

# Working Time Reduction in Europe : Who and How?

## European Work-Time Network Conference 2024



### Agenda

The European Work-Time Network is hosting its 2024 conference on 17th and 18th October at Mundo Madou in Brussels.

We will have five panel discussions on various topics relating to the practical implementation of working time reduction in Europe, with speakers from trade unions, universities, campaigns and political organisations.

There will be a private event for the Network's members from 1.45pm on the 18th October.

The conference is being funded by the Alex Ferry Foundation. Live interpretation is being provided by EPSU, and registrations are being hosted by the ETUC.

Please see the following page for the conference agenda.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Network's Coordinator India at:

[workingtimenetwork.europe@gmail.com](mailto:workingtimenetwork.europe@gmail.com)



The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union

## Thursday 17th October

- 11.30 - 12.00** Arrivals and lunch
- 12.00 - 13.00** Introduction to the conference  
Parliamentarian comments
- 13.00 - 13.50** **Panel 1:**  
Wage increases vs reduced working hours  
(with no loss in pay)
- 14.00 - 14.50** **Panel 2:**  
Daily reduction of hours vs reduction of days  
(4-day work week)
- 14.50 - 15.10** Break
- 15.10 - 16.00** **Panel 3:**  
Working time reduction and the  
intensification of work
- 16.00 - 16.45** Networking
- 19.00 -** **Dinner** (Optional)  
Partially subsidised - book in advance

## Friday 18th October

- 9.30 - 10.00** Arrivals
- 10.00 - 10.30** Introduction to Day 2
- 10.30 - 11.20** **Panel 4:**  
Driving working time reduction: Employees vs  
Employers
- 11.20 - 11.40** Break
- 11.40 - 12.30** **Panel 5:**  
Achieving working time reduction: office jobs,  
industrial jobs, service sector jobs
- 12.30 - 13.00** Conference close
- 13.00 - 13.45** Networking lunch
- 13.45 - 17.00** Private: Network Members' Event

## **Panel 1: Wage increases vs reduced working hours (with no loss in pay)**

Thursday 17th - 13.00 - 13.50

### **Agnieszka Piasna**

*European Trade Union Institute, Belgium*



Agnieszka Piasna is Senior Researcher in the Economic, Employment and Social Policies Unit of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in Brussels and associate researcher at the Centre for Sociological Research at KU Leuven. Her research focuses on job quality, working time (reduction), digitalization, and gender equality. She coordinates research activities in the framework of the ETUI Internet and Platform Work Survey.

### **Anke Thorein**

*Ver.di, Germany (online contribution)*



Anke Thorein is a trade union organiser in the collective bargaining policy department of the united services trade union of Germany. She provides support in the development of collective bargaining policies, with a particular interest in working time reduction.

### **Eva Scherz**

*GPA, Austria*



Eva Scherz is a collective bargaining officer in the union GPA. She focuses on the private social and health sector and the industrial sector.

**Moderator:** José Gallegos, Erasmus University

## Panel 2: Daily reduction of hours vs reduction of days

Thursday 17th, 14.00 - 14.50

### Beate Zimpelmann

*Hochschule Bremen, Germany*



Beate Zimpelmann is Professor in Political Management and Interdisciplinary Sustainability Management at Bremen University of Applied Sciences. She has researched and taught labour and sustainability policy for around 30 years. Beate is the Chairwoman of the Competence Center for Sustainability in Global Change. She is co-editor of the book "Weniger arbeiten, mehr leben!" (VSA 2024).

### Hampus Andersson

*Kommunal, Sweden*



Hampus Andersson is an investigator and researcher at Kommunal's federal office. He works with issues related to working hours and the working environment.

### Silke Raab

*DGB Federal Executive, Germany (online contribution)*



Silke Raab is the Head of the Unit for equality-oriented family policy in the Department for Women, Equality and Family Policy at the DGB Federal Executive Board.

She is Deputy Chairwoman of the Maternity Protection Committee and a member of the Advisory Board of the Federal Family Forum.

**Moderator:** Maria Jaidopulu Vrijea, Nicos Poulantzas Institute

## Panel 3: Working time reduction and the intensification of work

### Ágúst Ólafur Ágústsson

*Union of Care Workers (Sjúkraliðafélag), Iceland*



Ágúst Ólafur Ágústsson is a former Parliamentarian from Iceland. He has worked at the United Nations in New York and is also a former Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Iceland, former board-member in the Central Bank of Iceland. He is currently working as a university lecturer and a consultant, for example for the trade union of Licensed Practical Nurses in Iceland.

### Francisca Mullens

*Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*



Francisca Mullens is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and a lecturer at Hogeschool PXL. Her doctoral research focused on the influence of a 30-hour workweek on women's lives, examining a trial within a Belgian feminist organisation. She is also involved in a European project exploring remote work and its impact on time use.

### Grace Western

*The Autonomy Institute, UK*



Grace Western is an experienced economic policy researcher with almost a decade of policy and research analysis experience, with specialisation in the areas of the future of work, worker power, and work-time reduction. Currently, Grace is a consultant on the Autonomy Institute's Shorter Working Week Consultancy team and is also a researcher on the future of work and worker power.

**Moderator:** Margareta Steinrücke, Attac Germany

## Panel 4: Driving working time reduction: Employees vs Employers

### Joan Sanchis

*University of Valencia, Spain (online contribution)*



Joan Sanchis is a political economist based in València, Spain. He is an Associate Professor of Applied Economics and a PhD Researcher at the University of València, focusing on post-work economics and public policy. He was an adviser on employment policies to the Valencian Regional Government, where he helped design pioneering four-day week pilot policies in Spain. He is the author of the book *Four Days: Working Less To Live in a Better World* (2022).

### Katrin Mohr

*IG Metall, Germany*



Dr Katrin Mohr is a social scientist, political secretary in the Department General Policy and Sociopolitical Issues at the executive board of IG Metall. Her areas of focus include societal developments, the future of work and the welfare state, socio-ecological transformation, working time.

### Tea Jarc

*ETUC, Belgium*



Tea Jarc is a Confederal Secretary of ETUC. She covers collective bargaining for quality jobs and upward convergence, which includes wages, non-standard forms of employment, youth, and implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights. Tea was previously President of ETUC Youth Committee, and was President of the Slovenia trade union Sindikat Mladi plus that gathers and represents young unemployed people, young precarious workers, students and high-school students.

**Moderator:** Aliyah Davies, 4 Day Week Campaign

## Panel 5: Office vs industrial vs service sector jobs

### **Alma Kastlander Nygren**

*Vårdförbundet, Sweden*



Alma Kastlander Nygren is a negotiator of central collective agreements in all sectors at the Swedish Association of Health Professionals. She has experience from negotiating reduced working hours, daily rest, wages, working conditions and other terms.

### **Berardina Tommasi**

*ETF, Belgium*



Berardina Tommasi is a Policy Officer for Dockers in the Maritime Department of the European Transport Workers' Federation. She is a trade union leader with over ten years of experience in the international union movement. She previously held the role of Head of International Policies in the Italian transport workers' union Filt-Cgil

### **Mirjam Bruner**

*UNIA, Switzerland*



Mirjam Brunner studied social sciences and law in Switzerland. She has worked for the trade union Unia since 2015, first as a legal advisor and since 2019 as a specialist in working time in the policy department.

**Moderator:** Adrien Tusseau, Rousseau Rousevelt