



The Final Take

Stakeholder dialogue

6th March, 2024
Brussels, Belgium



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The Final Take agenda

The logo for cintran, featuring the word "cintran" in a lowercase, sans-serif font with a light blue gradient background.

01 Welcome and celebrating achievements among Coal Regions in Transition and Just Transition Fund regions

02 Scientific findings of Unravelling the challenges of structural change



03 Transition reflections and messages from CINTRAN regions & beyond

04 A science-based and needs-based transition

05 Pre-closing remarks



06 Museum of findings and networking



Organising Team

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*Carsten Rothballer,
Head of Sustainable
Energy Systems*



*Franco Martin Crudi,
Expert,
Justice, Equity and
Democracy*



*Jacob Broehm,
Junior Expert,
Events and Project
Communications*



*George Stiff,
Senior Expert,
Sustainable Energy
Systems*



Local Governments
for Sustainability
EUROPE

CINTRAN findings



Welcome

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Welcome and celebrating achievements Introduction – ICLEI Europe

Achievements in the coal transition – **Veronique Marx**, Team Leader for Just Transition and energy poverty, DG ENER, European Commission

Latest transition results in JTF regions – **Balbina Gluza-Czyczerska**, Just Transition Platform Coordinator, DG REGIO, European Commission



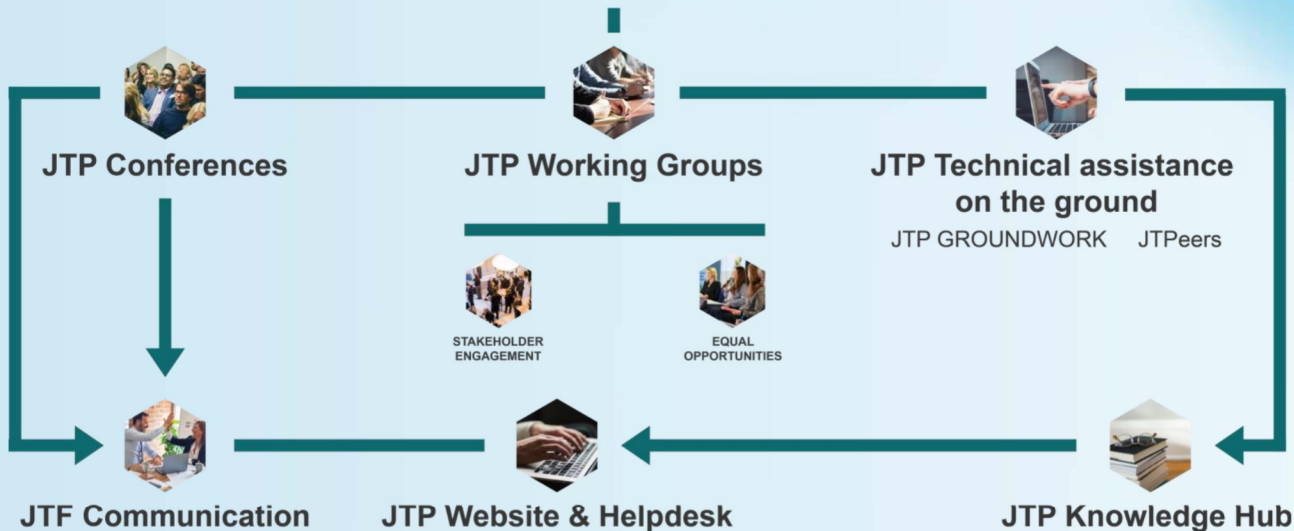
Just Transition Platform (JTP)

Support to coal and carbon intensive regions

Balbina Gluza-Czyczerska,
European Commission, DG REGIO
Unit G1 Smart and Sustainable Growth

An overview of JTP workstreams

A single access point to support and knowledge on just transition



Website: ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund/just-transition-platform_en

Newsletter: ec.europa.eu/newsroom/regio/user-subscriptions/2511/create

Helpdesk: secretariat@justtransitionplatform.eu

What 2024 has in store...

