

CALL FOR EXPERTISE
TO DEVELOP A GOAL 8 CENTRED APPROACH
TO THE UN2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION IN EUROPE

1. SCOPE

This is a call for experts to take part in the implementation of the ETUC project “Raising awareness on SDGs amid workers and trade union leaders: decent work, environment and rule of law”, co-financed by the European Commission – DG Employment. A short description of the project is available [here](#).

The ETUC will publish this call on its website on Friday 27th March 2020. Experts are invited to submit their bids until Friday 10th April 2020.

This call and all activities stemming from a cooperation between the ETUC and the experts will be subject to the rules of the Grant Agreement N. VS/2019/0278 of the above-mentioned project.

The experts will work under the coordination and supervision of the ETUC Confederal Secretary in charge of the UN2030 Agenda and EU Semester, and the Head of Institutional Policy of the ETUC.
The policy framework in which the experts will operate is described in ANNEX.

2. OBJECT OF THE CALL

The ETUC is seeking for a scientific partner to develop a strategy to implement the UN2030 Agenda in its activities within the European Semester, adopting a Goal-8-centred model which builds on the Goal 8 Index developed by the ITUC.

The Goal 8 Index that the ITUC is building provides a sound methodological approach that, adapted to the EU reality, may support the incorporation of SDGs in the macroeconomic and social policies of the EU. Building on the experience of the ETUC gathered in the last decade as key stakeholder in the European Semester process (see est.etuc.org), the ETUC would like to elaborate a tool that monitors and benchmarks SDG 8 in Europe, and orientate policy decisions for a quick progress toward all the SDGs.

The development of this strategic SDG 8 approach will take into account announced changes in the EU Semester that will better link the Country Specific Recommendations with the EU Budget and the renewed economic governance of the EU.

3. TASKS TO BE PERFORMED BY THE EXPERTS

The scientific partner will support the ETUC in:

- Elaborating an EU version of the SDG8 Index that is meaningful to the EU reality but remains consistent with the ITUC approach.
- Identifying the correlations between the SDG 8 Index and other SDGs or indicators of the UN2030 Agenda, in particular those that serve mainstreaming policies of the EU such as the Green Deal, the European Pillar of Social Rights, respect of the Rule of Law.
- Assisting the ETUC experts in developing and validating benchmarks which support the policy decisions for the achievement of the SDGs through a Goal-8-centred approach.

4. DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES

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- The experts will deliver a European version of the SDG 8 Index (iSDG8.eu) with the same methodology used for the ITUC Goal8 Index, completed by Excel tables showing correlations between SDG 8 and other SDGs/indicators and graphical visualisation of such correlations.
- The experts will Participate in 3 meetings of the Indicator Group of the ETUC, that will be set up for the purpose of the project “Raising awareness on SDGs amid workers and trade union leaders: decent work, climate neutrality and rule of law”.

5. TIME SCHEDULE

The above-mentioned tasks will have to be performed during the life-span of the project, which runs until 30th June 2021. Please note that the exact deadlines for the above-mentioned tasks and events may be subject to slight changes and will be decided upon in agreement with the project team.

6. EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS REQUIRED

This project requires experts with the following profile.

A specific expertise in the following fields:

- UN2030 Agenda and Decent Work agenda, and mainstream environmental global policies
- European economic governance of the EU European Semester and environmental policies of the EU

Proved capacity to establish interaction among SDGs with sound knowledge of the world of work at European level.

International professional profile and experience of work with international organisations

Skills required:

- Ability to adopt a cross-disciplinary approach, capable of integrating the SDGs and the European Semester process / EEG;
- Ability to work in a multinational and multicultural environment, understanding different culture & traditions in matters related to decent work, climate and social policies in general;
- Proven research and presentation skills (in English);
- Proven skills in drafting study reports (in English);
- Good administration and excellent time management skills.

7. BUDGET

The ETUC has a total budget of € 10,000 (VAT and all taxes included) available to cover the experts' fees. This budget does not include all other travel and subsistence costs related to the participation of experts to the meetings mentioned in this call and other eventual meetings in which the experts are invited to. These will be covered by the inviting organisations.

8. FORMAT, STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF THE BIDS

Offers/tenders must be written in English. They must be signed by the tenderer or his duly authorised representative and be perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures. Tenders must be clear and concise and assembled in a coherent fashion.

All tenders must include at least two sections:

i) Technical proposal

The technical proposal must provide all the information needed for the purpose of awarding the contract, including:

- Specific information covering the technical and professional capacity, as required, in particular:
 - Description of relevant professional experience with emphasis on the specific fields covered by the invitation to tender;
 - Detailed curriculum vitae of the key coordinator and other team members;
 - A selection of the main works and/or articles published by all the experts involved, in relation to the relevant subjects specified in this tender.
- Specific information concerning the proposed methodology for delivering the tasks listed in part 3 of this call.

ii) Financial proposal

Prices of the financial proposal must be quoted in euros, including if the sub-contractor is based in a country which is not in the euro-area. As far as the tenderers of those countries are concerned, they cannot change the amount of the bid because of the evolution of the exchange rate. The tenderers choose the exchange rate and assume all risks or opportunities relating to the rate fluctuation.

