

Bridging Organizations and marginalized communities for Local Sustainability Transitions in EuRope

1st BOLSTER regional policy dialogue

Challenges and lessons learned for leaving no one behind in green transitions

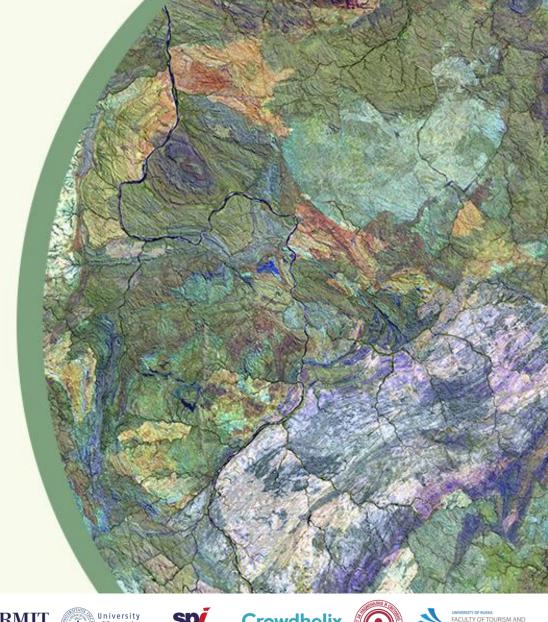
Perspective from Croatia, Austria and The Netherlands



26 September 2023 - 10:00 - 12:30 CEST



Online





























slido



1. Where are you joining us from today (city, municipality)/ Odakle nam se danas pridružuješ (grad, općina)?

slido



2. How familiar are you with the topic of Just Transition in the EU? / Koliko ste upoznati s temom pravedne tranzicije u EU?



Introduction

❖ Prof. Sabina Hodžić – University of Rijeka (Croatia), Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management (FTHM)

❖ Mags Bird – Senior Policy Officer Climate & Energy – Just Transition, WWF European Policy Office

BOLSTER

BRIDGING ORGANIZATIONS AND

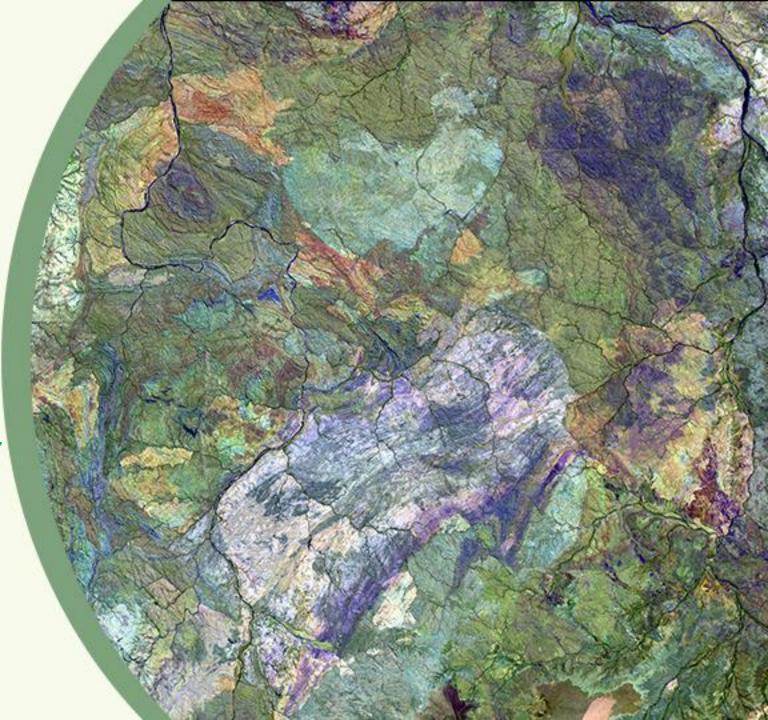
MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES FOR LOCAL

SUSTAINABLITY TRANSITIONS IN EUROPE

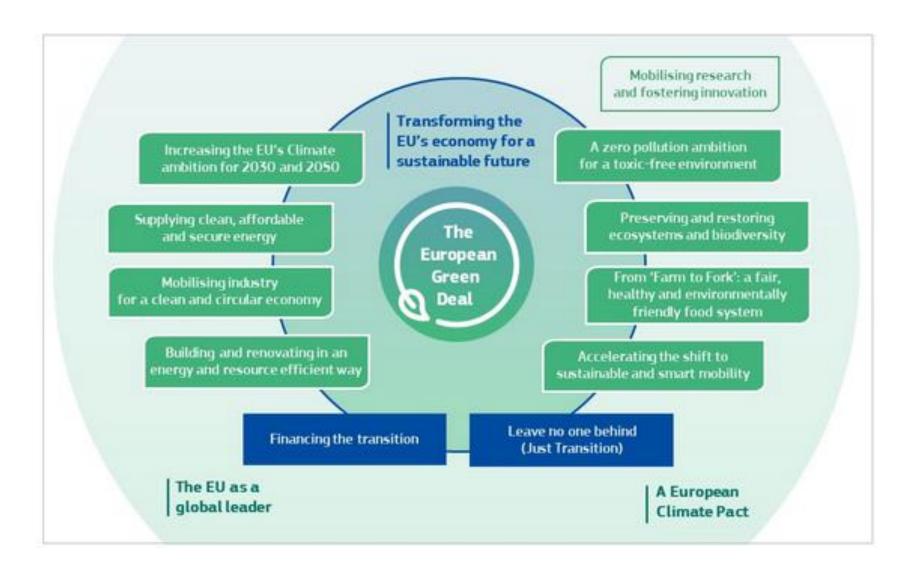
1st REGIONAL DIALOUGE

Challenges and lessons learned for leaving no one behind in green transitions - Croatia, Austria and the Netherlands

