Smart strategies for the transition in coal intensive regions

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Minutes

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TRACER website: www.tracer-h2020.eu

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1 Introduction

The first Stakeholder Workshop in the target region in Germany (Lusatia Region, Brandenburg (DE40) and Dresden (DED2), took place on 15th May 2019 in Großräschen, alongside the TRACER Kick-off-Meeting and Study tour in Finsterwalde.

This workshop was organised in line with the WP5 (Implementation of EDP) activities, under the Task 5.2 Mobilising a wide range of stakeholders in the target regions. All presentations are available on the TRACER website.

In total 48 participants attended the Workshop, representing different stakeholder groups (mining and generation, regional economy, SMEs, science and research, tourism etc.). The TRACER project partners also attended the event. The main goal of the Workshop was to mobilise the stakeholders as well as start TRACER activities in the target region by applying the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP).

This report serves as input to the *Analytical report on the outcomes of the mobilisation process in each region, assessing the views of different stakeholders on the region's current situation, potential and challenges, and possible future actions* (D5.2).

Figure 1: Participants of the Stakeholder Workshop in Großräschen, Germany

2 Greetings

Michael Haubold-Rosar, FIB

Mr. Haubold-Rosar welcomed all participants to the Workshop in Großräschen, which is very appropriate location in the middle of the Lusatian lignite mining district, lying on the terraces of the mining lake “Ilse”.

The main task and objective of the FIB as a non-profit research institute is to restore and reclaim landscapes that have been destroyed or strongly affected by human’s activities, especially mining. Many disciplines of environmental and life sciences have to cooperate to create a new self-sustaining ecological balance as well as opportunities for a multi-functional after-use. Climate change lead us to new issues like adaptation of agriculture and forestry in post-mining areas, growing renewables and energy plants, aspects of landscapes with solar and wind energy parks or carbon balance and sequestration.

The political decision made to enforce the decline of coal mining and electrical power generation in Germany. In Lusatia we are in demand to contribute to solutions for new energy systems, landscape restoration and regional added value, trying to compensate parts of the economic power of the present mining and energy providing industry.

Beside the fact, that all the target mining and energy regions of the project have their own special character and history, there are similar conditions and challenges and it is a very reasonable approach to exchange and discuss ideas as well as develop concepts to overcome the transition process with special regard to research and innovation, re-skilling needs and financing instruments. For new economic activities we have to mobilise private enterprises and attract their interest.

3 Introduction to the TRACER Project

Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies

Rainer Janssen gave an introduction about the project idea and objectives as well as the main activities of the project. The TRACER is a Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action (CSA) project. It started on 1st April 2019 and will end in March 2022. The budget of the project is 1.9 million EUR. The coordinator of the project is WIP Renewable Energies, Germany.

The TRACER project contains 15 partners from 11 countries. 9 target regions are involved in the project activities:

- Southeast Region (BG34), Bulgaria **(BSERC)**
- North West Bohemia (CZ04), Czech Republic **(UK, CULS)**
- Lusatia Region, Brandenburg (DE40) and Dresden (DED2), Germany **(FIB)**
- West Macedonia (EL53), Greece **(CRES)**
- Upper Silesia (PL22), Poland **(UAK)**
- Jiu Valley, West Region (RO42), Romania **(ISPE)**
- Kolubara Region, Serbia **(ENTEL)**
- Donetsk Region, Ukraine **(CETI)**
- Wales (UKL1, UKL2), United Kingdom **(STRATH, WG)**

Project core activities include mobilisation of a wide range of stakeholders in 9 European regions to discuss and agree on a shared vision and priorities for coal transition. Joint development of 9 regional R&I strategies, industrial roadmaps and decision support tools is one of the most important activities of this project. In addition, best practice examples of successful and ambitious transition processes in coal intensive regions will be elaborated by the project partners.

Assessment of social, environmental and technological challenges is another important activity of this action. Finally, the project will foster R&I cooperation among coal intensive regions in Europe and beyond.

The TRACER project draws on the European Union's "Smart Specialisation Strategy" (S3) approach and Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) focused on the coal-intensive regions.

4 EU Coal Regions in Transition Platform

Alexandra Tomczak, EU Commission, DG ENER

European Commission committed to socially fair and inclusive clean energy transition as part of a package of legislative proposals called Clean Energy for All Europeans, in November 2016. Number of direct jobs in the coal mines across Europe is one of the major concerns.

The Coal Regions in Transition Platform a key part of the coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition initiative, and it is included as a non-legislative element of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package of November 2016. It includes a multi-level participation of regions, governments as well as local communities and business (trade unions, NGOs, industrial players). Transition in coal regions is a cross-cutting issue: energy, climate, environment, social, regional and economic policy.

The operational objectives of the platform are to support the development of transition strategies as well as identify concrete projects kick-starting structural diversification and technology transition.