- New editions of **JTP support services**:
 - **JTP Groundwork** technical assistance:
 - Co-creative advisory support on the ground
 - New round of JTF regions to be supported in 2024
 - New JTF territories
 - **JTPeers Experts and Exchanges**
 - New round of JTF regions to participate in exchanges in 2024
 - Online database of experts to be further populated
 - e-library to be created, new JTF communication etc.
- **Events** to continue gathering just transition stakeholders
- Next **JTP Conference**: 16-17 April 2024, Brussels/online






Register here!

<https://app.swapcard.com/event/9th-just-transition-platform-conference>



- ▶ Two new **Working Groups**:
 - ▶ **Stakeholder engagement and Equal opportunities**
 - ▶ Bring together varied stakeholders in **all JTF regions** to monitor, share skills, create implementation guidelines, etc.
 - ▶ Call closed 1 March 2024: results to follow soon!

- ▶ Reinforced **knowledge sharing** and **communication**:
 - ▶ 90+ knowledge products already online; more to follow...

- ▶ Regular updates on JTP support and activities via social media, news articles (via JTP website) and newsletter issues
 - ▶  @EUinmyRegion  Euinmyregion  EU Funds  euinmyregion 
 - ▶ EuinmyRegion



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CINTRAN outcomes

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Scientific findings of Unravelling the challenges of structural change

Keynote speaker: **Lukas Hermwille**, CINTRAN project coordinator,
Wuppertal Institute, Germany

Reactions from the European Commission and Q&A



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Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition –
Unravelling the Challenges of Structural Change



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Unravelling the Challenges
of Structural Change



Unravelling the Challenges of Structural Change

Definition: **UNRAVELLING**

1. **UNRAVELLING (something):**
to explain something that is difficult to understand or is mysterious; to become clearer or easier to understand
2. **UNRAVELLING (of a system, plan, relationship, etc.):**
to start to fail or no longer stay together as a whole

OXFORD LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

CINTRAN Regions

Rhineland:

Population: 2.45M | Miners: ~10,000
Lignite | Phase-out: 2030

Western Macedonia:

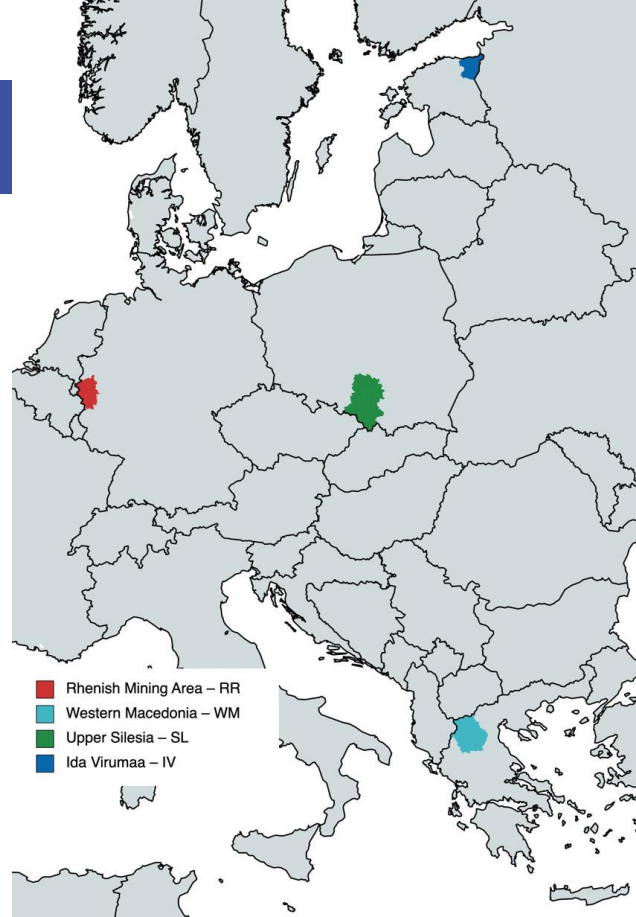
Population: 265,000 | Miners: ~5,200
Lignite | Phase-out: 2028

Silesia:

Population: 4.5M | Miners: ~70,000
Hard coal | Phase-out: 2049?

