

MULTILEVEL ENGAGEMENT OF TRADE UNIONS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

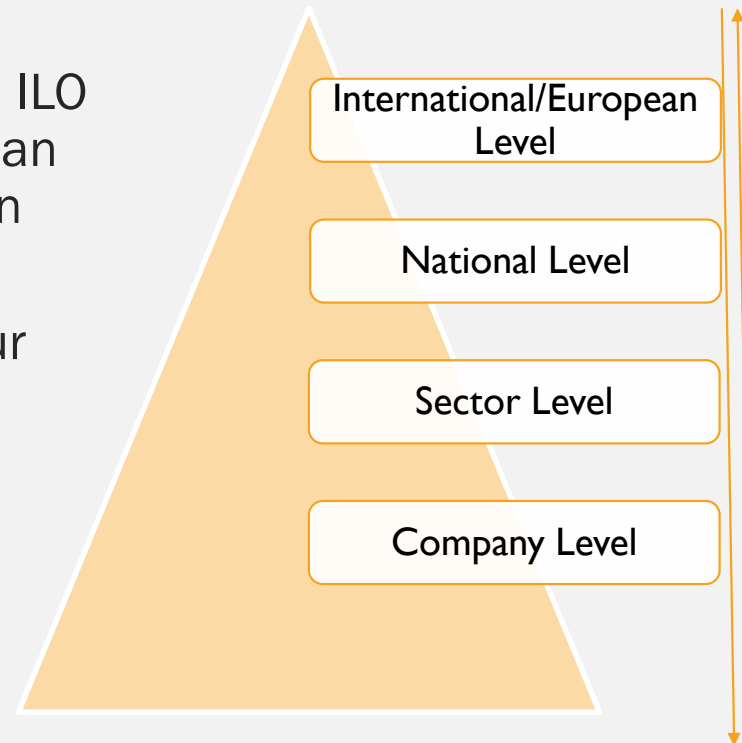
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INTRODUCTION

- Aim of the research: generate a better understanding of trade unions' climate change strategies.
- How are trade unions dealing with climate change at the different levels of trade union action? How are they articulating members' interests and broader societal concerns?
- Documentary analysis and interviews with trade union representatives, employer representatives and policy makers at different levels (between 2017-2019).

LEVELS OF TRADE UNION ACTION

- **International level** (broad principles, cf. ILO conventions); **European level** (ETUC as an interlocutor of EU institutions/European social dialogue).
- **National level** (social dialogue on labour legislation and social policies).
- **Sector and company levels** (collective bargaining over wages and working conditions).



UNION ATTITUDES TOWARDS DECARBONIZATION

- **International level:**
 - General support for climate action (ITUC, ETUC): Just Transition narrative
- **National level:**
 - Heterogenous positions, depending on national political economies; geopolitical interests; sectoral distribution of membership; ideological orientations.
- **Sector/company level:**
 - Prevalence of economic/employment concerns. Unions mainly established in carbon-intensive sectors.

COORDINATION AND ARTICULATION ACROSS LEVELS OF UNION ACTION

- **Multilevel decision-making**
 - Multilevel structure of trade unionism as an asset (interactions with policymakers, employer organisations and companies at all levels). But there is the risk of policy inconsistencies across levels of union action.
- **Connecting societal priorities and workers' interests**
 - Heterogenous interests in the workforce, competing priorities and complexity of sustainable development.
- **Coordination and articulation across levels of union action**
 - The challenge of combining centralized decision-making, analytic resources and shop-floor involvement.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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