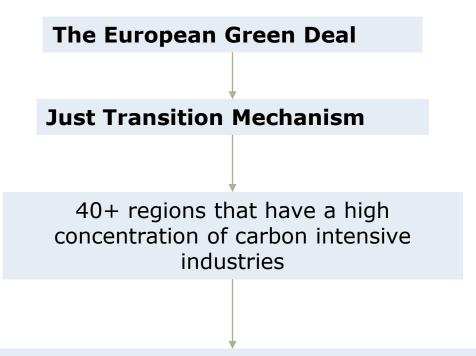




European Green Deal



European Green Deal



People and citizens most vulnerable to the transition:

- facilitating employment opportunities in new sectors and those in transition
- offering re-skilling opportunities
- improving energy-efficient housing
- investing to fight energy poverty
- facilitating access to clean, affordable and secure energy

ORGANISATIONS

STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT BRABANT, UNIVERSITY OF TILBURG – MAIN COORDINATOR (TiU)	NETHERLANDS
ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (RMIT)	SPAIN
UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS, KATOWICE (EUKAT)	POLAND
SOCIETY FOR INNOVATION (SPI)	PORTUGAL
CROWDHELIX (CHX)	IRELAND
UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD ECONOMY (UNWE)	BULGARIA
UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA, FACULTY OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (FTHM)	CROATIA
UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE (ULiege)	BELGIUM
MAKE BETTER Association (MKBT)	ROMANIA
EUROPEAN CITIZEN ACTION SERVICE	BELGIUM
CULTURE GOES EUROPE (CGE)	GERMANY
CEE BANKWATCH NETWORK (BWN)	CZECH REPUBLIC

MAIN GOAL OF THE PROJECT

To understand how marginalized communities are affected by EGD-related policies and whether involving them in decision-making processes increases the support for transition plans.

SPECIFIC GOALS

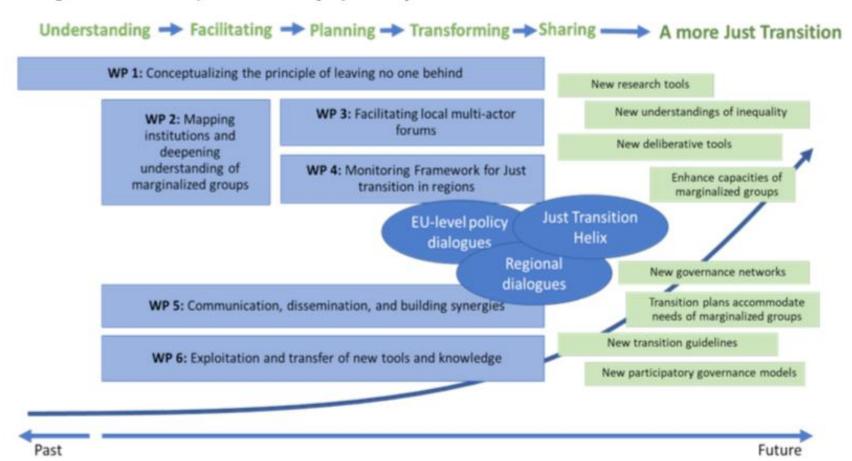
1. Develop empirically supported premises that disclose how marginalized communities are affected by EGD-related policies.

2. Scrutinize and enhance the procedural justice aspect of just transition plans.

3. Increase the social acceptance of transition plans.

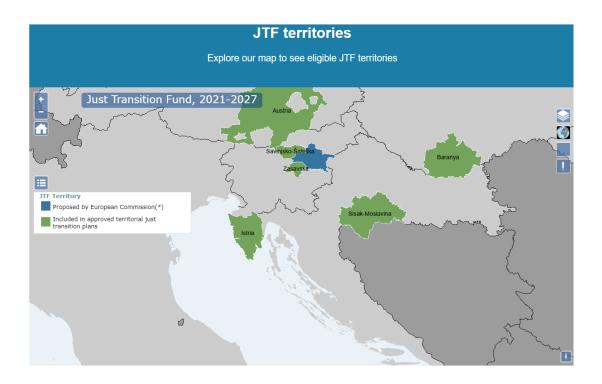
WORK PLAN/ACTIVITIES

Figure 1: Overview of the BOLSTER project setup and its contributions to research and societal ambitions



Finland Target region Study region Estonia Latvia Belarus ZO Brabant Upper Silesia Ukraine Prahova Stara Zagora Coimbra

REGIONS



- ➤ **Sisak Moslavina** = greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity due to chemical industries and refined petroleum products
- ➤ **Istria** = electricity production and cement industry

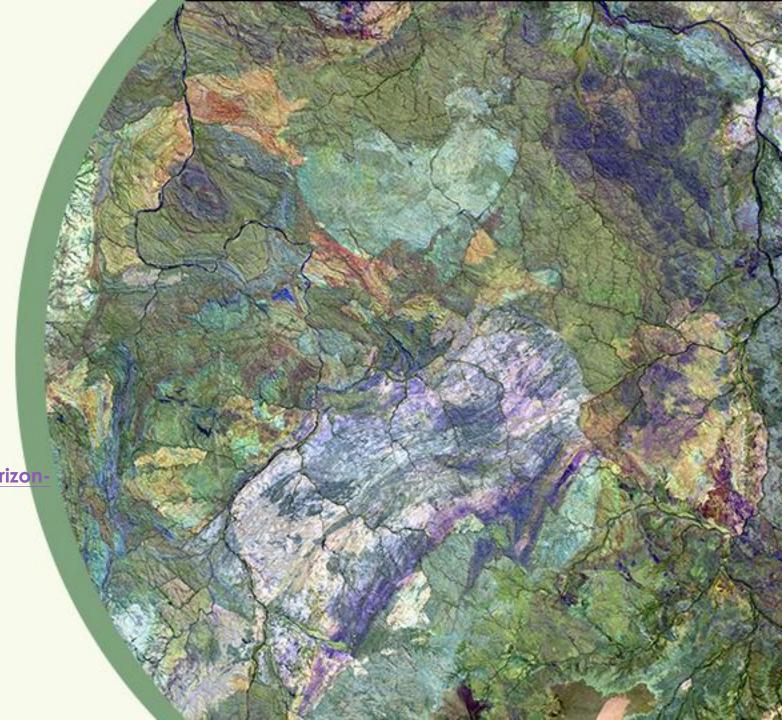
THANK YOU!

