

## Fostering international civil society cooperation: the EU CSDDD as a new entry point for just transition



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Project partners: University of Vienna; King's College London; University of Sussex

Cooperation partners: FIAN Austria; Fundación SOL, Santiago de Chile

Local partners in Chile and Uganda

This project is funded by the Climate and Energy Fund and is carried out under the "Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) 2023".



The goal of the project is to investigate how international civil society networks can provide knowledge to support Austrian companies to effectively implement the EU CSDDD (EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive) to contribute to the protection of climate, biodiversity and human rights and in so doing contribute to a just transition.

### Methodological approach & theoretical framework

- Transdisciplinary design**
  - Integration of academia, NGOs, companies, and stakeholders
  - Participatory knowledge production
- Mixed-methods framework**
  - Quantitative methods: Bloomberg Professional data; supply-chain mapping; network analysis; descriptive statistics; risk mapping
  - Qualitative methods: Literature and document analysis; comparative case studies; semi-structured interviews; focus groups; participatory action research
- Political Economy; Power Resource Approach; Global Value Chain Approach**

### Key findings

- Existing civil society structures and networks can be mobilised to provide information to Austrian companies on their global supply chains to tackle emissions indirectly by addressing biodiversity, ecosystems, and environmental damage and human rights:
  - Landscape approach (national contact points)
  - Sector-specific international networks
- International civil society networks are crucial to foster stakeholder involvement
- International civil society networks and trade union networks are complementary and cooperation should be strengthened
- New international civil society network structures have to be created

### Mapping Austrian global supply chains

- Risk analysis of Austrian companies
- Mapping Austrian companies subject to the CSDDD
- Mapping supply chains of selected Austrian companies (e.g. figures 3, 4, 6)

