

# Towards a **governance framework** that advances a just green transition

*Unlocking opportunities for a  
just transition: Policy brief 6*

Placing fairness and social justice at the core of the **governance of climate and energy policies**, understood as the structures, processes and decision-making mechanisms through which these policies are designed, implemented and monitored, is essential to ensure their effectiveness, legitimacy and public support. Policies that actively respond to societal needs and address inequalities can strengthen social cohesion, build trust and mobilise people to advance the goals of the green transition.

This brief, the sixth in SOLIDAR's series examining how upcoming EU initiatives and legislative revisions can advance a just green transition in Europe and globally, focuses on the **revision of the EU Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action**. It calls for EU climate and energy governance to adopt a more systemic and holistic approach to just transition, promoting stronger planning, implementation and monitoring of just transition strategies and policies across Europe, as well as the establishment of dedicated structures and strong mechanisms to facilitate synergies between energy, climate and social policies.

## Background

The instruments currently in place at the EU level to deliver a just green transition are insufficient. The existing **policy framework**<sup>1</sup>, established under the European Green Deal, is fragmented, reactive and compensatory, relying on voluntary measures rather than binding obligations for Member States and businesses. The absence of new just transition initiatives in the European Commission's Work Programmes for 2025 and 2026 underscores the discrepancy between rhetoric and implementation. At the national level, approaches vary greatly: according to reviews<sup>2</sup> conducted by the Employment (EMCO) and Social Protection (SPC) policy committees for the Ministers in the Employment and Social Affairs Council (EPSCO) in 2023, only **Spain** has adopted a dedicated strategic and institutional framework for a fair transition<sup>3</sup>. Several other Member States have acknowledged the lack of a common understanding of the adequate policies and definitions. While the 2025 review indicates that some progress has been made<sup>4</sup>, implementation across the EU remains partial and uneven.

The EU also struggles to meaningfully integrate the social dimension into its coordination and monitoring of Member States' energy and climate policies. The backbone of the EU's governance system is **Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action**<sup>5</sup>, which is built around the five dimensions of the 2015 Energy Union Strategy: energy security, the internal energy market, energy efficiency, decarbonisation, and research, innovation and competitiveness. Largely unchanged since its adoption in 2018, the Governance Regulation establishes a framework comprising integrated **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)**, long-term strategies, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, and coordination between EU institutions and Member States. This brief focuses primarily on NECPs.

The Governance Regulation makes almost no reference to a just transition and only requires Member States to plan and report on the socio-economic effects of climate and energy policies 'to the extent feasible'<sup>6</sup>. The European Commission's 2022 guidance to Member States for the update of the 2021-2030 NECPs<sup>7</sup> places a **stronger emphasis on integrating a just transition**. It encourages the implementation of the 2022 Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition, calls on Member States to set an objective for reducing energy poverty in their updated NECPs, and invites them to reflect measures from the Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs) and the Social Climate Plans (SCPs).

Despite these requirements, most NECPs display **weak or inconsistent approaches to just transition**. Evidence from civil society organisations analysing revised NECPs in ten Member States<sup>8</sup> shows that NECPs generally lack an integrated, systemic strategy to address the socio-economic impacts of the climate and energy transition. Most plans provide incomplete impact assessments and fail to outline measures to mitigate negative effects or maximise social and environmental benefits. Coordination with the TJTPs and SCPs is limited, reflecting minimal preparation for the introduction of the Emissions Trading System 2 (ETS 2). Furthermore, stakeholder participation in drafting NECPs<sup>9</sup> tends to be merely procedural and lacking in transparency, with consultations often taking place too late or being disconnected from substantive decision-making processes.

1 The just transition policy framework includes the [Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality 2022/C 243/04](#), Commission Recommendations [2020/1563 of 14 October 2020](#) and [2023/2407 of 20 October 2023](#) on energy poverty, the Just Transition Mechanism and the forthcoming Social Climate Fund.

2 [Council \(2023\) EMCO and SPC reviews of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality](#).

3 [Council \(2023\) EMCO PAG Review of the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality](#).

4 [Council \(2025\) Key messages from EMCO and SPC on the implementation of the Council](#)

5 [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#).

