



Trade Union
Advisory Committee
to the OECD
*Commission
syndicale consultative
auprès de l'OCDE*

Regional economic revivals and the Just Transition imperative

TUAC Roundtable on the Digital & Green Transformations

5 November 2019, 16.30-18.00, Room CC7, OECD Conference Centre

Please register via tuac@tuac.org

As the world is struggling to transition to a zero-carbon economy and fears of automation and sector restructuring grow, regional economic and social disparities within OECD countries are high already. With income and job opportunities increasingly concentrated in large cities and certain regions, other regions are falling behind.

The OECD will release its final report on Accelerating Climate Action suggesting to refocus policies through a well-being lens. Meanwhile, the OECD Going Digital Horizontal Project and the OECD/G20 AI Principles point to a massive re-skilling challenge and the need for a fair transition.

Digital divides in rural areas are profound, sectors are being disrupted and urban populations resort to new non-standard forms of work. Job loss and lack of job mobility in some, and the growth of precarious work in other regions are alarming trends. For TUAC, the next steps should lead to a regional economic revival and a Just Transition strategy for both the digital and the green transformations. Part of a just transition is enhanced social dialogue and target financing. The roundtable sets out to engage in a dialogue between the OECD members, secretariat and trade unions since.

There are pronounced challenges to be tackled:

- Climate change poses an existential threat—with no jobs on a dead planet;
- Automation could lead to 14% of all jobs being displaced in the next 10-20 years, meanwhile standard employment relationships and funding for training are not secured;
- The social contract is threatened when regions depending on manufacturing, retail or agriculture are left behind.

... and opportunities to be reaped:

- A successful transition to a zero-carbon economy holds the potential of sustainable economic growth and social well-being;
- Done right, digitalisation could support a green transition whilst leading to more productivity and inclusive growth;
- Workplaces can become safer and greener, and work-life balances better.

For the TUAC, policies should help prepare workers for the jobs of the future with targeted public investments, training initiatives and spatial policies that truly trickle down.

The TUAC invites representatives of permanent delegations, Business at the OECD and the OECD Secretariat to exchange on the opportunities and challenges for regions in the new world of work with its affiliates on the 5 November from 16.30-18.00 at the OECD Conference centre, room CC7.

Hosted by **Anna Byhovskaya** and **Rasmus Nielsen**, Senior Policy Advisors, TUAC