finance and Operations



Marleen Ackermans *The Netherlands*
Head of Human Resources

For more information about our management team and Board, please visit ecdpm.org/governance.

Our partners

Partnerships are at the heart of our work. Partners inspire new ideas and enable systematic exchanges of experiences and best practices. Most importantly, combined efforts are more powerful than any individual, uncoordinated actions could ever be.

ECDPM collaborates with a broad range of partners who increase the value of our work. Our inputs, in turn, add value to work done by others. We also connect our partners, stimulating strategic collaboration among them towards common goals.

Institutional partners

Austrian Development Agency (ADA) / Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Irish Aid, Irish Department of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs / Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Programme and project partners

adelphi

African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)

African Governance Architecture Secretariat (AGA)

African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC)

African Union Commission (AUC)

Africivistes

Afrobarometer

AKADEMIYA2063

Alliance2015

Altair Asesores

Ambrela – Platform for Development Organisations

AUDA-NEPAD

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bioversity International

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP)

Center for Global Development (CGD) Europe

Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE)

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)

Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research)

Chatham House

CINOP

Code for Africa

CONCORD

Council of the European Union

DAI Global Belgium

Delegation of the EU to the AU

Democracy Works Foundation

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

E3G

Ecorys Netherlands

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)

Elizade University

Enabel

European Climate Foundation (ECF)

European Commission

European External Action Service (EEAS)

European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

European Institute of Peace (EIP)

European Investment Bank (EIB)

European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)

European University Institute (EUI)

Europlus

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FoodFIRST Coalition, Socires

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Gatsby Africa

GFA Consulting Group

Gorée Institute

Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Kiel Institute for the World Economy

King Baudouin Foundation

Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KPSRL)

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP)

Maastricht School of Management (MSM)

MediatEUR

Middlesex University Higher Education Corporation

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)

Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP)

NIRAS Development Consulting

Nuffic

Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI)

Open Society Foundation (OSF)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

OSF Services Berlin

OSMOS Global Partnerships

Particip

Policy and Operations Evaluation Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (IOB)

Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation

Search for Common Ground

Southern Voice

SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Tony Blair Institute

TradeMark Africa

TrustWorks Global

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA)

University of Birmingham

University of Luxembourg

European Think Tanks Group (ETTG)

Elcano Royal Institute

European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Institute of International Affairs (IAI)

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

ODI

Are you interested in partnering with us? Get in touch with Andrew Sherriff or Kathleen Van Hove via ecdpm.org/experts.

Sustainability



ECDPM promotes better international policies that benefit sustainable global development. But making the planet a better place starts with ourselves. We recognise that given the nature of our work, our efforts and activities inevitably impact the environment. We aim to minimise this environmental impact, through compliance with regulations and legislation and via our own initiatives. Integrating sustainability into all our daily activities is a learning process, but we eagerly work towards that goal.

Integrating sustainability

Our Maastricht office – known as the Pelican House – is the only Art Nouveau building in Maastricht and is listed as a national monument by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. In 2021, we applied for and received a grant from the agency for the preservation of the building. Because our office is a national monument, we are somewhat limited in the types of changes we are allowed to make to the building's interior and exterior. However, we remain committed to implementing sustainability improvements wherever possible.

We have integrated smart and environmentally aware principles into our procurement and office processes. For example, we exclusively source office furniture made from sustainable resources. In 2022, we introduced several smart solutions at our Maastricht office, including an access control system that helps us quickly respond to access requests remotely. Additionally, we installed smart, low-power light sensors and a smart temperature control system. These allow for real-time monitoring and help us prevent wasteful energy consumption. Thanks to these changes, we reduced our energy consumption by 12.7% in 2023.

In 2022, we moved into a new office space in Brussels, located in a multi-company building owned by Clockwise. The building is easily accessible by public transport, and the offices are furnished with high-quality products from sustainable resources. Clockwise aims to become a certified carbon-neutral business by 2025.

Travel

We aim to reduce travel, not only between our offices in Maastricht and Brussels but also to our partners, through intelligent use of electronic communications and video conferencing. We also incentivise public transportation, in particular by rail, to minimise our travel footprint. However, travel by plane is unavoidable, given the nature of our work. Therefore, we continue to participate in the Bluebiz CO2ZERO service, which contributes to the reforestation project CO2OL Tropical Mix in Panama and holds a 'Gold Standard for the Global Goals' certificate.

Sustainable sourcing

Our purchasing policy emphasises sustainable products and services. Whenever possible, we work with local suppliers who stand by this commitment.



