



**The European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI)**  
and the  
**Bertelsmann Stiftung**

invite you to their Winter Days

**The green, the digital and the social:  
Ensuring fair green-digital transitions in Europe**

**Thursday, December 2 2021, 14.30-18.30**  
**Friday, December 3 2021, 9.30-13.00**

Venue: Bouche à Oreille  
Rue Félix Hap 11, 1040 Brussels

Thursday, December 2, 18.30: Glühwein-Reception  
Friday, December 3, 13.00: Lunch

[Registration](#)

Moderated by  
**Pierre Baussand**  
Head of Brussels Liaison Office, Eurofound

For Europe's economies to re-emerge stronger from the Covid crisis and to set the pace for innovative and future-oriented green and digital societies, the European Union pursues an ambitious green-digital transformation policy agenda. To ensure that this twin transition is rolled-out in a sustainable manner which leaves no one behind, it needs socially-friendly support elements for and with workers at its core.

Experts and representatives from think tanks, trade unions, employer organisations, institutions and the civil society shall debate on ways to ensure that Europe's bounce-back from the pandemic targets climate neutrality, digitalisation and social fairness and opportunities alike.

The questions to be debated include the following:

- What is the scope of economic, social and structural impacts that green-digital transitions bring, and why should there be a social dimension to green-digital transitions? How to help particularly affected sectors and groups of workers? What do workers and their representatives need to be prepared for and what is the importance of worker participation and social dialogue in transition processes?
- How social are the EU's 'Recovery and Resilience Facility' and its the national execution plans, and what can they realistically deliver? How can workers and trade unions have a say? And what measures should be taken beyond the 'Facility' for more social fairness and opportunities?
- How to reform education systems from primary care to lifelong learning to ensure that students and workers are equipped for good and safe green and digital jobs? How could more resilient public services and their personnel better support social fairness? And, in any case, who is in charge of better jobs and working conditions – the EU, the Member States or trade unions and social partners?

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**Thursday, December 2 | 14.30-18.30**

**Opening of the Winter Days**

Romain Wolff, President of CESI

**Keynote – The green, the digital, and the social: Ensuring fair transitions**

MEP Eva Maydell, President of the European Movement International – *by video message*

**Covid fallouts on workers and employment conditions – The role of the EU**

Oliver Röpke, President of the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee

**Inclusive green-digital transitions**

Vic van Vuuren, Director of the Enterprises Department of the ILO and Chair of the UN's Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) – *by video message*

*Coffee break*

**Part 1**

**Worker-centred green-digital transitions**

*(see full description at the end of the programme)*

Workshop 1

**BertelsmannStiftung**

How can the digital & sustainable transformation be done in a socially fair way?

Workshop 2

**KU LEUVEN** (tbc)

How to help the sectors and workers affected by the green-digital transitions?

Workshop 3



What priorities for worker participation in the transition processes?

**Plenary wrap-up - breakout sessions reports**

***Glühwein Reception from 18:30 o'clock***

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**Friday, December 3 | 9.30-13.00**

**Keynote – The EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility: An appropriate Covid response and fair transition tool?**

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

**The green, the digital, and the social: Ensuring fair transitions**

MEP Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Vice-President of the European Parliament – *by video message*

**Part 2**

**A Recovery and Resilience Facility for and with workers**

*(see full description at the end of the programme)*

Workshop 4



A social Recovery and Resilience Facility and national execution plans?

Workshop 5



What can the Recovery and Resilience Facility deliver?

Workshop 6



How can workers and trade unions have a say?

*Coffee break*

**Part 3**

**Social fairness beyond the Recovery and Resilience Facility**

*(see full description at the end of the programme)*

Workshop 7



How to ensure good and safe green and digital jobs?

Workshop 8



More resilient public services and personnel for more social fairness?

Workshop 9



Are we ready to seize the moment to build a more inclusive labour market?

