

Smart strategies for the transition in coal intensive regions

Project No: 836819



Report on Cooperation with the EU's Coal Regions in Transition Platform

WP 7 – Task 7.8 / D 7.8

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Authors: Rita Mergner, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany
Dr. Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany

Contact: WIP Renewable Energies
Rita Mergner, Dr. Rainer Janssen
Email: rainer.janssen@wip-munich.de, Tel: +49 89 720 12 743
Sylvensteinstr. 2
81369 Munich, Germany
www.wip-munich.de



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TRACER website: www.tracer-h2020.eu

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Introduction

The overall objective of TRACER is to support a number of coal-intensive regions around Europe to design (or re-design) their Research and Innovation (R&I) strategies in order to facilitate their transition towards a sustainable energy system. The objective of WP7 is to actively stimulate new and deepened R&I cooperation between coal intensive regions involved as TRACER target regions and beyond the project partnership to facilitate their transition to a more sustainable energy system.

As the whole procedure of TRACER is based on the cooperative approach, one of the main concerns of the project was the establishment of close collaboration with other sections of Horizon 2020 (SSH, etc.) and other EC funded programs, as well as the R&I Cooperation in the framework of the Implementation Plans jointly developed by European countries, as part of the EU's SET Plan and with the EU Coal Regions in Transition Platform.

On 17 December 2017, EU declared the start of “Coal Regions in Transition Platform” (the platform was renamed and now it is called the “Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition”). The initiative brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, like national and regional public authorities, business representatives, social partners and civil society. From the start of the TRACER project, close R&I cooperation was established with representatives of the EU's Coal Regions in Transition Platform, specifically through the set-up of an Advisory Board. Structures and mechanisms were put in place to ensure that permanent regional stakeholder groups will maintain momentum after the end of the project and ensure further cooperation with the EU Coal Regions in Transition Platform.

A dedicated task on “Cooperation with the EU's Coal Regions in Transition Platform” created synergies with activities implemented by the platform by exchange of information and results, cooperation concerning events and the mutual promotion of ongoing activities.

Cooperation with the EU's Coal Regions in Transition Platform

Close cooperation contacts and synergies between TRACER and the EU Coal Regions in Transition Platform (the “Initiative for coal regions in transition”) were ensured by the following specific activities:

- Discussion on TRACER activities to avoid duplications
- Invitation of Platform representatives to join TRACER Advisory Board
- Participation of TRACER partners at Platform's events in Brussels and online (“Coal Regions in Transition Week”)
- Invitation of Platform representatives to join TRACER events
- Sharing of all TRACER reports and guidelines via platform's newsletter
- Promotion of TRACER events via platform's newsletter

The following cooperation activities were implemented since the launching of the TRACER project actions:

- **TRACER consortium partners** attended the following meetings which were organised **online** due to COVID pandemic:
 1. Coal regions in transition virtual week / 1-3 July 2020
 2. Coal regions in transition virtual week / 16-18 November 2020
 3. Coal regions in transition virtual week / 26-29 April 2021
 4. Just Transition Platform Meeting - Coal Regions Virtual week and Carbon-intensive Regions Seminar / 15-17 November 2021
 5. Just Transition Platform Meeting Coal Regions in Transition virtual week and Carbon-intensive regions seminars / 10-12 May 2022