https://bolster-horizon.eu/about/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/bolster-horizoeurope/

sabinah@fthm.hr





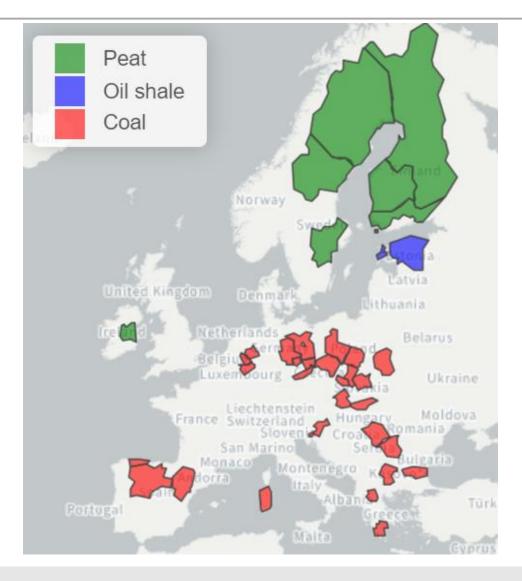


Introduction to Just Transition in the EU

Mags Bird WWF European Policy Office

Coal Regions in Transition





European Green Deal





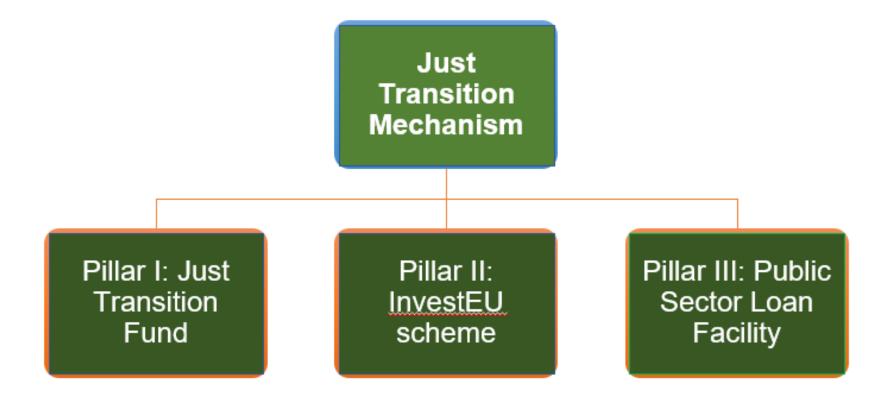
European Green Deal





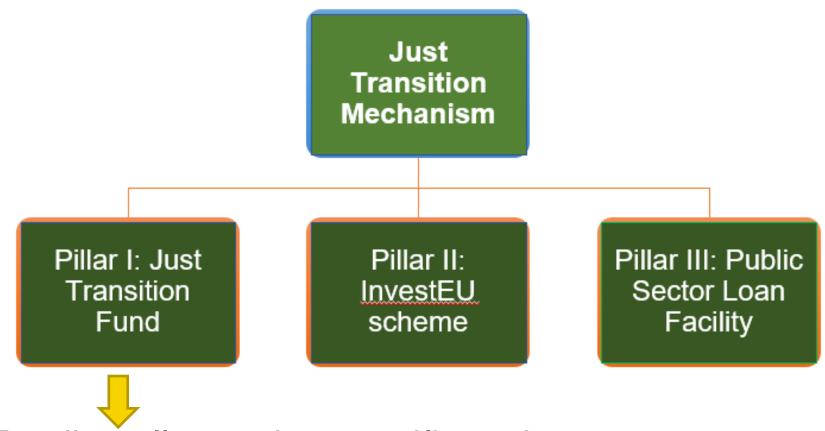
EU Just Transition Mechanism





EU Just Transition Mechanism

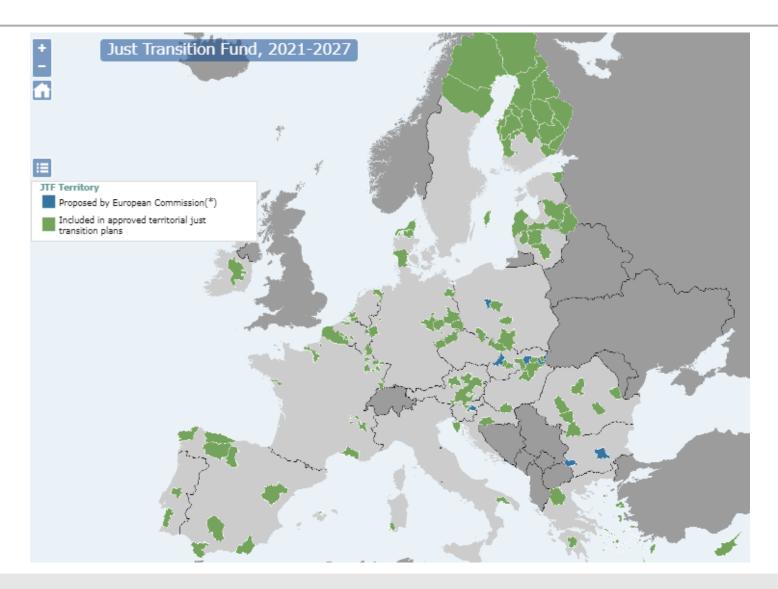




Funding allocated to specific regions upon approval of Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs)

