



**Project VS/2021/0055 – Just Transition:
supporting trade unions in taking steps towards a sustainable future
at company/sectoral level through social dialogue**

NATIONAL training
(2-4 November 2022, Sofia, Bulgaria)

The National training in the project

Between 2nd and 4th of November 2022, National training was held in the city of Sofia under the project Just Transition – supporting Trade Unions in taking steps towards a Sustainable future at company / sectoral level through Social Dialogue (VS/2021/0055) with the participation of a wide a circle of representatives of workers from different sectors and regions, trade unionists and specialists in the field of the Just Green Transition. A comprehensive goal of the training was to acquaint the participants with the achievements of the *JustTRA* project, to assist them in implementing the toolkit created by the project, and to give impetus to public debate and proactive action in relation to the Just Green Transition: understanding the meaning of the Transition, the prospects for companies and workers, and possible approaches to protect workers' rights in the context of changing climate, resource, technological and economic conditions.





The training began with an official welcome from Alexander Zagorov, representative for Bulgaria in the European Trade Union Committee for Energy and Climate Change, and a long-standing distinguished Bulgarian specialist in the field of industrialization and industrial relations. The expectations of the interested parties (trade unionists from different sectors, companies) from such trainings were presented and the hope that successful narrow specialists will be prepared for field work in the context of the Transition.

The set agenda of the National Training was presented by Adrian Iliev, national trainer of the project - all participants got acquainted with the program for the following days and clarified their role and place in the training, getting acquainted with the goals that will be pursued. The program continued with the presentation of the participants and the sharing of ideas and experiences in relation to the Just Green Transition – initial reflections on the topic and points of view were developed around which the activities of the working groups would subsequently be developed; even here, the informal leaders of the working groups emerged, who led their activities in the following training sessions as well.

The progress of the project was presented by Veselina Starcheva, the project coordinator - the participants were informed about the individual stages, the tasks completed and the activities to be carried out, the place of the National Training in the general project concept was outlined and the products created up to that point were briefly presented. with an emphasis on the Project's Toolkit. Emil Antonov, national expert on the project, presented the topic of the Just Transition and the role of Trade Unions in its context; opposing viewpoints were explored – from completely ignoring the issue of climate change to fully surrendering to changing economic conditions and looking for the place of working people in the current context.

Liliana Laskova, national consultant on the project, reviewed the green competencies applicable to ensure the Just Green Transition at the local level (individual enterprises, local and regional administration). The question of taking local specificities into account in the general green policy at the national and global level was raised.





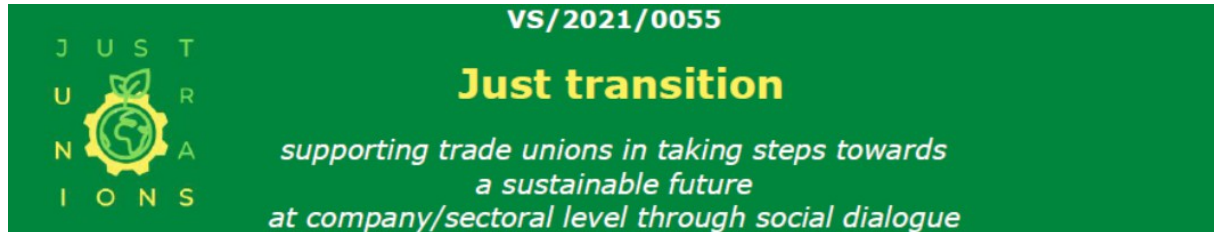
The second day of the National Training started with the question of the work of the Trade Unions in the field and the resulting challenges. National project trainer Adrian Iliev reviewed classic field work techniques and their possible applications for the purposes of the Just Green Transition. The national training continued with work in groups – the main focus was the rapprochement of the participants. Each of them presented themselves, the region/sector they represent and the problems they would like to find an answer to within the framework of the National Training.

The national trainer Adrian Iliev continued the topic by presenting the role of the national consultants for the Just Green Transition – their specific functions as popularisers, explainers and mediators in the field work, at the regional and sectoral level.

The national expert on the project, Emil Antonov, presented the Project's Toolkit as a toolkit for trade unionists in their practical work in the field. The Toolkit was presented as a set of training materials and tools that can be applied in the field work to achieve the goals of the Just Green Transition. The national training continued with group work - the participants sought and proposed local solutions in the trade union context to be transferred to other regions and other sectors other than their own. Mario Ninov, national project consultant, went into the specifics of effective communication and promotion of the Just Green Transition. Basic principles of effective communication and the advantages and disadvantages of a range of possible communication channels and communication strategies were presented.

The second day of the National Training concluded with a general discussion on trade union strategies to protect workers in the context of the Just Green Transition. The question of effective communication was augmented by the question of an overall effective trade union strategy in the context of climate change and the resulting economic changes. The need for more promotion, training and mediation of the Just Green Transition for all stakeholders was unanimously highlighted.





Adrian Iliev opened the third day of the National Training again with the question of implementation of the Project Toolkit, where the experience so far was outlined and predictions were made for the future implementation of the developed set of tools.

The national training continued with a general discussion where possible concrete solutions for the Just Green Transition at the local level in Bulgaria were discussed. The participants presented various proposals for the sectors and regions they represented, which could be included in the national agenda for a Just Green Transition; and took into account the radically different environment and local soil conditions compared to those in Belgium.

The national training continued with group work – good practices and approaches were sought for applying the tools of the Just Green Transition in field work – and the participants drew a parallel between classic trade union techniques and what is needed in connection with the Just Green Transition.

National project consultants Mario Ninov and Liliana Laskova continued the session with the issue of building a trade union network on the problems of the Just Green Transition in Bulgaria. Various groups of potentially interested parties were outlined and the question of structuring them into communication channels to activate and consolidate them was raised.

The National Training continued with a round table that sought practical solutions and innovative ideas on the Just Green Transition and the place of Trade Unions in shaping and enforcing the agenda in relation to climate change, resource scarcity, technological innovation and changing economic conditions.

05.11.2022

Sofia city

REPORTS: Adrian Iliev, National trainer in the Project

