

Smart strategies for the transition in coal intensive regions

Project No: 836819



Summary

Final TRACER Conference



WP 8 – Task 8.7 / D 8.5

September 2022

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

Editors: All project partners

Contact: WIP Renewable Energies
Rita Mergner
Rita.Mergner@wip-munich.de
Tel: +49 89 720 12 731
Sylvensteinstr. 2
81369 Munich, Germany
www.wip-munich.de



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TRACER website: www.tracer-h2020.eu

Contents

1	<i>Event Summary</i>	<i>4</i>
2	<i>Press release</i>	<i>16</i>
3	<i>Agenda</i>	<i>18</i>

1 Event Summary

The Final TRACER Conference was organised in Brussels, Belgium on **21st September 2022** as a physical event. Over 70 participants have registered for the event and more than 50 participants attended the event.

Mrs. Manuela Conconi from the CINEA European Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency gave an insight on EU funded projects in the topic and presented open calls and project opportunities.

This event was a perfect opportunity to present and discuss the current status of nine coal regions in transition as well as EU policies in the just transition process. An important input about this was given by Mr. Sander Happaerts from the European Commission who provided an overview on the territorial just transition plans. Furthermore, project results and achievements were presented by the project coordinator Mrs. Rita Mergner and TRACER regional partners. Panel discussions on post-mining landscapes and social challenges, reskilling provided important insights on the topics.

All presentations of the final conference the are available online:

<https://tracer-h2020.eu/final-conference-presentations/>



Figure 1: Participants of the Final TRACER Conference, 21.09.2022, Brussels, Belgium



Figure 2: Welcome words, Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany



Figure 3: Speakers of the opening session (Sander Happaerts - DG REGIO, European Commission, Manuela Conconi - CINEA, European Commission, Rita Mergner – WIP Renewable Energies, Germany)



Figure 4: Manuela Conconi, CINEA, European Commission



Figure 5: Sander Happaerts, DG REGIO, European Commission



Figure 6: Questions from the audience



Figure 7: Marcin Chodak, UAK, Poland, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 8: Rita Mergner, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany, TRACER coordinator

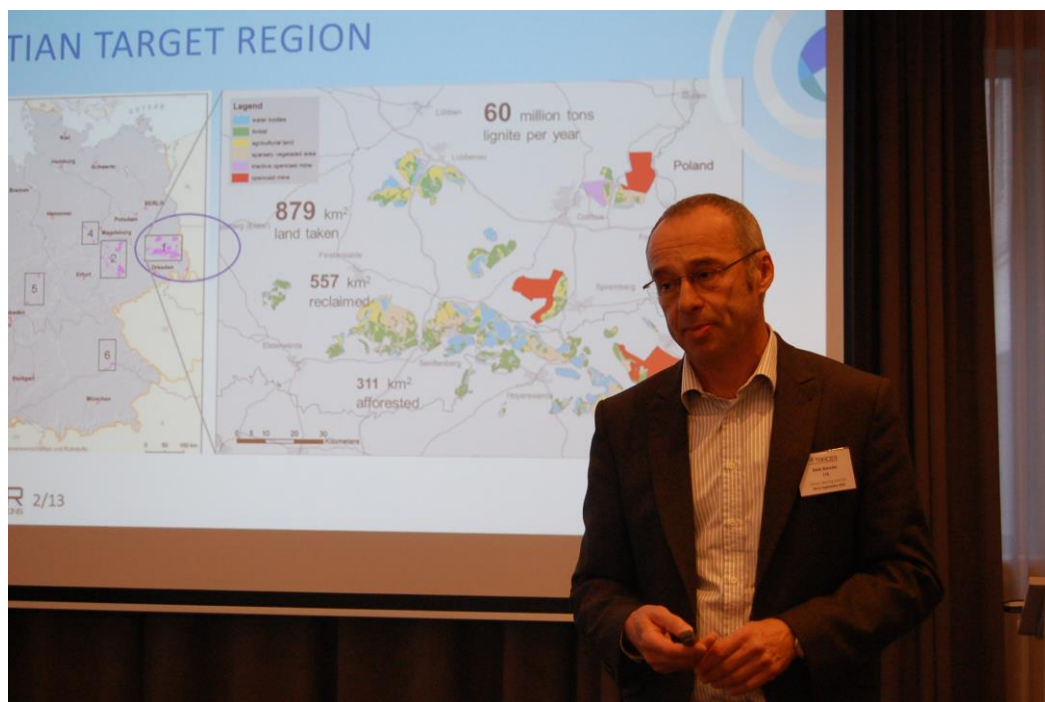


Figure 9: Dirk Knoche, FIB, Germany, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 10: Baudewijn Morgan, Welsh Government, UK, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 11: Gloria Popescu, ISPE, Romania, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 12: Panel discussion on post-mining landscapes, Marcin Pietrzykowski (University of Agriculture in Krakow - UAK, Poland), Jan Frouz (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic), Dirk Knoche (Institute for Post-Mining Landscapes - FIB, Germany)