EU Just Transition Mechanism





EU Just Transition Fund



- up- and reskilling of workers
- investments in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- creation of new firms
- research and innovation
- environmental rehabilitation
- clean energy
- job-search assistance
- transformation of existing carbon-intensive installations

Some Just Transition principles

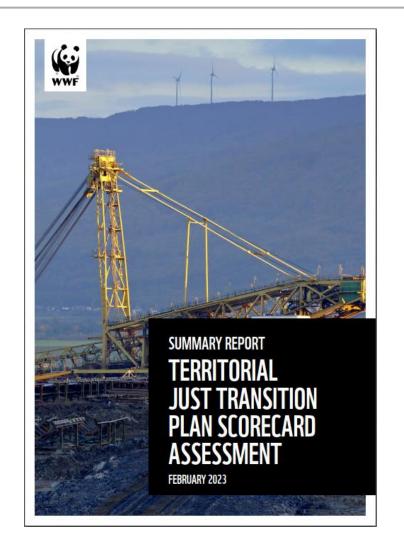


- Fair
- Sustainable, enabling and supporting climate ambition (1.5 aligned)
- Part of wider strategy for energy transition and nature protection, locally tailored
- Planned and implemented early
- Inclusive: meaningful stakeholder participation, social dialogue.

Assessment of EU TJTPs



- Climate ambition
- Fossil fuel phase out
- Sustainable economic diversification
- Addressing inequalities
- Supporting environmental objectives
- Polluter pays principle
- Adequate public and private funding
- Participatory processes
- Place-based, local approach
- Quality indicators, review



Key findings



- Focus on economic / tech investments & workforce skills missed opportunity for wider impact ?
- Climate ambition but not enough
- Lacking recognition of existing inequalities
- Polluter pays principle remains vague and largely unenforced
- Process could be more participatory and transparent

Putting the spotlight on inclusion



- Effectiveness
- Sustainability
- Justice
- A more equal future society

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3. What are the main challenges to ensuring a green transition leaving no one behind in your region or country?/ Koji su glavni izazovi u osiguravanju zelene tranzicije da nitko ne bude izostavljen u vašoj regiji ili zemlji? (160 characters max)



Perspectives on the Just Transition in Croatia

❖ Anamaria Škopac Pamić – Assistant Director of Regional Coordinator of the County of Istria for European Programs and Funds (Croatia)

❖ Tatjana Puškarić – Head of Regional Development and Strategic Planning Department at Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina County (Croatia) SURADNJOM I ZNANJEM DO SNAZNE EU REGIJE





JUST TRANSITION IN THE REGION OF ISTRIA BOLSTER Regional Policy Dialogue, 26th September 2023

Projektom "Suradnjom i znanjem do snažne EU regije" daje se snažna podrška javnom sektoru Istarske županije u pripremi i provedbi EU projekata te uređuje kvalitetan sustav strateškog planiranja u kojem se Regionalni koordinator Istarske županije za europske programe i fondove –
Coordinatore regionale della Regione Istriana per i programmi e fondi europei pozicionira kao ključni čimbenik u regionalnom razvoju županije.







JUST TRANSITION MECHANISM (JTM)

support to EU regions most affected by the tranisition to a climate neutral economy

Just Transition Fund

19,2 billion EUR

EU grants

InvestEU "Just Transition" scheme

10 – 15 billion EUR

Mobilization of private sector investments

Public Sector LoanFacility (with EIB)

18,5 billion EUR

Combination of EU grants and EIB loans











JUST TRANSITION FUND

The JTF supports the territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality to avoid regional inequalities growing, in line with EU cohesion policy's aim to reduce regional disparities and to address structural changes in the EU

Its main goals are to mitigate the consequences of the transition by financing the diversification and modernization of the local economy and by reducing the negative consequences on employment. For this purpose, the Just Transition Fund will support investments in areas such as digital connectivity, clean energy technologies, emission reduction, regeneration of industrial facilities, retraining and upskilling of workers and provision of technical assistance.

The basis for the implementation of the Just Transition Fund on the territory is the Territorial Just Transition Plan, which sets specific interventions and measures for each affected areas for which intervention is requested due to the socioeconomic consequences of the transition.



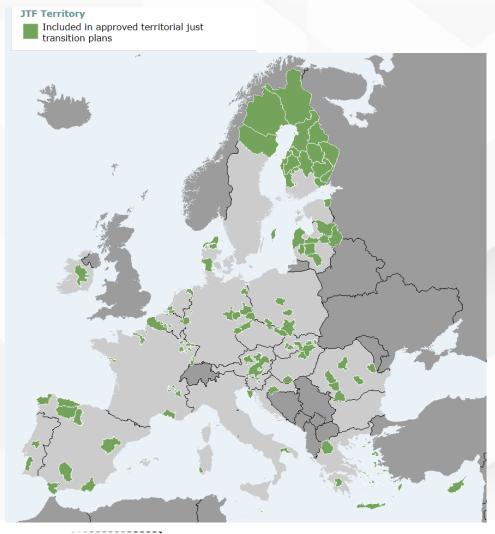








PROGRAMMING OF THE JTF



- 26 EU member states eligible for funding from the Just Transition Fund
- 67 Territorial just transition plans for 93 eligible areas
- regions with coal/peat/oil + regions with highCO2 emmisions
- 25,4 billion EUR (including own co-financing)
- TJTP set out the challenges in each territory, as well as the development needs and objectives to be met by 2030, they identify the types of operations envisaged and specify governance mechanisms.
- TJTP opens the door to all 3 JTM pillars











JUST TRANSITION FUND IN CROATIA

- 179 M€ EU contribution
- Two detected regions based on the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Sisak moslavina county chemical industry and oil derivates
- * Region of Istria- production of electricity and cement industry.
 - Investment needs have been identified to address these challenges, while mitigating the socioeconomic costs of the transition and improving environmental sustainability and resource efficiency.
 - Integrated Territorial Programme for 2021. 2027. contains areas of action, distribution of funds and indicators for Sisak Moslavina and Istria counties, and was approved in December 2022.