Ida Virumaa:

Population: 133,000 | Miners: ~5,000
Oil shale | Phase-out: n. d.



Research in a highly dynamic political environment





What is a “Just Transition”

Just Transition is an elusive concept in practice:

- › People have no concrete vision of what a Just Transition is.
- › Justice is necessarily aspirational, it is always work in progress.
- › There is no benchmark for a successful Just Transition.

» WE NEED TO STUDY INJUSTICE:

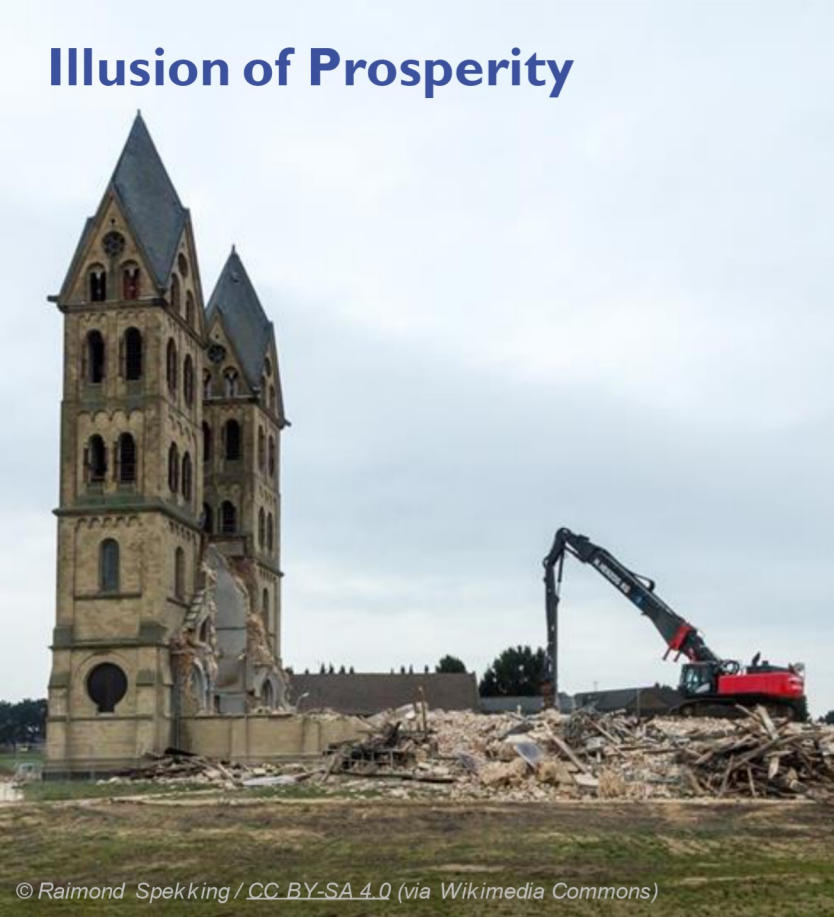
**A successful
JUST TRANSITION
remedies existing
INJUSTICES and
minimizes and avoids
new INJUSTICES.**

Dimensions of Injustice

	OLD SYSTEM INJUSTICE emerging from the fossil fuel industry system	TRANSITORY INJUSTICES originating from the change process	NEW SYSTEM INJUSTICES occurring in the emerging new regional economy and society
DISTRIBUTIVE INJUSTICE Who bears the cost? Who benefits?			
PROCEDURAL INJUSTICE Who is represented in decision making processes?			
RECOGNITION INJUSTICES Are existing vulnerabilities and inequalities addressed?			

