Smart strategies for the transition in coal intensive regions

Project No: 836819

Report on input to Partnership Agreements

WP 7 – Task 7.6 / Deliverable 7.6

July 2022

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 836819. The sole responsibility for the content of this report lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the INEA nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

TRACER website: www.tracer-h2020.eu

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Abbreviations

Common Agricultural Policy	CAP
Coordination and Support Action	CSA
Directorate-General for Energy	DG ENER
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy	DG REGIO
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	EBRD
Emissions Trading System	ETS
Energy Efficiency Directive	EED
Energy and Managing Authorities	EMA
European Commission	EC
Entrepreneurial discovery process	EDP
European Investment Bank	EIB
European Regional Development Fund	ERDF
European Union	EU
Just Transition Fund	JTF
Renewable Energy Systems	RES
Recovery and Resilience Facility	RRF
Research and Development	R&D
Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan	PNIEC
National Recovery and Resilience Plan	PNRR
Smart Specialisation Strategy approach	S3
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	SMEs
Secretariat's Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition	START
WIP Renewable Energies, Germany (TRACER coordinator)	WIP

1 Introduction

This report summarises the cooperation activities and interaction that partners of the Horizon 2020 project TRACER had with national Managing Authorities of EU Cohesion Funds and energy authorities in charge of climate funds and policies. The purpose of approaching national authorities was to bring forward best practices and lessons learnt from coal regions in transition that may be financed and replicated in other countries. This activity was covered in the EMA Virtual Event "Reshaping EU energy system with REPowerEU and Cohesion Funds: challenges for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy," hosted by DG ENER on June 9, 2022. During this event, project partner WIP presented the project's results and discussed the new opportunities for coal regions in transition to managing authorities from across the EU. The bi-annual EMA meetings "aim to support managing authorities to make the best possible use of cohesion policy funding to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and smart energy infrastructure, as well as energy-related research and innovation."[1] Normally held in-person in Brussels, this year's event was held digitally due to the COVID-19 pandemic and took place from 9:30 to 16:30. There were at least 63 single logged in attendees (without counting people sharing computers), according to the online meeting application that was used.

The EMA network, which meets twice a year, acts as an "informal platform to exchange information, share good practices, experiences and latest implementation and policy developments."[2] The June 2022 meeting featured keynote addresses from top European Commission officials Marc Lemaître, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, and Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General for Energy. The afternoon session, which featured the TRACER project, was titled "EU regions facing challenges of energy transition – how to create value in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency" and was chaired by Catherine Wendt, head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth in DG REGIO of the European Commission. TRACER's participation was arranged by partner EUREC.

TRACER's goal is to reach a wide variety of stakeholders in the energy transition – including policymakers, SMEs, and local actors – and to involve them in the implementation of a just transition where no one is left behind. TRACER's core aim is to engage coal regions into an entrepreneurial discovery processes that is expected to generate economic activity, create jobs and drive innovation in clean energy sectors. While doing this, it is crucial to reach out to managing authorities as they were preparing their Operational Programmes for the Cohesion Policy's upcoming programming period. The REPowerEU plan has created an increased urgency to transition away from fossil fuels in the energy sector and has therefore provided a useful opportunity for achieving progress in transforming the renewable energy sector.

2 Presenting the TRACER Project and its findings to managing authorities

The TRACER project is a 3-year coordination and support action (CSA) which received funding from the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 financing programme. It targets nine coal regions in transition across Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, United Kingdom) – these include 6 regions from EU countries covered by funds in the EU's Cohesion Policy and 3 regions in non-EU countries.[3] This report is mainly relevant for EU regions in the EU. As a CSA rather than a research project, TRACER is focused on new ideas, market uptake, and stakeholder involvement in the energy transition for coal-intensive regions. The core aim of the TRACER project is to drive entrepreneurial

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/meeting-energy-and-managing-authorities-network/15th-meeting-energy-and-managing-authorities-network-2022-jun-09_en
[2] Ibid.
[3] Merger, Rita, New opportunities for coal regions in transition: results of the TRACER project, EMA Virtual Event

discovery processes and innovation. This implies the input of local and regional authorities and from a wide range of stakeholders from SMEs and civil society to have a broad vision and clear priorities for each of the nine regions. While working on financial strategies for a just transition in coal regions, the Consortium has been in contact with EU officials, as well as the EIB and EBRD that also provide funding outside the EU.