The Platform organises 4 meetings per year with over 250 participants at each meeting. Presentations of strategies and project ideas are shared in 2 Working Groups:

- Post coal economy
- Energy system transformation and clean air

Country Teams contain 19 pilot regions in 8 Member States. The following experts are included in the country teams:

- Team of experts from the EC (REGIO, ENER, RTD, SRSS, CLIMA, ENV)
- Team of experts from National Governments (all relevant ministries)
- Managing Authorities for EU Funds
- Regional authorities
- Invited third parties (Platform Secretariat, World Bank, EBRD, EIB, trade unions, project developers, NGOs)

The country teams agree on the list of joint actions and areas of cooperation as well as work on a bilateral basis on an expert-to-expert level.

Energy transition is supported via different existing EU funds and support tools. In the current budget, the following funds exist:

- Cohesion and European Regional Development Funds
- European Social Fund
- European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
- Structural Reform Support Service
- LIFE
- Horizon 2020
- JASPERS Technical Assistance
- ELENA Technical Assistance

After 2020 the framework might look as follows:

- Cohesion and European Regional Development Funds (ringfencing in consideration)
- European Social Fund (ringfencing in consideration)
- European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (low carbon transition – new focus)
- Reform Delivery Tool
- LIFE
- Horizon Europe
- Modernisation Fund (EU ETS)
- Innovation Fund (EU ETS)
- Just Energy Transition Fund (EP proposal)

The Platform Secretariat contains 3 full-time staff within a multi-skilled consortium. The main tasks of the Secretariat are:

- Operate the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition
- Provide support materials and tools
- Deliver technical assistance and expertise, complementing existing efforts
- Develop a knowledge resource for transition related activities

The Platform Secretariat will elaborate different knowledge tools (reports and toolkits). The following knowledge tools are foreseen:

- Collection of good practice examples - July 2019
- Transition strategies - July 2019
- Governance of transition - October 2019
- Sustainable employment and welfare support - October 2019
- Environmental rehabilitation and clean air strategies - October 2019
- EU funds and programmes - February 2020
- Report on technologies - February 2020

5 Transition and Regional Development: what EU Cohesion Policy can contribute

Kai Stryczynski, EU Commission, DG REGIO

Processes of industrial change at the very origin of cohesion policy. Structural change takes a long time (up to 25 years). Cohesion policy supports the change via its programmes based on partnership principle and project selection. Cohesion policy in the future will contain the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund.

Evaluation of the main achievements of cohesion policy programmes and projects over the longer term in 15 selected regions (from 1989-1993 program period to the present) states that changing policy priorities and management practices takes a long time, certainly more than one programme period. The study has identified a long list of lessons that apply to every stage of the programme cycle. They imply deficits in the conceptual approach to programming, strategic planning techniques, analytical methods to support project selection, and the quality or focus of monitoring and evaluation. This implies a major effort to build administrative capacity and promote learning.

Member States or regions establish Smart Specialisation Strategies as basis for intervention in RTDI. All interventions need to consider international cooperation.

11 policy objectives are simplified and consolidated to 5 objectives:

- A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation)
- A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)
- A more connected Europe (mobility and ICT connectivity)
- A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)
- A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

6 Rehabilitation of former state-owned Lignite Mining in Eastern Germany

Jörg Schlenstedt, LMBV

LMBV is a state-owned company under the Ministry of Finance.

The main responsibility of LMBV is the decommissioning and rehabilitation of sites used by the lignite mining industry. It includes:

- The re-cultivation of dumps feasible for re-use in the public interest
- The restoration of a self-regulating water balance according to water quantity and quality

There are several ways to solve major environmental problems, especially if there is no one who can be held liable. In Germany, the remediation of environmental damage is normally the responsibility of the respective Federal State. However, lignite remediation is one of the major ecological projects for which the Federal Government and the Federal States are jointly responsible. This joint responsibility is represented by the Steering and Budgeting Council, the StuBA. National and federal ministries are working together. They are supported by the Regional Rehabilitation Council in which the regional and local aspects of a special rehabilitation project are discussed. The overall idea on the execution of the rehabilitation work was to create a market.

Each five years a new contract is signed in which the amount of money for the lignite rehabilitation is fixed. Federal States are represented by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment and the four states affected by the lignite mining (Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia).

We have a saying: Bergbau ist nicht eines Mannes Werk (Mining is not one man´s work). Especially the rehabilitation of mining sites is a joined effort of many men and women on all levels and different institutions. The active involvement and participation of the public is absolutely necessary for success.

Nearly 1,200 km of slopes had to be secured by vibro-compaction, or vibro-compaction including filling of additional material (Rüttel-Stopf-Verichtung), contouring of slopes and securing them finally against waves with armour stones (Wasserbausteine). Securing slopes were and still are one of the main works. Beginning in the nineties the technology became more and more sophisticated and is today very precise and all data are sent automatically to the LMBV databank-system.