**Plenary wrap-up - breakout sessions reports**

**Conclusions**

Klaus Heeger, Secretary-General, CESI

***Light lunch from 13:00 o'clock***

## Workshop descriptions

### Part 1

#### Worker-centred green-digital transitions

Bertelsmann Stiftung	KU Leuven (tbc)	CESI
<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>
<b>The double transformation of companies: How can the digital &amp; sustainable transformation be done in a socially fair way?</b>	<b>Protecting the world of work in a changing landscape: How to help the sectors and workers affected by the green-digital transitions?</b>	<b>The role of trade unions in a changing world: What priorities for worker participation in the transition processes?</b>
<i>Explanatory lines</i>	<i>Explanatory lines</i>	<i>Explanatory lines</i>
In the EU's attempts to reshape the European economy and make it more innovative and sustainable, digital transformation and environmental reforms have been put at the core of the EU strategy. While the need for a digitalized and climate-neutral economy is undoubtedly of central importance, it is crucial to identify the potential impacts of these ambitious plans on employment, workers and citizens at large and to ensure that the green-digital transitions happen in a socially-just way. How will the transition to this new era affect our labour markets and societies and how to reconcile digital and green objectives with social aims?	The environmental and digital transformations have significant effects in many aspects of our societies and leave their mark on numerous areas of the economy. For the labour markets and the world of work, these trends are translated into radical changes in the way work is performed, organized, designed and regulated. Which sectors and workers will be particularly affected by these changes in the coming years and how can we manage fair and balanced transitions for them?	To ensure that no one will be left behind in the green-digital transition, workers and their representatives have an important role to play in promoting the social dimension of reorganisation processes and protecting the most vulnerable which are affected. Which is the relevance of trade unions' and worker representatives' actions in the design and implementation of socially balanced green-digital targets? Which are the short- and long-term opportunities and challenges that they could encounter along the way? Which strategies will be essential for trade unions to mitigate the negative repercussions of the transitions?

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## Workshop descriptions

### Part 2

#### A Recovery and Resilience Facility for and with workers

European Commission	CEPS	CESI
<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>
<b>Paving the way out of the pandemic: A social Recovery and Resilience Facility and national execution plans?</b>	<b>The Recovery and Resilience Facility in depth: What can it deliver?</b>	<b>The role of workers and trade unions in the recovery and resilience programmes: How can they have a say?</b>
<i>Explanatory lines</i>	<i>Explanatory lines</i>	<i>Explanatory lines</i>
The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) aims to support investments and reforms across the Union and help Member States address adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. To make our societies more resilient, sustainable and better prepared for future crises and challenges, we need to ensure that the RRF also puts a strong emphasis on social objectives How will the RRF contribute to the promotion of social justice and welfare in Europe and the Member States?	Now that most of the national recovery and resilience plans have received the approval of the Commission and the Council, political attention is shifting towards implementation. The stakes are high and the question that remains to be answered is: what can the Recovery and Resilience Facility realistically deliver? To answer, exploring the progress in the implementation of milestones and targets is not enough. A look at the credibility of the proposed reforms, the governance of the plans and the additionality of the proposed public investments is key to understand the long-term impact of the plans.	After almost two years of radical structural changes in the labour markets of the Member States due to the Covid pandemic, the world of work needs effective support mechanisms that will safeguard the existing jobs and create new quality jobs and better working conditions. The EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) can have the potential to revive labour markets to this end, if used in a targeted way. For this, workers and their representatives should work hand-in-hand with governments and authorities to ensure that the resilience facilities will support employment and decent work. But how can they have a say in this process?

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## Workshop descriptions

### Part 3

#### Social fairness beyond the 'Recovery and Resilience Facility'

CESI Youth	EPC	OECD
<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>
<b>From the primary school to lifelong learning: How to ensure good and safe green and digital jobs?</b>	<b>Towards more social fairness: Could more resilient public services and their personnel be the answer?</b>	<b>Creating inclusive labour markets: Are we ready to seize the moment?</b>
<i>Explanatory lines</i>	<i>Explanatory lines</i>	<i>Explanatory lines</i>
In today's rapidly evolving labour markets and job profiles, it is crucial to equip students and workers with the essential tools needed to succeed in the education-to-job-transition. The widespread intensification of work and the high competitiveness in modern labour markets, as well as the digital and green transitions that are underway in the economy are expected to dramatically change our societies and ways we live and work. This will also require new approaches and strategies that will provide students and workers with the necessary knowledge and skills for their professional careers until retirement. Our world is changing, and our education and training systems are obliged to adapt. How to ensure good and safe green and digital jobs?	The Covid pandemic showed perhaps even more dramatically than previous crises that the public sector is of vital importance to the smooth functioning of our societies and welfare systems. In these unprecedented times that the Covid pandemic has been, public services preserved our social fabric and offered protection to the most vulnerable. As a next crisis – of yet unknown nature and at a yet unknown point of time – will surely come, what is needed to root a strong public service agenda in Europe? How can we make sure that the necessary in-advance investments in resilient and performing public administrations and services is made so that they can ensure social fairness also in times of crises?	Labour markets are inclusive when everyone of working age has fair access to opportunities for remunerated work. Especially during the rapid structural changes in today's labour markets and economies, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of our communities need support that will facilitate participation in work, remove barriers, prevent in-work poverty and help them keep their jobs. What are the tools at the disposal of the EU to encourage Member States to reinforce pathways to quality employment for as many as possible?