



Bridging Organizations and
marginalized communities for Local
Sustainability Transitions in EuRope

2nd BOLSTER regional policy dialogue

Just Transition WITH and FOR local economic actors

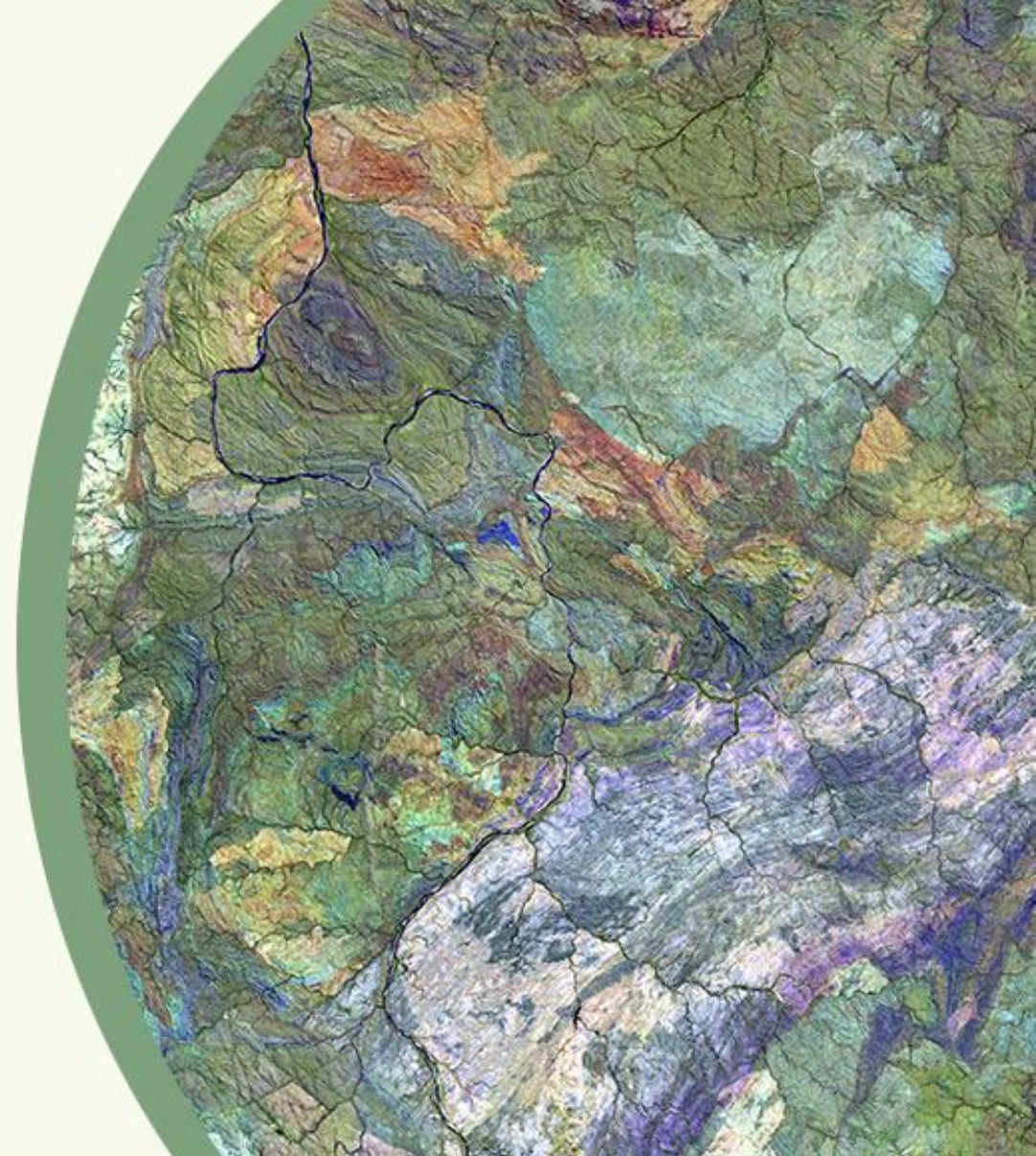
Perspective from Silesia (Poland), Romania and Estonia



27th October 2023 - 10:00 - 12:00 CEST



Online



This project is funded by the European Union under the Grant Agreement n.º 101069586. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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1. Where are you joining us from today (city/region)? / Skąd do nas dzisiaj dołączasz (miasto/region)?

