Call for papers

Eco-Social Summer School 2026

6 - 8 September 2026,

European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), Brussels

The 2026 Summer School, **Welfare states in sustainability transformation: work, inequalities, and eco-social policies?** brings together PhD candidates and early-stage researchers for an intensive and intellectually engaging programme on climate transitions, welfare states and the future of work.

Across several days of lectures, discussions and research workshops, we will explore how sustainability transformation unsettles our political economies and welfare systems. Rather than treating the eco-social question as a technical matter of policy design, the summer school invites participants to think boldly: what forms of solidarity will be required in a decarbonising economy? How do we protect people, not just jobs, in a world of shifting industries and new forms of insecurity?

This year we focus on three themes. First, **tensions and transitions**: we look at where ecological and social agendas collide, and where new alliances might emerge. Second, **welfare in motion**: we consider how welfare systems have been adapting and should adapt when planetary crises and policy responses create new inequalities, new risks and new demands for redistribution. Third, **futures of work & democracy**: we ask how labour markets, worker organisations and political voices are transformed when economies move toward sustainability. These themes will run throughout the programme, framing collective reflection as well as the individual research contributions of participants.

Across the programme, invited scholars will deliver lectures, followed by sustained discussion in which participants are encouraged to challenge, debate and deepen the ideas presented. The afternoons shift into workshop mode: participants share their own research, receive detailed comments from speakers and organisers, and engage in collaborative conversation. The aim is to build knowledge together, critically, creatively, and constructively.

We welcome applications from doctoral researchers and early-career academics working on eco-social issues broadly conceived, including climate policy, social policy, labour studies, and related fields. The summer school admits a limited number of participants to ensure space for dialogue and individual feedback.

To apply, please submit a CV and a research abstract of no more than 500 words via this submission link: https://forms.gle/c15VVaq8w1ZYrfLD7
Deadline for applications is Friday, February 13th.

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