Figure 3: ams OSRAM's Supply Linkages to Chemical and Mining Firms

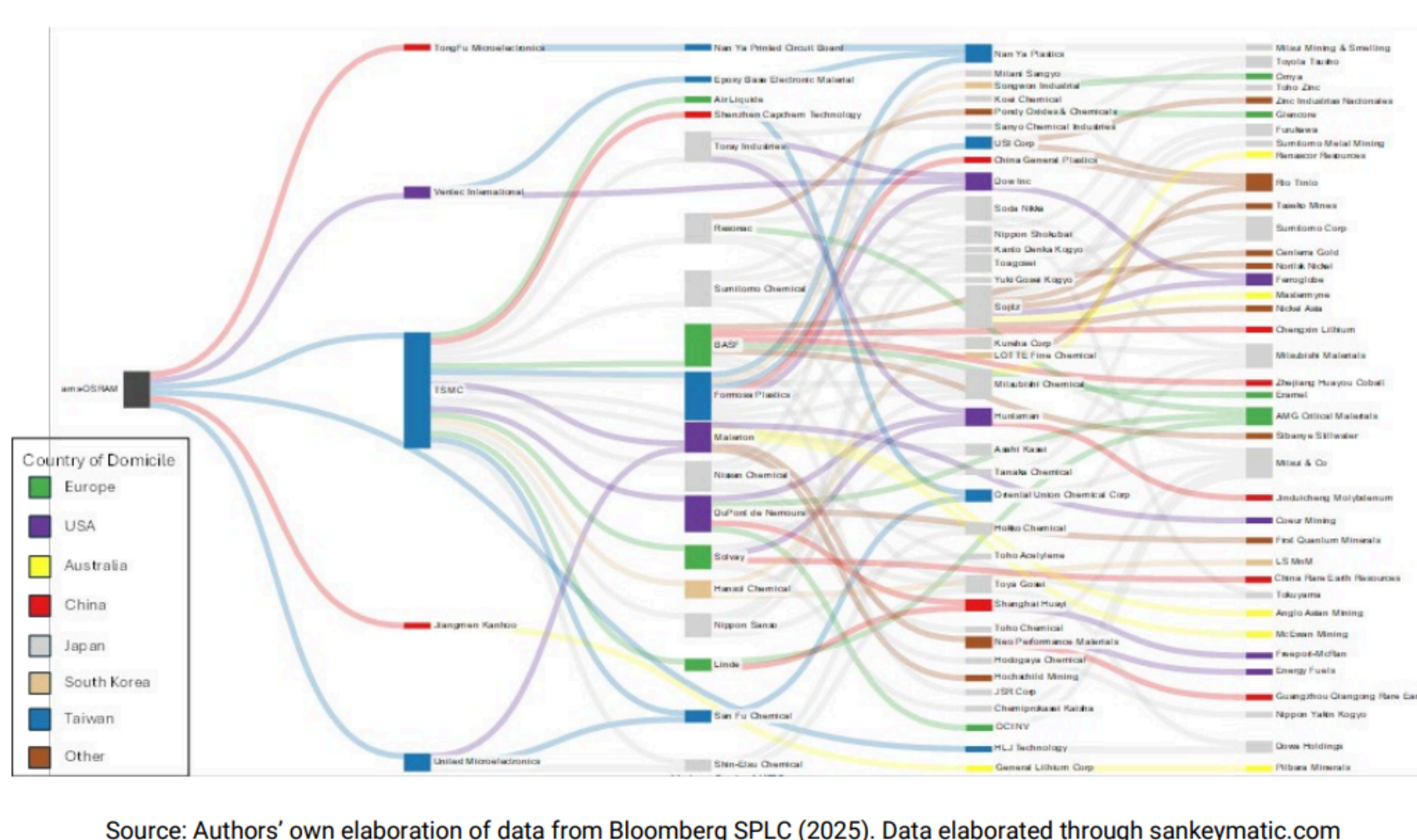


Figure 6: Voestalpine