

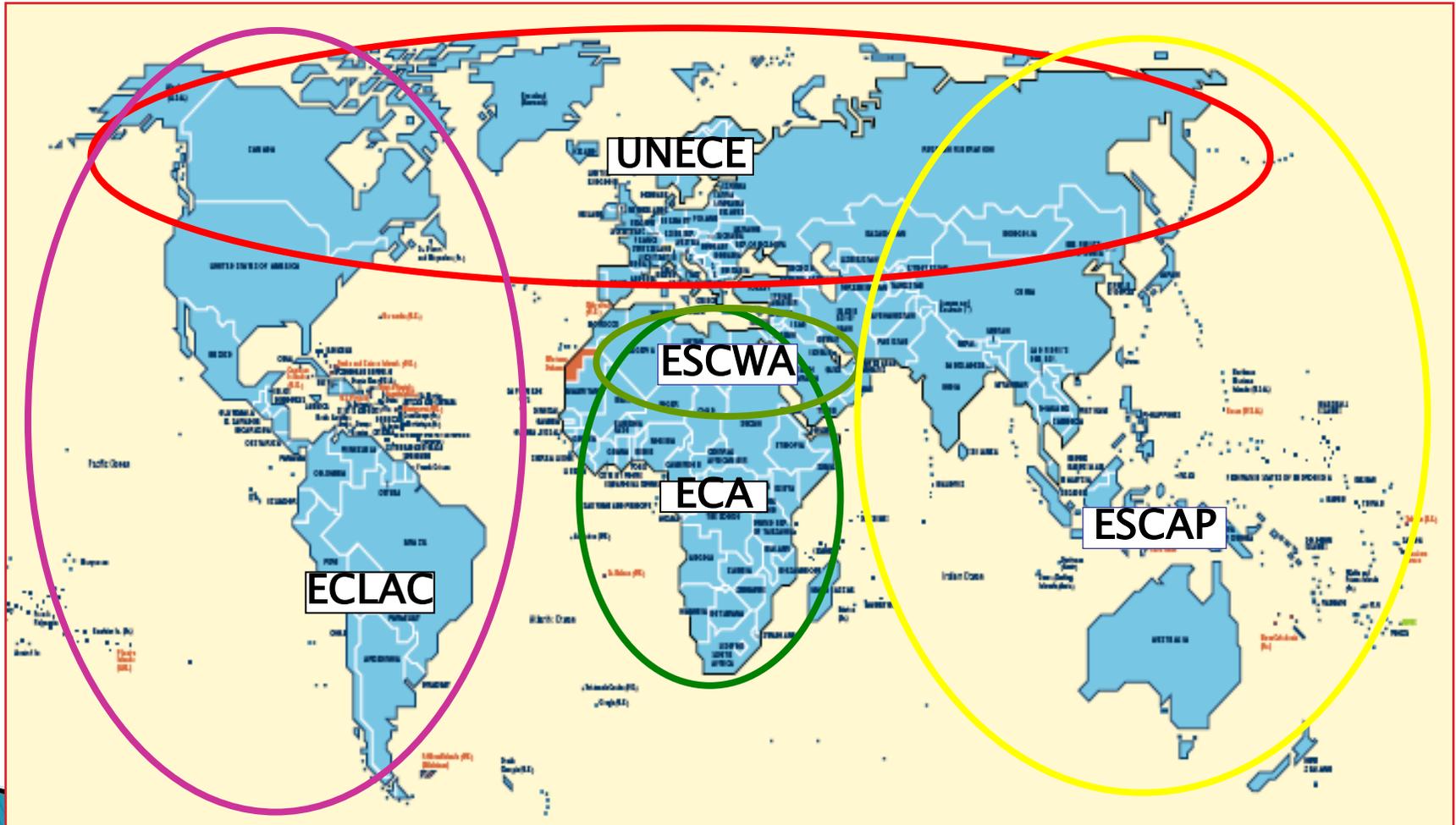


Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition

UNECE



Michal Drabik, Secretary





- Set up in 1947 by ECOSOC
- Brings together **56 countries** located in the European Union; non-EU Western, Eastern, and South-East Europe; Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America
- However, **all interested United Nations member States** may participate in the work of UNECE
- In addition, over 70 **international** professional organizations and other **non-governmental organizations** take part in UNECE activities



- 56 countries in N.A, Europe, FSU, Central Asia, Israel and Turkey
- **Produce 40%** of the world's energy, **consume 45%**
- Home to important energy industries
- Produce nearly **50% of the global economic output**
- **Fossil fuels are 60% of primary fuel** in the ECE region
- ECE region accounts for **half of global emissions**
- The region is **diverse**: comprised of high- and low-income countries, countries that are energy rich and energy poor and countries that are in economic transition

**ENERGY**

- Its aim is to **promote pan-European economic integration**
- It is a **platform for dialogue** on economic and sectoral issues
- It **facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation** among its member countries and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:
 - policy dialogue
 - negotiation of international legal instruments
 - development of regulations and norms
 - exchange and application of best practices
 - technical cooperation



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



➤ 17 SDGs, agreed by UN GA in 2015, are the **principal framework for the UNECE's work in sustainable energy.**



- SDG 7 is about providing sustainable energy to the world.
- UNECE focuses on **'energy for sustainable development'** because energy is a golden thread that underpins all SDGs.