In early 2009 an unknown phenomenon occurred in the backfilled inner dumps. Re-cultivated areas, some of the areas with forests over 30 years old, collapsed. Rising groundwater minimises the stability of the backfilled dumpsites. Even the scientists in the universities did not expect that phenomena. The uniform, round grains of sand lost their adhesion under the influence of the rising groundwater. Re-cultivated areas turned into deadly dangers.inally rehabilitated dump sites, often sold to private farmers, had to be declared as restricted areas.

The newly developed technology of gentle blasting compaction will be used on around 10,000 ha to make the soil permanently stable.

Intensive research by universities and scientific institutions as well as numerous tests by the LMBV led to the development of a completely new procedure for securing the endangered inner dump sites. Since this year, the new technology has been applied in practice as standard procedure.

The challenges connected to water are also as big as on the geotechnical side and additionally far more influencing the surrounding of the post-mining sites. The water topic reaches as far as Berlin and the drinking water supply there. Three main problems can be identified:

- High sulphate concentration
- Low pH-value
- High iron concentration

In order to avoid the inflow of acid groundwater into the river Spree, hot spots were identified and the inputs of acid and iron hydroxide were strongly reduced via underground barriers and the pumping of acid groundwater as well as its treatment. This is a measure that takes place outside the actual and historic mining area, but in the area of the groundwater lowering.

Looking on the city of Senftenberg at the beginning of mining in 1850 and at the end of all mining activities in 2000, we see that Senftenberg was surrounded by lakes, ponds and a whole bunch of rivers and brooks. They dewatered the useable land. Today's situation is totally different, but the level of the surface had not really changed. The water would be as shallow under the surface as 160 years before. More than 15% of the post-mining landscape, which is in the responsibility of the LMBV, is reserved for nature conservation tasks. Tourism activities mostly on and around the new lakes. Nine channels will connect the post-mining lakes and create by this the so-called Lusatian lake-chain, with an area of over 7,000 ha water.

Landmarks like the Rusty Nail are popular sightseeing points. But also former industrial sites like the bio-towers in Lauchhammer, formerly used for cleaning contaminated waters, are changed into touristic spots. After 25 years of mining rehabilitation by LMBV significant changes are visible:

- Most of the contaminated sites have been cleaned and re-used by new owners
- The restoration of a self-regulating water balance according to water quantity and quality will be reached. The volume deficit has been reduced by 83%
- New technologies are developed for securing unstable dump-sites and the treatment of iron-hydroxide contaminated waters
- Former open-cast mines develop into attractive tourist destinations
- Post-mining landscapes are extremely worthy for nature protection goals
- Creating a market for rehabilitation is an ongoing success story
- There are no standard solutions – science & technological innovation are crucial

Conclusions:

- Have visions and underpin the visions with feasible solutions
- Think big and work together

7 Decarbonization in Flyover Country - Transition Management in Lusatia

Stefan Zundel, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg

Quote from Wikipedia: in the United States the term Fly Over is often used in reference to the general economic, developmental, cultural, and political differences between the urban

coastal and rural central regions of the United States. "Flyover country" thus refers to the part of the country that some Americans especially urban, middle- and upper-class Americans, only view by air when traveling and never actually see in person at ground level. This perception is mirrored by the perception of the people in these states especially in the rust belt, that the liberal political elites do not understand their problems and are looking down on them.

This is a provocative headline for the presentation to focus the attention on the statement that Lusatia is a region which is weak in economic terms and in which a considerable part of the population has a strong feeling of missing respect and, subsequently, vote for populist parties.

Lusatia is a fragile political construction, which is mainly based on similar problems and the outlook of governmental subsidies, and not on a real regional identity. The following districts belong to Lusatia in this definition: Dahme-Spreewald, Spree-Neiße, Elbe-Elster, Oberspreewald-Lausitz, Bautzen and Görlitz. Also, Cottbus, which is administered by itself, belongs to Lusatia. This region has a North-South extension from the border of Berlin to the border of Czech over 200 km and a west east extension of over 140 km. So, you do not need to be an economic expert to imagine that this region is quite heterogeneous or diverse in economic, cultural and political terms.

At present, there are only three open mining pits active: named Jänschwalde, Welzow and Nochten. Very close in the neighbourhood you can find the power generation facilities: Jänschwalde, Schwarze Pumpe and Boxberg.

Which regions are really afflicted by the phasing out of lignite in Lusatia? It is not surprising that in terms of potential subsidies every district is a victim of structural change following the phasing out. There is a rationale behind this statement: the places of residence of the workers who can be attached to the value chain mining and generation are distributed all over the region. In terms of economic impact there are clearly economic hotspots around the mining pits, the power generation plans and the headquarters of the LEAG in Cottbus.