AG's Revenues by Segment and Industry, 2023-24

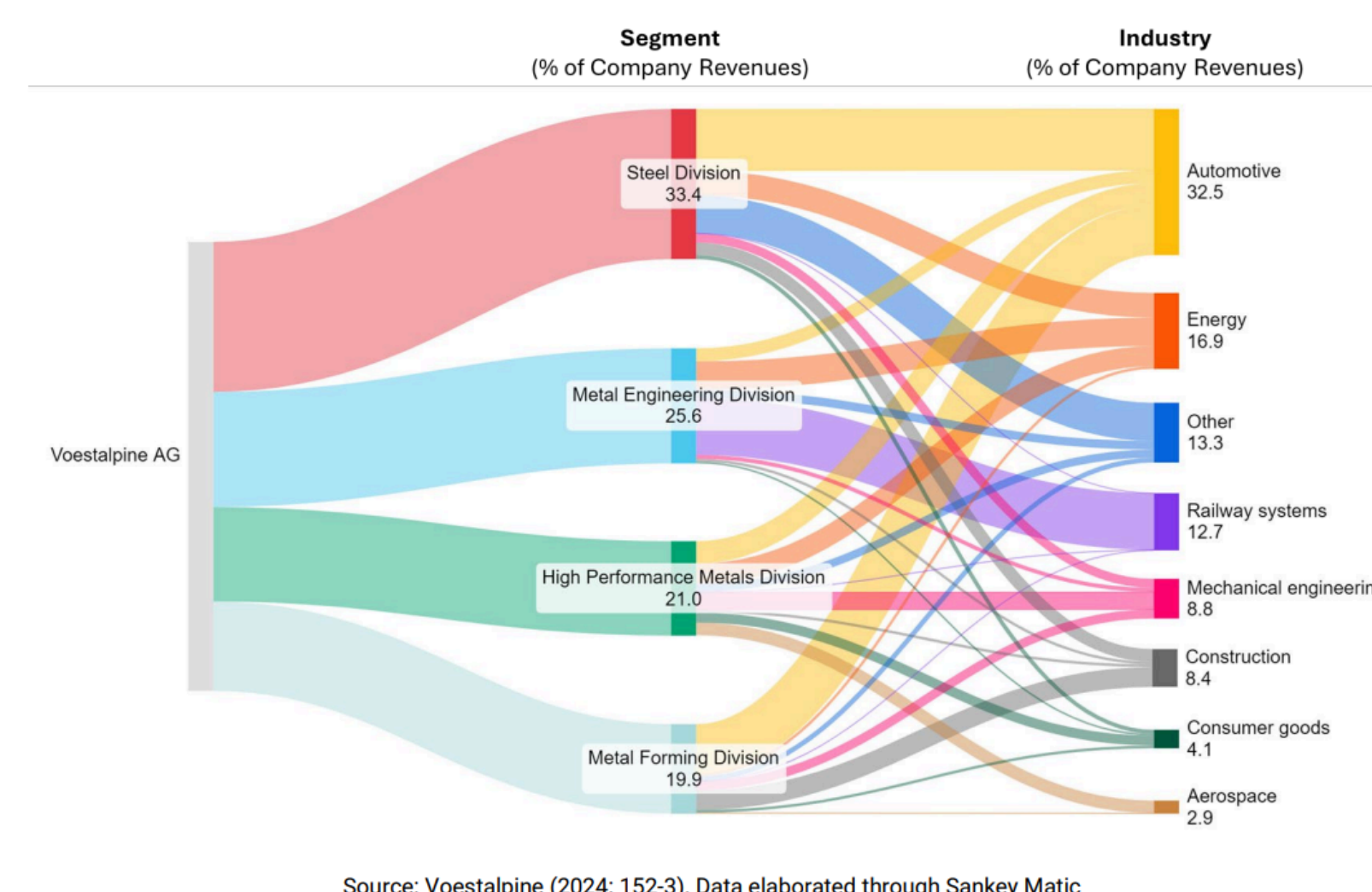
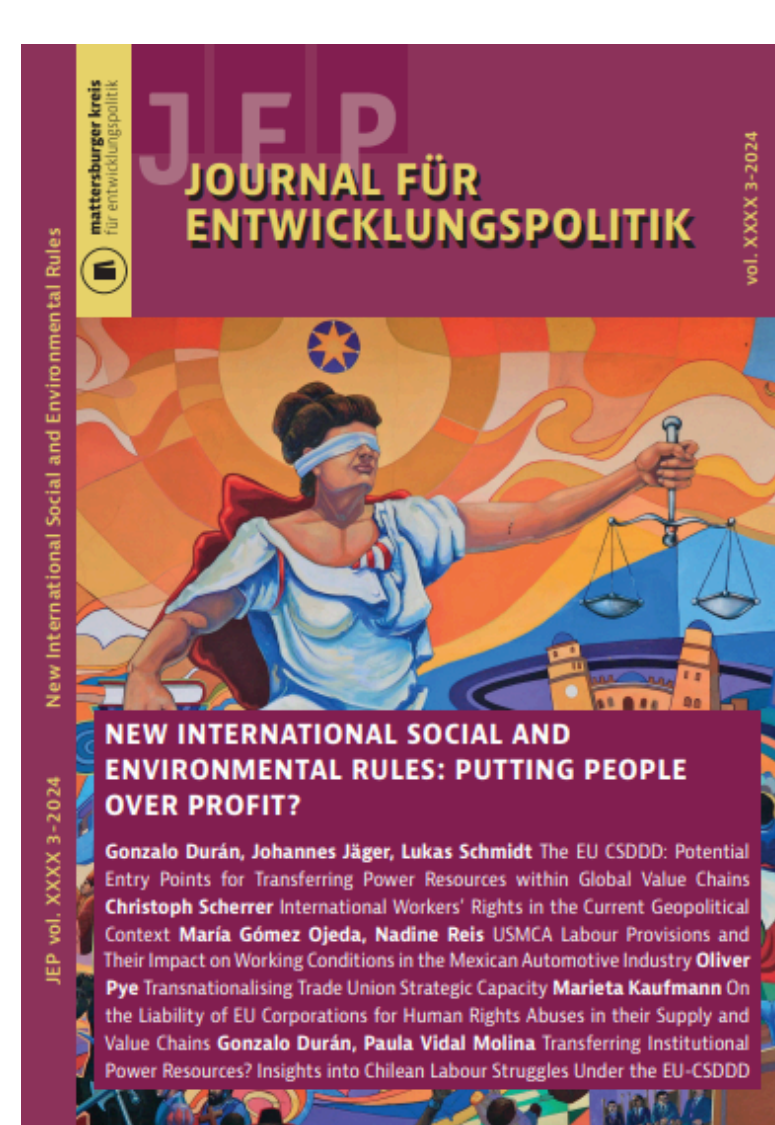


