



Just Transition

Project: Mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas

UNECE



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Plan of the presentation

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**ENERGY****Context**

- Energy transitions are occurring throughout the ECE region at **different rates** depending on the subregional economic and political response to the need to decarbonize.
- These **localized responses** range from mine closures and the end of coal production to consolidation of older mining enterprises coupled with modernization of coal extraction and power production.
- In some parts of the ECE region, **coal extraction** and use is for the time being expected to **continue** as member States have to balance their environmental efforts with the need to secure reliable and affordable energy supply and the necessity to maintain social peace.
- However, the **transition is already taking place** and that process is likely to become **more widespread** as alternative modes of energy production are introduced, industrial consumption of coal diminishes, and substitutes for coal in chemical and industrial processes are developed.



The Problem

- Just transition is a complex, complicated and long-term process. **It needs a starting point**, and its **progress is determined by the interplay of various factors**.
- Even though nowadays just transition has become a subject that is at the centre of hundreds of projects and publications, the concept still **remains relatively vague**, as the process of socially-sensitive, environmentally-friendly, and economically-viable systemic transformation towards green economy has not been yet structured to the extent that would allow for its repeated successful application in varying circumstances.
- **Conditions** that need to be fulfilled **to launch the transformation** still **need to be defined** and the issues that must be addressed throughout the process in order to achieve satisfactory results also need to be specified.
- In that context, the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition is to **map just transition efforts** around the world to identify factors that either support, disturb, or prevent the beginning of the process or its progress.

**ENERGY****Goals**

- The goal is to **assess the situation** in various coal mining regions across the world and **identify the elements** that are necessary to enable the start and progress of transition.
- We aim to build an **understanding** of why in certain places just transition is not advancing at all and **identify the conditions** that are either inhibiting or could foster such change.
- We plan to focus on individual coal mining regions around the world and **collect data** from each one of them in order to **develop** detailed economic, energy, environmental, and social **characteristics** of the selected localities.
- In that process we will **explore** what **transformative steps** towards green energy (whether regulatory, technological, organizational, economic, or political) have already taken place in the targeted areas.



Expected Results

- Throughout the process we will explore what transformative steps towards green energy (whether regulatory, technological, organizational, economic, or political) have already taken place in the targeted areas, and we will **identify**:
 - **Examples of successful transition steps** that took place in selected regions and which could be replicated elsewhere;
 - **Missing gaps, as well as opportunities** for the transition to take place in selected regions that lag behind, and provide an understanding of factors that hold back those regions, as well as guidance on the specific policies that they should implement to overcome the barriers constraining them;
 - The **universally applicable list of issues**, which planners and policymakers should focus on while engaging in the process of preparing transformation of the local legacy industries;
 - **Key universally applicable** (economic, social, political, and regulatory) **characteristics** of a region's readiness for a transition.



Project on Albania

- The objective of the project is to assess **Albania's readiness for green and just transition** in local post-coal mining areas, and
- **identify** regulatory, social, technical, and financial **barriers** that the country will need to address
- to **successfully reclaim and repurpose its post-coal mining areas** in accordance with the principles of green economy and just transition.
- The project will **assess the situation** of various post-coal mining sites across the country and **identify elements** that are necessary to enable the start and to ensure progress in reclaiming and repurposing.
- It will **build on recommendations** provided by the recently completed study on mine closure in Albania and will develop recommendations and guidance on what should be done to successfully implement them.



Activities (1)

- **Map** the location of post-coal mining areas in Albania and conduct **analysis of the status and condition** of the post-coal mining areas in the country, as well as the readiness of those areas for mined land re-purposing and transition.
- **Analyse** the relevant current **legal framework** governing ongoing activities as well as plans aiming to ensure safety and re-development of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania.
- **Develop** detailed economic, energy, environmental, and social **characteristics** of the selected post-coal mining areas and **identify elements** that are necessary to enable the start and continued progress toward repurposing and transformation.
- **Develop geographic information systems (GIS) database** that will incorporate the collected information to provide maps and other graphical displays of data to examine the current status of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania.



Activities (2)

- Organize an inclusive **policy dialogue** in the selected post-coal mining area in Albania.
- Organize a **workshop** on the future of the post-coal mining areas in Albania.
- Develop a **report** incorporating analysis of maps and other information generated throughout the project **outlining a conceptual framework for repurposing** of the selected local post-coal mining areas in Albania and for just transition of those localities adapted to the local needs, ambitions, and capacities.



Expected Accomplishments

- **Better understanding** of the characteristics of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania and the challenges that they do and will face throughout the process of post-coal mining land reclamation and repurposing, as well transformation towards the green economy.
- GIS (geographic information system) **geodatabase** that can be used to generate maps that characterize the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania and their readiness for repurposing and, where appropriate, re-development.
- **Enhanced national and regional capacity** to undergo the process of post-coal mining land reclamation and repurposing, as well as better understanding of, and a plan for just transition of the post-coal mining areas in Albania.



Michal Drabik

Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

Secretary

The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just
Transition

Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 3966

Email: michal.drabik@unece.org

<http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>



Thank you!