Figure 13: Panel discussion on post-mining landscapes, Marcin Pietrzykowski (University of Agriculture in Krakow - UAK, Poland), Jan Frouz (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic)



Figure 14: Marcin Chodak, University of Agriculture in Krakow - UAK, Poland, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 15: Jasmina Lukic, ENTEL, Serbia, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 16: Marketa Hendrychova, CULS, Czechia, TRACER consortium partner

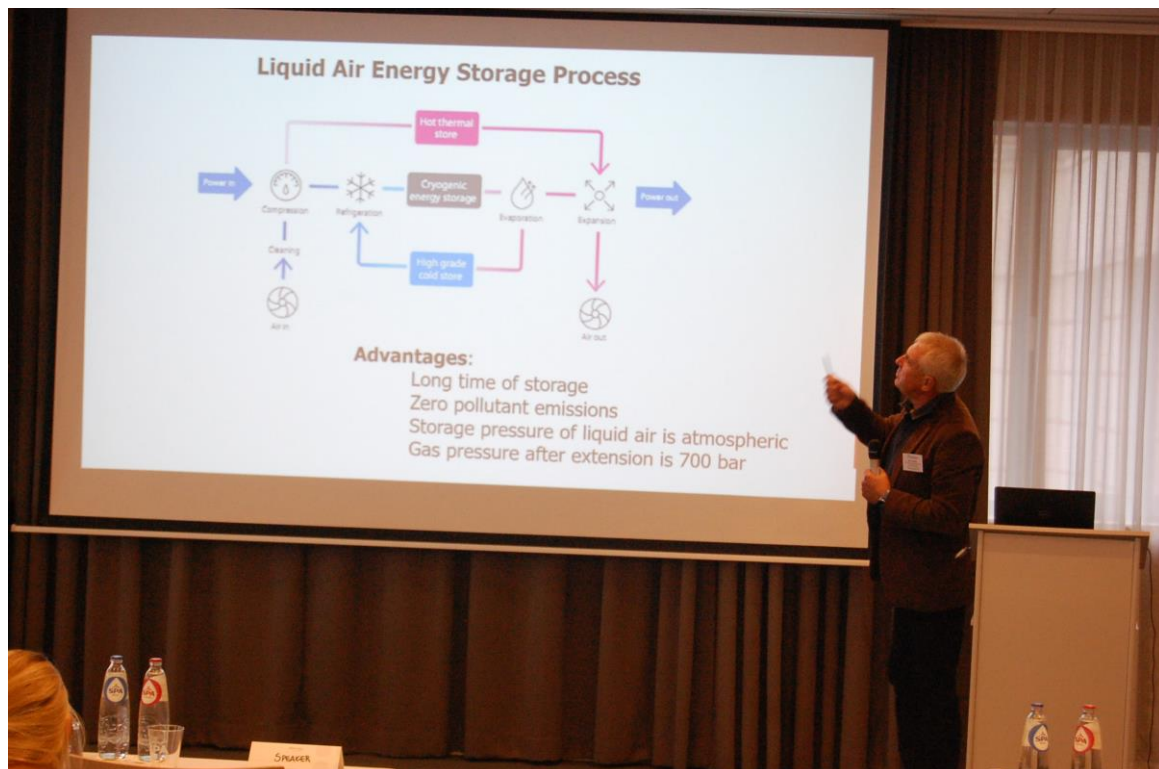


Figure 17: Igor Volchyn, CETI, Ukraine, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 18: Angel Nikolaev, BSERC, Bulgaria, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 19: Georgia Vezrygianni, CRES, Greece, TRACER consortium partner



Figure 20: Rona Michie, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, UK



Figure 21: Panel discussion on social challenges and reskilling



Figure 22: Rita Mergner, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany, TRACER coordinator, moderator of the panel on social challenges and reskilling



