

Industrial regions and climate policies: Trade Unions' perspectives

Bellona, Brussels 13th October 2016



ETUC and climate change

- Our Jobs depend on our planet
- Trade Unions call for a 'Just Transition' : ambitious mitigation action consistent with IPCC 2°C scenario + strong social policy agenda
- ETUC recent projects:
 - ✓ "Climate policies and employment"
 - ✓ "Green Workplaces"
 - ✓ "Sustainable Mobility"
 - ✓ "Engaging young workers"
 - ✓ "Skills for a green economy"
- IRCP project focuses on the specific situation of regions which depend on energy-intensive activities



IRCP Project in a nutshell

Key assumptions

- Industry should play an essential part in any serious decarbonisation strategy, but low-carbon industrial strategies consistent with the 2050 goals still have to be developed.
- Highly industrialised regions have a high potential to support low-carbon strategies but they also face the highest risk in the transition period.
- Just transition and decent work are key principles for any low-carbon industrial strategy
- Regions will have a key role to play in articulating climate change policies and industrial strategies

Objective

- To identify best practices, hurdles and challenges in developing long-term, regional low-carbon industrial strategies and in implementing the related just transition policies

Project governance

- ETUC as coordinator (90 national TU confederations and 10 European TU federations)
- Partnership with trade unions from 7 countries
- Syndex, Orion Innovations and Sustain Consult as external experts
- Steering committee made of : ETUC + 7 partners + IndustriAll + ETUI + Syndex



IRCP Project: Methodology

Stage 1 – Questionnaire

- Collect information on initiatives and views related to low-carbon industrial strategies both at regional and national levels
- Circulation through the ETUC Sustainable Development WG

Stage 2 – Series of regional case studies

- Focus on regions with a strong energy-intensive industrial base
- Aims: to identify challenges & opportunities and to discuss tools and just transition schemes
- Process:
 - Background analysis - desk research by national experts
 - Interviews with local industry, trade unions, public authorities, stakeholders
 - Regional workshops with local stakeholders
 - Synthesis seminar

