

Gerhard Gunderamann

Brigitta (1992)

I became a miner like my father and went down
the pit

But my son won't be a miner here anymore
The rails are rusting and the conveyor belt is
empty

Noone wants the brown coal from here anymore

I was a miner, I didn't learn anything else
I heated up this country each winter faithfully
My lung is full of pieces of coal like a sack
My heart is full of ashes, my veins are full of
alcohol

Oh, my pit Brigitta is broke
And the last layer has been sold long ago
And my excavator is dying in the heath
And the earthquake finally stops

I was a miner, slowly I walk through the coalfield
My wife wants to move, but I am bound to this
place
I belong here like the dust belongs on the
windowsill
Each tree carries my profile under its leaves.



Can decarbonization be just? Insights from transition case studies

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ABOUT THE PROJECT



INVOLVE & EMPOWER

Stakeholders in three European brown coal regions to explore new economic possibilities



DEVELOP

An online simulation tool that will be used for stakeholder engagement in three European brown coal regions.



FACILITATE

Mutual learning through online exchange platforms and guarantee a successful spread of innovations across the three regions



CASE STUDIES

- Lusatia (Germany), Eastern Greater Poland (Poland) and Gorj (Romania)
- Similarities
 - Economic downturn,
 - Aging populations,
 - Lack of job opportunities
- Differences
 - Political support from governments
 - Funding for the transition process.

LUSATIA GERMANY



11,727 km²

24,700 Jobs in the lignite sector

287.67 million tons CO₂ from coal per year

GREATER EASTERN POLAND



4,932 km²

8,000 Jobs in the lignite sector

205,94 million tons CO₂ from coal per year

GORJ ROMANIA



5,602 km²

13,100 Jobs in the lignite sector

18,82 million tons CO₂ from coal per year

Policy context

2015

Paris Climate Agreement – limiting global warming to 1.5°C

2021

Glasgow Climate Pact – global reduction of coal in the power sector

2020

The COVID-19 Pandemic

2021

The European Green Deal – 55% emission reduction by 2030, net-zero by 2050; 1 trillion EUR public and private investments in the next decade

2022

War in Ukraine

JUSTICE DIMENSIONS

Procedural justice	The right to a fair process for different stakeholders to take part equitably in the decision-making process.
Distributional justice	Equitable distribution of burdens and benefits of energy and environmental decisions.
Recognition justice	Recognizing that parts of the society might suffer as a result of energy and environmental decisions, and identifying individuals and groups who might be impacted by such decisions.
Restorative justice	Aims to repair the harm done to individuals, instead of focusing upon punishing the offender.

Adapted from Pai et al., 2020

Insights from Lusatia