Source: Hermwille et al. (2023). Of hopeful narratives and historical injustices – An analysis of just transition narratives in European coal regions. Energy Research & Social Science, 103263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103263>

Illusion of Prosperity

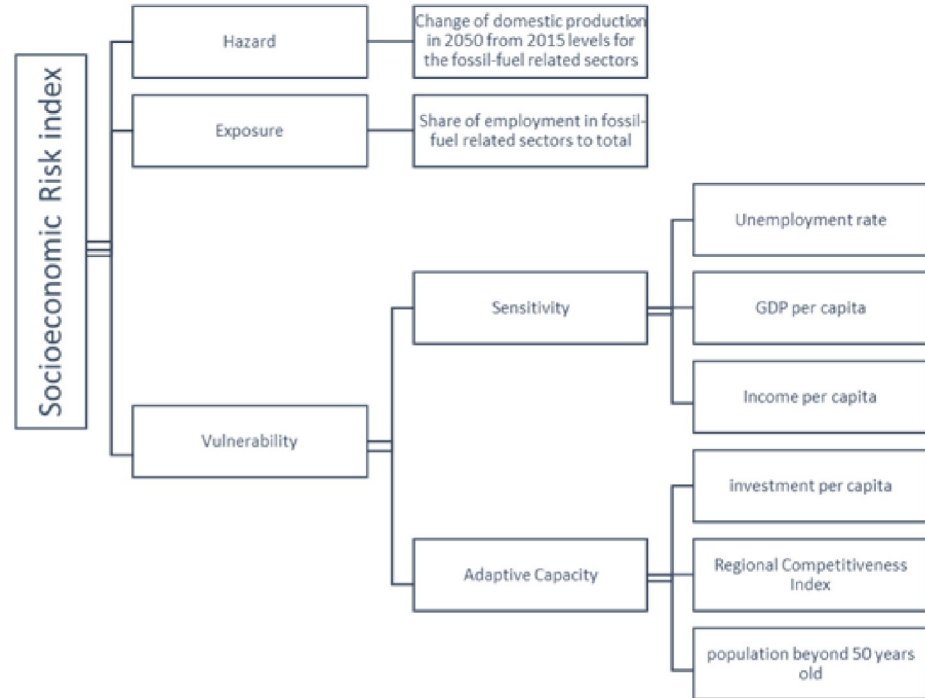


There is a notion that coal regions have benefitted from the industry in the past.