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2. How familiar are you with the topic of Just Transition in the EU? / Jak dobrze znasz temat sprawiedliwej transformacji w UE?

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Economic actors' roles in local green transitions: perspectives from Silesia (Poland) and Romania

- ❖ **Prof. Adam Drobniak** – Dean of the Faculty of Spatial Management and Regional Transition at the University of Economics in Katowice and Member of the Council for the Just Transformation of the Silesian Voivodeship (Poland)
- ❖ **Eliza Barnea** – Just Transition Campaign Coordinator at Bankwatch Romania



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Economic actors' role in local green transitions: perspective from Silesia (Poland)

2nd BOLSTER Regional Policy Dialogue

27th of October 2023

Adam Drobniak

Faculty of Spatial Economy and Regions in Transition



University
of Economics
in Katowice

Territorial context

Wielkopolska voivodeship (NUTS2):

- Koniński subregion (NUTS3-), i.e. East Wielkopolska

Silesia voivodeship (NUTS2):

- Bytomski subregion (NUTS3)
- Bielski subregion (NUTS3)
- Gliwicki subregion (NUTS3)
- Katowicki subregion (NUTS3)
- Sosnowiecki subregion (NUT3)
- Rybnicki subregion (NUTS3)
- Tyski subregion (NUTS3)

Dolnośląskie voivodeship (NUTS2):

- Wałbrzyski subregion (NUTS3+)

Dolnośląskie voivodeship (NUTS2):

- Zgorzelecki county (NUTS4)

Lodzkie voivodeship:

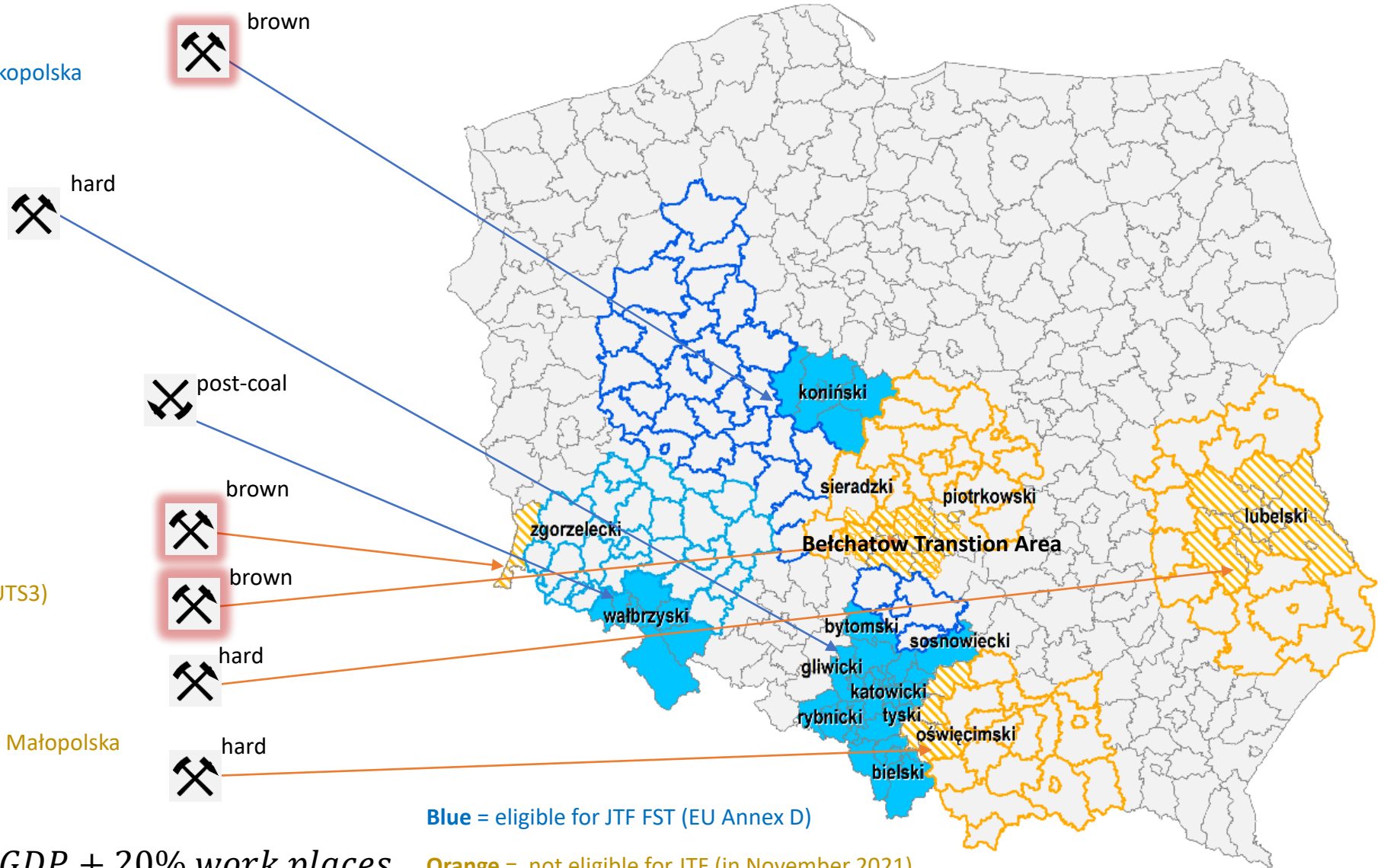
- Bełchatow Transition Area (part of Sieradzki + part of Piotrkowski NUTS3)

Lubelskie voivodeship (NUTS2):

- Lubelski subregion (NUTS3+)

Małopolskie voivodeship (NUTS2):

- Oświęcimski subregion (NUTS3), i.e. West Małopolska



\sum 13 coal regions \approx 20% GDP + 20% work places
+ 20% inhabitants + 40 CO₂ emission

Blue = eligible for JTF FST (EU Annex D)

Orange = not eligible for JTF (in November 2021)

Note! In 2022 Belchatow Transition Area and West Małopolska were finally eligible for JTF

Source: KPST – National Just Transition Plan (November 2021)

Sectoral context

- almost all:
 - coal mines ($\approx 97k$ miners)
 - power plants + power grids ($\approx 15k$ workers)

belong to the State
- related industries incl. SMEs are sometimes capitally linked with the State ($140k-200k$ workers)
- traditional & related industries = great political power = independent from regional authorities



Governance context

A. Central model (2020-2021)

Central level
3.5bn EUR JTF

Ministry of Climate and Environment (MC&E)
Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy (MFRP)
Ministry of National Assets (MNA)

Regional level
0 EUR JTF

6 Marshal Offices (13 coal regions)



one National Just Transition Plan (NJTP)

B. Hybrid model (2021-2022)

Central level
560m EUR ERDF+ESF

MC&E
MF&RP
MNA

Regional level
3.5bn EUR JTF

6 MO (13 coal regions)



National Just Transition Plan (NJTP)

Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTTPs)

C. Regional model (2022/2023 – ongoing)

Central level
0 EUR

MC&E
MF&RP
MNA

Regional level
3.5bn EUR JTF
+ 560m EUR ERDF + ESF

5 MO (11 coal regions)



Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTTP)

