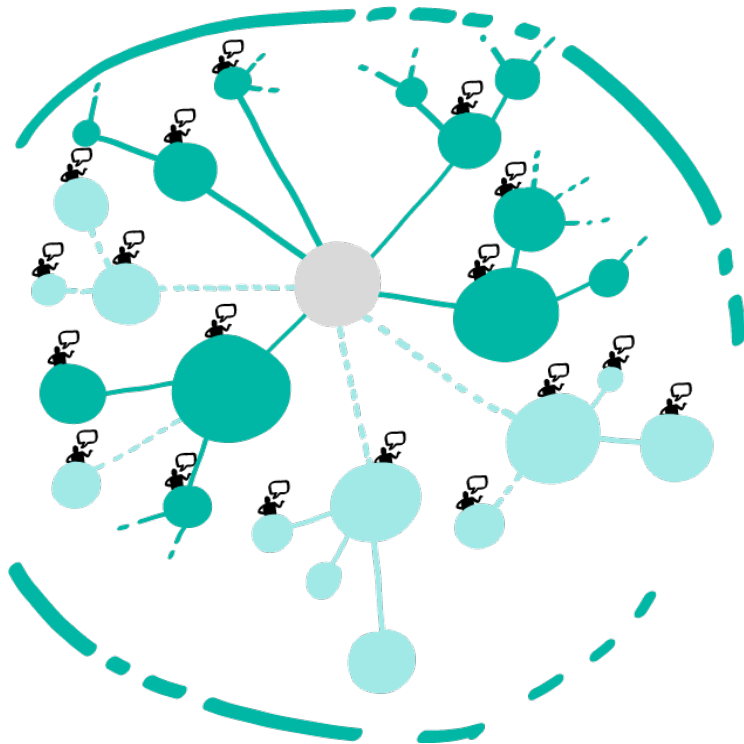


PUTTING THE U IN JUST TRANSITION

ONLINE TRAINING ON CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN JUST TRANSITION

17 SEPTEMBER 2024



solidar
FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 17, 2024, SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation organised an online training for our members to inspire each other with best practices and learn more about concrete tools on how CSOs can engage with **Just Transition**, given its growing importance both politically and in our daily work. The training was given in English with Spanish interpretation available to enable more members to join the training and exchange their perspectives.

The event was a **mix of presentations** and **small interactive breakout rooms**. **Clara Dassonville**, policy officer for Just Transition at SOLIDAR, started off the training with an informative presentation about the **concepts and definitions** of Just Transition.

In the following session, the participants had the opportunity to exchange their thoughts on the different actors involved in Just Transition and their conflicting interests. The outcomes of this session were visualised in a **mind map**.

For the last part of the training, we invited three experts to talk about their experience working on Just Transition and engage with the participants. Experts include:

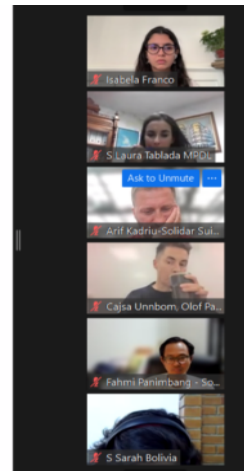
1. Cajsa Unnbom, Policy and methods advisor, Just Transition & Equality and workers' rights Olof Palme International Center (OPIC). Cajsa introduced us to two **types of coalitions** (same interest ones and across topic ones) and talked about her first-hand experience in building and organising a coalition with a variety of members in Sweden.

2. Repon Chowdhury, Executive Director of Bangladesh Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Foundation (OHSE Foundation). Repon shared his experience with working on Just Transition in **Bangladesh** and elaborated on establishing the **Asia Just Transition Network**.

3. Eliza Barnea, Just Transition Campaign Coordinator for Romania at CEE Bankwatch. Eliza gave a very detailed presentation about the **Just Transition Mechanism**, the ways in which CEE Bankwatch secures funding and the challenges the organisation faces while being involved in the complicated Just Transition process.



An overarching vision for progress



JUST TRANSITION

CONCEPTS & DEFINITIONS

The climate and environmental crises affect everyone, but their most severe consequences are felt by marginalized communities and those in vulnerable socio-economic conditions. At the same time, **socio-economic inequalities are both a consequence and a driver of these crises**, with the wealthiest countries, corporations, and individuals responsible for the majority of global emissions and environmental degradation. Rising energy prices, escalating inflation, global power struggles and social unrest in recent years have further underlined that **climate action, environmental protection and social justice** are deeply interlinked and must advance together to ensure a **just and sustainable future**.