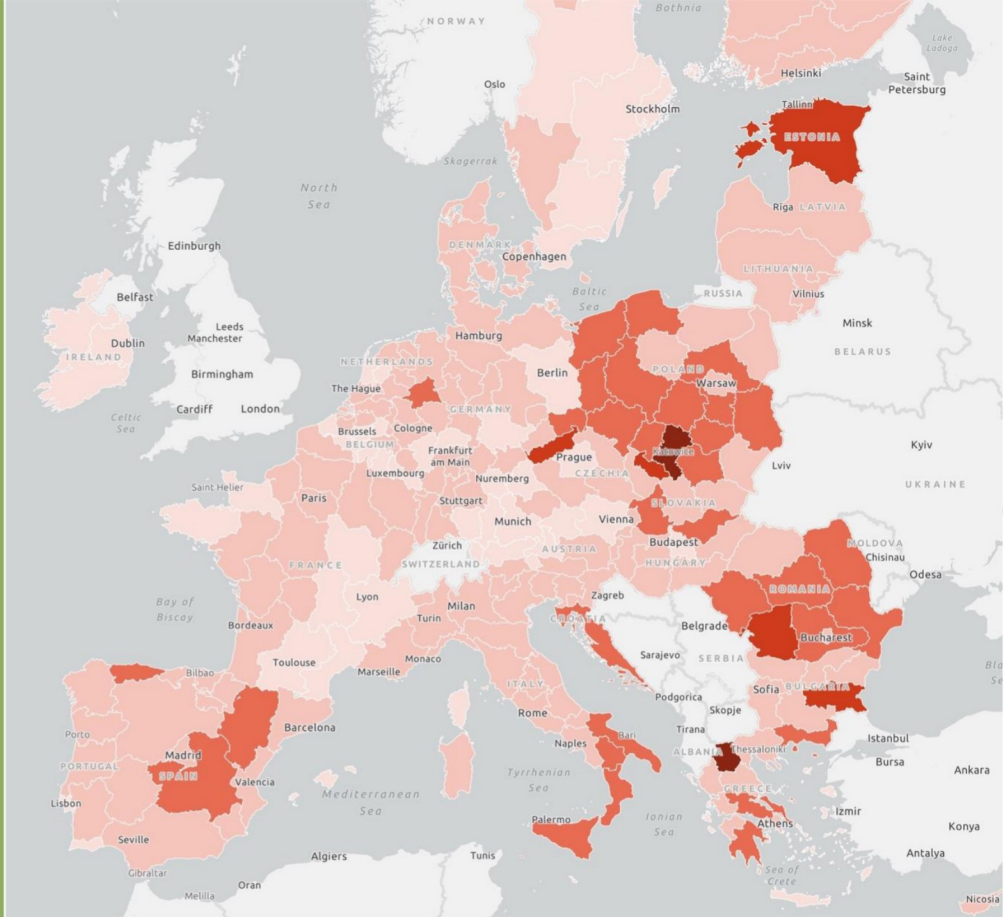
- › They are often the largest employer, paying very well
- › They are the largest contributors to regional GDP.
- › They are often the only relevant traded industry, all other sectors indirectly serving it

Without fossil fuel industries the regions would have developed very differently, but they would not be an economic desert.

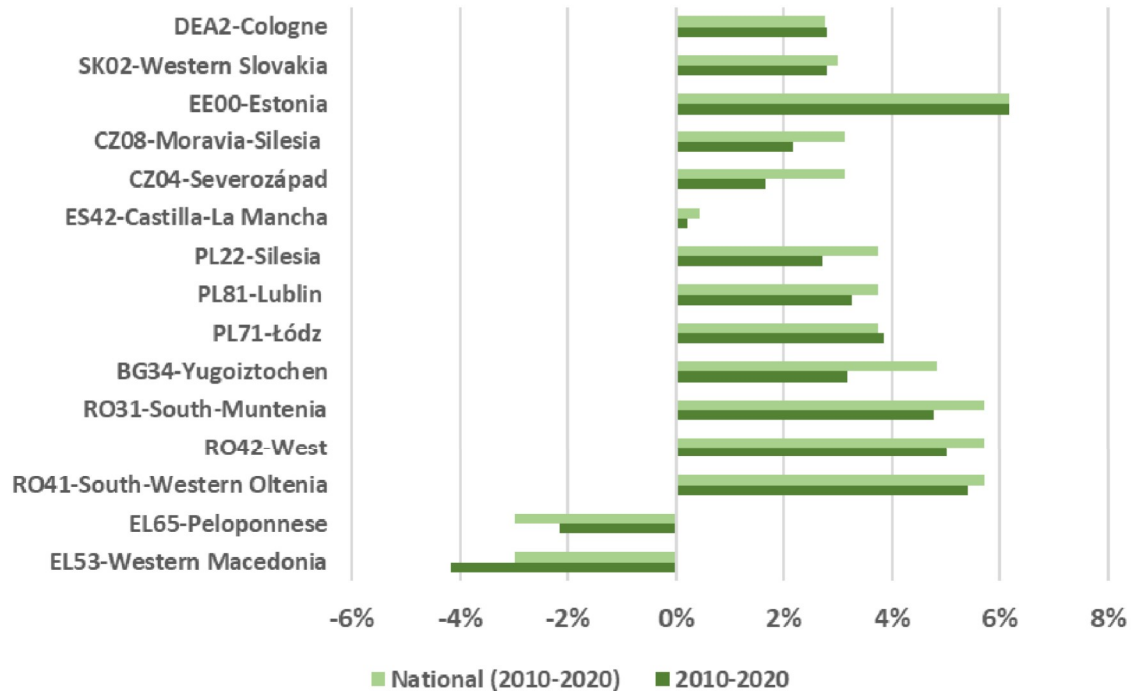
Socioeconomic Risk Index: Hazard, Exposure, Vulnerability