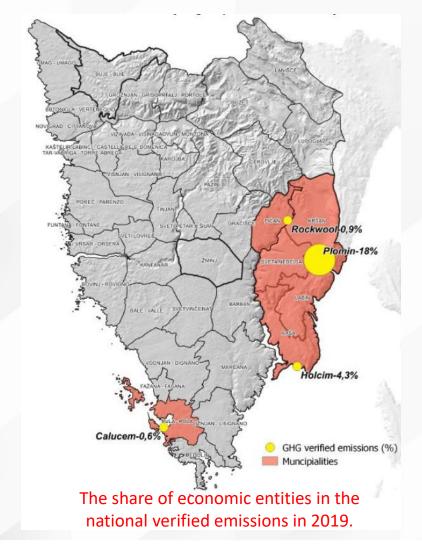






JUST TRANSITION FUND IN THE REGION OF ISTRIA

- Total allocation for Region of Istria from JTF:
 72.867.066 €
- Eligible areas: Labinština (City of Labin and 4 municipalities: Kršan, Pićan, Raša, Sv. Nedelja) and the City of Pula
- 8 types of operations within the TJTP, focus on research and innovation, circular economy, business, agribusiness and food business infrastructure programs aimed at future competencies, and reduction of regional greenhouse gas emissions
- Regional coordinator of Region of Istria for European programmes and funds participated with MRDEUF in the entire process of programming and preparation of first calls for financing that are expected to be launched in Q1 2024.













Operation 1

Investments in business infrastructure, primarily directed towards the green and digital economy as the backbone of the future development of the affected area, especially in the context of the decarbonization process and the abandonment or replacement of outdated technologies based on fossil fuels with a high share of greenhouse gas emissions.

Operation 2

Development of agricultural and food business infrastructure in the Region of Istria through the establishment of an agribusiness center in Municipality of Kršan.

- > 2 entrepreneurial zones in Pićan and Sv. nedelja- total 160.000,00 m2
- 6 entrepreneurial support institutions in Labin, Raša, Sv.
 Nedelja and Kršan with the capacity to incubate 60 SMEs
- total 32.5 M€ EU co-financing













Operation 3

Encouraging research and innovation activity through investments in the highly developed IRI (research, development and innovation) sector, reconstruction and equipping of public scientific institutions, conducting applied research; activities related to the transfer of knowledge and technology; staff recruitment; creation of research studies; experimental development, activities that encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to use green and digital innovation technologies in their own business.

- investment in METRIS Research Center, part of the Istrian University of Applied Sciences
- by 2029. minimum 20 SMEs using the IRI infrastructure
- total 4.5 M€ EU co-financing













Operation 4

The operation enables investments in the improvement of the circular economy and the achievement of the goals of the European Green Deal through activities aimed at circular waste management, i.e. through construction and equipping recycling yards, creating technical prerequisites for efficient reuse of waste, and with the implementation of targeted informative and educational activities for citizens, business entities, public sector in order to prevent the creation of waste

- construction of recycling yards in the City of Pula and Municipality of Pićan
- 4.000 t/year of recycled waste
- 1.6 M€ EU co-financing















Implementation of programs aimed at future competences through retraining and education of adults (such as employed persons, socially vulnerable persons, persons in a disadvantageous position) with an emphasis on technological directions and occupations that follow the development guidelines of the local economy.

- new educational programmes in public open universities in Pula and Labin
- expected outcome: 120
 employees of SMEs complete the
 retraining/retraining program for
 the development of the skills
 needed to adapt to the labor
 market in the process of economic
 transition.
- 2.2 M€ EU co-financing













Implementation of programs focused on future competencies through the construction and equipping of educational institutions with the aim of improving educational programs focused on student competencies.

- Beneficiary: High School Mate Blažine, Labin
- investment in new educational programmes: electrical engineering and new green and digital skills
- modernized classrooms and workshops in 2 educational facilities that will be used by 50 students
- 7.8 M€ EU co-financing













Contribution to the reduction of the share of regional greenhouse gas emissions in total national emissions through a program of investment in production innovations of small and medium-sized enterprises, which want to improve the efficiency of production and business processes in an innovative way, all in the context of the transition to an emission-neutral economy.

- minimum 75 SMEs beneficiaries of the operation
- **10M**€ EU co-financing













Mobilize the ETS sector to reduce the share of regional greenhouse gas emissions in total national emissions through direct investments that contribute to the reduction of total CO2 emissions, in line with the climate goals of the European Green Plan on carbon neutrality. In accordance with the conducted analyzes of FPT acceptable technologies and compliance with the contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions significantly below the plant's reference values, investments will be made in Holcim Croatia cement plant in Koromačno

- Beneficiary Holcim Croatia with the project KOdeCO aimed at carbon capture and storage technology
- The implementation of the project will help eliminate the use of 37,000 tons of coal and petroleum coke and reduce CO2 emissions by 46,000 t/year.
- 14.7 M€ EU co-financing
- Co-financing also from the Investment Fund













Thank you for your attention!



PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Regional Coordinator of the Region of Istria for European programmes and funds

regionalni.koordinator@istra-istria.hr

http://www.istra-europa.eu













ABOUT SISAK-MOSLAVINA COUNTY, CROATIA

- Sisak Moslavina County is one of 21 regional self-government units in the Republic of Croatia
- Area of 4.468 km2 (7.9% of the land territory)

• 19 units of local self-government: 7 cities and 12 municipalities

• According to 2011 Population Census - 172.439 inhabitants

• 2021 Population Census - 139,603 inhabitants

- Historically one of the primary industrial regions and presently one of the least developed in Croatia.
- Manufacturing sector is the most significant from climate transition perspective in the county, contributing to the largest share of GHG emissions and employing 24% of regional workforce.



