Natalija Simovic Motivational letter

I am writing to express my interest in serving as the European Green Party's (EGP) representative to the Green European Foundation General Assembly.
For the past 18 years, I have worked in civil society, human rights and grassroots activism. My experience has taught me how essential strong connections are between movements, civil society organisations and political parties, particularly when democratic institutions are under pressure and civic space is shrinking.

For more than a decade, I have been active in Ne Davimo Beograd, a social movement that grew into the Green-Left Front, Serbia's only progressive Green and left-wing party. My roles have included fundraising and resource mobilisation, advancing gender equality and representation, and contributing to decision-making within the movement and party. I co-chaired the party's Autonomous Women's Front and its Grand Council, the party's key decision-making body. I currently serve as a local councillor in the City of Belgrade. Together, these experiences have given me insight into both civil society work and the realities of political institutions under authoritarian rule.

Serbia can be understood as a political laboratory: our experience with the last election shows how grassroots movements can challenge an entrenched authoritarian leadership, including one that has held power for 14 years, and how civil society can contribute to rebuilding society in the wake of corruption and democratic erosion. I believe these lessons are relevant beyond Serbia and can support the wider Green movement.

I have worked extensively with civil society across the Western Balkans and would bring that regional perspective to this role. As countries in the region move towards potential EU accession, it is important to strengthen connections among their movements and organisations and ensure that they can participate meaningfully in wider European discussions. At the same time, organisations in non-EU countries face particular barriers to participation with the increasingly stringent EU regulations limiting their voices, which I believe is our duty to offset as a progressive political movement. I would work to use the EGP and GEF partnership to widen access and participation.
As EGP representative, I would seek to strengthen the strategic cooperation between EGP and GEF as well as relationship between EGP member parties and GEF and to encourage more participatory and deliberative ways of working. I would also work to bridge thematic and geographic silos, supporting cooperation across sectors and regions so that our shared commitments translate into stronger collective action.
I would be honoured to bring my experience, regional knowledge and commitment to grassroots democracy to this role. Thank you for considering my application.