

CLIMATE CHANGE & JUST TRANSITION MODULE

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to human civilization and Earth's ecosystems as we know them. Nowadays, both science and political decision-makers are convinced we need urgent action and, consequently, at the 2015 Conference of the Parties under UN Framework Climate Change Convention the "[Paris agreement](#)" was adopted with the aim of reducing greenhouse gases pollution and curbing climate change. The agreement was a big diplomatic success, but it is based on the "pledges" by states and the mitigation ambition is not enough, leading to a 2.8° C increase instead of the agreed 1.5° C. Since then, the main issue has been how to speed up the transition from fossil fuel to post-fossil fuel societies, which necessarily requires a fundamental change of the current political, social and economic system.

What this transition requires and how it should be done is the key debate among different stake-holders. Industry and some of the decision-makers rely heavily on technology and efficiency to solve the problem. Labor movement demands just transition that would provide justice for the workers in the fossil fuel industries. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) created the [Just Transition Centre](#) to lead the debate from the perspective of labor unions. Environmental and climate justice organizations are demanding the burden of transition not be carried by the poorest parts of society, who would suffer if the transition costs were automatically transferred into end costs of services – for example, house heating. Others are viewing transition from the viewpoint of regions – for example, how to change the economy of coal dependent regions to maintain jobs in the region. We will explore these perspectives and discuss what the transition looks like in the European periphery.

The Climate justice module has many overlaps with the Degrowth & Glocal Sustainability and Commons & Municipalisation modules, as we need to urgently shift from fossil fuels, but the key question is how will we do it and who will pay the cost? To use less and to use resources and energy more efficiently is the first, very often the most neglected tool to curb climate change. The ownership of the production is also very important. For example, community energy projects are ways to enable local communities to produce their own renewable energy and even sell it to the grid. Such decentralized production would provide more resilience in the system and profits would spread more evenly, which would eliminate energy poverty.

To conclude: in the climate module we will explore climate governance and just transition from the environmental and social perspective and discuss community energy models.