What can be easily seen is, that the economic dynamics of Lusatia is not the dynamics of Germany or the states Brandenburg or Saxony. These findings are a little bit surprising because the labour supply is noticeably decreasing faster in Lusatia than in the rest of Germany. Nevertheless, Lusatia is a weak region in economic terms. The gap to the German average has not narrowed yet.

Conventional economics says that the money of the tax payer should be invested in the most productive use. In terms of regions the most productive use is a metropolitan area like adjacent regions of Berlin with respect of Brandenburg and Dresden with respect of Saxony and the surrounding region for Saxony.

According to this political philosophy in Brandenburg the formula was coined: “Stärken stärken”, which can be translated in enforce the strengths. In a similar way the government in Saxony proclaimed the so called “Leuchttumpolitik” in English probably “lighthouse policy”. According to this idea both involved states had a strong focus on metropolitan areas. Rural and peripheral regions were neglected with respect to public with the purpose of economic growth.

The planned phasing out of lignite put the economic perspectives of peripheral regions on the political agenda again. A very strong driving force for shaping and boosting all initiatives concerning transformation of the region is the AFD. Or to be precise the fear of the established political actors about the ongoing rise of the AFD. As you probably know the AFD denies climate change and therefore any need for transformation. The party also promotes the idea that Lusatia was neglected by established parties. AFD is a natural alliance for the working force which belongs to the value chain mining and generation in defending old industrial structures.

Elections in Brandenburg and Saxonia will happen in September of this year. Brandenburg is ruled by the social democrats and Saxonia by the Christ democratic party. Both parties build the coalition in Berlin. Many powerful political actors have a common interest in making the

transition immediately to a success story, in order to reduce uncertainty for the workers and the region as a whole and deliver no opportunity for the AFD to use uncertain economic prospects of the region for their political intentions.

Hence, it is not surprising that overwhelming numbers of subsidies are on the table – about 40 Billion € for all lignite regions in Germany. Moreover, there is a hectic rush in the political process in order to generate a federal law for the afflicted regions. And last, but not least there is a very strong tendency to quick and symbolic fixes which can be used in the political competition against the AFD. The AFD is stronger in Lusatia than elsewhere in Germany and has a strong impact on the behaviour of the ruling regional elites and the state government.

Another driving force, which is often underestimated from far away, is the demographic development. In 2005 Lusatia was one of the fastest shrinking regions in Germany. This development is not so fast anymore, but it is still ongoing and has a strong impact on the supply of labour on the labour market. Demographic development is a stronger driving force in Lusatia than phasing out of lignite.

We can resume that the main problem in the future is not unemployment, but a deficit of skilled workers. So, what we are dealing with in Lusatia is not so much the danger of mass unemployment, but further economic decline.

The money makes the world go round. 40 billion euros were promised for the affected regions, spread over around 20 years, of which 1.3 billion per year for measures by the federal government or with federal participation, particularly in the areas of infrastructure development, economic and innovation promotion and the establishment of public authorities and research institutions. In the next 10 years, the federal government will set up 5,000 new jobs in federal institutions in the districts. Financial compensation for LEAG (coal mining company) due to the political depreciation of their assets will be provided (amount actually unknown). Never before since the unification a peripheral region like Lusatia was so much debated on the national level and never before since the unification so much money was promised for peripheral regions.

This chance can be wasted or used and that depends strongly on the right strategy, on appropriate policy instruments and measures and above all on a change of the mindset from a very sceptical approach to an optimistic one. This is a chance that can be wasted or be used. That depends amongst other factors on:

- Whether people change their minds and see the chances of the ongoing development
- Whether the political elites can create convincing regional mission statements for subregions
- Whether policies, strategies and measurements are adapted to the specific conditions of Lusatia

The idea is based on the empirical finding that people identify themselves more with cities than with regions. The inhabitants of Königs-Wusterhausen have almost nothing in common with the inhabitants of Zittau. Moreover, some prospering cities fulfil the function of an anchor for the surrounding region.

What is important here is that there is no common vision which is valid for the whole region beside the fact that all districts are affected by phasing out lignite. Even the idea of an energy region or model region of landscape change as follow up of mining is only valid for noticeably smaller parts of Lusatia. Probably there will be more than one vision for the future, based on the characteristics of partial spaces.

Most of the proposals for managing structural change are based on (regional) economic policy using conventional instruments:

- The "large" new industrial settlement (e.g. battery factory)
- Establishment of R&D facilities (e.g. Fraunhofer institutes, climate protection competence center in energy-intensive industries (KEI), etc.)

- Expansion of infrastructure (e.g. expansion of digitization, expansion of railway connections to Cottbus and Görlitz)
- Special investment conditions (e.g. shortened approval times, tax concessions, etc.)

These proposals make sense with certain restrictions. For example:

- The adaptation to the local economic conditions is important in order not to create structures without regional ties
- Lusatia will not attract high-quality jobs to the region in a competition between locations that is mainly conducted with favourable special financial conditions

It is an open question whether "more of the same" can compensate for the lignite phase-out, or whether further measures are needed.