Rita Mergner, project manager at WIP and coordinator of TRACER, presented at the EMA event and emphasized that it was vital to involve stakeholders and to adapt transition strategies to the strengths and weaknesses of each region (presentation slides can be found in **Annex I – Event agenda).** In this way, TRACER's presentation brought forward best practices and views from stakeholders in coal regions, as well as recommendations for project implementation to drive the just transition process in a way that no one is left behind. Some of the key recommendations presented by the project coordinator to use post-mining land and generate economic activity in the area included growing adapted crops in degraded land to make products or produce biomass and converting areas for nature conservation, recreational use and tourism.

The TRACER presentation also focused on generating early income and ensuring long-term stability of the local socioeconomic ecosystem. The project has a strong regional dimension and local outreach via stakeholder workshops,[4] education (i.e. study tours and the "Restoration of post-mining sites Summer School"[5]), and financing support (i.e. Capacity building events on European funds to key regional actors and guidelines for EU funds and programmes in coal intensive regions).[6] Project partners were actively approaching their respective regional authorities on Cohesion Policy and the JTF. This offered an overview to Managing Authorities across the EU on some of the common challenges faced by coal regions and potential solutions

The TRACER project ends in September 2022 with over 20 reports containing project results. These project results combines just transition best practices in regions to deploy renewable energy installations, integrate new technologies and applications and increasing awareness of innovative measures in renewables. The Best Practice Platform summarises the most important information, ideas and achievements for the transition in coal-intensive regions.

Following the TRACER presentation, the moderator of the event welcomed the efforts made by TRACER partners to contribute to the socioeconomic development of regions in transition. He also noted that with the looming energy crisis, some regions may need to keep coal plants running for the short term. However, these short-term emergency measures should not detract coal regions and the EU generally from transitioning to a zero-carbon economy and fulfilling its climate commitments. National Managing authorities will be crucial in facilitating this transition.

3 EU Cohesion Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility

3.1 Introducing EU funds

The June 2022 EMA event focused on the EU's Cohesion Policy for the 2021-27 programming period. The biannual EMA events offer the opportunity to European Commission officials and national authorities managing cohesion funds to discuss the latest policy developments and market trends in the areas of regional development, energy and climate. A central topic of this forum's discussion was Cohesion policy, the EU's main investment policy.

[4] https://tracer-h2020.eu/mobilization-of-stakeholders/
[5] https://tracer-h2020.eu/cooperation-of-coal-intensive-regions/
[6] https://tracer-h2020.eu/financing-opportunities/

The Cohesion Policy "contributes to strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion" in the EU, corrects "imbalances between countries and regions", and delivers on the EU's political goals.[7] Compared to the previous 7-year funding periods of Cohesion Policy that had 11 thematic priorities, the current one focuses on only 5[8], including priority n°2 on "a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy". The policy is delivered thorough four dedicated funds[9], each of them related to regional development and relevant for coal regions in transition. Moreover, these funds have earmarked money for climate investments expected to help deliver the EU's climate objectives and facilitate the energy transition.

The new programming period presented by the European Commission includes clear goals for the EU's policy priorities and climate targets, greater empowerment of local stakeholders in fund management, simplified bureaucratic procedures, and more flexible programming.[10] While the legislation for the 2021-2027 period was finalized by the time of the EMA meeting, the EU was still developing Partnership Agreements and Operational Plans in its Member States. In total, Cohesion Policy has as resources 392€ billion over 7 years.

Part of the new programming period from 2021-2027 is a new instrument: the Just Transition Fund (JTF).[11] The JTF supports the territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality to avoid regional disparities and address structural changes in the EU. The Commission has set up the Just Transition Platform to help EU countries and regions to unlock the support available through this funding scheme. The TRACER project and its target regions have worked in cooperation with this platform over the past years to support these territories in their transition.