Figure 23: Panel discussion on social challenges and reskilling, Baudewijn Morgan (Welsh Government, UK), Sofia Savova (Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency – SZREDA, Bulgaria), Gloria Popescu (ISPE Design and Consulting, Romania), Felix Rohn (DG EMPL European Commission), Charalampos Malamatenios (Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - CRES, Greece), Rita Mergner (WIP renewable Energies, Germany)

2 Press release



23 September 2022

Coal regions from across Europe present policy solutions and project ideas to drive a clean and just transition

The TRACER project closed with an Investors Workshop and a Final Policy Conference on 20 & 21 September 2022, where nine coal regions shared their ideas to get out of coal.



BRUSSELS, 21 September 2022. The Horizon 2020 project [TRACER](#) gathered 15 partners who have worked together for 3 and a half years to support 9 European coal regions to design Research and Innovation (R&I) strategies for a climate-friendly and economic or socially just transition away from coal. The project closed with two events in Brussels with over 50 participants attending each, including partners and stakeholders from all 9 coal regions, local and regional SMEs, researchers, civil society, European Commission officials and many others.

An **Investors Workshop** on the 20th of September showcased prospective ideas for regeneration in each of the 9 TRACER coal regions. The projects were appraised by a jury of three finance and clean technology experts: Michal Sobczyk from [EIT InnoEnergy](#), Suzana Carp from [Cleantech for Europe](#) and Professor Jan Bekkering from the [Hanze University of Applied Sciences](#). The jury awarded:

- 1st prize overall to: Andy Billcliff of Menter Mon, for a project to develop tidal energy and hydrogen in Wales, UK
- 2nd prize overall to: Charalampos Malamatenios from the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) for a project on developing a Biomass Logistic and Trade Centre in Western Macedonia, Greece
- Prize for positive impact on the community to:
 - Igor Volchyn from the Thermal Energy Technology Institute (CETI) for Post-coal development project in the municipality of Myrnograd
 - Marketa Hendrychova from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS) for the revitalization of a mining area in Northwest Bohemia, Czechia



The Investors workshop closed with a panel discussion on EU funding instruments with the Secretariat of the Coal Regions in Transition (CRIT) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate. The attendants of the workshop were interested to learn on the extension of

eligibility for Modernisation Fund's financing to Portugal and Greece, and Slovenia if the thresholds for determining eligibility proposed by the Council are accepted by the European Parliament. The presentations performed during the Investors Workshop can be accessed [online](#).

The **TRACER Final Conference** on the 21st of September introduced the main results of the project in nine coal regions and opened the discussion with policy makers on the barriers, challenges and opportunities. The panel discussion on post-mining landscapes highlighted the importance of changing mindset about post mining lands and looking for new opportunities in the topics of biodiversity, ecosystem services and tourism.



The panel discussion on social challenges and reskilling provided an overview on the [Net Zero Wales - Skills for the New Decarbonisation Plan](#) (and highlighted reskilling needs and opportunities in coal regions in order to make the transition just. Finally, the importance of the cultural and industrial footprint of former coal intensive regions in the transition process was emphasized. Preserving cultural heritage can bring important benefits in terms of jobs creation and income at the community level. The

presentations performed during the TRACER Final Conference can be accessed [online](#).

As the project is moving towards its successful closure, all the reports on different topics elaborated under the frame of the various work packages of the project can be found in the "[Publications](#)" section of [TRACER](#) website.

TRACER coordinator

Rita Mergner, Dr. Rainer Janssen

WIP Renewable Energies

E-mail: Rita.Mergner@wip-munich.de

Mobilisation of EU funds and programmes

Nicolas de la Vega, Greg Arrowsmith

The Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centres (EUREC)

E-mail: Delavega@eurec.be

TRACER project partners



CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Environment Centre



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3 Agenda

Agenda of the final TRACER conference is available online:

https://tracer-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/220914-Tracer-Final-Event_A4.pdf

FINAL TRACER EVENTS

FINAL CONFERENCE
21 SEP. 2022, 09:00 - 15:00

NOVOTEL Brussels City Centre
Rue de la Vierge Noire 32, 1000

The Investors Workshop will introduce identified R&I project ideas in nine coal regions in transition. Investment opportunities will be discussed with invited investors, representatives of EU institutions responsible for EU funds and programmes and stakeholders from the nine TRACER coal regions.

