

Conference-related project article:

Adaptation to Climate Change and the world of work

A guide for Trade unions

Climate change consequences are getting real.

Over the past 50 years, we have seen an increase in the number and intensity of climatic events ranging from droughts, floods, wildfires, storms, and other extreme weather events. These changes, if not properly anticipated, will have dramatic effects on many workers in different sectors, such as a loss of productivity in agriculture, an increased pressure on health and emergency services or infrastructure damages in the energy and transport sectors, to cite only a few. In addition, various extreme weather events will have severe impacts on workers' health and safety.

So far, Trade Unions have mainly focused their activities on mitigation measures, coping with the important changes that a transition to a carbon-neutral economy brings for the different sectors and their workers. While mitigation remains a priority of the Trade union movement, there is an urgent need to adapt to coming changes. Trade unions will have an important role to play in making our societies more resilient, be it by developing new collective agreements or by providing recommendations for relevant policy measures.

In this context, ETUC launched the project “Adaptation to Climate Change and the world of work”, with the financial support of the European Commission, to reflect on how trade unions can get involved in adaptation to climate change.

The objectives of this project are:

1. To inform European trade unions about the consequences of climate change on the world of work that are already foreseeable.
2. To prepare trade unions to play an active role in the design and implementation of the national strategies for adaptation.
3. To develop a tool kit for trade unions to bring adaptation on the agenda of industrial relations

The guide [Adaptation to Climate Change and the world of work](#) is a result of this project. Not only does it provide a clear definition of the concept of adaptation to climate change, it also gives the reader a clear idea of how climate change consequences will affect the different European regions and sectors. Highlighting the effects climate change will have on health and safety of workers, it finally details a set of recommendations and looks at existing practices allowing trade unions to act on adaptation at various levels.

To accompany Trade unions in their efforts to play an active role in the design and implementation of the national strategies for adaptation, ETUC has developed [dedicated toolkits in 11 languages](#). The toolkits are composed of the translated guides, various [infographics](#), [banners](#), and [videos](#) - equipping our members to raise awareness at national level and actively shape adaptation policies fit for the world of work.

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