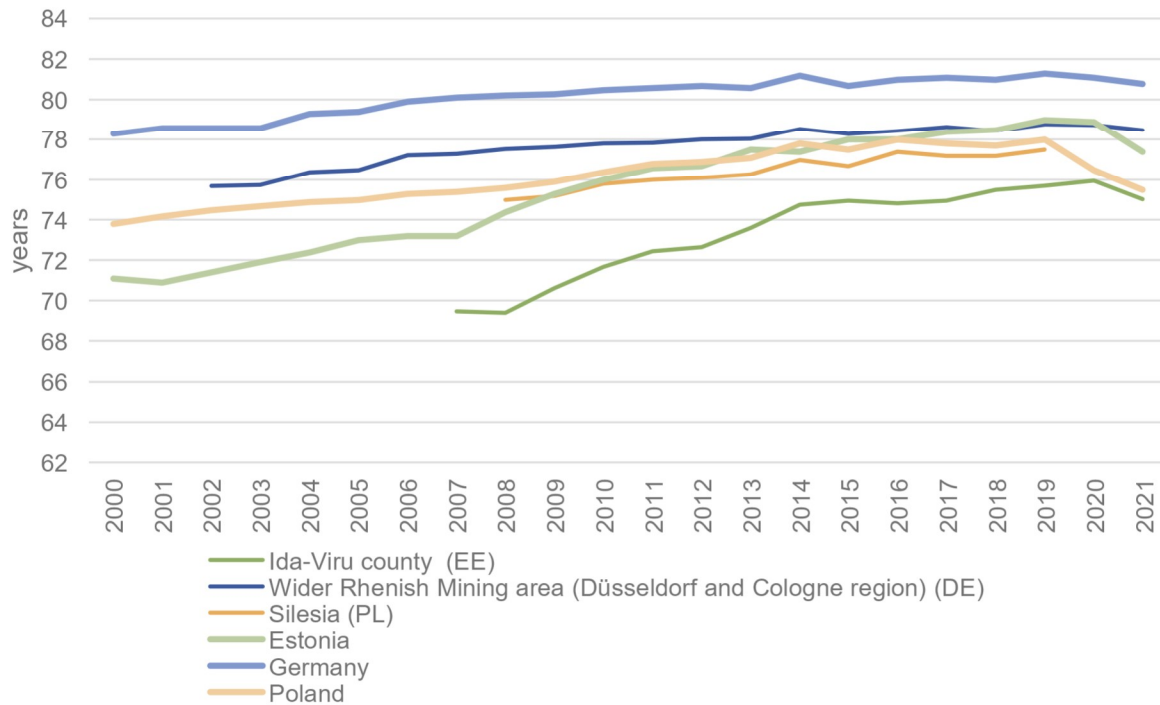
Socioeconomic Risk Index: Hazard, Exposure, Vulnerability