Participation context

A. Central model (June 2020 - February 2021)

Ministry of Climate and Environment (MC&E)
Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy (MFRP)
Ministry of National Assets (MNA)



NJTP = is „top secret”
+ politically selectd stakeholders

B. Hybrid model (March 2021- August 2022)

MC&F
MF&RP
MNA

6 Marshal Offices (MO)



NJTP

DG REGIO + DG Clima + DG Empl.
Polish Parliament
MC&E + MF&RP + MNA
6 MO
Local self-governments
HEIs, R&D
SMEs (green economy)
Business Environment Institutions
NGO (green)
Coal mines & power plants sectors
Related industries
Trade Unions

TJTP

C. Regional model (September 2022 – ongoing)

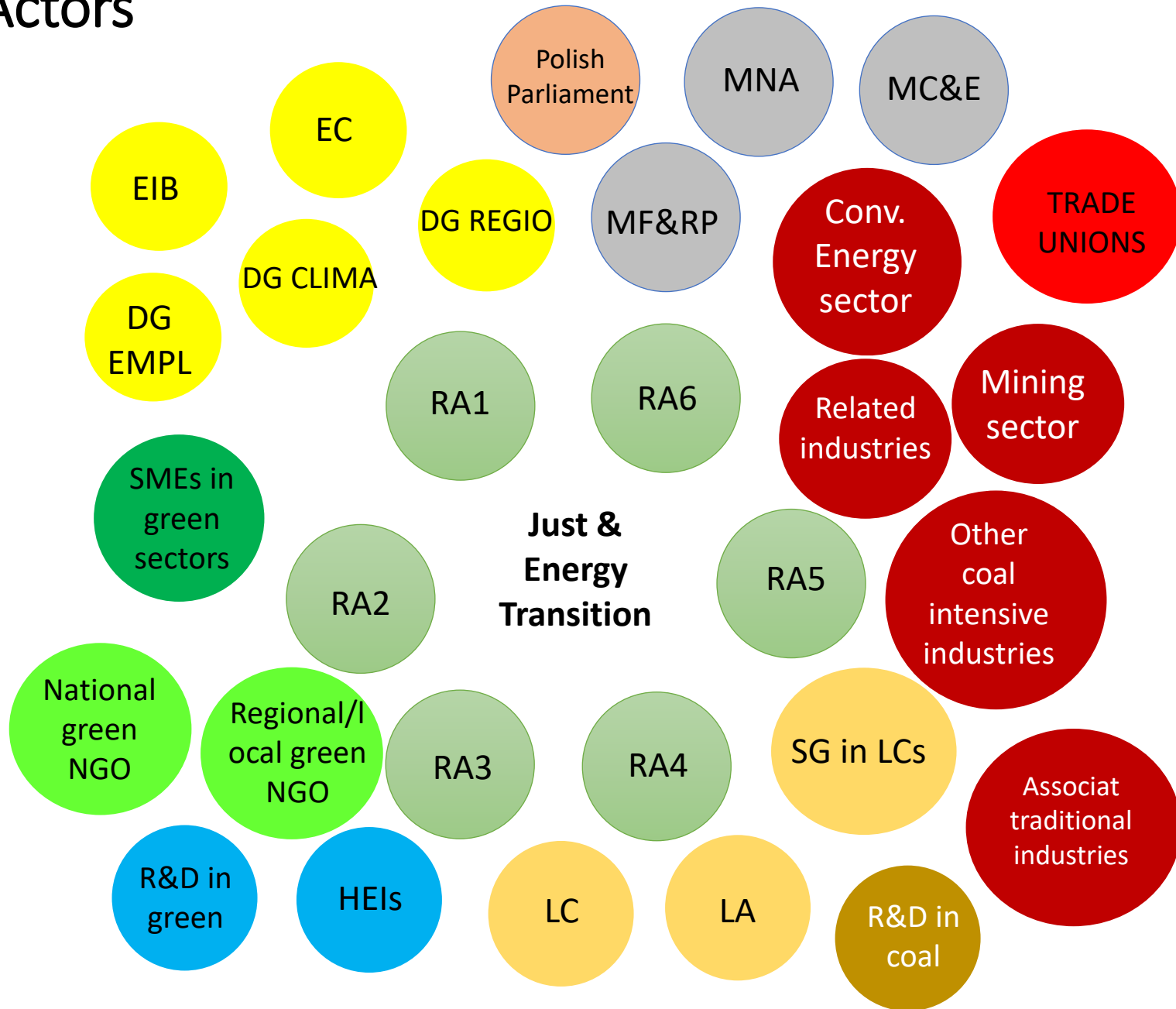
5 MO (11 coal regions)