The Final Conference will introduce the main results of the TRACER project in coal regions and will open the discussion with policy makers on the challenges and opportunities for a just transition.

Target groups:

- Investors
- RES industry
- Policy makers
- Stakeholders in coal regions



PROGRAMME

FINAL CONFERENCE, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

09:00 Registration and welcome coffee OPENING Moderation: WIP Renewable Energies 09:30 Welcome and opening remarks Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany 09:40 Keynote speech Manuela Conconi, CINEA, European Commission, Belgium 09:50 Territorial Just Transition Plans Sander Happaerts, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Belgium 10:00 Success of the TRACER project Rita Mergner, WIP Renewable Energies, Germany TRACER RESULTS: VOICES FROM THE TRACER COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION – SHARING FIRST HAND EXPERIENCES (PART I) Moderation: WIP Renewable Energies 10:10 Transition in Coal Intensive Regions - Lusatia sets a good Example Dirk Knoche, Institute for Post-Mining Landscapes (FIB), Germany 10:25 Transition to green economy: an example from Wales Baudewijn Morgan, Welsh Government, UK 10:40 Jiu Valley's energy transition pathway through research, innovation and cooperation Marian Dobrin, ISPE Design and Consulting & Sabina Irimie, Jiu Valley Social Institute Association (AISVI), Romania 10:55 Coffee break PANEL DISCUSSION: POST-MINING LANDSCAPES - NEEDS & CHALLENGES Moderation: WIP Renewable Energies 11:10 Ecological Restoration - Calling for Forest Reclamation Dirk Knoche, Institute for Post-Mining Landscapes (FIB), Germany	Changing mindset about post mining lands and looking for opportunities, Northwest Bohemia Jan Frouz, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic Restoration of post-hard coal heaps - new ecosystem services Marcin Chodak, Marcin Pietrzykowski, University of Agriculture in Krakow (UAK), Poland TRACER RESULTS: VOICES FROM THE TRACER COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION – SHARING FIRST HAND EXPERIENCES (PART II) Moderation: WIP Renewable Energies 11:30 TRACER experience and challenges for transformation in the Upper Silesia Region Justyna Likus-Cieslik, Bartłomiej Woś, University of Agriculture in Krakow (UAK), Poland 11:45 The challenges of energy transition in the Kolubara coal region Jasmina Lukic, ENTEL, Serbia 12:00 Procedures and key elements of complex transformation of Czech coal regions: The role of the state, regional authorities and other stakeholders Marketa Hendrychova, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS), Czech Republic 12:15 Lunch 13:00 The concept of the energy hub on the site of an old mine in the Donetsk region Igor Volchyn, Thermal Energy Technology Institute (TETI), Ukraine 13:15 Decarbonising the electricity sector – from a taboo topic to a largely supported opportunity: Southeast Region Angel Nikolaev, Black Sea Energy Research Centre (BSERC), Bulgaria 13:30 Maintaining the identity of the energy heart of the country by evolving into a Center for Innovative Energy Developments in the context of a sustainable and just transition: Western Macedonia Georgia Veziriyanni, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES), Greece	13:45 Identifying a vision for energy transition: mobilising stakeholders in the TRACER target regions Rona Michie, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, UK 14:00 Strategies, Roadmaps and Decision Support Tools for the TRACER Coal Regions in Transition Charalampos Malamatenios, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES), Greece 14:15 Coffee break PANEL DISCUSSION: SOCIAL CHALLENGES, RE-SKILLING Moderation: WIP Renewable Energies 14:30 European Commission Felix Rohn, DG EMPL Net Zero Wales - Skills for the New Decarbonisation Plan Baudewijn Morgan, Welsh Government, UK Tackling transition challenges while preserving cultural heritage Gloria Popescu, ISPE Design and Consulting & Sabina Irimie, Jiu Valley Social Institute Association (AISVI), Romania Reskilling needs and opportunities in Bulgaria or how to make the transition just Sofia Savova, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency (SZREDA), Bulgaria Renewable energy sources: job created, skills required (and identified gaps), education and training Charalampos Malamatenios, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES), Greece 15:00 Conclusions & End of the Conference WIP Renewable Energies 15:40 – 18:00 Visit to Brussels Abattoir site: Photovoltaic rooftop installation and aquaponic system departure from the conference venue at 15:10.
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