Another topic that was presented and discussed was the Recovery and Resilience Facility within NextGenerationEU, Europe's COVID-19 recovery plan. The aim of this temporary recovery fund is to "mitigate the economic and social impact" of the pandemic and get Member States to implement reforms and investments to become more "sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions."[12] It makes available €723.8 billion (in current prices) in loans (€385.8 billion) and grants (€338 billion), this being the largest EU fund by a long margin with 37% of the total amount earmarked for climate investments.[13]

3.2 Discussion on EU funds

Following presentations, there was a panel discussion on the REPowerEU plan and Cohesion Policy featuring European Commission officials from different services and other relevant stakeholders (event agenda can be found in **Annex I – Event agenda**). Managing Authorities have made questions and contributed to the exchange.

It was emphasized that the Partnership Principle is key to cohesion policy, where local stakeholders must be involved in preparation and the implementation of the funds. In the JTF, trade unions as well as youths should be involved in the program. There is a need to move beyond the grant only approach and to use all available financing instruments including loans and guarantees. This will be particularly important to make energy savings and integrate renewables in the buildings sector. It was emphasised that creating municipal companies is not the best way to move forward with RES capacity and other local projects, rather it is better to involve individuals in cooperation with local authorities in either private or mixed structures.

[7] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/
[8] Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 - Regional Policy - European Commission (europa.eu)
[9] The EU's main investment policy - Regional Policy - European Commission (europa.eu)
[10] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/
[11] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/jtf/
[12] https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en
[13] Ibid.

The energy crisis is severely affecting the public finances of regions and national governments. Implementing energy efficiency measures is one of the best ways to reduce exposure to energy prices, where regional and local governments are crucial. Applying a 1-stop-shop approach at local-regional level as a cohesive ecosystem would be very beneficial to accelerate RES project implementation. The European Commission said that the EU state aid guidelines for climate and energy are more flexible for community led projects in PV (under 6MW) and wind (under 18 MW). It called on national and regional authorities to make use of this flexibility.

Green hydrogen is expected to replace fossil fuels across several sectors, although more efforts are needed to develop cost-competitive production.[14] EU funding, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility, can help to develop this sector in the coming decade.

The panel discussion concluded that climate expenditure has been mainstreamed across Cohesion Policy and the recovery funds. Moreover, regions and enterprises have a variety of financial instruments that can support clean energy investments. It will be important to finalise in 2022 Operational Programmes and Territorial Just Transition Plans in order to fully deploy the necessary tools to support clean energy investments.

4 Managing authorities and the energy transition

The EMA meeting went beyond EU funds and covered several current energy and climate topics, including the following:

- More efficient permitting procedures for renewable energy
- EU Solar Strategy
- Biomethane Action Plan
- Engaging regions in hydrogen acceleration/synergies with Horizon Europe and Hydrogen Valleys in cross-border projects
- Long term renovation strategies (LTRS) and boosting energy efficiency in buildings

Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General for Energy, said that the Ukrainian conflict put in evidence the vulnerabilities of Europe's energy system. The REPowerEU Communication of the European Commission is a plan to reduce Europe's dependence from Russian energy imports by focusing on three areas: Energy efficiency and behavioural changes; stepping up the deployment of RES; diversifying the supply of fossil imports.

Several European Commission officials discussed initiatives aiming to stabilize Europe's energy supply and make it more affordable for consumers. To speed up the clean energy transition the European Commission has developed a guidance document for speeding up permitting procedures for Renewables and has asked Member States to designate areas dedicated to renewable energy projects. Innovation in renewables and enabling technologies is imperative to facilitating the clean energy transition and save money in the long run. In the focus of the current gas crisis, hydrogen and biomethane should be supported via the roll out of infrastructure and R&D support. The EU will need an additional EUR 210 billion to carry out the goals set forth in REPowerEU, much of which can be diverted from EU funds in the CAP, Cohesion policy and the RRF, as well as from private finance and national public investment.