Prices must be fixed amounts and shall not include travel expenses and daily allowances for the attendance to the Steering Committee meetings and other project events which will be covered by ETUC on the basis of EU rules & thresholds.

The maximum amount available for this contract is EUR 10 000 (VAT and all taxes included).

Prices shall be fixed and not subject to revision during the performance of the contract.

9. SUBMISSION OF THE BIDS AND AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

This call for tenders will be published on the ETUC website on 27th March 2020, and will be kept online until 10th April 2020. Offers must be sent to ETUC at the latest on 10th April 2020. Offers must be sent by e-mail to: amartin@etuc.org.

The contract will be awarded to the bid offering the best value for money, taking into account the requirements (in terms of expertise, experience and skills) specified in this call for experts and in its ANNEX. The principles of transparency and equal treatment will be respected with a view to avoiding any conflicts of interest.

ANNEX

SOME METHODOLOGICAL NOTES FOR A GOAL-8-CENTRED APPROACH FOR THE EU

THE ETUC APPROACH

On December 2017, the ETUC adopts a [Resolution for a Sustainable Europe by 2030](#). The European trade union movement commits with the 3 dimensions of development, for stronger democratic institutions and mainstream sustainability in the external action of the EU.

The ETUC was part of the Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs launched by the European Commission which produced a [Report “Europe moving towards a sustainable future”](#) that the ETUC subscribed.

The ETUC joined the [Time For 8](#) campaign of ITUC at the HLPF 2019. [The ETUC Contribution at the: At the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development](#) warns that the 2030 Agenda cannot win the support of people if people cannot rely on quality and well-remunerated jobs. The ETUC joined the Goal 8-centred approach proposed by the ITUC and declared that the world would need a Universal Labour Guarantee and that the EU version of this was the European Pillar of Social Rights. The ETUC considers that concepts such as “No one left behind” assumes that progresses in some areas may be at the expenses of progress in some other areas. Trade-offs exists and are already at work ([The Global Sustainable Development Report, UNDESA 2019](#)).

Answering to the Reflection Paper of the European Commission “Towards a Sustainable Europe 2030” the ETUC considered that the EU had to mainstream SDGs in all relevant policies in order to trigger a substantial convergence of all Member states towards the SDGs (Scenario 2). It would create the conditions for the EU to guide the action of its member states within a common strategic framework for sustainable development (Scenario 1). In its answer, the ETUC stressed the relevance of the private sector to achieve the SDGs. Goal 8 was identified as pivotal for the achievement of the entire UN2030 Agenda.

The ETUC in its [Growth and Social Progress 2020 Document](#) - which opens the consultations with trade unions on the Semester 2020 – invites the European Commission to undertake concrete actions to implement the SDGs, focusing on the European Pillar of Social Rights and to create conditions for massive investments for the green transition.

In the meantime, the ETUC starts stretching the European version of the Goal 8-centred development model elaborated by the ITUC. The Orientation Document endorsed by the Executive Committee of the ETUC says that: ETUC proposes a new social contract as the conceptual framework for a review of the economic governance of the EU. It includes the implementation of a Social Progress Protocol and the proposal for a new social contract that builds on SDGs, especially on centrality of SDG8.

THE EU APPROACH

The need to achieve a greater convergence among member states was confirmed by the Elected President of the European Commission who announced her will of refocusing “the European Semester into an instrument that integrates the United Nations Sustainable Development goals”.

The SDGs are now more frequently mainstreamed into the EU acts. Regulations implementing the future MFF makes regular reference (but are not built on) the SDGs, such as the BICC and the InvestEU Regulations. The European Semester is now introduced by an Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, adopted according to art. 121 of the TEFU and Regulation 1466/97. In the month of February, Country Reports take stock of the approximation of policies of member states toward the SDGs. This is a change of narrative to which a policy change has to follow. Member States do not share the same understanding of the UN2030 Agenda and show different degree of ownership of it. Their progress toward the SDGs records huge differences.

The European Commission starts incorporating the SDGs in the European Semester in a way that is compatible with the Goal-8-centred approach. In the [ASGS 2020](#) it is said that “Integrating the objectives of the SDGs in the European Semester, with a specific focus on the economic and employment aspects, provides a unique opportunity to put people, their health and the planet at the centre stage of economic policy.” In the [Communication](#) introducing the Country Reports 2020, the European Commission says that “In line with the legal scope of the European Semester, the integration of SDGs focuses on their macro-economic dimension and on how they can be achieved through economic, employment and social policies. The transformation to a sustainable economy is a defining challenge with implications for growth and jobs. Consequently, this macro-economic dimension takes a broader perspective and SDG- relevant policies and challenges are identified across the country reports in line with the Green Deal and the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy. It does it consistently with the European Pillar of Social Rights, which is a compass for renewed convergence towards better working and living conditions in the EU and its Social Scoreboard, which monitors its implementation.” The European Commission concludes that: “To this effect, a set of key indicators is being developed with the aim of being applied as of the next Semester cycle. The Commission will work closely with Member States and other stakeholders in its development.”

