

Dear Colleagues,

The Education Department of the European Trade Union Institute, in cooperation with CFDT (France) organises a training course on **“Building alliances between trade unions and civil society”** from 14 to 16 October 2026 in Paris, France.

Background

Trade unions historically focus on workers’ rights, wages, and working conditions, while civil society organizations (CSOs) often focus on environmental protection, human rights, social justice, and community development.

Increasingly, complex challenges like climate change and decarbonization process require shared objectives, regular dialogue and combined expertise between trade unions and civil society organizations.

These collaborations represent a strategic evolution of union work from workplace-focused to society-wide engagement.

Objectives

- Cooperate effectively with civil society organizations on issues related to the ecological transition, social justice, and participatory democracy.
- Provide the necessary foundations and tools for building alliances between civil society and labor organizations;
- Strategically plan the steps involved in building an alliance;
- Anticipate potential obstacles to these alliances and prepare an action plan to overcome and mitigate them.

Working languages

English, French

Programme

The enclosed draft programme will give you an overview of the course contents.

Accommodation and meeting venue

Paris, France. Accommodation and venue will be communicated when we confirm the participants.

Participants

- Union representatives who wish to expand their activities by partnering with civil society organizations;
- Union representatives at the company and sector levels involved in environmental policies and occupational health and safety.
- Union leaders and representatives responsible for or interested in the environment, climate change, and sustainable development, as well as participatory democracy and social justice

Arrival and departure

Participants are expected **to arrive on 13 October 2026** and **to leave on 16 October after lunch**.

How are enrolments processed?

15 participants can be accepted. The final selection of the participants will be done by ETUI and the team of trainers, considering the requirements for the target group.

Please note that your registration will not be final until we have confirmed that you have been selected.

We ask you to consider the recommendations of the ETUC Action Plan for women which calls for the proportional representation of women in trade union activities.

Participants' registration

The deadline for registration is September 11, 2026.

Selection and confirmation of participation will be done by mid-September 2026.

Please fill in our registration form and use the link:

<https://crm.etui.org/form/creer-des-alliances-avec-la-soci>

Payment

A direct monetary contribution (enrolment fees) to ETUI Education activities is required per participant.

The cost is 60€ for the entire course programme. You will receive instructions on how to pay when we confirm your participation.

Organisation

- There is no need to book your own accommodation.
- **Travel:** Participants must make their own travel arrangements, knowing that ETUI will pay travel costs back based on a reimbursement form. The ETUI will cover accommodation costs (3 nights only) and travel. **Please wait until you receive our formal confirmation before making any travel arrangements.**

⚠ Please, may we ask you to read the attached document "Communication on Unit costs travel, accommodation and subsistence" carefully, the rules have of reimbursement have changed! ⚠

Additional information

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Franklin Kimbimbi fkimbimbi@etui.org.

Yours sincerely,

Fabio Ghelfi
Director
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