Figure 4: Agrana's Production Sites by Segment



### Publications

- Jäger, J., Durán, G., Schmidt, L., Maccarrone, V., Sáez, B. (2025): Economic effects of the EU CSDDD considering the Omnibus process. Verlag Arbeiterkammer Wien, Sept. 2025.
- Wörle, K. & Brückner, J. (2025): Analysis of implications of the CSDDD to map potential entry points for a just transition. Working paper series (no. 125), UAS BFI Vienna.
- Baines, J., Germann, J., Rolf, S., Starrs, S.K., Wirth, M. (2025): Tracing Austrian Corporate Footprints in the Global South: Data-Driven Due Diligence in Extractive Supply Chains. Working paper series (no. 126), UAS BFI Vienna.
- Jost, E. & Wöhl, S. (2025): Civil Society Networks in the Global South. Working paper series (no. 127), UAS BFI Vienna.
- Wörle, Karl (2025): Das EU-Omnibus-Paket und die geplanten Änderungen der CSDDD: Nachhaltiges Privat- und Gesellschaftsrecht auf dem Rückzug. In: Arnold, N. & Kalss S. (Hrsg. 2025): Der Gesellschafts- und Unternehmensrecht, 54. Jahrgang, April 2025/ Nr. 2. Lindeverlag.
- Jäger, J., Schmidt, L., Durán, G. (2025): Lieferkettengesetz: Werden Menschenrechte nun ernsthaft über Profitinteressen gestellt? A&W-Blog
- Durán, G./Jäger, J./Schmidt, L. (2024): The EU CSDDD: Potential Entry Points for Transferring Power Resources within Global Value Chains. In: Journal für Entwicklungspolitik 40 (3), 4-22.