The ETUC has criticised the policies adopted within the current semester. They do not actually move the EU toward an a sustainable development track. In particular, a policy-making model and benchmarking system are missing. However, the current semester may open the way to a further reflection on how sustainability could actually shape the socio-economic governance of the EU. Goal 8 has a pivotal role in the UN2030 Agenda. Moreover, a Goal 8 centred approach fits in well with the legal basis of the EU semester that includes Article 148 of the TFEU, and this will drive an increased prominence of climate and environmental objectives of the EU into the economic governance of the EU. The review of the Economic governance is a great opportunity to definitively link the EU development model to the SDGs, building on the driving power of Goal 8.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

When introducing the SDGs in the EU Semester, we nurture the ambition to endorse a long-term view for rethinking our economic and social model toward a model that is based on climate-neutrality, inclusiveness and quality jobs. The Semester should be a process of convergence toward the best SDG8 performers, that in Europe mostly means contributing to EU growth and implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights. The European Semester has the task of identifying trade-offs and synergies and proposing that policy drivers that builds on synergies and change the trade-offs. A SDG-matrix should include a policy-making model that enables decisions that are potentially creating progresses in some SDGs but are not deteriorating another areas of sustainability.

Based on the experience gathered by the ETUC in the EU Semester, the table below tries to identify areas where the European Semester can make the difference (positive, no impact or negative) even though the intensity of this correlation is not measured. A deeper analysis should be delivered to establish connections with different targets and the scope of the EU Semester under the new MFF, the Green Deal, and after the reforms of the economic governance.

Goals:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Goals in which the EU Semester can make a difference	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
Goals in which trade unions can make a difference	X			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X

Correlations (positive, neutral or negative) between goal 8 (including social dialogue) and other goals	+	+	+	+	+	=	+	X	+	+	=	=	-	=	=	+	+
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Monitoring progresses under multidimensional policy framework (as both the European Semester and the UN2030 agenda are) is a complex issue. It requires the management of great groups of data, selecting benchmarks that promote policy drivers with high political sensitivity. For some, the implementation of SDG looks like a monumental task. It is an issue of capacity and an issue of resistances among people. The political commitment has to be strong and transversal to the political forces.

Changing our way to work and produce requires shifts in taxation, incentives and protection of citizens. Groups of interests start conflicting as widespread advantages only materialise in the medium-term. Political parties try to gain quick consensus riding the discontent of groups that are called to contribute to change, hiding the advantages they can gain in future. *Country Specific Recommendations can help setting transversal consensus on the UN2030 Agenda amid political forces.*

The difficulties met in the Council for the adoption of mainstream policies such as social progress under the EPSR or sustainable growth under the EU Green Deal are the result of the fact that some member states are more exposed to economic, social and environmental risks or have more progress to make toward the SDGs. Differentiated, yet coordinated, policies in Member States are therefore necessary. *Country Reports will help member states to identify synergies and trade-offs between environmental and social challenges; will report statistical records under each SDG (Eurostat data).*

Partnerships and involvement of social partners has to be enhanced. Social partners can play a greater role. Collective bargaining is crucial to anticipate change and implement solutions for productive transformations we need. Collective bargaining and employee involvement should be two pillars of the just transitions concept. Social dialogue is able to build political capital that national governments may use to win consensus of citizens for sustainable change. The UN2030 in the EU Semester starts from a more structured and compulsory involvement of social partners in the EU Semester. Member states should consider these aspects with performing their Voluntary National Reviews. The ETUC in cooperation with the ITUC is already performing a monitoring of the SDG implementation with a specific focus on the role of social dialogue [\[link\]](#).

SDG in the Semester cannot be limited to a deepening of analysis but should implement a new development model. Effective benchmarking and policy models are crucial for decision makers. The European Semester needs a policy model that selects policy drivers that actually maximise all SDGs. A grid will identify interrelation between different SDGs, synergies and trade-offs. This model and grid should oblige the European Commission and the member states to select policy drivers that score the highest in terms of SDG achievements. The ETUC will develop a version of the ITCU Goal 8 index adapted to the EU context but well anchored to the global ITUC model in order to ensure consistency and comparability

GOAL 8 is pivotal to win consensus of people (and business). Monitoring of goal 8 should take into account several dimensions that express the potential of the national economy to advance or keep balance between the social, environmental and economic dimension of sustainability.

Building a monitoring system based on Growth and decent work:

- **Well-being** indicators will consider GDP, Growth access to finance (especially of SMEs and households), poverty and inequalities.
- **Efficiency of the labour market** will take into account employment levels, participation in the labour market of women and other groups, productivity, wage trends and poverty among low-wage earners.

- **Labour Vulnerability** will consider health and safety at workplace, social protection coverage, NEETs, incidence of precarious work or involuntary part-time, social conflicts.
- **Labour Rights** will monitor violation of fundamental trade union and labour rights at national level.

It will be then possible to establish correlations between country performances and other SDGs. Policy decisions will be then taken in a way that all other SDGs will be achieved without hampering the country performance under the goal 8. At the same time, priority should be given to that policy drivers that convert negative correlations between some SDG and Goal 8 into a positive correlation.