

# Restructuring of coal regions: the role of the local communities and trade unions

Programme  
**PART 1**

Where:  
**Zoom web application**  
(web link to follow)

When  
**May 12. 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

In the upcoming decade, coal phase out in Europe is inevitable both in terms of climate and the economic viability of thermal power plants. The proactive role of trade unions and local decision-makers in planning the timely and equitable restructuring of the region is also important in discussing the coal exit. Practical experience across Europe shows that coordinated restructuring of the coal regions by different actors can also have positive effects – from healthier living environments and an overall improvement in the quality of life, increased social inclusion and improved public services, to reduced unemployment and poverty.

To open up space for this aspect as well, environmental organization Focus, as part of the LIFE Unify project, is organizing a conference titled on the topic of timely and equitable coal exit, which will take place on May 12 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event will highlight the key arguments for a timely coal phase-out, present current trends in Europe, and examine good practices in the approaches by local decision-makers and trade unions in some other European countries to look for concrete approaches that could result in a timely and equitable restructuring of coal regions.

**The event will be held in Slovene and English, interpretation will be provided from English into Slovenian and vice versa.**

The event will be moderated by journalist Primož Cirman, Necenzurirano.

Mandatory registration via the [online form](#).

- 10 a.m.** **dr. Tomislav Tkalec**, Focus Association for Sustainable Development  
*The importance of coal phase-out for achieving climate goals in Slovenia and the EU*
- 10:10 a.m.** **Blaž Košorok**, State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia  
*Why Slovenia decided to exit coal by 2033*
- 10:30 a.m.** **Kathrin Gutmann**, Campaign Director, Europe Beyond Coal  
*Key steps for successful restructuring and a summary of the situation in other EU countries*
- 11 a.m.** **TBC - European Trade Union Confederation**  
*How trade unions can contribute to a fair and timely coal phase-out*

- 11:30 a.m.** **Discussion**
- 11:50 a.m.** **Break**

**PART 2**

- 12:00** **TBA – Proactive role of trade unions in coal phase-out (experience of a trade union from a foreign coal region)**
- 12:30 p.m.** **Alojz Vlčko**, Head of Mayor's Office of city Prievidza (Slovakia)  
*Proactive role of local authorities in coal phase-out (experiences of local authorities from the Upper Nitra coal region)*
- 1 p.m.** **Discussion**
- 1:30 p.m.** **Summary and conclusion**



The event will be conducted under the project LIFE UNIFY "Bringing the EU together on climate action" and is funded by the European LIFE program.