**EAPN Spain’s input on Green and Social Transition**

**A proposed common strategy on three tiers:**

* Advocacy to the EU and our national governments to deliver in the environmental SDG, with ambitious timelines.
* A multisectorial approach which explains the consequences of the proposed green transition and PEP.
* Thematic analysis as energy poverty.

**The Spanish input**

1. Ecological and inclusive transition is at the top level of the political discourse. You can see an example here: THE AGENDA FOR CHANGE. TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE (February 8, 2019) <https://www.mineco.gob.es/stfls/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/190208_agenda_del_cambio.pdf>
2. Green Jobs are taken by the Secretary of State for Climate Change, and the Ministry of Rights and 2030 Agenda

Initiative: EMPLEAVERDE

<https://www.empleaverde.es/sites/default/files/informe_empleo_verde.pdf>

To get out of this systemic unsustainability with high rates of poverty, “it is necessary move towards a new economy based on ecological principles that is capable of generating new deposits of "Green job". For decades, a new trend which emphasizes the complementarity and synergies that can trigger environmental and employment policies is gone imposing and gaining weight in social demands.”

Almost 57% of the existing green employment in Spain is concentrated in four autonomous communities: Catalonia, Andalusia, the Community of Madrid and the Valencian Community.

Definition of environmental occupations

(traditional green job) 530.947 jobs

1. Treatment and purification of wastewater

2. Waste management and treatment

* Urban waste management
* Hazardous waste management
* Construction and demolition management
* Recovery, recycling and recovery of waste
* (paper / cardboard, glass, plastic, metals, oils, vehicles
* out of use, batteries and metallic and electronic material)

3. Renewable energy production

* Wind power
* Photovoltaic Solar Energy
* Thermal solar energy
* Biomass energy use
* Biofuel production
* Another type of renewable energy

4. Management of protected natural areas

5. Forest area management

6. Environmental services to companies and entities

* Environmental consulting
* Environmental engineering
* Environmental audit

7. Environmental education and information

8. Organic farming and livestock

The number of green jobs in new job pools could be multiplied **by a change in the sustainable economic model**. In addition to these traditional sectors, the new fields will provide green jobs that will add to the traditional sectors. The fields of information and communication technologies, sustainable rehabilitation-building, sustainable tourism, specific activities related to mitigation or adaptation to climate change, mobility and sustainable transport, the economy of biodiversity, crops, agro-energy, the automobile sector and industrial ecology are examples of them.

An example is activities related to mitigation or adaptation to climate change. The transition to a low carbon economy is an opportunity for many sectors. Activities such as the exploitation of renewable energy, construction, the distribution of efficient products to the consumer, the production of less carbon-intensive industrial goods or transport have already detected the advantages of facing this transition. This adaptation to a low carbon economy will also be in favour of mitigating the more serious effects of climate change. Also, sectors such as agriculture and livestock, energy, health, forest area management, water treatment and purification, insurance and certifications, tourism, transport, telecommunications and the information society. Industrial activities, or the financial sector may be affected or even benefited in a context of adaptation to climate change. For example, it is estimated that, if the growth trend continues, rural tourism could go on to employ about 45,000 workers in 2020.

One of the two Spanish trade unions, UGT, made a campaign in favour of combating climate change and published a report supporting the green transition from the perspective of job creation.[[1]](#footnote-1) According to the figures appearing in the next table, there would around 400,000 new jobs with a 69% of success in the three main goals (emissions reduction, energy efficiency and resources efficiency)



**EAPN Spain’s advocacy**

EAPN Spain’s advocacy on this matter is carried out through a coalition of NGO, EAPN Spain is working in coalition with Common Future, “Futuro en Común”, a coalition of NGOs, including environmental organizations.

“The current development model, focused on economic growth, is socially and environmentally unsustainable and therefore cannot continue to be a measure of progress. We want to build an alternative society in which people and the planet are the cornerstones. Only by placing citizens and the environment at the centre of this new model can we build fully democratic societies.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

**EAPN Spain’s concerns**

The greening of jobs and the promotion of green employment, both in traditional and emerging sectors, favors the development of an ecologically sustainable, competitive economy with a small carbon footprint, as well as modes of consumption and production sustainable, contributing to the fight against climate change.

**The transition to a low carbon economy inevitably means that there will be winners and losers.**

* **Increased costs would have a negative impact on poor households; it is one of the main threats.**
* **Shortage of skills is a second threat: those long-term unemployed, low-skilled and other vulnerable profiles would struggle to get these new jobs. They will have to be trained or retrained to apply for them, which means big social investment, in inclusive and active employment.**
* **With a huge youth unemployment, a share of them with very qualified profiles, there would be a trend to employ the most employable.**
* **The social consequences of layoffs of workers from the traditional contaminating industries and services could be huge.**
* **Consequently, the obstacles with big companies and landlords, and the reluctance to enlarge social investment would mean the lack of delivery of environmental commitments.**

**Proposals:**

* It is imperative to manage the transition in a fair and controlled manner.
* Adequate measures are needed to help businesses and citizens adapt to the new situation
* Selective financial assistance, based on identifying the most vulnerable sectors and groups of people, is a relevant option.
* Efforts should continue to focus primarily on finding new solutions and developing skills.
1. Here: https://www.ugt.es/sites/default/files/node\_gallery/Galer-a%20UGT/Informe%20UGT%20Cambio%20Climatico%202017.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See more information here: <https://futuroencomun.net/somos/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)