For SOLIDAR, **a just transition entails a shift towards a fairer and more sustainable society**, mitigating the negative economic and social impacts of the green transition. By prioritising social justice, workers' rights and the well-being of communities, a just transition will bring about a fair distribution of resources and opportunities, guaranteeing that all members of society, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from the green transition.



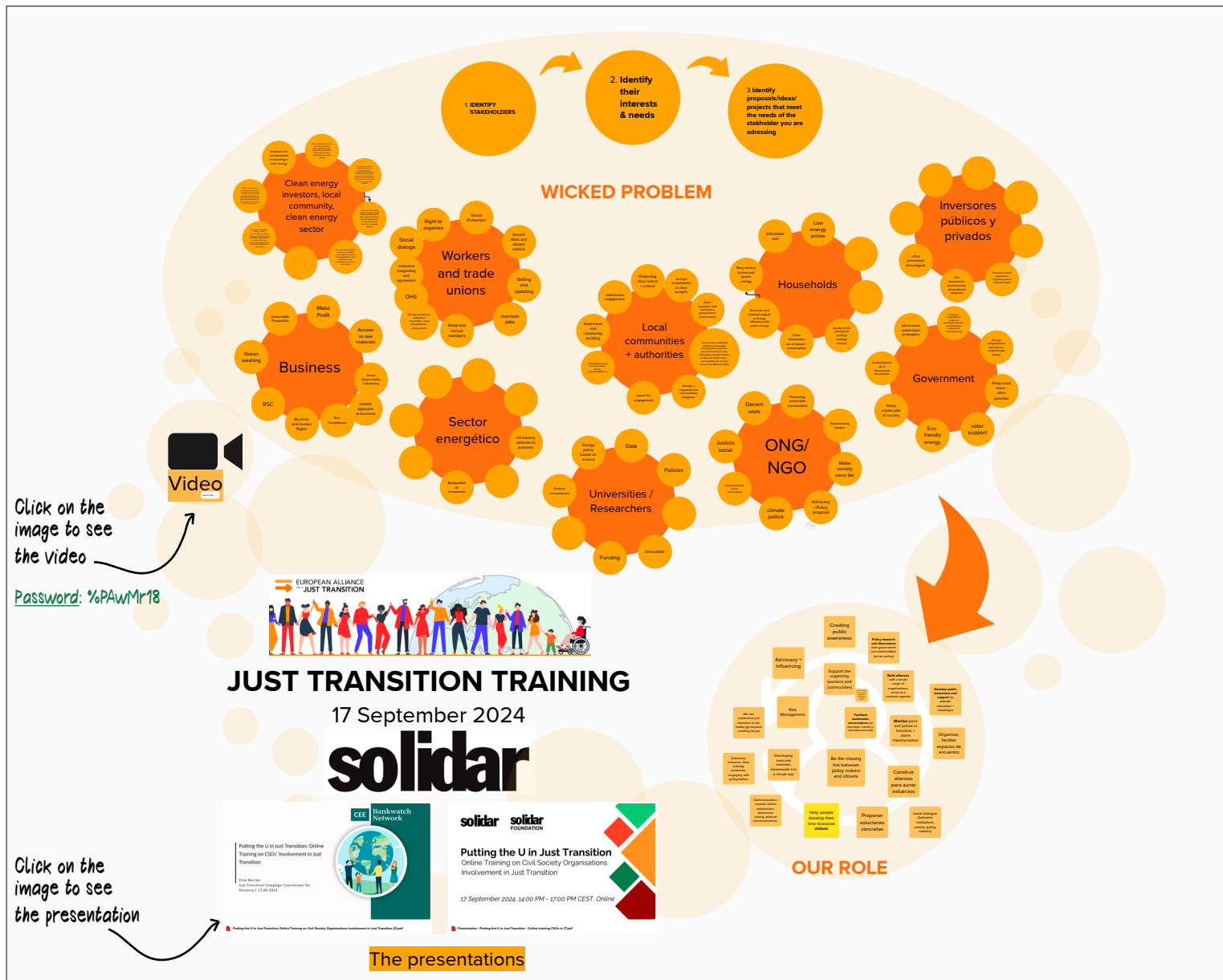
Why is it important for CSO's to engage in the process?