SISAK-MOSLAVINA COUNTY PRIORITIES

Sisak-Moslavina county regional strategy until 2027 provides the framework for Regional Governemnt in the area of SME development, innovation, digital transformation and green transition. Its key political priorities are following:



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELPMENT
& IMPROVEMENT OF THE
QUALITY OF LIFE













ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Use of renewable sources

Continental tourism (especially rural and wellness tourism

ICT industry is also an attractive diversification prospect, especially in terms of attracting youth and entrepreneurship to the county

A great potential in agriculture with 43% of arable land in county

Opportunity

DEVELOPMENT OF GAMING INDUSTRY IN SMC - MOTIVATION

Large number of companies were going through some kind of transformation or collapse.

Traditional industries - energy, petroleum, petrochemical and chemical industries, metallurgy, food industry, agriculture and forestry, trade, catering, construction, traffic and communications are in the great need of change, modernization and adaptation.

High unemployment rate and the unfavorable qualification and age structure of the unemployed people which does not meet the requirements of labor market.

The global gaming market was valued at 202,7 billion dolars. The revenues of gaming companies in Croatia amount to 75 million euros.





DEVELOPMENT OF GAMING INDUSTRY

- The application of R&D and technical innovations leads to digital transformation of existing industries and finally to the change and transformation of Sisak Moslavina County from a traditional economy to a new type of entrepreneurship, new products, services and new jobs.
- Results of the gaming industry in SMC
- 3 companies are in the TOP 35 gaming companies by revenue in 2021
- per year start UPs receive about 130,000.00 euros for the development of video games
- game dev studios employ about 120 people
- Go Home Annie horror video game demo has millions of views
- 70 companies and 1000 completed projects



As a part of the adopted Integrated regional programme of Republic of Croatia for the period 2021-2027 Territorial just transition plan was developed and approved

(https://strukturnifondovi.hr/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ITP-odobreni.pdf.

Strategic objectives for the transition in Sisak-Moslavina county:

Strategic objective 1: Decarbonisation of the regional economy

Strategic objective 2: Resilient and diversified regional economy

Strategic objective 3: Empowered and skilled human resources

Strategic objective 4: Quality living and revitalized environment









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4. Are there marginalized/vulnerable groups of citizens especially affected by the green transition in your region? Who are they? / Postoje li marginalizirane/ranjive skupine građana na koje zelena tranzicija posebno utječe u vašoj regiji? Tko su oni?

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5. How can local governments or other local actors help to overcome challenges to an inclusive green transition? / Kako lokalne vlasti ili drugi lokalni akteri mogu pomoći u prevladavanju izazova uključive zelene tranzicije? (160 characters max)



Perspectives on green transitions in Austria and The Netherlands

❖ Eva-Maria Wutte-Kirchgatterer – Head of Department for EU Cooperation at Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund (Austria)

Anastasiya Ansteeg – Postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Public Law and Governance of Tilburg University (The Netherlands)

JUST TRANSITION »Carinthia«



Eva Wutte-Kirchgatterer





Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

Challenges for the Just Transition region







© Johannes Puch

How to deal with ...

- a heterogeneous economic structure?
- a lack of awareness & knowledge of the Green Deal?
- a lack of R&D institutions and universities in the region?
- population decline?
- a commuting region?
- ...

JTF project example

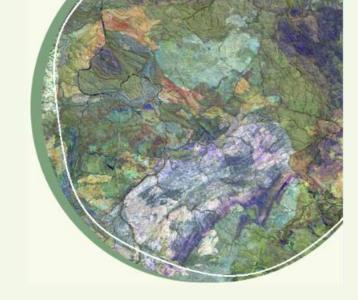


Actively shaping the transition to a climate neutral and digital entrepreneural future in rural areas of Carinthia

- CREATE! Development of infrastructure and governance
- EDUCOACH! Raise awareness, scout talents and ideas, coaching
- PROFESSIONALIZE! Sustainable implementation in the rural area







LESSONS LEARNT

The case of Brainport region, the Netherlands

26 September 2023

1st REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

Contact:

Anastasiya Ansteeg, Tilburg University a.ansteeg@tilburguniversity.edu







CONTENT

- (1) THE TRANSITION IN THE BRAINPORT REGION: WHEN AND WHY?
- (2) HOW WAS THE TRANSITION GOVERNED?
- (3) WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE GOVERNANCE MODEL?
- (4) LESSONS LEARNT: 'NOW IT'S TIME TO RUN THE SOCIAL AGENDA'





 Former economic base: engineering & manufacturing (lightning, electronics & automobile production)







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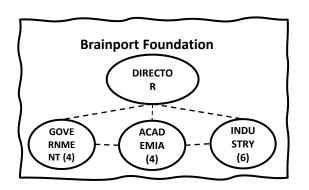
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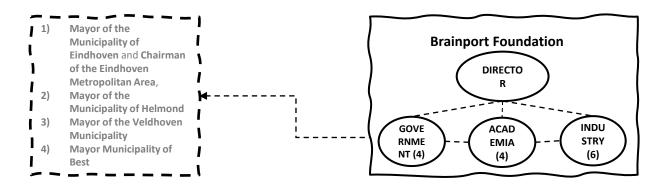