Concept

Nina Thijssen,
Virginia Mucchi and
Yaseena Chiu-van 't Hoff

Texts

Nina Thijssen

Art direction and design

Yaseena Chiu-van 't Hoff

Thank you to Michelle Luijben, Annette Powell and Jonathan Hunter for providing editorial assistance and to all ECDPM staff who contributed to the report.

PHOTO CREDITS

Front cover and page 1

A fully AI-generated image featuring a fictional city in Africa.

Page 2

ECDPM Board Chair Adebayo Olukoshi. Photo: University of Johannesburg.

Page 3

ECDPM Director Carl Michiels. Photo: Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Page 4 and 5

ECDPM's Volker Hauck interviews staff members of a local radio station in Voinjama, Liberia.

Page 6 and 7

ECDPM's Amandine Sabourin (far right seated on the panel) and Alexei Jones (on the lectern) at an event on advancing democracy, human rights and gender equality through NDICI-Global Europe, organised by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU in cooperation with ECDPM. Photo: Katja Sergejeff, ECDPM.

Page 10

ECDPM's Hilda Milka Koyier, Philomena Apiko and Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw at a closed-door meeting with African ambassadors at ECDPM's Brussels office. Photo: Virginia Mucchi, ECDPM.

Page 12

Top: ECDPM's Pauline Veron presents an EU study on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, undertaken by ECDPM and Particip, at an 'InfoPoint' event organised by DG INTPA in Brussels. Photo: ECDPM.

Below: ECDPM's Volker Hauck presents the findings of the EU strategic country evaluation of Somalia, undertaken by ECDPM and Particip, at an 'InfoPoint' event organised by DG INTPA in Brussels. Photo: Virginia Mucchi, ECDPM.

Page 13

Left: ECDPM's Melody Musoni with other panellists at the Internet Governance Forum 2023 in Kyoto. Photo: ECDPM.

Right: ECDPM's San Bilal moderates a panel during an event on European financing for adaptation to cascading climate risks, organised in ECDPM's Brussels office for the CASCADES project. Photo: Catarina Farinha, ECDPM.

Page 14

Left: ECDPM's Daniel Adeniyi addresses a public hearing on the state of play of the EU-Africa strategy, organised by the European Parliament's development committee in Brussels. Photo: screenshot taken from the [event recording](#).

Right: ECDPM's Anna Knoll with participants of the DYNAMIG policy workshop at ECDPM's Brussels office. Photo: Virginia Mucchi, ECDPM.

Page 15

Top: ECDPM's Francesco Rampa speaks at COP28 side event on climate finance, organised by ECDPM, AUDA-NEPAD and AKADEMIYA2063. Photo: ECDPM.

Middle: Hillary Clinton speaks at an event on women building a climate-resilient world at COP28 in Dubai. Photo: Hanne Knaepen, ECDPM.

Below: ECDPM's Hanne Knaepen, who moderated a side event on women building resilience in cities, organised by the Cities Alliance of UNOPS at COP28 in Dubai, with the event panellists. Photo: Chiara D'Aloia Baker, ECDPM.

Page 16

ECDPM's Amandine Sabourin speaks at a meeting on the implications of the EU's development policy shifts for partner countries, organised by ECDPM and the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU in Brussels. Photo: Jonathan Hunter, ECDPM.

Page 19

ECDPM's Anna Knoll at a policy workshop for the DYNAMIG project at ECDPM's Brussels office. Photo: Virginia Mucchi, ECDPM.

Page 20

ECDPM's Cecilia D'Alessandro moderates the event 'Knocking on the Door of Higher Education Institutions – The AU-EU Innovation Agenda and the Involvement of Nordic Actors' in Brussels. Photo: @Benoît COLLETTE Photography.

Page 23

ECDPM's San Bilal speaking at the Finance In Common Summit in Cartagena. Photo: ©Finance in Common.

Page 24

Street in Nairobi. Photo: Katja Sergejeff, ECDPM.

Page 28

A mosque in Voinjama, Liberia. Photo: Volker Hauck ECDPM.

Page 33

Staff meeting at ECDPM's head office in Maastricht. Photo: Yaseena Chiu-van 't Hoff, ECDPM.

Page 41

ECDPM's board members at ECDPM's head office in Maastricht. Photo: Nina Thijssen, ECDPM.

Page 45

ECDPM's head office in Maastricht. Photo by Yaseena Chiu-van 't Hoff, ECDPM.

Contact us

ECDPM has two offices: in Maastricht (the Netherlands) and Brussels (Belgium).

We would love to hear from you. Contact us by telephone or email (info@ecdpm.org). If you would like to get in touch with any of our staff members directly, visit ecdpm.org/experts for their individual contact details.

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