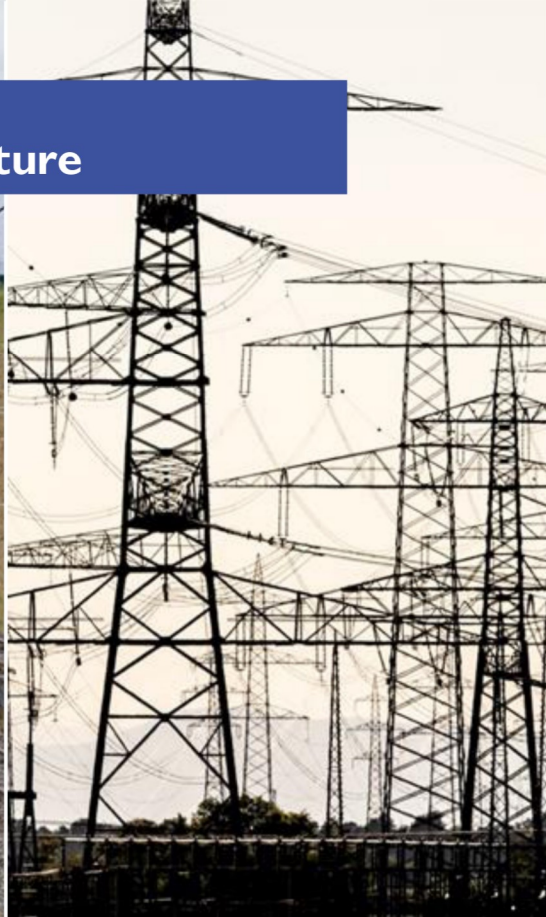
Economic development below the national average



Reduced life expectancy



Coal Legacies: Suboptimal Infrastructure



Coal Legacies: Unattractive Regions



Photo by Lukas Hermulla

- › Coal regions experience high outmigration.
- › Carbon-intensive regions much less attractive than non-carbon-intensive regions – even when correcting for employment growth.
- › They are particularly unattractive for highly educated people.

CINTRAN Regional Stakeholders are working hard to escape this bad reputation and develop a new positive brand for their regions.

Coal Legacies: Gender Inequality



- › **Mining jobs reinforce traditional family models due to wage structure and working hours.**
- › **Historical coal transitions have led to increased labour market participation of women. But maybe this is because of desperation?**
- › **Women have often been excluded from political processes, because they are not seen as stakeholders.**
- › **Women are powerful: In many cases they are in charge of family finances.**
- › **Women are leaders: Just Transition initiatives are often led by strong women.**

Privilege Retrenchment



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83%

Employees of RWE receive an average annual salary of 90,000€.
That is 83% above the German average of 49,210€

» Workers of carbon-intensive industries are relatively privileged in a disadvantaged region.

Continuity of Elite Power

- › Unions and energy companies are powerful stakeholders in just transition processes.
- › Strong focus on compensating workers and company profits.
- › Project funding favours actors that are able to and experienced with proposal writing.
- › Little attention to regional development beyond industry and non-miners.



I am also studying, to be an electrician, but, but I don't know if I would like to ... If you go to work as an electrician for a company, your salary will be a thousand euros, maybe a pinch more. [In order to earn more], you would have to do your own thing.