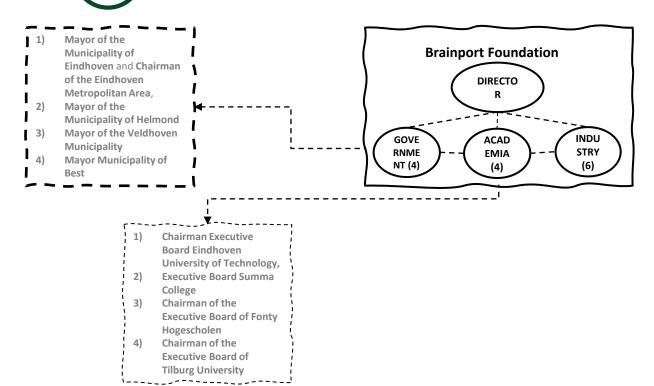


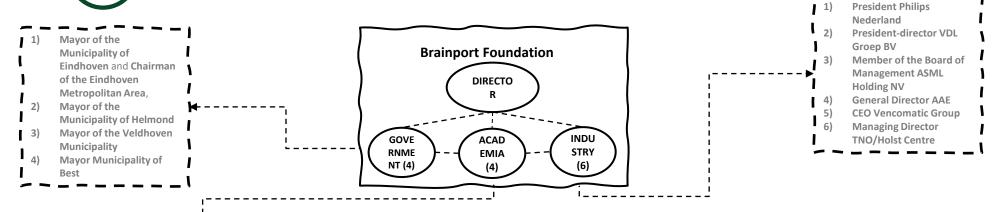


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- Industrial decline in the early 1990s (Philips and DAF closing factories due to the cheap competition from Asia), 40.000 jobs were lost
- Now: GDP growth ≈ 8% annually
- One of the highest world's patent rate: almost 500 per 100.000 inhabitants annually
- Main companies today: ASML (the world's leader in chipmaking machines, hiring about 250 people/month), SIGNIFY (lightning), NXP (chipmaker), PHILIPS

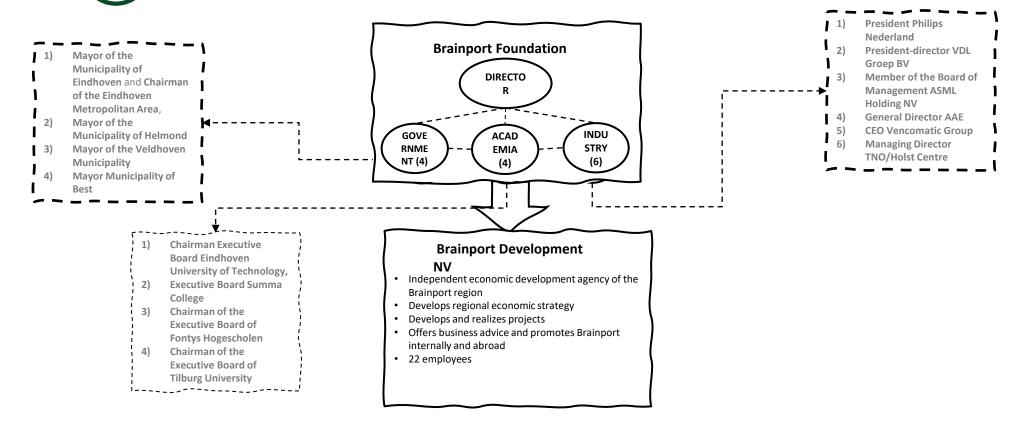


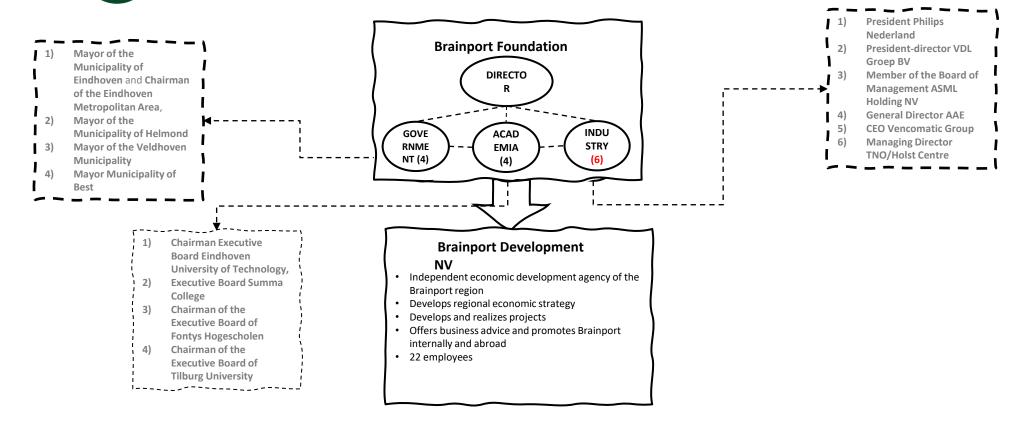






- **Chairman Executive Board Eindhoven** University of Technology, **Executive Board Summa**
- College
- Chairman of the **Executive Board of Fontys Hogescholen**
- Chairman of the **Executive Board of Tilburg University**





Financing:

Total annual budget 11-13 million euro, the largest share comes from the 21 municipalities



EMERGING VULNERABILITIES OF THE TRANSITION

The Brainport governance model aims to govern the innovation ecosystem.
 Innovations and technology produced in the Brainport region are highly complex.
 Civil society is excluded from the decision-making due to their lack of knowledge in the technologies and innovations.

That's also a key factor of success to have a strong focus on what you **have** to do. So, if you involve the inhabitants of the city (or the end users) in such a system of decision making, it can distract the focus of what is needed to do.

...everybody knows Philips because they had something at home which was from Phillips, like a radio, or a television, or a CD, or a cassette banjo. And that's not the case with ASML, so it's so complex that people don't even know what it is. Even I don't know exactly what it is. So, if I even don't even know it, how can I say that people from Woensel need to know what, uh, what it is?

• For NGOs, access inside the governance model is restricted due to the language barrier:

And that's because you have to sort of speak **the language of the industry and the governments**. [...] And a lot of that common language goes back to the old Phillips research [...]. Many people have some... somebody who's linked to Phillips, in the old days, in Phillips research. And if I now see a person who also worked in Phillips Research, although I might not know him or her. We directly speak the same

lan au ana

(3) EMERGING VULNERABILITIES OF THE TRANSITION

- Economic growth is going out of control
- Social polarization is growing the gap between rich and poor

The main focus is on economic development. That became so-so successful that today we have other dilemmas against the background of economic growth. We can't find enough people for the jobs that we have, we have not enough houses. So, the people that don't understand what Brainport is, or they don't work with ASML or other companies, you have the risk that they feel they are not part of this development.