A vital aspect of transitioning energy systems is building skills, experiences, and employment in the relevant sector. To this end, it is essential that managing authorities develop a skills forecast of regions, with a particular emphasis on skills and employment. Skills partnerships exist for offshore RES; there should be a renewed emphasis on integrating other RES sectors in a similar partnership. For the TRACER project and coal intensive regions in general, authorities can help by showing a clear decarbonisation path for those regions, touching on aspects of civil society, trade unions and youth programmes. Coal regions usually have a significant pool of skilled workers in the energy and mining sectors that under the right

[14] Tito Bianchi DIPCoe- Nuvap, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri

conditions can be transferred to renewables and the recovery of valuable raw materials, as well as to other clean sectors.

5 Authorities in action: Member State Examples

The afternoon session of the EMA event included an update from Member States on energy programming and best practices on energy efficiency. The following are two Member State examples in which national initiatives have contributed to the transition to renewable energy and to regional development.

5.1 Italy

The Italian approach to the energy transition is laid out in the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) and its programmes for Cohesion Policy and Next Generation EU.

Italian national energy plans

The PNIEC provides a frame of reference for the future of Italian Energy Policy up to 2030. The PNIEC uses specific targets to set goals for the country's energy future, including the following:[15]

- Gross final consumption of energy from renewable sources: 30%
- Reduction of primary energy consumption: 43%
- Reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by non ETS sectors: 33%
- Smart transformation of energy grids
- Phase out from coal by 2025

Italy intends to accelerate the energy transition by promoting the gradual phasing out of coal, implemented through, among other plans, the construction of additional gas-fuelled thermoelectric units.[16] The plans for the coal transition are aided by a technical working group appointed by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development to oversee the phase-out of coal from electricity generation. The PNIEC identifies the aforementioned goals through the **Italian Partnership Agreement**. While the current plan is relatively new, presenter Tito Bianchi noted that future (and continuous) updates are required to increase the ambition of national targets to facilitate Italy's energy goals.

EU Programming

There are also significant resources coming from the EU to contribute toward Italian energy projects. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), supported by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), allocated an unprecedented €222.1 billion in grants and loans to be spent into key investments including projects in renewable energy, enabling technologies and energy saving measures.[17] The EU's Cohesion Policy also reinforces existing strategies and interventions and makes it possible to make more challenging investments in energy saving. Investments under the upcoming Italian Partnership Agreement will provide a high impact to the country's climate objectives. The JTF is also in effect in Italy, contributing a total of €1.2 billion to allow territories and local stakeholders to address the social, economic, and environmental aspects of the energy transition.

A challenge for Italy lies in public-private partnerships, such as energy performance contracts (EPC), which illustrate problems of compatibility with the EU's requirements in terms of timelines and reporting guidelines. Nevertheless, national coordination among investment schemes, such as in the electric grid, has proven effective. Additionally, the future of the Italian energy sector shows that there are significant resources available in Italy for the coming years, both from national and European levels. Though this variety of sources can create its own set

[15] Bianchi,Tito DIPCoe- Nuvap, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, EMA Virtual Event
[16] https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/it_final_necp_main_en.pdf
[17] Bianchi,Tito DIPCoe- Nuvap, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri

of management challenges, it also presents an opportunity to achieve the EU's and Italy's climate goals.

The Italian government emphasised on the importance of investing in the energy efficiency of existing buildings following the "energy efficiency first" principle.[18] This principle, in line with the Renovation Wave initiative, has the potential to create employment while reducing GHG emissions and energy poverty.

5.2 Czechia

Past partnership agreements and EU funding programs have immensely contributed to Czechia's energy transition.[19] National programs are also essential for the country's decarbonization efforts.

Czechia's Partnership Agreement gives a total financial allocation of EUR 6.5 billion to meet strategic objectives of the European Green Deal and Fit for 55 package.[20,21] Managing authorities in Czechia allocate this funding to target specific objectives through the country's Operational Programs, particularly the energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions targets (€468 million from ERDF) and the EU's sustainability criteria (€268 million from CF). These objectives were enforced across a wide range of measures, such as: moderating energy demand; increasing the energy efficiency of schools, hospitals and other public buildings; increasing building adaptability to climate change; constructing new buildings according to New European Bauhaus principles.