6 See Governance Regulation, point 5.2 of Annex I (NECP template). See also Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2299 (NECPs Progress Report template), Article 15(4) according to which Member States 'may' report information on how the implementation of their NECP contributes to just transition. Annex XX of the same Implementing Regulation 2022/2299 makes it fully voluntary for Member States to report on the impact of the implementation of the NECPs on (a) jobs, workers and regions; and (b) on the promotion of human rights, gender equality and addressing inequalities in energy poverty.

7 [Commission Notice on the Guidance to Member States for the update of the 2021-2030 national energy and climate plans \(2022/C 495/02\)](#).

8 [Together for 1.5 \(2025\), Briefing : Do final NECPs sufficiently address EU-level just transition requirements?](#)

9 CAN Europe and WWF EPO (2025), [Struggling for a Voice: the mixed reality of public participation in National Energy and Climate Plans](#).

## SOLIDAR's recommendations

The revision of the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, announced by the European Commission for the end of 2026, provides a crucial opportunity to achieve two key objectives. The first is to set the framework for the EU to deliver on its post-2030 climate and energy targets, thereby bringing Europe closer to achieving climate neutrality. The second is to pave the way for a systemic and holistic approach to just transition across Europe, which is essential for the legitimacy, cohesion and effectiveness of climate and energy policies.

To this end, SOLIDAR recommends taking action on **two complementary fronts**:

- 1. Revise the Governance Regulation so that social justice is systematically embedded in national decarbonisation and energy strategies**, as well as in other governance instruments, thereby creating a coherent, integrated and socially grounded EU climate and energy governance framework.
- 2. Develop comprehensive strategies and policies for a just transition at all levels of decision-making**. These should be supported by governance tools that facilitate their design, implementation and monitoring, backed by adequate funding and aligned with the processes and structures of the EU's climate and energy governance.

This brief is divided into two sections. The first part offers recommendations for the upcoming revision of the Governance Regulation, focusing particularly on the NECPs. The second section looks beyond the governance framework set out in the Regulation and, drawing on examples from across Europe, outlines actions that should be taken at multiple levels as part of a more ambitious approach to just transition governance.

## Part I - The revision of the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action

SOLIDAR recommends to:

### 1 Embed just transition objectives in the revised Governance Regulation

The revised Regulation should explicitly **define the just transition objectives** that national climate and energy policies should pursue, including protecting and creating quality jobs, reducing inequalities in access to clean energy, mobility, housing and other essential services, ensuring respect for human rights and promoting gender equality, and supporting the workers, communities and territories most affected by the transition. These objectives should be firmly anchored in the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Green Deal, the Clean Industrial Deal and the Quality Jobs Roadmap.

To **embed a more integrated and systemic approach to just transition** within the EU's governance framework, the revised Regulation should require Member States to systematically incorporate social, employment and distributional considerations into the design, implementation and monitoring of their climate and energy policies. This would act as a catalyst for socially grounded NECPs, fostering climate and energy policies and measures that anticipate and address their socio-economic impacts while maximising the social benefits of the transition.

## Require comprehensive socio-economic, vulnerability and resilience assessments in NECPs

Member States should be required to outline **policies in their NECPs that maximise social and environmental benefits**. To this end, NECPs should not only assess the socio-economic impacts of planned measures, but also **evaluate the vulnerability and resilience of workers, communities and territories to the evolving effects of energy and climate policies**. The revised Regulation should therefore mandate reporting and planning in the following areas, supported by dedicated indicators that reflect the diversity of affected regions and social groups:

- **Socio-economic impacts**, including change in employment status, job losses and creations, skills demand, income distribution, welfare and inclusion impacts;
- **Vulnerability thresholds**, including in access to essential goods and services such as housing, energy, mobility, training and health, with evidence of how these vulnerabilities are distributed across different social groups, including by age, gender and ethnicity;
- **Resilience resources** of workers, communities, territories and regions, including the availability of retrainable workforce, regional investment opportunities, existing income support schemes, collective agreements, collective bargaining practices, and social participation mechanisms.

Data collected across these three dimensions should be systematically integrated and jointly analysed for each socio-economic issue reported in NECPs. This will ensure that NECPs provide the most comprehensive possible overview of the socio-economic effects of climate and energy policies, as well as the measures designed to prevent, mitigate and address those effects.