- **Inclusive governance** ensures policymaking includes diverse actors like trade unions and CSOs at all levels, leading to better, more representative policies.
- It strengthens **democracy**, raises awareness, and boosts acceptance of the green transition
- **Prioritizing marginalized voices** prevents inequalities and ensures fair representation.
- **Local implementation** involves connecting with citizens, filling gaps left by authorities, and supporting vulnerable populations.
- **Innovative solutions** from the social economy drive a fair and just transition. For instance, indigenous people have the knowledge to provide innovative solutions.

How to raise awareness?

- **Engage** with your local community around just transition
- Take part in **national or European** projects
- **Raise awareness** around just transition
- Take part in **coalitions or networks** to advance a just transition

MINDMAP: JUST TRANSITION ACTORS & THEIR CONFLICTING INTERESTS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JUST TRANSITION!

Question: I'm not part an environmental NGOs. Can I still work on a just transition?

Answer: Of course! A just transition is about advancing climate action and social justice together. Whether you work in housing, education, economy, or migration, everyone has a role to play to make sure that we advance social rights and environmental sustainability together.

Question: What role do governments and regions play in ensuring a just transition?

Answer: By implementing sustainability programmes such as the National Energy Contribution Plans as part of the Climate Law, the National Determined Contribution as part of the Paris Agreement, the Just Transition Fund as part of the European Green Deal. Governments and regions also lead their own initiatives, such as the Silesian Just Transition Observatory or the Spanish Just Transition Strategy. NGOs have every role to play in these programmes, by voicing the concerns of the most marginalized and implementing a just transition on the ground.

Question: What sectors are most affected by a just transition, and how can a just transition prevent or address job losses?

Answer: Just transition traditionally applies to fossil fuel sectors but also extends to industrial and automotive regions. As economies shift toward sustainability, some sectors will disappear, others transform, and new ones emerge. The EU and member states must ensure this transition is fair by developing clear strategies, consulting civil society and trade unions, and supporting affected workers through early retirement, job-transition programs, and reskilling initiatives. Businesses and industries also play a key role in driving the green transition while protecting labor rights and conditions.

Question: How can marginalized communities be included in a just transition? What measures ensure the green transition does not exacerbate existing inequalities?

Answer: To avoid worsening inequalities, economic, social, and climate policies must be integrated together. Every policy or project should consider both environmental and social impacts. For example, energy-efficiency building renovations should prioritize vulnerable households affected by energy poverty. Similarly, sustainable transport policies should focus on accessible and affordable public transport for the most disadvantaged communities. This approach ensures a transition to sustainability that also promotes social justice.

CONTACT INFORMATION



CLARA DASSONVILLE

Policy Officer for Just Transition

SOLIDAR
50 Avenue Des Arts. Bte 5,
B-1000 Brussels
www.solidar.org



clara.dassonville@solidar.org



CAJSA UNNBOM

Policy and methods advisor

OLOF PALMES INTERNATIONELLA
CENTER
Box 836,
101 36 Stockholm
<https://www.palmecenter.se/>



casja.unnbom@palmecenter.se



REPON CHOWDHURY

Executive Director

OHSE Foundation
House # 19, Lane # 01 Block # A,
Dhaka 1216,
Bangladesh
<https://oshefoundation.org/>



repon.chowdhury@gmail.com



ELIZA BARNEA

Just Transition Campaign
Coordinator for Romania

CEE BANKWATCH
Heřmanova 1088/8
Prague 7, 170 00
Czech Republic
<https://bankwatch.org/>



eliza.barnea@bankwatch.org

SOLIDAR organises its work for lifelong and lifewide learning for democratic participation through the SOLIDAR Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to advance our common policy and advocacy work while addressing internal learning needs in what we consider a learning hub for the network.

Through our member and partner organisations, SOLIDAR Foundation engages communities in EU decision making processes, empowers people through lifelong learning, and voices their concerns to the EU institutions by carrying out active lobbying, projects of collective action, policy monitoring, research and awareness-raising.

solidar
FOUNDATION



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

**SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR
FOUNDATION OFFICE**

50 Avenue Des Arts.
Bte 5, 2ème étage
B1000 – Brussels | Belgium

CONTACT

Elisa Gambardella
Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator
elisa.gambardella@solidar.org
T: +32 (0)2 479 33 72
www.solidar.org/