POLICY BRIEF

Who benefits from the twin transition?

Twin transition inequalities as perceived by individuals

DATE
October 2026

DELIVERABLE LEADER
EFIS Centre

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KEY MESSAGES

1 **Transitions are lived unequally:** they bring opportunities, but not to everyone. Access to jobs, services and technologies depends on income, education, health, gender, age, migration background and place of residence. Individuals describe the green transition as voluntary, value-driven and often difficult, and the digital transition as mandatory, fast-moving and hard to opt out of. Policymakers should reflect these distinct logics rather than assume that everyone starts from the same position.

2 **Green choices are constrained by everyday conditions.** Affordability, housing, mobility, time and infrastructure determine whether low-carbon options are genuinely available. Low-income households are often already low in material use and emissions, yet feel excluded from a transition model built on costly private investments; rural areas bear the visible costs of renewable energy without necessarily sharing its benefits.

3 **Digital inclusion is more than connectivity.** Skills, accessible interfaces, affordable equipment, human support, privacy and the ability to manage digital overload all matter. When analogue alternatives disappear, falling behind means exclusion from work, education and public services.

4 **Vulnerabilities overlap.** Low income, poor health, care responsibilities, insecure work, migration status and minority identity can combine and reinforce exclusion. The policy question is not only "who is vulnerable?", but "which combinations of conditions restrict a person's capacity to act?"

5 **Trust and participation are transition infrastructure.** Communities and social networks enable engagement, while mistrust, lack of recognition, online hostility and concentrated power in technology and digital systems undermine it. Policies should redistribute the capacity to act, strengthen social networks and monitor who actually benefits.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101132559.