Output – Final report and High Level conference

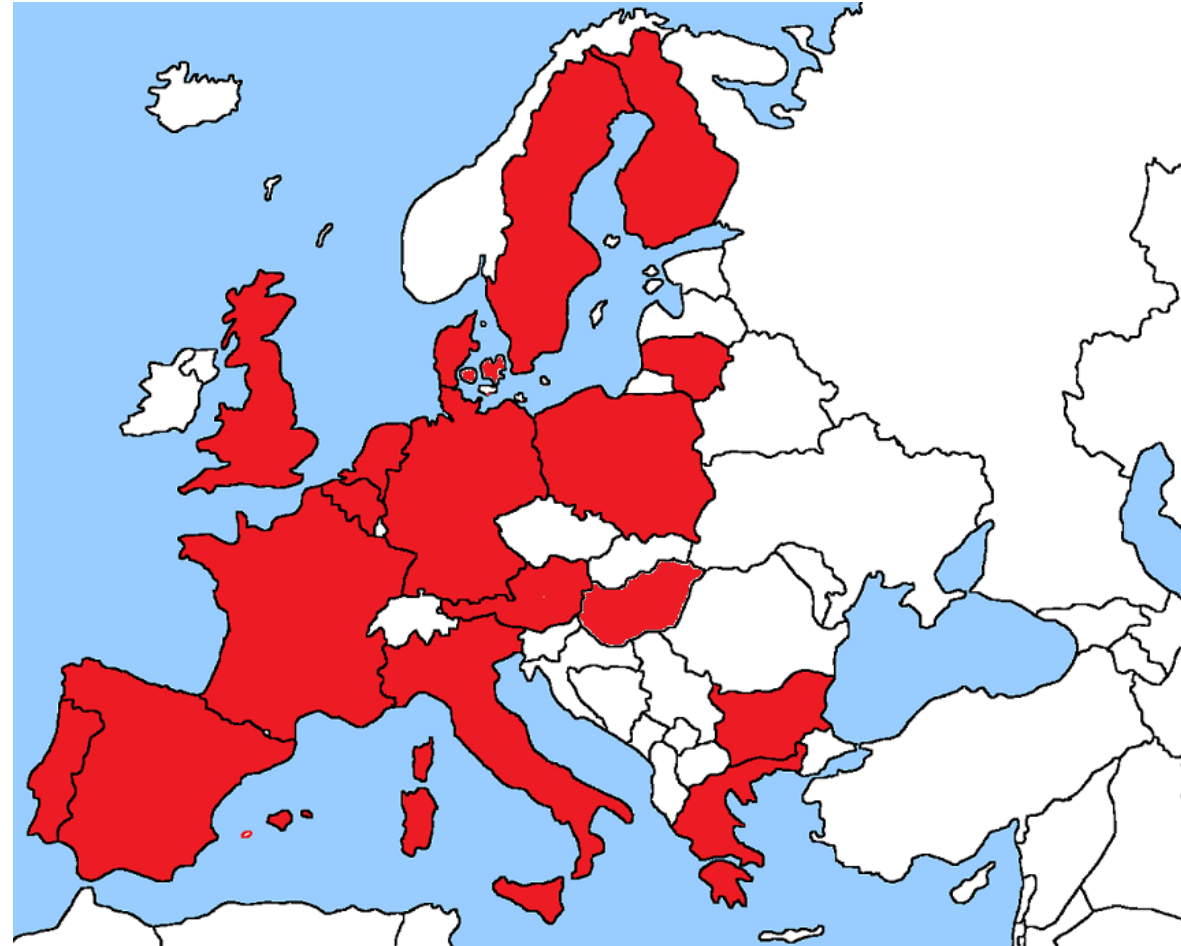


IRCP Project: Initial results from the questionnaire



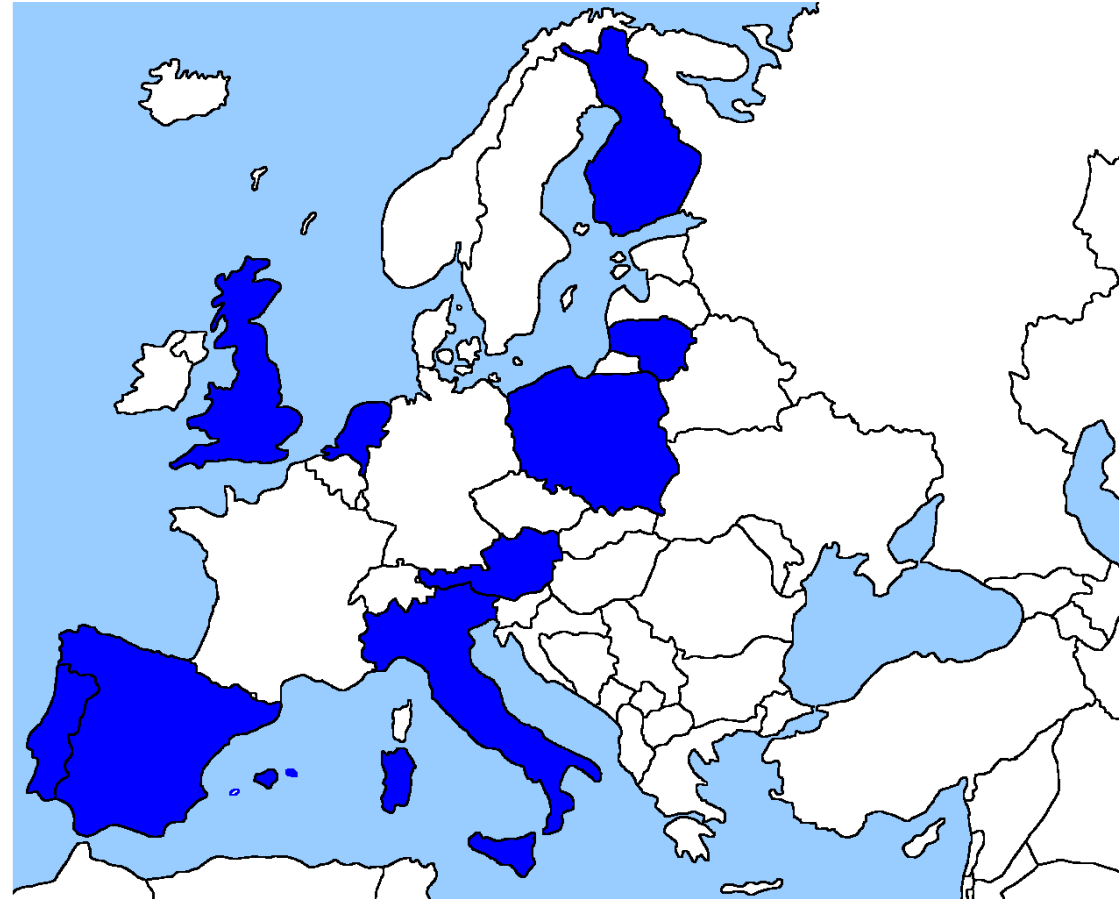
Questionnaire answers – national level (17)