There are also a number of rather unconventional considerations that tend to focus on endogenous development potentials, such as:

- Smart specialisation (for this there are a number of possible links in the form of economic priorities in Lusatia: energy industry, metal, chemicals, logistics, vehicle suppliers, agriculture)
- Special economic zones (rather problematic)
- New concepts of knowledge transfer and innovation promotion (triple helix concept, collaborative project development, showrooms, testbeds, scouting, etc.), geared to the SME potential of the region

For some of these proposals there is relatively little empirical evidence of their effectiveness. Only trial and error can help.

Lusatia is a laboratory for new ideas for peripheral regions in developed industrial countries. From a scientific point of view as well as from a political point of view we are breaking new territory.

8 The Challenges of the Regional Development of Post-Mining Regions

Karsten Feucht, IBA-Studierhaus

IBA Study House is a regional development agency and a storehouse of knowledge. One of the topics addressed is a complex challenge of the postmining landscapes:

- Who develops a general vision for the region?
- Who moderates the long and conflictive process?
- Who participates and integrates the population?
- Who looks out for interdisciplinary ideas of re-use?
- Who organizes help and experience from outside?

Business development, renewable energies, regional identity and tourism, geological safety, environment, ecology, hydrology come together to solve the challenge. Cultural integration and social participation should be considered and taken into account. Innovative tourism (e.g. safari on the reclamation sites) and international exchange of experiences play an important role as well.

IBA implemented different projects on the regional/local level. Different ideas can be considered for the post mining landscapes:

- Using industrial heritage as monuments (reinforcing of the balustrades which are much longer than the Eifel Tour for climbing)
- Energy concepts (e.g. energy farm)

- The old power plant Plessa – sustainable protection by digitalisation)
- Developing attractive landscape: landmark in lake district
- Innovation in Lakeland: new harbor Senftenberg
- Project on swimming architecture on the lakes (floating houses)
- The Autartec Project: demonstrator of a totally self-sufficient house on the water
- Restoration of biodiversity and natural parks
- Innovative recultivation of post-mining landscape with wine-yards
- Development of energy landscapes
- IBA-Terrasses “the most extraordinary edge of civilization in the world“: co-working space, startups, research and development
- Social art “Paradies 2”

Integration of informal planning tools is very important:

- Process oriented (not organized hierarchically)
- Moderation, network, concept, competition (not enforced by the administration)
- Based on quality and innovation (not legally founded)
- Communication, forums, participation (not mandatory)

10 principles concerning the treatment of post-mining landscapes:

- Setting an example
- Using resources
- Fostering identity
- Broadening the planning horizon
- Shaping the process
- Allowing for creativitiy and innvoation
- Generating pictures
- Ensuring transparency
- Building the organizational structure
- Taking responsibility

9 Knowledge Exchange about the region

Sara Davies, University of Strathclyde

Structure of the discussion

The TRACER project is based on the EDP (Entrepreneurial Discovery Process). Collaboration principles are based on the following milestones:

- Work together & involve people
- Innovation & creativity
- Tailormade strategies for the region
- Culture, mindset, people

“Innovation requires the ability to collaborate and share ideas with other people” – Bill Gates. “For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate” – Margaret Heffernan.

Building a Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) in the Lusatian Region will contain the following aspects:

- S3 = national/regional innovation strategy
- Every region has strengths & resources
- Focus efforts on the region’s strengths
- Together define a shared vision & priorities
- Together agree a shared strategy

Sharing knowledge and agreeing on a particular strategy can be hard. Different views and interests can lead to a conflict. Participation depends on resources and willingness. In addition, Co-creation Process takes time and is shaped by mindset and culture.

The key principles for sharing the knowledge are:

- Think alone, then share with others
- Everyone’s voice is heard
- Together we build a shared big picture
- Knowledge exchange is about relationships

Practical session based on the EDP (Entrepreneurial discovery process)

Question 1

What assets, resources, strengths & capacities already exist in the region?

Think alone for 5 minutes

Write each idea on a yellow post-it note

Discuss for 15 minutes in your group

Put each yellow post-it note on a paper branch provided on the table

Question 2

What would you like to happen? What creative ideas can you think of?

Think alone for 5 minutes

Write each idea on a green post-it note

Then discuss for 15 minutes in your group

Put each green post-it note on a branch

Question 3

What problems are there?

What practical solutions are possible?

Think alone for 5 minutes

Write each idea on a pink post-it note

Then discuss for 15 minutes in your group

Put each pink post-it note on a branch

Question 4

What idea/action will I take away from today?

