

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE

Towards a Just Transition in France - Risks, injustices, opportunities and good practices

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SciencesPo

Social-Ecological Transitions

ECOWELFARE
Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network

Co-organised by [The SET Initiative](#) (Sciences Po) and the [Sustainable Welfare and Eco-social Policy Network](#), this roundtable brought together experts, policy-makers, academics, social partners and civil society organisations. Its aim was to examine the challenges and opportunities involved in implementing a just transition. The initiative aimed to promote dialogue and the sharing of ideas and experiences, as well as to strengthen strategic cooperation between academic, institutional and societal players.

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

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BACKGROUND: Issues related to just transitions are playing an increasingly important role in political and academic debates. At a time when the rise of populist movements and the opposition to environmental policies are undermining the ecological transition, there is an urgent need to deepen our understanding of the distribution of economic and social costs generated not only by the ecological crises but also by policies designed to mitigate their impact. Do the environmental policies implemented in France take account of potential inequalities in the distribution of the costs of the environmental transition and, ultimately, of the new social risks it generates? On which social groups will transition policies have the greatest impact? How can we reconcile ecological transition, social justice and political acceptability?

CHALLENGES

- **Tensions between ecological sustainability and social justice:** policies aimed at reducing the ecological footprint, such as carbon taxation or increased energy prices, can increase social inequalities if they are not offset by effective and appropriate redistribution mechanisms.
- **Lack of coordination between social and environmental policies:** environmental policies are often disconnected from social issues. Better integration of social dimensions into environmental strategies is essential.
- **Unequal access to instruments**

BEST PRACTICES

- **Inclusive and targeted energy renovation:** initiatives such as the renovation of social housing in Paris, and schemes guaranteeing 'zero out-of-pocket expenses' for low-income homeowners, show that access to ecological renovation can be made equitable. Programmes targeting low-income private condominiums are also necessary.
- **Sustainable mobility accessible to all:** innovative solutions such as 'social leasing' for the acquisition of electric vehicles is an effective solution for making ecological mobility accessible to low-income populations, particularly in rural areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Continue to link social and environmental policies in order to overcome silo thinking** by systematically integrating a social dimensions into climate policies, and vice versa.
- **Strengthen territorial justice mechanisms:** differentiated support is needed to address regional disparities, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, which are often left out of current transitions.
- **Implement targeted compensation policies tailored to local realities**, such as policies for low-income

to support the ecological transition: a major challenge lies in ensuring fair access to support instruments for the ecological transition, such as aid for energy renovation or subsidies for electric vehicles. It is crucial to rethink these instruments to make them accessible to the most vulnerable

- **The retraining of workers from sectors with a high carbon footprint**, such as the car industry or heavy industry, represents a major challenge.
- **Territorial disparities exist in access to transition support instruments**, penalising rural and peripheral territories in particular, even though they have distinct needs, such as access to sustainable mobility alternatives or to local energy infrastructures.

- **Inclusion of territories in the ecological transition:** projects such as zero waste territories or circular economy initiatives generate local jobs while reducing the ecological footprint, thus strengthening social and environmental protection.
- **Supporting workers in professional retraining:** training programmes adapted to the new green professions exist but need to be strengthened, by offering personalised support, and long-term monitoring.
- **Just transition projects are developing in rural and peri-urban areas** such as [‘microgrids’](#) or renewable energy cooperatives, which promote the energy transition while supporting local development. These initiatives offer sustainable solutions and create employment opportunities in areas that are often neglected.

households and workers in vulnerable sectors.

- **It is also important to take account of specific territorial features.** For example, in rural or peri-urban areas, specific support for energy renovation and the energy transition must be put in place, with precise targeting to ensure fair access to ecological solutions.
- **Strengthen funding mechanisms for local authorities** to enable them to develop just transition projects tailored to their specific contexts.
- **Strengthen support policies for workers undergoing retraining** and make them accessible to all, including workers in small businesses or sectors undergoing conversions.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS¹

- Agence de la transition écologique (ADEME)
- Confédération française démocratique du travail (CFDT)
- Fondation Abbé Pierre
- France stratégie
- Inspection générale des affaires sociales (IGAS)
- Les petites rivières
- Mairie de Paris
- Réseau Action Climat (RAC)
- Réseau de transport d'électricité (RTE)
- Sciences Po

¹The statements in this summary document shall not be taken as the official positions of any of these participating organisations. The document rather summarises different participants' heterogeneous points of view.