TJTP

Youth
Miners communities
Women from miners communities
Elder people
NGOs with social profile

Actors



- EC – European Commission
- EIB – European Investment Bank
- MC&E – Ministry of Climate & Environment
- MF&RP – Ministry of Funds & Regional Policy
- MNA – Ministry of National Assets
- TRADE UNIONS: Association of Trade Unions KADRA, Trade Unions of Miners, Ttrade Union Solidarity, etc.
- RA 1 – 6 – Regional authorities (from: Silesia, Lower Silesia, Wielkopolskie, Lubelskie, Malopolskie, Lodzkie)
- LC – Local communities in coal regions
- LA – Local authorities in coal regions
- SG in LC – social groups in local communities (families, youth, workers, elder people, women)
- R&D in green – research & development institutes focus on green energy sector (like Energy Institute)
- R&D in coal – research institutes focus on coal industries

Nature of conflict



Nature of conflict

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN COAL REGIONS

„the need to take-up costs oof transition (drop in taxes revenues, costs of post-industrial land re-development, social problems, re-skilling & up-skilling)”

„European Green Deal is becoming priority, including all industries of green economy”

„the need for life quality improvement”

„adaptation to climate change”

R&D, HEIs, GREEN NGOs

„European Green Deal = crucial change in economy model”

„the need to create new value chains and green technology transfer & development ”

„development of infrastructure which support green economy industries like renewable energy sources, circular economy, Energy efficiency, etc.”

„better coordination of sectoral politics”

„fast legal changes”

„undertaking educational activities at all levels of education system”

GREEN SMEs

„rapid implementation of European Green Deal”

„implementation of distributed energy production model ”

„energy market = coordination of diverse energy sources provided by: energy clusters, energy cooperatives, people, SMEs, local communities

„better coordination of sectoral politics”

„the need for legislative changes”



COAL INDUSTRY, CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SECTOR, TRADE UNIONS

„very slow implementation of European Green Deal”

„maintaining control over the central model of energy production”

„polishing coal technologies”

„the need to diversy current business model”

„energy market = coal intensive industries play decisive role as suppliers & distributors of conventional energy as well as energy from renewable sources

Thank you!



