



Progressive (FEPS-FES) Baltic Regional Meeting: Climate Justice in Europe: Policy and Strategy

Friday, March 18th, 2022: 14.00 – 18.15 (UTC + 2)
Original Sokos Hotel Viru, Viru väljak 4, 10111 Tallinn
and via [Zoom](#)

The findings from 6th assessment report of the IPCC and the increased frequency of climate change related extreme weather events in Europe and the world have highlighted that a scaled up and rapid transition towards decarbonized economy is urgently needed on a global scale. In addition, other crucial environmental support systems are equally under threat with biodiversity loss, land degradation and the impact of chemical pollutants arriving at dangerous and in some cases irreversible levels. To address these issues at both the global and the European level a broad shift, which covers policies in energy and transport systems but also issues such as tax reforms, digitalization and regional and urban governance, is necessary. To ensure that such a shift can materialize and enjoy the support of the people that are meant to implement it, policies need to be designed and communicated in a way that foregrounds justice and fairness. The current spike in energy prices and its impact on energy poverty across Europe make this need for a just transition even more pressing. The meeting responds to the need to urgently develop and communicate a vision of just environmental and climate politics by bringing together researchers, progressive policymakers and foundations from the Nordic and Baltic regions and the European level.

Program

Friday March 18th, 2022

14:00 – 18:15: Thematic conference on just transition and climate justice in Europe (open, hybrid event)

14:00-14:30 **Opening and registration**

15:00-15:15 **Welcome and introduction**

Madis Roodla, International Secretary Social Democratic Party of Estonia
László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS

15:00-15:30 **The state of the just transition in the EU**

Frank Siebern-Thomas, Head of Unit, European Commission (TBC)

15:30-16:45 **The European Green Deal: Implementation and Communication**

Short Description:

The European Green Deal and the fit for 55 package constitute the strategy of the EU to become the first decarbonized continent and to switch economies and societies away from the unsustainable use of fossil fuels and other resources. These overarching policies are an opportunity to improve the quality of life and create a fairer economy for Europe's citizens. However, the social implications of the ongoing energy crisis as well as more medium-term issues of the green transition like structural transformations in employment illustrate that both short- and long-term policies need to put questions of fairness and justice at the center stage. In addition to questions of policy design, progressives also need to be attentive to the narratives and frames they utilize to describe the green transition in order to not fall into the discourses pushed by those who want to stall climate action.

Key questions:

- How to design policies that both decarbonize our economies and deliver progressive outcomes?
- Does the EU green deal and the fit for 55 package take the social dimension sufficiently into account?
- What should progressives emphasize when communicating about climate and the environment?

Chair: **Andreas Dimmelmeier**, FEPS policy analyst

- **Daniel Muth**, Doctoral Researcher, Central European University
- **Aleksandra Tomczak**, Member of the Cabinet of Frans Timmermans, European Commission
- **Johanna Maarja Tiik**, Climate Researcher, Estonian Nature Fund
- **Andrea Casamenti**, Just Transition Policy Officer, SOLIDAR

16:45-17:00 **Coffee break**

17:00-17:10 **Green Just Transition in the Nordics**
Jan-Erik Støstad, SAMAK

17:10-18:25 **Managing regional and social impact for a just transition**

Short description

While the EU climate targets apply to the entire Union, member states face different realities in their transitions. Moreover, intra-state regional inequalities and disparities further nuance the picture. Taking place-based differences into account when designing policies is thus imperative for a just transition. What is more, apart from acknowledging regional specificities paying attention to them can also facilitate exchanges and learning.

Key questions:

- To what extent are green policies linked to regional inequalities. How can they remedy them and what are the dangers of locking in unequal developments?
- What can the Nordics and Baltics learn from each other in environmental and regional policies?

- How can innovation and digitalisation policy be aligned with regional priorities and empower municipalities and regions?

Chair: **David Rinaldi**, Director FEPS

- **Kaisa Vattanen**, Head of Policy and Planning SDP Finland
- **Felicitas Sommer**, Head of Sustainability, Research Asset Impact GmbH
- **Timo Karl**, Policy Analyst, FES competence centre JustClimate
- **Jevgeni Ossinovski**, Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond.