

# NL Global International - Dec. 2018

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## ECG International Newsletter December 2018

**Dear supporters and members of the Economy for the Common Good,**

We at the ECG editorial team are excited to publish another version of our international English-language newsletter. It's been too long since the last issue and starting today we pledge to keep you updated every two months.

It's been a momentous year from our Delegates Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal in May to the founding of the ECG International Federation in September. Dozens of new local chapters have sprung up from Colorado to Kenya, cities have adopted the ECG idea and hundreds of lectures and public-speaking events have taken place. The cornerstone of our vision for a new economy is the ECG Balance Sheet and this year has seen numerous companies adopt the ECG approach.

As a non-profit we depend on your support to continue our work. Please consider becoming a [member](#) or [donating to our movement](#). If you haven't done so already, please [sign up as a supporter](#) on our web site.

Best wishes,

Bridget Knapper and Gus Hagelberg from the ECG Management Team

### In this issue

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### International ECG Federation founded

In September 2018, delegates from nine ECG national associations (Chile, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and the UK) signed the foundation documents for the ECG International Federation. All of these national associations are united in the same vision - to live well in a world in which the economy is aligned with ethical values.

There are already more than 30 ECG associations and over 100 local chapters. The ECG International Federation was created to meet the needs of our global movement. It will support the collaboration of existing members and sharing best practice and it will act as the membership body for new countries joining. It will also enter into partnerships and collaborations with other organisations at an international level which share the same goals, e.g. UN Sustainable Development Goals, Non-Financial Reporting initiatives.



ECG groups are also forming in France, Croatia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Argentina, Ghana, Colombia, Mexico and the USA.

Contact: [federation@ecogood.org](mailto:federation@ecogood.org)

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**HUBS**

Numerous international hubs (or permanent working groups) are involved in helping make the ECG vision come true. They are made up of members from different countries who come together on a voluntary basis to share ideas and generate practical models and materials for encouraging people, companies and organisations to behave more ethically.

The Matrix Development Team is one such hub which has put in countless hours creating the business transformation tools that form the heart of our movement. The Municipalities Hub has developed materials from the Common Good Matrix for use with local authorities, cities and regions. Further hubs include the Youth, Consultants, Auditors, Education, Science, Speakers and Communications hubs. You can find the complete [list of hubs and contacts here](#).

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## LOCAL CHAPTERS

During the past few months we have seen new ECG Local Chapters popping up all over the globe. We are excited to announce the creation of the first local chapter in North America. An ambitious and creative group of ten activists have begun meeting as part of the ECG Local Chapter in Boulder, Colorado. In South and Central America we have ten local chapters and in Chile we have our first ECG association outside of Europe.

A motivated group has recently created the ECG Asia Pacific Local Chapter, centered in the Philippines, but with planned activities in Indonesia and Australia.

In Europe we also have new chapters in France, Belgium, Netherlands and Montenegro.

A complete list of our [Local Chapters](#) can be found here.

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## BUSINESSES

### Greenpeace Germany

At the end of 2017, Greenpeace Germany announced the publication of its first ECG Balance Sheet. Their score of 653 out of 1000 points is something to be proud of.

"Greenpeace considers that the current economic system is fundamentally flawed because it measures economic success solely in financial terms. Financial success and profit maximisation at all levels should not be the goal of the economy. Increasing the common good and ensuring a good life for all should lie at the heart of all economic activity.

Inspired by the ECG philosophy, Greenpeace decided to support ECG and be the first large NGO in Germany to be measured and evaluated through the Common Good Balance Sheet, a future-oriented model. Greenpeace scored the highest points in the areas of 'contribution to the common good', 'purpose and social benefit' and 'ethical financial management'. Lower scores were found in the areas of 'solidarity with organisations in the same field', 'social design of activities' and 'social transparency and co-determination'."

As a result of publishing its first Common Good Balance Sheet, Greenpeace Germany anticipates making changes, including:

- The systemic causes of environmental damage and resource depletion will be highlighted more strongly in campaigns
- A review of the structure of the organisation to develop internal collaboration
- Explore further models and possibilities to support work/life balance

An article and the Greenpeace ECG balance sheet (in German) can be [found here](#).