Think alone for 5 minutes

Write your idea/action on a card

Conclusion

Summing up

Next steps in the Lusatian Region

Next steps for TRACER

Ideas: Lusatia region

Table 1: Regional strengths and assets

Theme	Participants' ideas
Business & economy	- Best practice examples on renewable energies (solar parks, biomass etc.) - Large variety of SMEs - Low rents for apartments and commercial premises as well as property prices - Subsidies available - Competition between regions (EU/worldwide level) due to globalisation
Education & skills	- Motivated and professional employees - Start-ups and engaged people to enhance a bit of a big city feeling - FabLab at university Cottbus as source for ideas and possibilities to recruit employees and get connected to SME - Excellent infrastructure at the Brandenburg Technical University Cottbus-Senftenberg - Very good childcare - Large variety of schools - Train connection are good, but upgradable - Good cultural offer - Study house, ideas, knowledge transfer - Knowledge and experience on reclamation - Power generation = industrial jobs + areas - Well educated young people - "Will to work"
Family & communities	- More attention to "usual" workers in future concepts - Engaged people - A lot of challenges have been mastered by the people in the region since the political change in 1989/1990

Theme	Participants' ideas
Identity & culture	- Resilience (since the political change) - Good ideas - Living quality
Built & natural environment	- Large areas/big potential in landscape - "New" landscape - Wonderful landscape - Space - Lusatian lake district and the so-called Spreewald with touristic potential - Potential of areas for several use - Tourism, architecture, rebuilt of ex. buildings, reuse
Other	- Clear rules and regulations for reclamation

Table 2: Creative ideas for transition

Theme	Participants' ideas
Business & economy	- Establishment of new industries with future perspective (e.g. aviation or aerospace companies, medical technology, biotechnology) - Targeted business development through consistent contact persons - Good digital infrastructure for companies, founder, teleworking and homework - Improved train connections between Cottbus, Leipzig, Dresden and Wroclaw - Novel utilization of col as a replacement for oil - Prospect for the people, green economy - Create more jobs in small enterprises - Use manual working skills for industry - Energy system based upon renewable energies - Lighthouse community-based R&E Project - Hub for innovative energy systems
Education & skills	- Retaining of young skilled workers - More resources for BTU Cottbus (for more professors and scientific stuff) - More resources and suitable facilities for more FabLabs or Makerspaces
Identity & culture	- People should become more open to new and unknown/strange things/people/issues - Innovative, path leading and developing region ("carbon valley") - A "small IBA" at several places in the region, more institutes like IBA on a small-scale level in the region - Development of a region, that uses its resources in a renewable way - Protect the regional identity, cultural/industrial heritage
Built & natural environment	- Transnational concept on tourism between the federal states Brandenburg and Saxony - The "lusatian lakedistrict" as a successful tourism destination for water sports and more - Concern the unique landscape - Use of the post-mining lakes for production

Table 3: Barriers to transition and potential solutions

Theme	Participants' ideas
Business & economy	- Competition between regions (EU/worldwide level) due to globalisation - No big companies with capital for investments - Missing markets due to low population density - Digital infrastructure not perfect - Political support. Special economic zone Lusatia - Low density on research, innovation, economic force - Replacing coal in energy system - Initiation of a start-up scene - Lack of entrepreneurial spirit - Less networking between companies - High regional amount of unemployment - Many jobs with low income - Community based/owned R&E projects - Knowledge and innovation hubs
Education & skills	- Age distribution, too less young people - Training on self-employment
Family & communities	- Emigrating and aging population - Emigration, strengthening of small structures and initiatives (e.g. societies), establishment of companies that are not location-depended to work (e.g. IT) - Social activities (e.g. IBA) - Too many people locked out
Identity & culture	- Election results for the AFD party are too high
Built & natural environment	- The utilisation of post-mining areas and -waters needs a long time-development and a lot of research
Other	- Good but not excellent - Too much bureaucracy (sometimes) disables motivation - Poor attractiveness and perspective for young people

TRACER project team: ideas

Note that while trialling the exercise, the project team was thinking of their own home regions when answering the questions, so the output does not relate to one particular region.

Table 4: Regional strengths and assets relating to the Built & Natural Environment

Theme	Participants ideas
Built & Natural Environment	- RES resources - Good examples of reclamation - Industrial heritage - Natural capital - Infrastructural development - Big sunny territory - Qatar relationship/US export energy terminals near UK - Beautiful nature - 13 metre tidal range, lagoon energy - Pellets production - High % of forests - Natural parks = environmental protected area - Excellent opportunities to restore natural habitats better than elsewhere - Availability of land for different use (parks, ecology, tourism) - Possibilities for nature, clear lakes - There are some touristic places near
Business, Economy	- Developed industry - engineers - Strong interest from local people and authorities to move to other business - Engineering tradition - Good localisation - Industrialised economy, opportunities for investment/reskilling - Well-developed infrastructure. Possibility to carry out different sorts of business. - Big power plants, coke plants - Good transport links - Industrial building - Energy resources, natural gas, hydro, solar, biomass - Technically educated people - Good infrastructure with the vicinity of the international highway - Large pieces of land available, one owner - Tourism potential - There are some SMEs which are not related to mines - New local businesses can be developed - Region is near capital city and there are good connections (infrastructure)