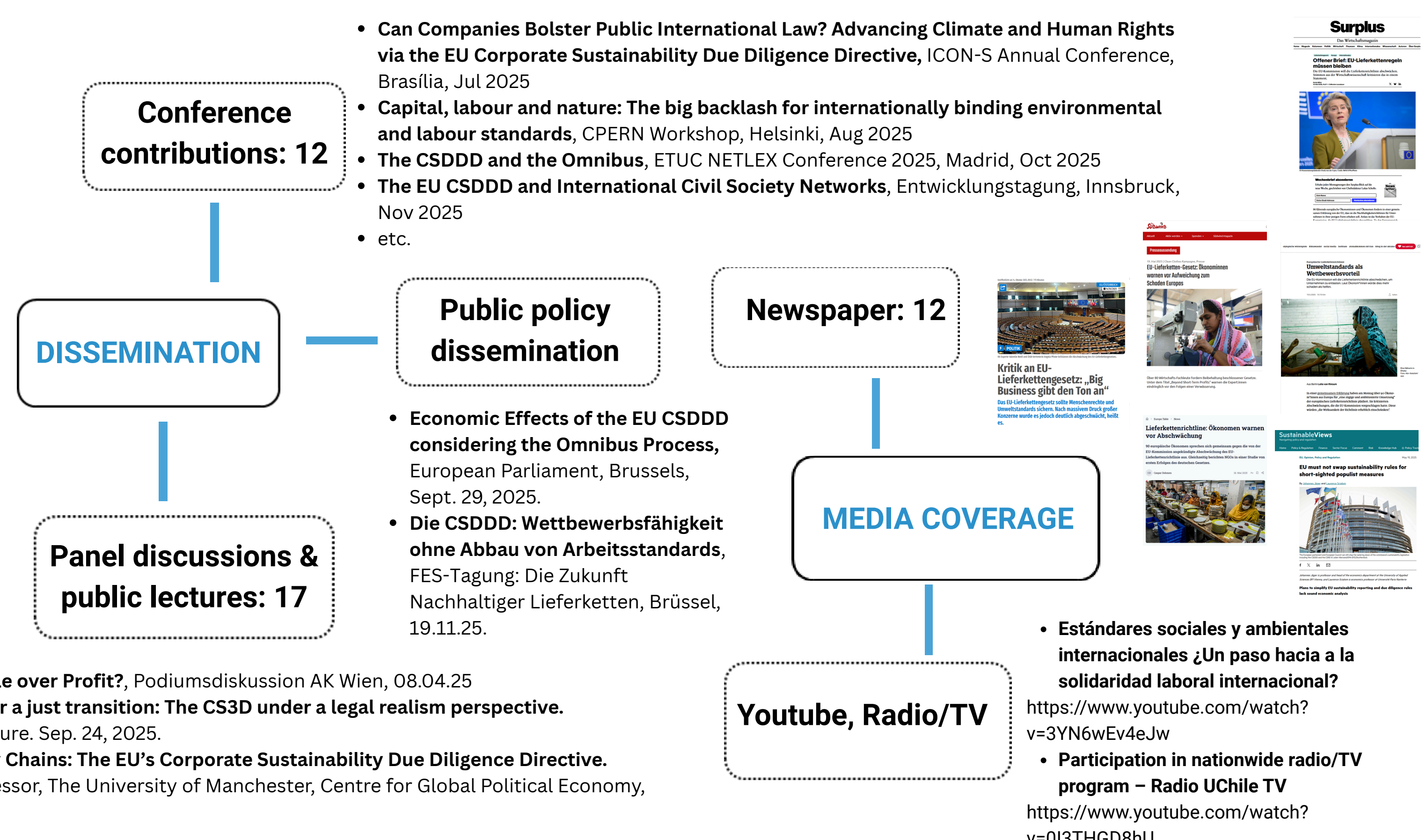
- Das EU-Lieferkettengesetz: Putting People over Profit?, Podiumsdiskussion AK Wien, 08.04.25
- Civil society organizations as catalysts for a just transition: The CS3D under a legal realism perspective. Leuphana University Lüneburg, guest lecture. Sep. 24, 2025.
- Civil Society Challenges to Global Supply Chains: The EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. Public lecture as Hallsworth Visiting Professor, The University of Manchester, Centre for Global Political Economy, Oct. 15, 2025.
- etc.

### Case study 1: Green extractivism in Chile

- Green extractivism is not systemic ecological transformation.** Green extractivism is a high-intensity, export-oriented extraction with environmental and human rights impacts. Renewable projects (wind, hydro) generate local conflicts.

### Case study 2: Traditional extractivism in Uganda

- Analysis of civil society strategies and the role of the EU CSDDD in the context of the EACOP oil project** Examines how actors along the global value chain respond to conflicts, seek corporate accountability, and use transnational regulation as a lever for a just transition.



### Transdisciplinary participatory action research

- Stakeholder workshops and focus group interviews

HUMAN RIGHTS    CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION    CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION    INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, GLOBAL SOUTH