Links to the core materials for producing a Common Good Balance Sheet in English can be [found here](#) (scroll to the bottom of that page).



### First Belgian Businesses beginning with Balance Sheets

A small milestone has been reached in Belgium and according to the participants it was a pleasant one!

Five freelancers have started the process of creating a Common Good Report. While the most common path for businesses is in utilizing individual consultants, in Belgium they chose the 'peer review' method. In that process, reports are created and then evaluated by each member of the group in a series of meetings.



The group has reported lots of improvements in the process and is optimistic about the positive effects of their businesses.

This peer review with freelancers serves as a pilot for future peer review programs with larger companies.

We are already in touch with some companies, but are more than happy to hear if you are interested to join with your company for another cycle of peer reviews.

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## MUNICIPALITIES

### German Cities supporting ECG

The Bavarian town of Kirchanschöering has become the first municipality in Germany to complete an ECG Balance Sheet. According to city officials, changes resulting from the Balance Sheet include:

- The town now cooperates with an ethical bank
- A community house for the elderly offers apartments and cultural events
- A new project called "Alternative living in Kirchanschöering" provides more efficient land use



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The German cities of Stuttgart (over 600,000 residents) and Mannheim (over 300,000 residents) have designated four city-owned businesses to complete ECG Balance Sheets. The city of Stuttgart has gone a step further and hired a paid staff person to manage ECG efforts in the region and is also subsidizing local private companies who complete a Balance Sheet.

### Spain and ECG

Spain continues to be a major center of ECG activity. Orendain in the Basque Country was the first city ever to complete an ECG Balance Sheet. The town of Miranda de Azan followed in their footsteps.

Horta-Guniardo with its 170,000 residents is a suburb of Barcelona and is a certified ECG city.

The University of Valencia, Spain offers a Master's Program in Economy for the Common Good.



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## EVENTS

### Consultants Training Course in Slovenia

**March 27 - 30th, 2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

The Slovenian ECG Local Chapter will host a training seminar for business consultants to be certified as ECG consultants.

Find out more on [their web page](#).

### ECG Consultant Training UK

**April 4 - 7th, 2019, London, UK**

The UK association is hosting training for business consultants to be certified as ECG consultants.

*A framework for ethical management and sustainable business*

Canada Water Theatre und Library, London

For further information contact: [info@ecguk.org](mailto:info@ecguk.org)

## **ECG Speakers meeting in Belgium**

**February 4th, 2019**

Are you involved in promoting the Economy for the Common Good? Are you one of the people who regularly makes presentations about the Economy for the Common Good?

If you are - or if you intend to become - a speaker for the Economy for the Common Good, this meeting is for you. During a half-day session, Christian Felber will share his experiences about speeches, interviews, press conferences, discussion panels, in public meetings or on radio and television.

We will focus on handling objections from a content point of view (not the techniques of handling objections), that will go beyond the 'Frequently Asked Questions' chapter at the end of the book.

The session will take place in Brussels on Monday February 4th in the afternoon.

In the morning, we propose to come together and take the opportunity to get to know each other, to exchange experiences and possible presentation tools and materials; discuss common needs and the way to address them. Therefore we suggest that you travel to Brussels on the 3rd.

Attendance itself is free of charge.

Contact: [info@ecocommongood.be](mailto:info@ecocommongood.be)

## **Delegates Assembly 2019 in Stuttgart, Germany**

**May 3 - 5, 2019**

ECG delegates from around the world will gather in Stuttgart, Germany to discuss the strategy for the movement and vote on new proposals. Registration details will be published shortly. Save the date!

## **BEST ECONOMY Forum**

**9th to 11th April, 2019, Bozen, Italy**

Information, program and registration at [besteconomy.org](http://besteconomy.org).

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## **SAVE THE DATE** **9 - 11 April 2019**

*"The founders and partners of the BEST ECONOMY forum are hosting an international discus*

*sion. The conference will focus on concrete, successful strategies and approaches by businesses for businesses. The emphasis is on the exchange of ideas and bundling of strengths. By incorporating young entrepreneurs and businesses the exchange of experience will also be between generations. This enables all of those involved to learn from one another in order to implement successful solutions."*

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### **Important Links**

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