

RAISING AWARENESS ON SDGs AMID WORKERS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS

Decent work, environment and rule of law

*“Europe must lead the way.
The achievement of SDGs in Europe by 2030 is deeply
intertwined with the effective implementation of the
European Pillar of Social Rights and the Green Deal”*



Liina Carr *Confederal Secretary, ETUC*

ABOUT THE ETUC'S ACTION

Shaping a sustainable Europe by 2030 is a shared responsibility

The ETUC has been in the forefront supporting the implementation of European Pillar of Social Rights, which is the main instrument to realise the UN 2030 Agenda into the European policy. The ETUC-led project “Raising awareness on SDGs amid workers and trade union leaders: decent work, environment and rule of law” provided the opportunity to step up the trade unions’ contribution toward achieving a sustainable Europe by 2030.

The ETUC focuses on Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), as this can have positive spill-over effect on the realisation of all the other SDGs. The ETUC indeed believes that sustainable growth and quality jobs, with more skilled workers, will facilitate a transition in a more efficient, socially fair and inclusive manner; they would also bring about innovative solutions that are beneficial for many SDGs. This approach will also be key to address the social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 crisis. Goal 8 targets workers’ protection, decent work, social protection and inclusive growth, and will therefore drive the 2030 Agenda forward and pave the way for a New Social Contract involving international institutions, governments, business and workers.

In cooperation with ASVIS (*Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile* – Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development), the ETUC developed the Sustainable Growth & Decent Work Index (#EU_SDG8i). This is an instrument that assesses the implementation of Goal 8 in Europe, and will therefore contribute to policy proposals at both European and national levels.

The #EU_SDG8i monitors and ranks, in an EU-wide perspective, the member states’ performance according to three composite indicators: economic well-being, quality employment and labour vulnerability. These indicators are also correlated to other SDGs as well as to key policy areas such as trade union rights, digitalisation and the Green Deal.

The project has also contributed to build ownership of the UN 2030 Agenda among union officials and members at the shop floor level. It was a means to reinforce the commitment of union leaders to mainstream SDGs in social dialogue and collective bargaining agendas. The involvement of youth organisations helps ensure a lasting commitment of the European trade union movement over the next decade.

For more info about the ETUC’s work on SDGs, click [here](#).

ABOUT THE PARTNERS AND THEIR ACTIONS



The ETUC set up a partnership with selected member organisations to have a wider impact and dissemination across Europe. The partners included the Belgian trade unions CGLSB, CSC and FGTB, Bulgaria's CITUB, Spain's CCOO, the Dutch confederation FNV and the ETUC Youth Committee.

The common goal was to disseminate knowledge of SDGs throughout their respective organisation structures, with the aim of drawing the SDGs into the daily activity of officials and members, notably in social dialogue and collective bargaining processes.

Each partner added a cross-border dimension to the country-based activities so as to reinforce the coordination and consistency of policies of the European trade union movement. To this end, the partner organisations invited both ETUC and ITUC to present their work at one or more of their events, respectively, the #EU_SDG8i and the [Time for 8](#) global campaign. Most actions included an exchange of experiences with trade union organisations from at least one other EU member state.

All partners developed information and background material in advance of each event. They also had to reorganise the original workplan due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to adapt their activities into a fully virtual or, when possible, hybrid format.

For the complete list of events and more info on the partners' activities, click [here](#).

BELGIUM

The three ETUC affiliates (CGLSB, CSC and FGTB) organised a dedicated trade union session at the Belgium's SDG Forum hosted by the Belgian government. Moreover, the Belgian confederations organised a practitioners' training session. This training, which targeted trade union officials, was aimed at informing participants about initiatives implemented at a Belgian and EU level; and to explain how to use the SDGs in their daily work. The training also included an exchange of best practices among the three organisations. Globally, the Belgian initiatives reached out more than 100 people among trade unionist and experts in sustainable development.

SPAIN

The Spanish confederation CCOO organised 4 regional seminars in Valencia, Barcelona, San Sebastian and Sevilla in order to disseminate knowledge of the SDGs among trade union officials and members. Each activity included panel debates with ETUC, ITUC and trade union leaders from other EU countries. This gave participants an overview of the agenda of trade union organisations at national, European and international level as well as the opportunity to discuss good practices. The activities involved 350 participants and reached almost 3200 online views and contacts.

THE NETHERLANDS

FNV will organise a seminar on the SDGs and the trade union movement for more than 100 trade union leaders of the confederation and regional unions from different sectors (Industry, Transport, Logistics, Construction and Agriculture). The seminar aims at touching upon the European Green Deal, just transition and collective bargaining on cross-border issues. The seminar includes an exchange of good practices with trade union organisations from others EU countries. The results of the discussions at the seminar will feed into a report on the SDGs and trade unions.

BULGARIA

CITUB organised a series of activities around the SDGs and related policy initiatives at EU level. The Bulgarian trade union organised an info-campaign focused on the "Time for SDG 8" theme, including 10 open info days and a dedicated Facebook page. A training session for practitioners, "Trade unions & SDG", was organised and was followed by several local training sessions addressed to trade union officials. The aim was to spread knowledge of SDGs as well as information on how to make them operational in the everyday union work. CITUB also organised the following list of events to discuss actions closely linked to the Goal 8: a seminar on "Social dialogue & Collective bargaining - Drivers to a real sustainable development model & achievement of SDGs"; an international conference on "Decent work in the context of Timefor8 and the EPSR"; and a discussion forum "Green Deal & Just Transition Challenges - TU Responses". CITUB's activities have reached around 1,500 union leaders and members and, considering also the dissemination and follow-up, they are expected to reach almost 10,000 people.

THE ETUC YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee will organise an event gathering young trade unionists from all the EU member states to raise awareness on SDGs and to ensure SDGs will be duly taken on board in their current activities and in their future leadership roles. The event foresees two sessions: one to have an exchange on the SDG Agenda with current trade union leaders and policy makers; another will be dedicated to train trade union youths on how to include and use the SDGs in their work. The event is foreseen to involve 25 participants from the ETUC Youth Committee, and almost 100 people during political exchange.



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