## 3 Make reporting on the socio-economic effects of NECPs binding and more comprehensive

To ensure NECPs contribute more effectively to just transition objectives, the revised Governance Regulation should make it **mandatory for Member States to explain the socio-economic effects** of their climate and energy plans in all circumstances, rather than applying this requirement 'to the extent feasible'. Moreover, Member States should address socio-economic effects **more comprehensively and across all five areas covered by the Regulation**. NECPs should demonstrate how actions in these areas reinforce the following key pillars: quality employment, access to essential goods and services, development of skills and lifelong learning, social inclusion, gender equality and income levels. This approach should be operationalised through the introduction of **a dedicated socio-economic chapter in NECPs**, underpinned by clear and robust just transition indicators.

For example, NECPs should explain the contribution of decarbonisation strategies to the creation of quality jobs by assessing criteria such as:

- The development of collective bargaining coverage in the regions or sector undergoing transitions
- The deployment of income support strategies for workers and communities impacted by decarbonisation
- The number of retraining programs subscribed by workers undergoing job-to-job transitions
- The deployment of labour mobility schemes for workers and communities in remote areas
- The implementation of occupational health and safety measures.

Regarding Member States' biennial reporting on the implementation of their climate and energy plans (NECPs Progress Reports)<sup>10</sup>, the current voluntary reporting requirements on just transition in the NECP Progress Report template should be replaced with **mandatory reporting obligations**<sup>11</sup>. Moreover, the assessment of progress on socio-economic effects should be standardised, while avoiding additional administrative burden. This can be achieved if Member States:

- Use existing indicators and methodologies to anticipate and manage the effects of energy and climate policies, for instance those already used in the European Semester, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the TJTPs.
- Build on the existing expertise and knowledge of trade unions, civil society organisations and academics to understand the effects of energy and climate policies on the ground.
- Monitor the contribution of energy and climate policies to existing social and economic policies, strategies and plans, at national and regional levels.
- Cross-reference the objectives and measures taken as part of other governance instruments, such as SCPs and TJTPs.

## 4 Ensure coherence between NECPs and other governance tools

Providing greater clarity on the interplay and shared objectives between NECPs and other existing governance tools will ensure that reporting on the socio-economic effects of energy and climate policies, as well as on the resilience of workers, communities and territories to the evolving impacts of climate change, does not create additional administrative burdens. Given their timeframe and systemic scope, NECPs should primarily serve as overarching strategic frameworks, outlining mappings, trends, strategic measures and targets. In turn, SCPs and TJTPs should remain operational instruments, providing region- or sector-specific implementation pathways. In particular, NECPs should be aligned with:

- Assessments of the social and territorial impacts of ETS2 on vulnerable groups, to ensure that Social Climate Fund (SCF) resources are deployed as efficiently as possible;
- TJTPs until the 2029 deadline for JTF payments, as well as continued support for just transition regions under the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF);
- The Country-Specific Recommendations issued as part of the annual Semester cycle.

## 5 Strengthen the participatory dimension of NECPs through mandated social and civic dialogue

Although the Governance Regulation mandates consultation for the preparation and update of the NECPs, in practice these processes are often formalistic and untimely<sup>12</sup>. Member States should establish structured, continuous and inclusive mechanisms to ensure the **meaningful participation of trade unions and civil society**, in line with the Aarhus Convention. Such participation must take place throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring of climate and energy policies. In order to deliver on this, the revision of the Governance Regulation should be used to **strengthen the public consultation mechanisms** by:

10 Article 29 of the Governance Regulation.

11 See Article 15(4) of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2299 \(NECPs Progress Report template\)](#), according to which Member States 'may' report information on how the implementation of their NECP contributes to just transition. Annex XX of the same Implementing Regulation 2022/2299 makes it fully voluntary for Member States to report on the impact of the implementation of the NECPs on (a) jobs, workers and regions; and (b) on the promotion of human rights, gender equality and addressing inequalities in energy poverty.

12 CAN Europe & WWF EPO (2025), [Struggling for a voice: The mixed reality of public participation in National Energy and Climate Plans](#).

- Improving and clarifying the legal rules relating to public participation, including by a) revising Article 10 to explicitly require that public consultations take place when all options are still open and b) include reference to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives in Articles 10, 12 and Recital 28;
- Establish clear minimum timeframes for public consultations, to ensure sufficient time for meaningful input;
- Enhance transparency and accountability by mandating the publication of a written and reasoned decision detailing how public input was considered or not in the NECP;
- Standardise consultation stages by distinguishing between the draft for public consultation and the draft for submission to the European Commission, providing clear procedural guidelines for each stage to improve consistency across Member States.