Miners are not the victims

Taavi, 40-year-old miner, Estonia

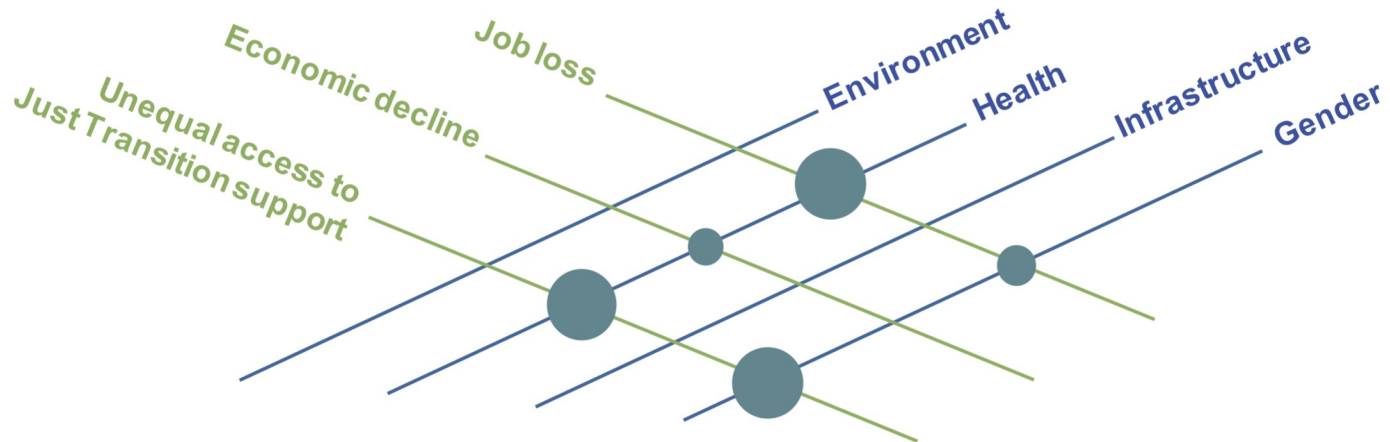
We should focus on carbon-intensive industry workers and their families as **INDIVIDUALS** and not as a group.

- › **Avoid reinforcing stereotypes of being helpless, backward or dangerous.**
- › **Tradition, place-based identity and kinship ties are important.**
- › **Workers have agency. They are preparing a Plan B for themselves and their families.**
- › **They are held back by the same structural problems affecting the non-mining population**
- › **Well-designed social policies can help alleviate these problems and further enable agency.**

Focus on Compounding Injustices

NEW INJUSTICES

LEGACY INJUSTICES



Focusing on compounding injustices may lead to different ways to address Just Transition:

- › Placing focus on pre-existing injustices is a key lever to break resistance against decarbonization. It helps to create a broader alliance for change. **Those who are fighting for their privileges are not the ones driving the change.**
- › It helps us to be systematic about identifying the key issues.
- › It also helps us to focus our attention on the most urgent and important injustices.
- › It is a potential starting point for assessing progress and evaluating policy efforts. So far none of the emerging evaluation frameworks focus on money spent, GDP and jobs but not on the core justice questions.

PARTNERS



Budget: EUR 3 Million

Project duration: 2020-2024



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Thank You

Lukas.Hermwille@wupperinst.org

March 2024

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Veronique Marx, Team Leader for Just Transition and energy poverty, DG ENER

Balbina Gluza-Czyczerska, Just Transition Platform Coordinator, DG REGIO

Lukas Hermwille, CINTRAN project coordinator, Wuppertal Institute, Germany

Coffee Break



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Transition reflections and messages from CINTRAN regions & beyond

- *Rhineland, Germany* – Max Schulze-Steinen, Wuppertal Institute
- *Ida-Virumaa, Estonia* – Annela Anger-Kraavi, EERC/EKUK
- *Silesia, Poland* – Krzysztof Fal, WiseEuropa
- *Western Macedonia, Greece* – Dimitrios Mavromatidis, RDF-WM
- CINTRAN Academy participants

Panel discussion

A science-based and needs-based transition

- **Jessica Jewell**, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
- **Marie Claire Brisbois**, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
- **Rumyana Grozeva**, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency, Bulgaria
- **Karel Tichý**, Economic and Social Council of the Ústí Region, Czech Republic
- **Judith Kirton-Darling**, industriAll Europe

- **Bernd Biervert**, Head of Clean Energy Transitions, DG RTD
- **Bernard Mazijn**, Chief of Staff, Cabinet of Minister Khattabi, Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal, Belgium
- **Lukas Hermwille**, CINTRAN project coordinator, Wuppertal Institute, Germany



**Thank you for joining
our Final Take event!
There's more after lunch!**



www.cintran.eu



[@FossilExit](https://twitter.com/FossilExit)



[FossilExit Research Group](#)

6. March 2024

Lunch break + Museum of findings



Initiative for Coal Regions
in Transition

JUST TRANSITION
PLATFORM
SECRETARIAT