Committee on Sustainable Energy

- Develops **normative instruments** (best practices, standards) that **facilitate cooperation**.
- Provides countries with a platform for a **dialogue on energy-related matters**.
- **Leads and oversees** SED's work on implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Committee on Sustainable Energy

➤ Six subsidiary bodies (Groups of Experts on):

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Resource Management
- Cleaner Electricity Systems
- Natural Gas
- **Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition**



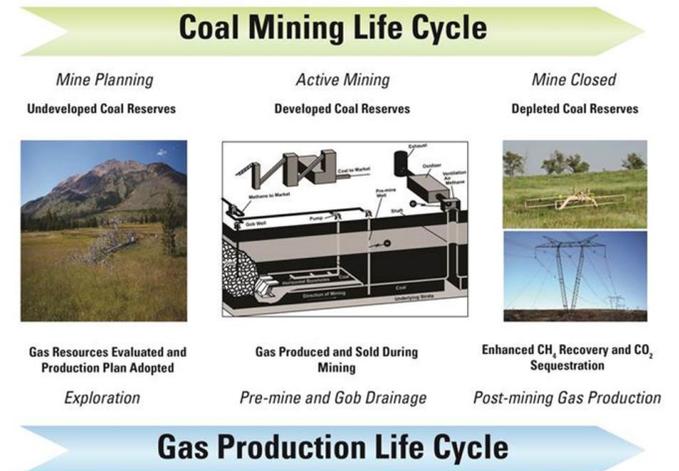


The group of experts are professionals trained and practicing **many disciplines**—we are:

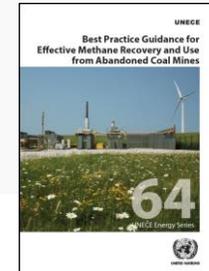
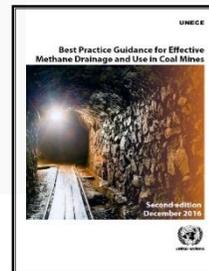
- scientists,
 - engineers,
 - economists,
 - miners
 - lawyers,
 - government officers,
 - members of NGOs,
 - politicians,
 - equipment manufacturers,
 - ...
 - from the Member States of the United Nations
- **Collaboration** between governments and the private sector is a driving force of our activities. Leading experts come from both the public and private sector. They are at the forefront of the “best practices movement”.
 - **Inclusiveness, dialogue, exchange, cooperation.**

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- Rests on **4 pillars**:
 - **Environment, Economy, Working Safety, and Social Justice.**
- Has **3 Task Forces**:
 - **Safe Operations and Closure of Mines**
 - **Methane Emissions Reduction**
 - **Transition of the Coal Sector**
- **Focuses on**:
 - **the whole: coal value chain and mine life cycle.**
- Developed **3 Best Practice Guidance** documents:
 - On (1) **active** and (2) **abandoned mines**, and on (3) **MRV**.



Gas Production Life Cycle



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Group's work includes activities on:

➤ **A. Methane:**

➤ **Mining hazards**

➤ Methane, Water, Subsidence, ...

➤ **Control, MRV, and mitigation** (capture, destruction and use) **of methane emissions from active and abandoned underground coal mines**

➤ Regardless of a selected option for attaining carbon neutrality and a pace of coal phase-out in a given country, as long as coal mines are operational, **CMM has to be dealt with in a way assuring safety of the mining personnel and the lowest possible carbon footprint** of the coal extraction activities.

➤ The **emissions do not cease with mine closure**; they increase for a short period after mine closure and then decrease and **persist on a stable level for many years**.

➤ **Mine closure**

➤ Closing mines needs to be conducted in accordance with good practices assuring that **mines are properly sealed and enabling development of AMM** projects preventing waste of a valuable resource and minimizing direct emissions of AMM to the atmosphere.



UNECE

Group of Experts on CMM & JT

International Centres of Excellence on CMM

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➤ **ICE CMMs**

- Operate **under the auspices** of UNECE GoE and in partnership with local specialized entities;
- Members and their institutions and companies are **repositories of knowledge**;
- **Promote best practices** developed by the Group;
- **Facilitate international communication and cooperation** in the field of CMM;
- **Identify new good practices.**



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- **B. Transition** (land repurposing, just transition)
 - **Modernization cannot be avoided** or delayed.
 - It is in **states' best interest** to undertake the process in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.
 - UNECE develops **tools to facilitate an effective transition to low-carbon energy and green economy.**
 - Importance of the **social and cultural dimensions**, which are necessary components ensuring sustainability of the results
 - It is not enough to listen to people and to get them **involved in the decision-making**. What is necessary is to **recognize** and respond also to those **needs that are** oftentimes **not clearly articulated**, but which significantly add to people's fear of the upcoming transformation.
 - Those needs are related to **people's sense of identity** and belonging to a given community, and to adherence to a given culture and heritage.



