TIR-H

Transporting Industrial Relations towards Hydrogen

Insights from TIR-H national training sessions Summary of The Turkish Training Session Deliverable 3.5





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Introduction

Transporting Industrial Relations towards Hydrogen (TIR-H) is an EU funded project that aims to provide trade unionists with the necessary knowledge and training related to the transition to a green economy. The aim of the project is to provide trade unionists with sufficient knowledge and training to manage the dynamics associated with the transition from the production of fossil fuel powered vehicles to hydrogen powered vehicles.

Relevant issues and good practices will be identified in selected regions; specific trainings involving workers' representatives will be organized to provide information on ongoing challenges and initiatives promoted at European level; specific issues and ideas will be shared for the social partners involved in the European social dialogue in the framework of project activities (preliminary research; workshops; training).

The project includes the planning of four national training sessions in the project partners Italy, France, Hungary and Turkey to address the specific challenges related to the transition to hydrogen vehicles. As part of these training plans, the last national training session of the project was organized in Turkey. The Turkey Training Session was held on October 31-November 1, 2023 in Ankara, at the Headquarters of the Turkish Metal Workers' Trade Union.

The two-day training session was attended by 26 participants. The participants were selected from TMS's member workers working in multinational companies and staff working in TMS's research and international relations departments. Participants were informed about the hydrogen strategy of Turkey and the EU and good practices implemented in multinational companies.

At the project's transnational training session in January 2023, it was clear that the focus of the Turkish participants was not on the green economy. For this reason, the issue of the duty of care law enacted in Germany was also emphasized. The areas of use of the duty of care law were explained to the participants. In addition to these activities, a visit to the M.A.N Turkey factory was organized, and good practices were observed on site.

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Summary of the Training Session

The first day of the training session started with an opening and welcome speech by Murat Salar, former General Financial Secretary of the Turkish Metalworkers' Union. Mr. Salar, who is also the Secretary General of the International Metalworkers Federation, which operates in twenty countries, gave information about the importance of the project and the green transformation in the region. Expressing the satisfaction and pride of Türk Metal to be a part of this project, Salar spoke about the European Green Deal. Emphasizing the need to ensure a fairer world order with the Green Deal, Salar said, "We must say no to the poor paying for the disasters caused by the rich."

Following Salar's speech, Dr. Güven Savul, Research and External Relations Bureau Specialist at the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions, to which Türk Metal is affiliated, presented the EU Hydrogen Strategy. Following Savul's presentation, Turkey's Hydrogen Strategy was explained to the participants.

In the second part of the first day, Erencan Marti from the Turkish Metal Union gave information about good practice examples implemented in multinational companies. Afterwards, the Duty of Care Law was discussed with the proposed solutions from the "Seminar on Fundamental Rights of Workers in Turkey" organized by IndustriAll Europe and Global in Turkey in September. After this discussion, the first day was completed.

The second day of the training session started with a factory tour. M.A.N Turkey Bus Factory, the first production facility of M.A.N outside Germany and the largest bus factory of M.A.N, was visited. Here, workplace union representatives and factory officials shared information about the green transformation implemented in the production section. After the factory tour, Dr. Güven Savul gave information on why green transformation is important in the transportation sector.

Finally, the participants were divided into four groups and conducted a study on good practices in the factories and future projections. The outcomes of this study included the inclusion of green transformation in collective bargaining agreements, comprehensive trainings for workplace union representatives on green transformation, and the creation of a nationwide campaign led by the union.

The meeting was concluded with a feedback questionnaire and a closing speech by Mesut Erdem, Vice President of the Turkish Metal Workers' Trade Union.

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