• Fast influx of international employees increases pressure on urban infrastructure and social services & increases the antagonistic attitudes from the local residents:

For example, the expats that come this region in order to work, for example at ASML, all have a very good income level, which is nothing compared to somebody that works as a nurse, for example. And then if you compete for the same housing, you just see that they can always offer more, and then the houses go to the expats. And it's also felt very much by the residents of Eindhoven.

Increasing number of homeless and 'working poor' population

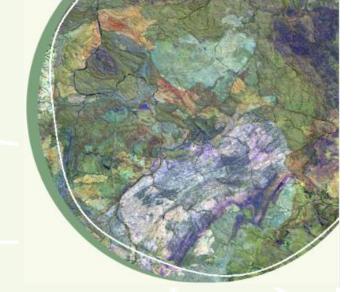
4 LESSONS LEARNT: 'NOW IT'S TIME TO RUN THE SOCIAL AGENDA'

The CEO of large companies are concerned about the growing social polarization and growing debts of their employees, because they feel negative attitude from the local community and distrust towards the government.

The social agenda is being developed within the already excising framework of Brainport Development, which leads to the technocratic approach to solve social issues.

That is why it is important to start with the integrated approach to the social agenda, in which social priorities and civil society are included in the regional development from the beginning.





Thank you for your attention!

Questions/comments?

Anastasiya Ansteeg, Tilburg University a.ansteeg@tilburguniversity.edu







GOVERNANCE MODEL: PROS AND CONS

- Efficient collaborative model for developing innovation ecosystem and the full value chain of development (municipality private sector (hardware + software)
 educational institutions)
- Quick decision-making process (common language, 'short connections')
- Fosters economic growth

- Largest share of financing comes from the 21 municipalities, however, unequal regional representation (4 out of 21 municipalities in the board)
- Decisions are made by mainly unelected representatives (10 out of 14)
- Dominance of private actors in the board (6 out of 14 members are private managers)
- Lack of transparency on how the director and the board members are appointed



Discussion on challenges, lessons learned and best practices for an inclusive green transition

- ❖ Julija Škoro, Head of Sustainability at Holcim (Croatia)
- ❖ Miłosława Stępień, Just Transition Coordinator at CEE Bankwatch Network
- ❖ Lovro Novoselac, Head of the sector for Programming, Coordination and Strategic Monitoring of ESI Funds at the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (Croatia)
- Anja Ademi, Head of Urban Planning and Development at City of Pula (Croatia)
- ❖ Jasna Vekić, Director of Red Cross Pula (Croatia)

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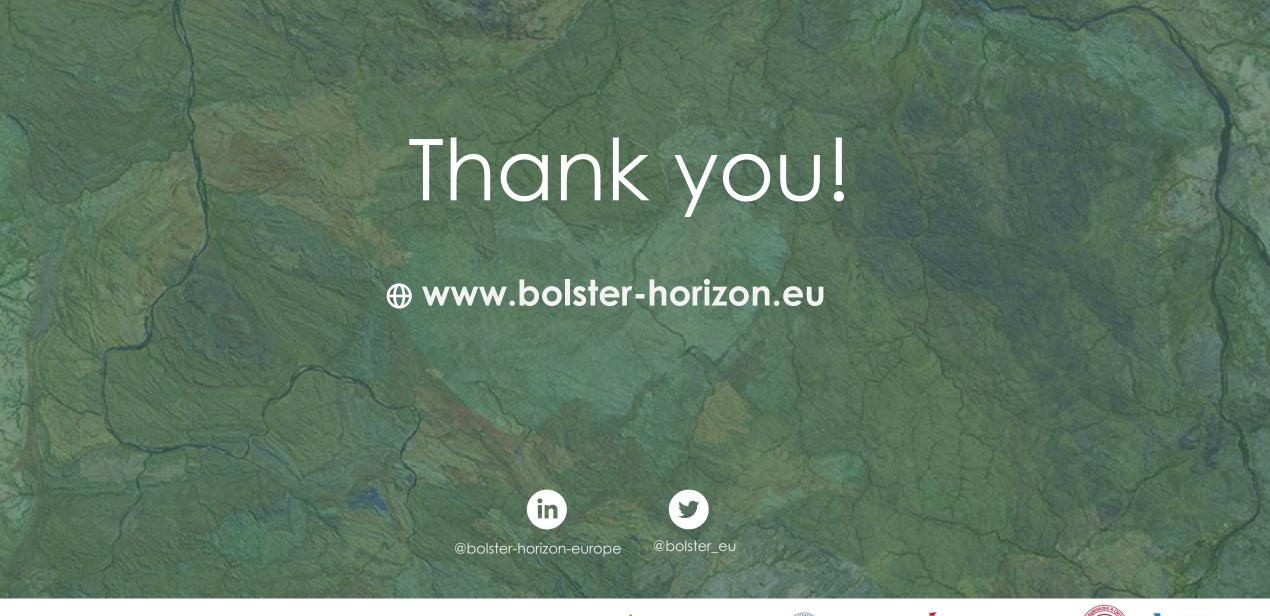


6. In your opinion, what are the key elements for a successful Just Transition process? / Po vašem mišljenju, koji su ključni elementi za uspješan proces pravedne tranzicije? (160 characters max)

slido



7. In your view, what can the EU do to support an inclusive green transition process at a regional level? / Po vašem mišljenju, što EU može učiniti kako bi podržao uključivi proces zelene tranzicije na regionalnoj razini?(160 characters max)





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