Theme	Participants ideas
Education, skills	- Educational opportunities - Educational opportunities (different post-it note) - Collaboration industry (mining) with university and forest/state - English speaking workforce - Local universities - science and research potential - Assets: educated people, people ready to work hard - Knowledge related to industrial machinery/heavy industry - Technical expertise of people living and working in the region - Education, professional people, reconversion
Family, communities	- People - workers - traditions - People closely connected to their land - Tradition in hard working - Main resource - people that could work hard - Family heritage
Identity, culture	- Acceptance of industrial activities in the region - Accept power for jobs (nuclear) - People willing to bring added value to the region - Respect to authorities, sense for team work, reluctance for independency, regional identity - Cultural heritage
Other	- Strong research capacity

Table 5: Creative ideas for transition relating to the Built & Natural Environment

Theme	Participants ideas
Built & Natural Environment	- Go zero carbon, first in Europe - Reduce grid reliance - New lakes and new forests - Wind turbines - Using of territories for agriculture - Restoring natural capital - E-mobility in the renovated region - 100% green energy
Business, Economy	- To create new infrastructure for the exploitation of RES (e.g. manufacturing of wind turbine parts or solar panels) - Collaboration of stakeholders - Investments in innovation from energy companies - People will have chance of employment in new energy sector - Attraction of non-local people to the area to invest and work there (start ups…) - Rehabilitation (reclamation) of land used for agricultural purposes - Develop small modular nuclear reactor (Rolls Royce submarine) - Replace coal with biomass on some TPP - Fund to start companies, SMEs to expand - Coal extracted only as a commodity for chemistry, not for energy production. Industry 4.0 instead of mining - Innovative enterprises creation - Business centre, new opportunity - Manufacturing jobs in macho sectors and company set-ups in the area. Tax breaks for those companies. - Decentralization - Enough economic opportunities for local people - Energy cannot be replaced by production in this region, replacement in renewables has to be found elsewhere - Using existing (past) infrastructure (brownfields) - Investments and jobs - Diversity of activities happening (cultural, economic, international, social etc.) - New economy - New start-ups and environment good for SMEs - Touristic resort with different trees and flowers - Introduce something unique that could give a new additional 'identity' or activity in the region and attract attention
Education, skills	- The local people to be re-directed to the 'green jobs', following a re-skilling process - Large educational campus (oriented to alternative/RES sources) - Make study of new professions in region free - Creating business study school - Traditional occupation in central [?] - Local education in line with new green/ICT economy - New and attractive curricula, business-oriented

Theme	Participants ideas
Family, communities	- Make mobile jobs (no travel) - Build up family traditions and relationship with land - Children and the young generation remaining, coming back and REINVENTING the region - United communities - Households which produce organic food
Other	- To become 'green' (from an energy point of view) - Initiative to demonstrate the replacement of the energy supply after coal phase-out - Spread of renewables

Table 6: Barriers to transition and potential solutions: Built & Natural Environment

Theme	Problem	Solution
Built & Natural Environment	- Health problems due to bad air quality - Significant environmental pollution - Habit to coal energy, we know coal and are afraid of new - Lack of awareness about RES. - Lack of knowledge about environment quality and protection, people don't care about environment. - Environmental pollution - Large ecological damage and even bigger risk that we create non-sustainable ecosystem - Contamination of land	- Decarbonisation - Stop the mining process and close down the TPPs of the area. Turn to RES. - Meeting with specialist in renewable energy - Information dissemination events and involvement of region to implement projects - Flyers, tv adverts - More research and innovation - Restoration
Business, Economy	- Approach of the mining companies/expansion of the mines - No significant tourist services (or culture) - No touristic infrastructures - Unemployment (high percentage) Solution: new opportunities from agricultural or touristic businesses - High emissions - Losing energy production - No transport - No investors - Lack of funds, no perspectives for SMEs - Few businesses and mono-industrial area - Unsuitable structure of economy, infrastructure specialised for coal but not suitable for anything else	- Governmental act - Restorated mines (and TPPs) can be turned into tourist attractions - Development of touristic businesses for the attraction of people to visit and get interested in the areas in the long-term - Reskilling of people (young and not only) towards 'green jobs' - New effective technologies - Helping creating new SMEs - Stepwise reduction of jobs in mining and at the same time creation of jobs in other branches - Using of renewable energy sources - Build metro (too expensive) - Local fiscal incentives - Attract investment, planning and access funding - Creation of new jobs - Creating more businesses and other fields - Intensive environment change for future business