- Austria (ÖGB)
- Belgium (ABVV-ACV)
- Bulgaria (Podkrepa)
- Denmark (LO)
- Finland (SAK, STTK, Akava)
- France (CFDT)
- Germany (DGB)
- Greece (GSEE)
- Hungary (MOSZ)
- Italy (CGIL)
- Lithuania (LPPSF)
- Netherlands (FNV)
- Poland (FZZ)
- Portugal (CGTP-IN & UGT)
- Spain (UGT & CCOO)
- Sweden (LO)
- UK (TUC)



Questionnaire answers - regional level (13)

- Austria (ÖGB)
- Finland (SAK for 7 regions)
- Italy (CGIL Lombardia)
- Lithuania (LPPSF)
- Netherlands (FNV)
- Poland (KADRA)
- Portugal (UGT)
- Spain (UGT – Asturias & CCOO Asturias)
- UK (Community TUC, GMB, Prospect, Unite)



IRCP Questionnaire: Key findings

1. Wide variety of initiatives and technologies/situations but many **uncertainties** on how to reach ambitious long-term GHG emissions reductions in energy intensive industries
2. Despite several timely initiatives, **no systematic involvement** of social partners in the implementation of existing climate policy instruments as well as in the design of long term decarbonisation strategy
3. **Technological gap** (breakthrough technologies not there, especially for specific sectors like steel and cement) and **investment gap** (effect of financial crisis, payback time too long)
4. **Lack of leadership** from regional public authorities (few long-term strategies)



IRCP Project: Regional Workshops



With the financial support of the European Commission

IRCP Project – Regional workshops

Yorkshire and the Humber Valley – Leeds, 17 June 2015

North Rhein Westphalia – Düsseldorf, 9 July 2015

Asturias – Oviedo, 12 November 2015

Flanders – Antwerp, 18 February 2016

North of Sweden – Luleå, 11 March 2016

Stara Zagora – Maritsa Iztok mining complex, 14 April 2016

Silesia – Katowice, 5 May 2016







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Key findings from regional workshops

Enablers to a just transition:

- Stable policy framework with clear targets
- Governance structures enabling social partners' participation locally
- Ecosystems combining manufacturing activities, research & innovation, social dialogue
- Strong tradition of lifelong learning

Barriers to a just transition:

- Lack of consensus on the need for decarbonisation
 - Concerns about its social impact (jobs, energy affordability)
 - Geopolitical consequences of a phasing-out of coal
- Lack of investment in infrastructures (transport & power production)
- Short-term cost of breakthrough low-carbon technologies (such as CCS or CCU)
- No global level playing field and EU trade policies seen as inadequate



Key project conclusions

1. Europe needs regional strategies for a just transition to low-carbon industry
2. Accelerate the deployment of breakthrough technologies
3. Involvement of trade unions and employers
4. Investment in skills
5. Boosting local support for decarbonisation

Thank you for your
attention

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