Just Transition WITH and FOR local economic actors

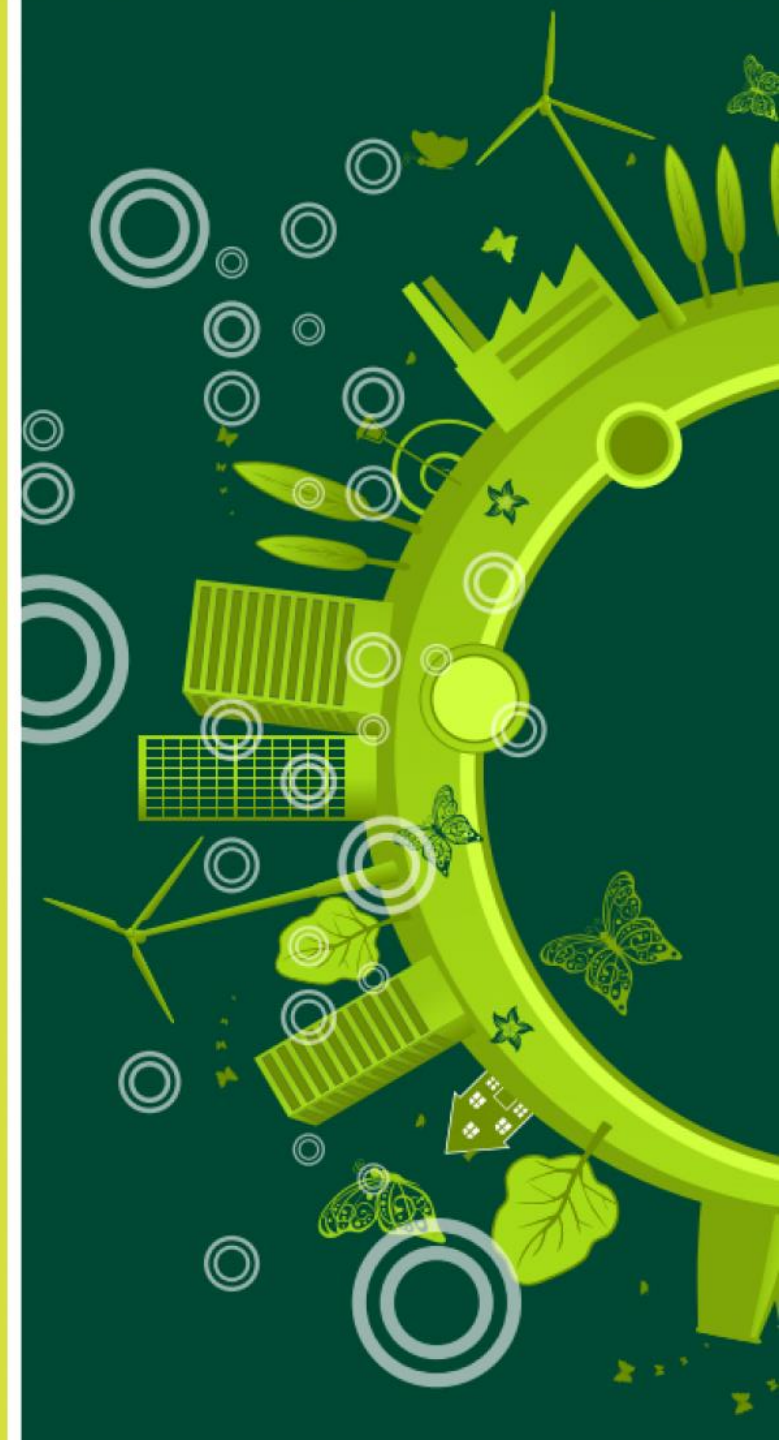
2nd BOLSTER Regional Policy Dialogue

October 27th 2023

ELIZA BARNEA

JUST TRANSITION CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

BANKWATCH ROMANIA



Romania JTF

6 regions

2.53 € billion



53% for SME development & entrepreneurship

Call for projects – December 2023

Modelling:

Investments in SMEs and R&D expected to yield largest positive impact in terms of employment

SME landscape in Romania

2022

- 500k SMEs
- 99.7% of enterprises
- 65.6% of employees
- 55.3% of the country's added value

In the 6 regions:

SMEs

+

SOEs

+

Large enterprises

SMEs as key actor in:

- economic diversification
- absorption of workforce, including among vulnerable groups
- tackling intraregional disparities
- promotion of green skills
- mainstreaming of climate action



Green & digital: new markets, processes or products

Financing of productive investments + re/up-skilling
ex: Darcom Energy – PVs + end-of-life collection and recycling + training centre