Theme	Problem	Solution
Education, skills	- Fear of job loss - Sub-regions (villages) highly dependent on coal/mostly elder generation - Not enough education - Market-oriented curricula - Lack of educated and skilled people	- Requalification courses - Early retirement, re-skilling - Build new professional schools - Identify needs, change curricula
Family, communities	- The region feels isolated in facing the coal phase out challenge - Unemployment - Decreasing population - Health problems and a lot of workers are not able to work the whole working period - Pessimistic local communities - Lack of a family, a lot of children with parents abroad - Depopulation - Lack of family heritage	- Bring coal regions together - Investment - Special economic zones - New occupations - New opportunities and future for the local people - Returning back - New policies regarding social security of families with more children
Identity, culture	- Fear of change - Too much political discourse, not enough transparency - All overseas company owners (no HQs in Wales) - Miners - old attitudes - difficult to shift - Fear of change, fear of losing identity - Little willingness for new ideas, little willingness to make independent decision - Losing occupational identity (miners) - Cultural isolation of the region	- Identify and present success stories, explore pilot projects - Establish competent citizens chambers which protect apolitical nature of transition - Focus on the young. New courses. Explain: immigration could boost growth. Decide if you can handle that. - New identity, heritage connected to mining - New generation public media: creating dedicated cultural center
Other	- High penetration of coal in electricity generation - Reduce to 3 days and low pay - Let economy slow	- Replacement with renewables and flexibility

Figure 2: Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, five groups

Figure 3: Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, branch of ideas

10 Agenda

TRACER
TRANSITION IN COAL INTENSIVE REGIONS

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 836819.

EINLADUNG ZUR AUFTAKTVERANSTALTUNG DES EU-VERBUNDPROJEKTES TRACER

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

im April 2019 startet das EU-Verbundvorhaben TRACER zur Begleitung des Strukturwandels in der Lausitz und acht weiteren Kohleregionen in Europa. Das Projekt zielt auf die Entwicklung von spezifischen Forschungs- und Innovationsstrategien („smart specialisation"). Ein Schwerpunkt liegt auf dem Ausbau erneuerbarer Energien und klimaschonender Technologien. TRACER soll Investitionen in diese Zukunftsfelder stimulieren.

TRACER bietet eine Plattform zum Wissenstransfer und Erfahrungsaustausch, schafft die Vernetzung mit europäischen Foren und ergänzt nationale Förderinitiativen. So hat die Lausitz eine weitere Stimme in Brüssel, gerade was die Ausrichtung von EU-Programmen betrifft.

Bemerkenswert ist, dass die Auftaktveranstaltung für alle Projektpartner in der Lausitz stattfindet. Wir möchten diese besondere Gelegenheit nutzen, um die Region und ihre Akteure im Strukturwandel zu präsentieren. Deshalb laden wir Sie recht herzlich ein:

AM 15. MAI 2019 UM 09:30 UHR
auf den IBA-Terrassen, Haus 3
Seestraße 100, 01983 Großräschen

Eine Übersetzung aller Beiträge (Englisch/Deutsch) ist gewährleistet. Ich freue mich sehr, Sie begrüßen zu dürfen und bitte um Ihre Rückmeldung bis zum 06.05.2019 (Tel. 03531 79070, mail: fib@fib-ev.de).

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Dr. Michael Haubold-Rosar
(Direktor)

PROGRAMM DER AUFTAKTVERANSTALTUNG DES EU-VERBUNDPROJEKTES TRACER

AM 15. MAI 2019 UM 09:30 UHR

auf den IBA-Terrassen, Haus 3

Seestraße 100, 01983 Großräschen

09:30	Greetings *Michael Haubold-Rosar, FIB e.V.* *(additional Greetings requested)*
09:45	Welcome & Introduction to TRACER Project *Rainer Janssen, WIP - Renewable Energies*
10:00	EU Coal Regions in Transition Platform: main Activities and Cooperation Opportunities *Alexandra Tomczak, EU Commission, DG ENER, Policy Coordinator - Coal*
10:30	Transition and Regional Development: what EU Cohesion Policy can contribute *Kai Stryczynski, EU Commission, DG REGIO*
11:00	Coffee Break
11:30	Rehabilitation of former state-owned Lignite Mining in Eastern Germany - Results and Tasks *Jörg Schlenstedt, LMBV*
12:00	Decarbonization in Flyover Country? - Transition Management in Lusatia *Stefan Zundel, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg*
12:30	The Challenges of the Regional Development of Post-Mining Regions *Karsten Feucht, IBA-Studierhaus*
13:00	Lunch Break
14:00	Knowledge Exchange about the Region *Sara Davies, University of Strathclyde*
15:30	Walk to the Vineyard Großräschen at IBA-Terrassen & Degustation *Cornelia Wobar, WeinbauWobar*
16:30	End of the Event & Good Bye!

Moderator
Dr. Dirk Knoche, FIB e.V.