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➤ B. Transition continued

- For centuries coal mining has been much **more than an occupation**.
- Coal mining has been a true “**subculture**” and as such should be protected, for it constitutes a testimony of human history and is a living prove of our cultural diversity.
- The fact that the coal and steel-based “world” which gave rise to that culture is coming to an end, does not mean that the culture itself is not **worth preserving**.
- It is not only the culture itself that needs to be protected, but the **people** who constitute it and who carry it on.
- The challenge is to **offer people a different life** which would, on the one hand, give them pride and a sense of material security, and on the other hand, an opportunity to remain themselves culture-wise.



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➤ B. Transition continued

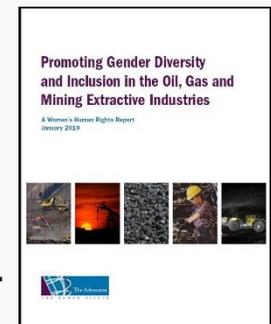
- Development of a **project** - Modernization of the Coal Mining Regions: Clean Environment, Innovative Economy, Just Society, Better Life
 - Phase I: **mapping** readiness for just transition in coal mining areas
 - Phase II: a **plan for modernization** of legacy industry regions by reorienting them towards modern technologies and more efficient use of available resources.
 - Phase III: a robust and flexible **business model** for efficient industrial site's transition, replicable in other industrial sites in like countries or regions.



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➤ Gender related matters

- The Group of Experts regularly holds sessions on **promoting gender diversity and inclusion** in the coal industry.
- It strives to achieve a **fair gender ballance** in its activities and events
- At the request of the Group of Experts, the *Advocates for Human Rights* undertook research to investigate **female inclusion in traditionally male-dominated, extractive sectors**, and produced a report that sets forth its findings in four sections:
 - **benefits** of women's participation in the targeted industries,
 - **government obligations** to address legal and social barriers,
 - **corporate roles and responsibilities**, and
 - considerations for women in the broader and **surrounding communities**.



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➤ Youth Engagement

➤ At the 18th meeting of the Group in March 2023, there was a session on youth engagement featuring the following:



➤ Presentation on youth engagement
Ms. Caitlan Frederick, IGSD

➤ Presentation of the work of the UNECE Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Youth Platform and the outcomes of the UNECE Youth Dialogue
Mr. Paul Segalard, YEE

➤ Discussion

➤ A dedicated Task Force?

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➤ Our work

- Development of a **project** - Modernization of the Coal Mining Regions: Clean Environment, Innovative Economy, Just Society, Better Life
 - **Phase I: mapping readiness for just transition in coal mining areas**
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Activities

- **Map** the location of post-coal mining areas across the ECE region and **analyze their current condition.**
 - Step by step approach
 - Start with Albania
- **Analyse** the **legal framework** governing ongoing activities and plans aiming to ensure safety and re-development of the selected post-coal mining areas.
- **Develop** detailed economic, energy, environmental, and social **characteristics** of the selected post-coal mining areas
- **Identify elements** that are necessary to enable the start and continued progress towards their repurposing and transformation.
- **Develop geographic information systems (GIS) database** that will incorporate the collected information to provide maps and other graphical displays of data indicating the current status of the selected post-coal mining areas.



Mapping and assessing readines for Just Transition

➤ The Task

- **Identify factors** that allow to assess countries' readiness for green and just transition of their local current or past coal mining areas
 - **Assess the situation** of various current or past coal mining areas across the selected ECE countries (e.g. Germany, Poland, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Albania, UK, US, Belgium)
 - **Identify regulatory, social, technical, and financial barriers** that the countries facing and/or undergoing the process of transition of their energy (coal) sector typically need to address to successfully transform them and to repurpose their current or past coal mining areas in accordance with the principles of green economy and just transition.
 - **Identify elements** that are **necessary to enable** the start and to ensure progress in repurposing and **transition**.



Hints

- **There are no good and bad answers – it is not a science, but there are trends and there is a logic**
- **Review literature to identify factors**
 - **Add from yourself**
 - **Use your own knowledge**
 - **Rely on your own intuition**
 - **Think outside the box**
 - **Be creative**
 - **Do not be constrained**
 - **Do not be afraid to point to irregularities of sensitive issues**
- **Research statistical data**
- **Compare the data and look for the patterns**
 - **Acknowledge differences**
 - **Ask why**
 - **Do not reject simple answers but also do not stop with them – dig deeper**



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