The Modernisation Fund is comprised of 9 programs and has more than €12 billion at its disposal. They include the HEAT program for district heating networks (i.e. RES and low carbon sources for heating, grid renovation in district heating, fuel switching), TRANSCom for measures towards clean public transportation, and ENERGov for energy efficiency in public buildings.

The TJTP, which has €1.5 billion at its disposal, importantly covers the Czech coal regions targeted in the TRACER project. Three regions have been identified as 'most affected': the Moravian-Silesian Region, Ústecký and Karlovarský.[22] The available funding has already been allocated between the regions, and Czechia has announced its coal exit date by 2033.[23] Czechia developed its TJTP within what is referred to as the 'Transformation Platform', which has 39 members.[24] It is administered by the RE:START department of the Ministry of Regional Development. The Secretariat's Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition (START) programme aims to deliver transition-related expertise, capabilities and resource in specified coal regions – for Czechia, this applies to the Karlovy Vary region.[25] The resources applied to Czechia include a regional profile (including socio-economic analysis), best practice guidance, employment opportunities and skills gaps and renewable solutions for the region. The TRACER project applies these same resources to its relevant regions.

[18] Bianchi,Tito DIPCoe- Nuvap, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
[19] Minarik, Lukas, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
[20] Minarik, Lukas, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
[21] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3209
[22] https://euagenda.eu/upload/publications/2022-04-just-transition-in-7-ceecs.pdf
[23] https://beyond-coal.eu/2022/01/07/czech-republic-commits-to-2033-coal-exit-which-will-need-to-be-sped-up/
[24] Dotace. (2021). Transformation Platform. Von dotaceeu.cz: https://dotaceeu.cz/cs/evropskefondy-v-cr/kohezni-politika-po-roce-2020/uhelne-regiony/plan-spravedlive-uzemnitransformace-(psut)/transformacni-platforma
[25] https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions/secretariat-technical-assistance-regions-transition-start_en

6 Energy Poverty in Europe

The challenge of energy poverty in the context of mounting energy prices was an important topic in the agenda, with a presentation by the JRC titled “Energy and transport poverty and living conditions”.

Energy poverty, or the “inability to access the socially and materially adequate level of energy services,”[26] is an increasing challenge for authorities in the EU. There are multiple factors which contribute to energy poverty levels, including, low income, supply-side issues, energy costs, lack of equipment, and lack of skills.[27] The recent JRC technical report on energy poverty in Europe shows that energy poverty is growing and calls for measures to address this.[28] The report relying on microdata from the EU-SILC and HBS surveys, provides a detailed assessment of energy poverty rates as well as differences and similarities of energy poverty across various socio-economic and spatial categories (e.g. gender, employment status, tenure category, degree of urbanisation).

In terms of important findings from the JRC report, it indicates that although energy poverty rates decreased in the vast majority of EU countries between 2015 and 2019, this trend is expected to change for the worse due to the effects of inflation, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.[29] Furthermore, while less dense areas have a higher share of expenditure on energy, there is no clear link between the degree of urbanisation and degree of energy poverty. Importantly on an individual level, the report showed that unemployed, women, pensioners, young adults (18-28) and people paying for market-rent housing report higher rates of energy poverty in comparison to other social groups/categories.[30]

The JRC report also indicates regional disparities of energy poverty in the EU. Two indicators (inability to keep house warm in percentages and arrears on utility bills in percentage) show a link between coal regions and energy poverty. Many of the regions covered by TRACER from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland are identified in the JRC report as experiencing energy poverty. Without adequate support to deal with the transition away from coal and address the loss of coal sector jobs, these regions are expected to be more vulnerable. Reskilling and upskilling the workforce within the context of the renewable energy transition will be imperative to preventing job losses.[31]

7 Conclusions

The event highlighted the need to continue supporting regions and municipalities to drive the energy transition on the ground. A recurring topic was the need to develop capacity building in the energy sector. Presentations showed that national governments not only require adequate financing, but also social programming to address the skills and employment gaps created by

[26] Bouzarovski, S., and S. Petrova, ‘A Global Perspective on Domestic Energy Deprivation: Overcoming the Energy Poverty-Fuel Poverty Binary’, Energy Research and Social Science, 2015

[27] Koukoufikis, G. and Uihlein, A., Energy poverty, transport poverty and living conditions - An analysis of EU data and socioeconomic indicators, EUR 31000 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-48396-0, doi:10.2760/198712, JRC128084.