- Dr. Rainer Janssen (**WIP**) presented the TRACER project at the Platform's 4th Working Group Meeting on 8-9.04.2019 in Brussels, Belgium (https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-04/12.2_tracer_0.pdf).
- Mrs. Rita Mergner (**WIP**) attended the Platform's 5th Working Group Meeting on 15-16.07.2019 in Brussels, Belgium and networked with stakeholders as well as disseminated TRACER materials (flyer and brochure).
- Mrs. Rita Mergner (**WIP**) attended the Annual Political Dialogue on 25-26 November 2019 in Görlitz, Germany and networked with stakeholders as well as disseminated TRACER materials (flyer and brochure).
- Mrs. Rita Mergner (**WIP**) presented TRACER results and actions at the Coal regions in transition virtual week on 28.04.2021 (https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-05/2_rita_mergner_tracer_0.pdf).
- **CETI (Ukraine)** attended the round table entitled "Economic Diversification of Coal-Mining Regions: Challenges and Ways Forward took place in Dnipro (Ukraine)" on 14.06.2019. The participants discussed challenges and opportunities for the just transition of coal-mining regions of Ukraine. This was one of the first meetings on this topic involving stakeholders from large energy businesses, local authorities from coal-mining regions, international donor organizations, academics and NGOs in Ukraine. Topics covered at the round table included cooperation with the European Commission's Coal Regions in Transition Platform (CRiTP) as well as governance aspects of the coal sector and regional transformations. During the conference the participants got acquainted with the TRACER project and its implementation in Ukraine.
- Prof. John Bachtler, the **European Policies Research Centre (STRATH)** presented about "The possible role of cohesion policy in designing or re-designing regional innovation strategies in coal regions" at the hearing on the support of coal regions in transition through Cohesion Policy post 2020 on 09.04.2019 at the European Committee of the Regions, in Brussels, Belgium.
- Prof. Sabina Irimie, **Social Institute Association in Jiu Valley (AISVJ)** presented online about "Effective Just Transition Communication" at the Coal Regions in Transition virtual week and Carbon-intensive regions seminars on 12 May 2022 (video recording is available under <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfi9BhJGnRA>).
- Dr. Rumyana Grozeva, **Black Sea Energy Research Centre (BSERC)**, a team member in both TRACER and DeCarb (Interreg-Europe) projects, spoke in the Coal regions in transition virtual week, 26-29 April 2021, about the transition of Stara Zagora region <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMHqWiM4U54&t=3600s>.
- The **EU Coal Regions in Transition Platform** (Mrs. Alexandra Tomczak) attended the first TRACER Workshop and Study tour in Finsterwalde and Großräschen, (target region Lusatia), Germany on 15-16.05.2019 (<https://tracer-h2020.eu/mobilization-of-stakeholders/>). Mrs. Alexandra Tomczak presented the Platform and its activities.
- TRACER coordinator **WIP** and **STRATH** provided input to the Platform's **Toolkit on Governance of Transitions**.
https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-06/governance_of_transitions_toolkit_-_platform_for_coal_regions_in_transition_0.pdf
- TRACER coordinator **WIP** provided input to the Platform's **Toolkit on Technology Options**.
https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-04/technology_options_toolkit_-_initiative_for_coal_regions_in_transition_0.pdf
- TRACER coordinator **WIP** provided input to the Platform's **Toolkit on Transition Strategies**.

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-06/transition_strategies_toolkit_-_platform_for_coal_regions_in_transition_0.pdf

- **TRACER coordinator WIP** promoted TRACER results at the following **Platform Newsletters**:

1. Issue August 2019
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/16947>
2. Issue November 2019
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/18288>
3. Issue February 2020
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/19787>
4. Issue May 2020
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/22214>
5. Issue June 2020
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/23353>
6. Issue October 2020
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/26244>
7. Issue August 2021
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/34112>
8. Issue November 2021
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/35766>
9. Issue May 2022
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/38645>
10. Issue July 2022
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/newsletter-archives/40033>

Conclusion

Based on established collaboration contacts with the Coal Regions in Transition Platform (The Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition), information on activities and results of the TRACER project were continuously shared with Platform representatives and stakeholders.

These targeted activities will be followed-up by the target regions beyond the TRACER project duration. Platform stakeholders were invited to the final TRACER events, namely the TRACER Final Policy Conference and the TRACER Investors Workshop taking place on 20-21 September 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. At these events the main TRACER results and final Research & Innovation (R&I) strategies for TRACER target regions as well as the identified potential R&I and investment projects will be presented to the audience and discussed with different stakeholders.

TRACER regions are fully integrated in the Platform's activities and cooperation will continue beyond the TRACER project.