## 6 Strengthen enforcement mechanisms

The current Governance Regulation lacks effective enforcement mechanisms, particularly regarding social aspects of climate and energy policies. The revised Regulation should **strengthen enforcement and compliance tools** to ensure that Member States meet their obligations and report comprehensively, not selectively, on social measures. In particular, the ambition gap and implementation gap procedures under Articles 31 and 32 of the Governance Regulation should be reinforced to cover situations where Member States fail to report on, or adequately plan for, the just transition impacts of their policies.

## Part II - Promote stronger planning, implementation and monitoring of just transition strategies and policies beyond the EU climate and energy governance framework

### 1 Develop comprehensive strategies for just transition at EU and national levels

A just transition does not happen automatically. Deliberate planning and careful guidance are required to ensure fairness and inclusivity. This calls for comprehensive **strategies and plans at all levels of governance** that define science-based objectives and clear priorities, establish principles<sup>13</sup> consistent with ILO Guidelines and UNFCCC decisions, outline timelines, and build on existing instruments and initiatives to ensure coherence and effectiveness. Such strategies and plans should pursue three complementary objectives:

- **Anticipate and manage the socio-economic impacts** of the green transition in a socially just and participatory way, starting with changes in the world of work. In order to ensure that climate policies deliver benefits for all and do not exacerbate inequalities, they must be designed or reformed on the basis of robust distributional impact assessments.

<sup>13</sup> As outlined on pages 20–26 of the [2024 Report on the Just Transition Taskforce in Ireland](#), the Irish government adopted a principles-based approach to defining a just transition in Ireland in 2021, built around four principles: (1) an integrated, structured, and evidence-based approach; (2) equipping people with the skills needed to participate in and benefit from the net-zero economy; (3) fair sharing of costs and prevention of worsening inequalities; and (4) inclusive social dialogue to empower affected citizens and communities.

- **Address the root causes of the unequal impacts of climate change**, which stem from structural inequalities in our economic and social systems. These include unequal access to environmentally healthy and climate-safe living spaces, disparities in access to affordable, healthy food, and disproportionate exposure of workers to extreme heat, which highlights the need for stronger protective regulation.
- **Provide accessible, affordable and sustainable alternatives** to polluting behaviours and practices, ensuring that all individuals and communities can benefit from the transition.

Achieving these objectives **at the EU level** requires an ambitious, long-term vision for a just transition. SOLIDAR calls for a ‘People’s Wellbeing Deal’ to complement and follow the European Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal, equipped with adequate resources and implementation mechanisms. **At the national level**, all Member States should design and adopt just transition strategies linking climate, energy, environmental and social objectives. While reflecting a common, pan-European vision, these strategies should also be tailored to national contexts and clearly define what a just transition means within each country. They should be adequately funded and have dedicated governance structures. They should also be closely aligned with other relevant frameworks, including NECPs, long-term strategies and national climate laws, and linked to social policy objectives.

**The national Just Transition Strategy (JTS) in Spain** is an example of best practice that should inspire other Member States<sup>14</sup>. Designed as a five-year plan with specific objectives and measures, the JTS aims to (1) support regions impacted by decarbonisation and people whose livelihoods depend on activities that will be phased out during the transition; (2) ensure the benefits of the transition are shared fairly; and (3) enhance public participation and stakeholder engagement. The JTS focuses on creating employment, upskilling and reskilling, promoting economic diversification based on local resources, and supporting vulnerable groups, such as women, young people, rural populations, and traditionally marginalised communities. Spain’s second JTS is currently in development. Ireland also provides an interesting case: in its 2025 Introductory Report<sup>15</sup>, the Just Transition Commission recommends that the Irish government **develop a strategy outlining its vision for a just transition** to a climate-neutral economy. This strategy should identify those most at risk and show how the transition will benefit society, especially the people most affected.

EU and national just transition strategies, plans and policies should be translated into **concrete, context-specific transition plans at local and regional levels**, equipped with adequate resources, building on the good practices of some TJTPs, such as those developed in Estonia, Poland and Czechia<sup>16</sup>.

## Develop just transition policy frameworks at the EU level and in all Member States

Currently, the EU’s just transition policy framework comprises only three recommendations and two funding instruments, and is designed as an ‘add-on’ to climate and environmental policies to offset their potentially regressive socio-economic impacts.

