



BWI • Building and Wood Workers' International
BHI • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale
BTI • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen
IBB • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois
ICM • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

Call for proposal for research on Climate Change in the Building, Building materials, Wood, Forestry and Allied sectors

5 November 2021

1. Background

The research work to be carried out is part of the BWI Climate Change Continuum Pilot Project (supported by the Open Society Foundation), a 2-year initiative ending in 12/2022.

With a view to build the organisational and technical capacity of building and construction trade unions to address and to take the lead in the climate action, this project seeks to enhance the understanding of BWI unions on the challenges that the climate crisis poses to the world of work of in its sectors, and on the opportunities for a shared alternative sustainable development model.

2. Statement of purpose

Climate change is the most significant challenge of our century. If not stopped, it will be the first cause of natural disasters and job losses. It will also destroy communities, and lead to enormous social vulnerabilities including increasing poverty and concentration of wealth, deterioration of health and occupational safety, and to mass migration crisis of unexplored dimensions. Fighting climate change in BWI sectors is therefore a fundamental part of the workers' struggle.

BWI industries can be considered major industries in terms of emissions. Data shows that construction accounts 39% of energy related CO₂ while forestry and land use account for 6%. Moreover, construction and building materials workers are involved in the value chains that are categorised as main industrial emitters.¹

Transitioning to a fossil-free future with secure and safe jobs, decent wages and social security will open new opportunities for building and wood workers' trade unions to engage and to take the lead on reframing the narrative and organizing around ideas of collective action and solidarity, so that the values and aspirations of BWI unions for climate and social justice emerge as common-sense solutions to the challenges and crisis that confront workers in the building, construction and allied sectors globally and in each country and community.

To succeed, a comprehensive narrative built on shared alternatives of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development models, has to be rooted in the needs of communities, workers and their trade unions, and accompanied by the mobilization of BWI union members.

3. Objectives

BWI requires a contractor (research expert) to explore existing practices in BWI industries and actions by its trade union members, both nationally and internationally, that have led to concrete workers' rights protecting adjustments in workplaces and in the industries. The research is also to analyse the implications of climate change in the industries and to identify cross-cutting issues emerging from existing practices.

¹ www.wri.org/resources/data-visualizations/world-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2016



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The findings will be used to inform BWI's global level and its members organisations' national level advocacy strategies to pressure governments and international stakeholders, to engage in social dialogue practices, and to build alliances in the communities.

More specifically, the research will aim to:

- Provide an overview on the impact of climate change on jobs in the building, building materials, wood, forestry and allied sectors
- Identify 100 examples of trade unions' and partner organisations' actions and responses to climate challenges in the building, building materials, wood, forestry and allied sectors
- Analyse and outline the cross-cutting areas of engagement with the support of an expert panel from BWI ad-hoc group on climate change

4. Expected output:

- A draft report, which includes a brief review of the relevant literature, mapping of the current situation related to the theme (100 actions to respond to climate change), critical analysis of the theme and recommendations
- Final report (60 pages)
- An executive summary (800-1000 words) about the research findings for dissemination through the production of further information, educational, and communication material
- Presentation of the research findings in workshops and events

5. Scope of Work

A desk study with a global and local focus to identify 100 activities and actions, complemented by interviews to BWI unions in the sectors under investigation and to other relevant stakeholders (international organisations, national institutions, local authorities, employers, climate justice groups, etc.), and a survey to BWI members. Final contextualization of the actions identified through exchanges with BWI representatives and identification of cross-cutting areas of engagement across the three main BWI industries, to inform BWI Global Policy Paper on Climate Change.

6. Terms of the Contract

The planned research period is a total of approximately 25-30 days over a 4-month period, during which the contractor will liaise with a BWI contact person on the progress of the research, and with a team of union experts from the BWI Ad-hoc group on climate change to explore the relevance of the proposals and to identify cross-cutting engagement areas across the sectors.

The interested expert is required to submit a proposed timeline and budget with the requested amount to conduct the planned research.

7. Schedule of payments

- 50% on receipt of the signed contract (guiding framework)
- 50% on receipt of the final report

8. Proposal Preparation



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Interested parties are requested to submit their CV and list of publications accompanied by a brief concept note (max 2 pages) and a budget proposal by 20 November. The concept note should state the research methodology, the scope and scale of the research, a proposed timeline over 4 months, and the proposed budget information.

Applicants should submit their proposals by email to paola.cammilli@bwint.org copying info@bwint.org with "Climate Change Continuum" in the subject line.

Should you have further questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact us by email: paola.cammilli@bwint.org

About Building and Wood Workers' International

BWI, the Building and Wood Workers' International, represents 351 trade unions 127 countries and represents 12 million workers in the building, building materials, wood, forestry and allied sectors. BWI's main objective is to promote the development of trade unions in our sectors throughout the world and to promote and enforce workers' rights in the context of sustainable development.

www.bwint.org