[28] Koukoufikis, G. and Uihlein, A., Energy poverty, transport poverty and living conditions - An analysis of EU data and socioeconomic indicators, EUR 31000 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-48396-0, doi:10.2760/198712, JRC128084.

[29] Koukoufikis, G. and Uihlein, A., Energy poverty, transport poverty and living conditions - An analysis of EU data and socioeconomic indicators, EUR 31000 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-48396-0, doi:10.2760/198712, JRC128084.

[30] Koukoufikis, G. and Uihlein, A., Energy poverty, transport poverty and living conditions - An analysis of EU data and socioeconomic indicators, EUR 31000 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-48396-0, doi:10.2760/198712, JRC128084.

[31] https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news/energy-poverty-and-reskilling-european-coal-regions-2021-11-15_en

a transition to renewable energy as well as institutional and structural policies to facilitate more rapid enactment of the EU's climate goals. In this respect, TRACER feeds in several best practices focused on skills and it's 9 capacity building events also draw valuable lessons.

EU and national officials agreed that speeding up permitting procedures for renewable energy projects is essential to step up the rate of RES deployment and increase Europe's energy security. The TRACER project is supporting local and regional stakeholders to develop renewable energy projects and other clean business in coal regions in transition.

Public authorities agreed that continued innovation in renewables is imperative to facilitate the clean energy transition. Further development and deployment of hydrogen and biomethane can help to address the energy crisis. Digitalisation can also be a catalyst for change, with digital platforms allowing a wide range of stakeholders and individual citizens to inform themselves on the just transition process. The EU's Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) targets coal and carbon intensive regions with the purpose to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the transition.[32] The ambitious deployment on this new instrument and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders will be keys for its success. In this context, TRACER project partners have been actively involved in the creation of TJTPs in their regions along with public authorities and economic actors.

Pending issues certainly remain on a national front, particularly on social aspects of the transition such as building skills and tacking unemployment. Energy poverty and the sharp increase in energy prices are mounting challenges that public authorities rapidly need to address - particularly in disadvantaged regions – with a combination of solutions that include investments in energy efficiency and RES. As more climate and energy funding becomes available to national and reginal governments, it is essential to continue bringing together stakeholders and to rethink efficient fund management. Regional and national initiatives can help to do this, along with new Horizon Europe projects such as TRACER, which has a regional-specific approach, with a focus on socioeconomic challenges and best practices on how to achieve a fair transition in coal-intensive regions.

[32] https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/finance-and-green-deal/just-transition-mechanism_en

Annex I – Event agenda

Event agenda:

15TH EMA NETWORK MEETING

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF ENERGY AUTHORITIES AND MANAGING AUTHORITIES OF THE COHESION POLICY 2021-2027

Brussels, 9 June 2022

On line event on WebEx

09.30 - 16.30

Reshaping EU energy system with REPowerEU and Cohesion Funds: challenges for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy

https://ecconf.webex.com/ecconf/j.php?MTID=m20aa288bbd6f36f1de70d707cee3dbc5

AGENDA

09.30-09.45	**Test connections and set up**
09.45-10.00	**DG REGIO keynote address** **Marc Lemaître, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy**
10.00- 10.05	**Session 1 - Energy policy developments and RepowerEU** **Session chaired by Tudor Constantinescu - Principal Adviser to the Director General- DG ENER**
10.05 - 10.15	Update on programming period 21-27 and impacts of REPower EU Bovéda Myriam, Team leader sustainable growth, Unit G1, DG REGIO
10.15-10.30	Just Transition Fund: state of play, territorial just transition plans and good practices Sander Happaerts, policy officer, Unit G1, DG REGIO
10.30-10.45	**DG ENER keynote address** **Ditte Juul Jørgensen , Director-General for Energy**