Bonification of use of secondary raw materials and green energy
in production

ex. Dimecosab – collection, recycling and resale of used construction material

Incentives for employing persons belonging to vulnerable groups and opening working points in rural areas

Challenges & solutions

1) Low public awareness regarding the green just transition, its risks and opportunities, even among key groups

Galați County

- >60 interlocutors
- SMEs and youth Focus Groups
- Low awareness of JTF and intention to transform activity
- 1:12 awareness of transition and local transformations

- New media campaigns with constant, digestible messaging by different stakeholders
- Workshops or community engagement activities for mainstreaming green just transition information
- Mainstreaming of transition related information through education and training curriculum

Challenges & solutions

2) Low labour market participation and skills gap, especially among women and despite labour force deficit

- Lowest rate of labour market participation in the EU (62.3% vs 75%, 2022)
- JTF Regions, 2021: 52% of women vs 63% of men employed. Comparatively, Bucharest region – 86.3%
- Gorj County, 2021: 200 000 workforce – 117 000 employed – 11 000 unemployed – 70 000 ?
- Lack of green skills regulatory framework and dated educational and training curriculum

- Incentivize SMEs implementing measures to tackle informality (eg top-up to minimum wage)
- Eligibility of cadastre expenses
- Decentralization of occupational mediation services
- Observatory for the future job market
- Progressive taxation and elimination of over-taxation for part-time employment

Challenges & solutions

3) Low innovation capacity and low digitalization

- Lowest rate of SME digitalization and digital skills among population in the EU
- Diversification intentions geared towards traditional activities
- Skills deficit and lack of supporting infrastructure

- Development of collaborative ecosystems and incubators to facilitate knowledge transfer
- Financial incentives for digitalization
- Digital skills trainings, including digital component in re-skilling programs
- Public procurement to increase demand of innovative goods and services

Thank you

ELIZA.BARNEA@BANKWATCH.ORG

Panel discussion: challenges and good practices of cooperation among local economic actors for an inclusive green transition process

- ❖ **Prof. Adam Drobniak**, Dean of the Faculty of Spatial Management and Regional Transition at the University of Economics in Katowice and Member of the Council for the Just Transformation of the Silesian Voivodeship (Poland)
- ❖ **Anna Dudek**, Head of the Regional Transformation Unit at the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship (Poland)
- ❖ **Grzegorz Trefon**, Alliance of Trade Unions “KADRA” (Poland)
- ❖ **Agata Otrębska**, Silesian Climate Movement (Poland)
- ❖ **Eliza Barnea**, Just Transition Campaign Coordinator at Bankwatch Romania
- ❖ **Ivan Sergejev**, Just Transition Process Coordinator at the Estonian Ministry of Finance

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3. What are the challenges faced by small and micro-businesses in the green transition process in your region or country? / Jakie wyzwania stoją przed małymi i mikroprzedsiębiorstwami w procesie zielonej transformacji w Twoim regionie lub kraju?

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4. How can local and regional governments help small businesses overcome challenges posed by the transition process? / W jaki sposób władze lokalne i regionalne mogą pomóc małym firmom w przezwyciężeniu wyzwań związanych z procesem transformacji?

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5. What are the challenges affecting workers in the green transition process in your region or country? / Jakie wyzwania stoją przed pracownikami w procesie zielonej transformacji w Twoim regionie lub kraju?

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6. How can local governments or other local actors help workers overcome transition challenges? / W jaki sposób władze lokalne lub inne podmioty lokalne mogą pomóc pracownikom w przezwyciężeniu wyzwań związanych z transformacją?

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7. In your view, what are the key elements for a successful Just Transition process? / Jakie są Twoim zdaniem kluczowe elementy udanego procesu sprawiedliwej transformacji?

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8. What can the EU do to better support the Just Transition process at the regional level? / Co może zrobić UE, aby lepiej wspierać proces sprawiedliwej transformacji na szczeblu regionalnym?

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Thank you!

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