To implement and monitor a comprehensive strategy for a just transition systematically (see first recommendation), the EU should establish a **robust framework of soft and binding policies** that cover all areas where green and social objectives intersect. From the outset, these policies should address environmental and social dimensions in a complementary and cohesive manner. They should pursue

14 Instituto para la Transición Justa, O.A (2020), [Just Transition Strategy: strategic energy and climate framework](#).

15 Just Transition Commission of Ireland (2025), [Introductory Report of the Just Transition Commission of Ireland 2025](#).

16 CEE Bankwatch Network, [Just Transition](#).

the three core goals of a just transition: proactively anticipating and managing the socio-economic effects of the green transition, including in the world of work; tackling inequalities; and providing accessible, sustainable alternatives that allow all individuals and communities to benefit from the transition.

Among these measures should be an **EU Directive for a Just Transition in the world of work** through the anticipation and management of change<sup>17</sup>. The Directive should require Member States to prepare and adopt national just transition strategies and also address the impact of other major changes, such as digitalisation and artificial intelligence, on the world of work, as these transformations have significant implications for social justice.

At national level, Member States should fully **implement the Council recommendation on ensuring a fair transition**<sup>18</sup>, which calls on them ‘to put in place comprehensive policy packages, strengthen cross-cutting elements that promote fair green transition, and make optimal use of public and private funding’. These policy packages should integrate employment, skills and social policies with climate, energy, transport, environmental and other green transition policies. They should support the creation of quality jobs, ensure safe and healthy working conditions, provide inclusive and affordable education and training opportunities, promote the fairness of tax-benefit and social protection systems, and guarantee access to affordable essential services and housing for the people and households most affected by the green transition. This set of policy measures should be designed and implemented through a ‘well-coordinated cross-sectoral approach based on one or several national strategies and/or action plans, and benefitting coordination and governance mechanisms at Union and national level as appropriate’.

## 3 Translate just transition strategies and policies into sectoral collective agreements

Every sector, beginning with the most polluting ones, must decarbonise in a fair manner. Transition plans must take the needs of workers into account, ensuring they have access to quality employment and skills development opportunities. To this end, **tripartite transition agreements should be concluded between governments, trade unions and companies**, covering both individual sectors and cross-sectoral issues. Spain provides a strong example of this approach, having concluded two major sectoral tripartite framework agreements for a just transition: the Framework Agreement for a Just Transition of **Coal Mining** and the Sustainable Development of Mining Regions (2019–2027) and the Agreement for a Just Energy Transition for **Thermal Power Plants** in Closure<sup>19</sup>.

The primary aim of these agreements is to anticipate and manage the socio-economic impact on workers in sectors that have been identified as priorities or ‘transition-sensitive’ due to phase-out strategies or the introduction of new technologies or production models. Depending on the needs of the sector in question, such agreements could include measures to retain and create jobs, early retirement schemes, retraining and reskilling programmes, and the development of sustainable businesses and infrastructures. **Strong social and environmental conditionalities**, such as those applied in Spain when public funding is granted through just transition energy tenders, are essential to ensure that local communities and workers genuinely benefit from the transition.

17 SOLIDAR (2025), [A Quality Jobs Roadmap and Act to advance a just green transition](#).

18 [Council recommendation of 16 June 2022 on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality 2022/C 243/04](#).

19 Instituto para la Transición Justa, O.A (2022). [Spain, towards a just energy transition: executive report July 2022](#).

The implementation of collective transition agreements at company level should ensure the active participation of **trade unions and workers**, contributing to the design, development and delivery of each company's just transition plan.

## **Adopt a 'whole of government' approach and ensure the meaningful participation of stakeholders at all levels of decision-making**

Visions, strategies and policy frameworks must be designed, implemented and monitored through **robust governance structures** to effectively achieve their objectives. These structures should be fully participatory, engage all levels of decision-making and guarantee strong synergies between energy, climate and social policies. They should include:

- a. All strategies, plans, policies and agreements should be based on **meaningful and effective social dialogue**, ensuring the full involvement of trade unions at every stage of design, implementation and evaluation, as well as in **inclusive civil dialogue processes** that actively engage civil society organisations, social economy actors and other non-profit stakeholders.