10.45- 11.00	**LTRS and boosting energy efficiency in buildings** **Stephan Moser, Head of Unit B3 - DG ENER**
11-00.11-15	**EU Solar Strategy, Ignacio Asenjo – Policy Officer C1 - DG ENER**
11.15-11.30	**Biomethane Action Plan, Galin Gentchev – Policy Officer C2- DG ENER**
11.30-12.30	**Panel discussion: REPowerEU plan and Cohesion Policy** • **Paula Abreu - Head of Unit A1 DG ENER** • **Alexane Barrouillet – Policy Officer - SG RECOVER** • **Mathieu Fichter - Policy officer, Unit G1 DG REGIO** • **Robert Nuij –Deputy Head of Unit B2 DG ENER** • **Stanislas D'Herbemont – Development Manager- RESCOOP Europe**
12.30- 12.45	Engaging regions in hydrogen acceleration/synergies with Horizon Europe Presentation of Hydrogen Valleys and cross-border projects in EU regions. Bart Biebuyck - Director Clean Hydrogen joint undertaking, CHJU
12.45 - **13.00**	Q&A with participants

13.00 -14.00: lunch break

Session 2 - EU Regions facing challenges of energy transition: how to create value in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Chaired by Catherine Wendt, Head of Unit G1, Smart and Sustainable growth, DG REGIO

14.00 -14.45	Update from Member States on energy programming 2021-27 including good practices on Energy Efficiency **Italy-** Francesca de Lucia, Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale, Tito Bianchi DIPCoe- Nuvap, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri **Czechia-** Lukas Minarik, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
14.45 -15.15	**Enabling conditions on Energy Efficiency: outstanding issues on transposition art.7 Energy Efficiency Directive 2018** **Anne Katherine Weidenbach, Policy officer, Unit B2- DG ENER**
15.15- 15.30	**Energy and transport poverty and living conditions** **Giorgios Koukoufikis JRC-PETTEN**
15:30 – 15:45	**New opportunities for coal regions in transition: results of the TRACER project** Rita Mergner - Senior Project Manager, WIP Renewable Energies
15:45 – 16:25	**Q&A – tour de table and discussion with EMA members on priorities, state of play of the programming and how to accelerate the investments in EE and renewables in the OPs.**
16.25- 16.30	Closing remarks –Tudor Constantinescu

Annex II – TRACER presentation at EMA event

TRACER
TRANSITION IN COAL INTENSIVE REGIONS

HORIZON 2020 PROJECT TRACER

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION: RESULTS OF THE TRACER PROJECT

EMA Virtual Event, 9th June 2022

Rita Mergner, WIP Renewable Energies

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

TRACER OVERVIEW

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)
- Project duration: April 2019 – September 2022
- Project budget: 1.9 million EUR
- Co-financed by the European Commission, Horizon 2020
- Coordinator: WIP Renewable Energies, Germany
- 15 project partners

TRACER CONSORTIUM

- WIP Renewable Energies, Germany — www.wip-munich.de
- Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving, Greece — www.cres.gr
- Research Institute for Post-Mining Landscapes, Germany — http://fib-ev.de
- University of Strathclyde, UK — www.strath.ac.uk
- Black Sea Energy Research Centre, Bulgaria — www.bserc.eu
- Güssing Energy Technologies GmbH, Austria — http://get.ac.at
- The Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centres, Belgium — www.eurec.be
- Institute for Studies and Power Engineering, Romania — www.ispe.ro
- Energoprojekt ENTEL, Serbia — www.ep-entel.com
- Coal Energy Technology Institute, Ukraine — www.ceti-nasu.org
- University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland — www.ur.krakow.pl
- Welsh Government, UK — https://gov.wales
- Charles University, Czech Republic — www.cuni.cz
- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic — https://www.czu.cz/en/
- Jiu Valley Social Institute Association, Romania — www.institutulsocialvi.ro

