

Reflections on 2024

Justice and Environment Newsletter

As we step into a new year, let's reflect on some of the key milestones from 2024 that shaped our journey towards environmental justice, climate action, and sustainability. Here are the highlights you shouldn't miss!

EU level study on the Charter of Fundamental Rights in Climate Decision-making 2024

In 2024, the Justice & Environment (J&E) concluded its STELLAR Rights project, which focused on the integration of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter) into climate and energy law and policy-making.




The STELLAR Rights project specifically examined the implementation of key rights and principles from the Charter, including environmental protection (Art. 37), healthcare (Art. 35), the right to good administration (Art. 41), the right of access to documents (Art. 42), and the right to

an effective remedy and a fair trial (Art. 47). For more details, click [here](#).

Through this initiative, J&E aimed to raise awareness about how these fundamental rights intersect with EU climate and energy legislation, and how they can be leveraged to influence decision-making processes at both the EU and national levels.

J&E Publishes Policy Recommendations

J&E has successfully concluded its Discussions and Actions on Climate and Environment (DACE) project, which ran from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2024.





Based on the outcomes of the project, J&E has submitted **key policy recommendations** to European policymakers and decision-makers.

Throughout the project's implementation, J&E focused on long-term impact, aiming to generate insights and recommendations that would extend beyond the project period and continue to inspire the work of lawyers, NGOs, and activists for years to come.

J&E Develops Recommendations for More Effective Public Participation in EIAs

J&E has developed **a set of recommendations** aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of public participation in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

The recommendations, based on J&E's extensive practical experience, highlight ways to improve public involvement, ensuring that decision-making processes are more inclusive and impactful.

J&E Fought Against SLAPPs

Summer Kern, representing Justice and Environment (J&E), attended an important event at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg with the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE). The gathering focused on the urgent need to combat Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which were used to silence journalists, whistleblowers, and activists.

As part of our commitment to this cause, we've also created **a SLAPP leaflet**, providing essential information about the EU Anti-SLAPP Directive and the Council of Europe's Anti-SLAPP Recommendation.

Aarhus Digital Offered a Guide for Online Participation Portals

Aarhus Digital, a project by Unabhängiges Institut für Umweltfragen, one of J&E's member organisations, has released a guide to help create effective online participation portals. The guide follows the principles of the Aarhus Convention and aims to make it easier for people to take part in environmental decision-making.

This project highlights the importance of digital tools in encouraging public involvement and transparency.

Aarhus Digital

Guide for Online Participation Portals in
Compliance with the Aarhus Convention

J&E Climate Rights Journalism Workshop

Justice and Environment, in collaboration with BlueLink.net, hosted an **International Journalism Workshop on Climate Rights in Vienna**.

The workshop culminated in a series of articles on climate rights and environmental justice, amplifying crucial issues through the lens of media.



Steel Project – Catalyzing Change in the EU Steel Industry

Justice and Environment launched the Steel Project to drive the decarbonisation of the steel industry, one of the largest contributors to CO2 emissions.

J&E has produced a series of six studies focusing on the legal strategies for the decarbonisation of the steel sector across Central and Eastern Europe. These studies aim to support the transition to greener steel production by analysing existing policies, identifying key challenges, and proposing actionable legal strategies in the following countries:

- [Legal Strategy for the Decarbonization of the Steel Sector in Bulgaria 2024](#)
- [Legal Strategy for the Decarbonization of the Steel Sector in Croatia 2024](#)
- [Legal Strategy for the Decarbonization of the Steel Sector in Czechia 2024](#)
- [Legal Strategy for the Decarbonization of the Steel Sector in Hungary 2024](#)
- [Legal Strategy for the Decarbonization of the Steel Sector in Poland 2024](#)
- [Legal Strategy for the Decarbonization of the Steel Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024](#)


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