The **Coal Commission in Germany**, characterised by a unique co-determination approach that brought together government, trade unions, industry and civil society, provides a pioneering model for delivering a high-standard just transition<sup>20</sup>. The Commission's work resulted in a legally binding coal phase-out by 2038, supported by €40 billion of public investment, a commitment to no layoffs, and a framework that prioritises high-quality jobs that are subject to collective bargaining.

- b. **Set up dedicated executive bodies and mechanisms for cross-ministerial and interdepartmental cooperation** to ensure coordination across competences and portfolios and to align national policies with regional and sectoral realities.

At the EU level, this could be operationalised by incorporating the objectives and principles of a just transition into the agendas of relevant Commissioners, Directorates-General and Council configurations, and promoting better coordination between them, including through joint Council meetings and the joint monitoring and evaluation of policies and actions via working groups, task forces, etc.

At the national level, **Spain's Just Transition Institute (ITJ)**<sup>21</sup> could serve as a model. Set up as part of Spain's JTS under the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO), the ITJ is a key government body responsible for identifying, adopting and implementing measures for a just transition to a green, low-carbon economy.

- c. **Set up independent advisory bodies** comprising experts from trade unions, civil society, social economy and academia, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

**Just Transition Commissions, based on the Irish and Scottish models**<sup>22</sup>, should be established in all Member States and at all levels. These independent bodies provide governments with impartial, strategic and evidence-based advice to inform policy planning for a just transition across sectors. They also support governments and other stakeholders in managing the transition effectively. Composed of experts from academia and research, social justice and environmental civil society organisations, trade unions, rural and community groups, business and industry, and other sectors, these commissions ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective on just transition policies.

20 Jonathan Tasini (2025), "Making Just Transition A Reality Is The German Coal Commission A Template?", Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Brussels.

21 [Instituto para la Transición Justa](#)

22 See the [Scottish](#) and [Irish](#) models of Just Transition Commissions.

- d. **Create platforms for dialogue among all levels of governance and establish inclusive spaces for public participation**, ensuring people are meaningfully involved in decisions that affect them directly.

To address the socio-economic impacts of the country's phase-out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy in affected areas, Spain's ITJ has launched the **Just Transition Agreements (JTAs)**. So far, 15 agreements have been signed covering 197 municipalities and 8 Autonomous Communities. Serving as the implementation mechanism of the national JTS, the JTAs operate as a **co-governance tool** to ensure commitment and coordination among public administrations at national, regional and local levels. They also propose targeted support instruments to facilitate the economic and social revitalisation of these regions and are informed by thorough assessments of local socio-economic impacts. JTAs are based on extensive public participation and engage a variety of stakeholders.

## 5

### Support the design and monitoring of national transition policies at EU level

It is crucial that Member States have the right infrastructure to map and monitor the evolving needs, risks and opportunities in regions and sectors affected by energy and climate policies. The **EU Fair Transition Observatory**, announced in 2024 and now expected to launch in early 2026, could provide decisive support at the EU level, provided it receives adequate funding, aligns with post-2030 targets and ensures the meaningful participation of trade unions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. For example, the Observatory could **assist in the governance of national and regional transition policies** by providing guidance on socio-economic reporting, sharing best practices for transition strategies, and facilitating alignment with EU-wide energy and climate objectives.

Moreover, **national and regional Fair Transition Observatories should be set up across Europe**, building on best practices such as the Just Transition Observatory in Western Macedonia, the Observatory for the Just Transition of the Alentejo Litoral and the Regional Observatory of the Transition process in Silesia.<sup>23</sup> The EU Fair Transition Observatory should collaborate with these observatories and support their work. These experiences underscore the importance for regional and national authorities to:

- Monitor the implementation of existing transition plans and funding, including the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and the TJTPs;
- Establish collaboration platforms with relevant stakeholders;
- Map the needs, risks and opportunities of territories and regions, including on skills, labour mobility and social protection;
- Create knowledge repositories that document local best practices and provide guidance on effective transition strategies;
- Update impact assessment, social and environmental indicators and industrial mapping.

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<sup>23</sup> European Commission (2023), [Just transition measurement approaches: a catalogue for just transition regions](#).

# solidar

SOLIDAR is a European and worldwide network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to advance social justice through a just transition in Europe and worldwide. Our over 50 member organisations are based in 27 countries (19 of which are EU countries) and include national CSOs in Europe, as non-EU, EU-wide and organisations active at the international level.

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