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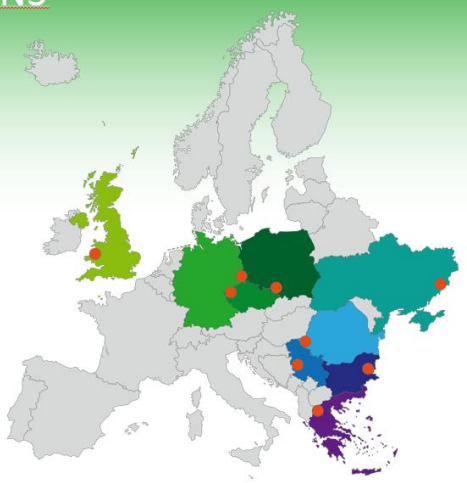
TRACER TARGET REGIONS

- **Southeast Region (BG34)**, Bulgaria
- **Northwest Bohemia (CZ04),** Czech Republic
- **Lusatia Region, Brandenburg (DE40) and Dresden (DED2)**, Germany
- **West Macedonia (EL53)**, Greece
- **Upper Silesia (PL22)**, Poland
- **West Region / Jiu Valley (RO42)**, Romania
- **Kolubara Region (RS11&RS21)**, Serbia
- **Donetsk Region**, Ukraine
- **Wales (UKL1, UKL2)**, United Kingdom



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ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY PROCESS (EDP)

- **Smart Specialisation Strategy approach (S3)** - innovation depends on cooperation, which can allow underused knowledge and innovation capacities to be identified and used more effectively. The S3 approach is therefore based on an inclusive process of stakeholder involvement centred on an **"entrepreneurial discovery" process (EDP)**
- Mobilisation of a wide range of **stakeholders** in the target regions
- Consultation with stakeholders
- Set up of appropriate **governance structure**
- Developing **shared visions of transition and identifying priorities** in the target regions

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REPOWEREU: JOINT EUROPEAN ACTION FOR MORE AFFORDABLE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Urgency of accelerating our clean energy transition
- Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans: "It is time we tackle our vulnerabilities and rapidly become more independent in our energy choices. **Let's dash into renewable energy at lightning speed**. **Renewables are a cheap, clean, and potentially endless source of energy** and instead of funding the fossil fuel industry elsewhere, they **create jobs** here."
- Larger volumes of **biomethane**

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POST-MINING LAND: MULTIPLE DEMAND

- Multiple options for using post-mining land are competing and very often conflicting: biomass production vs. nature conservation or recreational use; early net income vs. long-term ecosystem stability
- Stakeholder interests and social acceptance should be taken into account
- The cultivation and use of energy crops is still very limited

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WESTERN MACEDONIA, GREECE

- **Development of a Biomass Trade Centre**
- Just Transition Fund, EIB or EBRD could cover part of the project cost, while private funds could cover the remaining part
- The delivery of the **feasibility study** could help determine the financial part. In the case of collective investment by a group of forest owners, farmers, etc. a lot of effort for their mobilisation is necessary

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LUSATIA, GERMANY

- **Discussions: Photovoltaics (PV) on agricultural land**

-> a good option for low-yielding, economically marginal and underutilized post-mining ground with developing and quite sensitive raw soil

- **PV in combination with agricultural usage – for example special crops**


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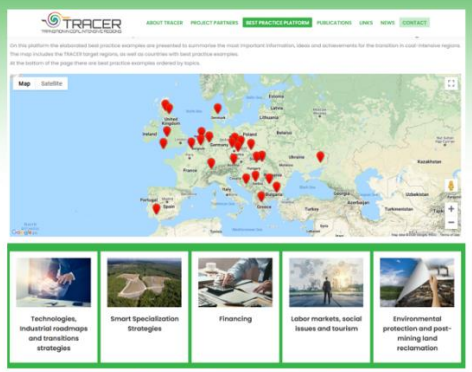
RESULTS: BEST PRACTICE PLATFORM



https://tracer-h2020.eu/best-practice-platform/

RESULTS: STUDY TOURS

https://tracer-h2020.eu/cooperation-of-coal-intensive-regions/

FINAL TRACER EVENTS, 20-21 SEPTEMBER 2022

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Final TRACER Events

Investors Workshop, 20 September 2022, 14:00-18:00
Final Conference, 21 September 2022, 09:00-15:00

Location/NOVOTEL Brussels City Centre (Rue de la Vge 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

Registration: https://tracer-h2020.eu/2022/04/14/final-tracer-events-save-the-date/


THANK YOU!
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