

Just and fair energy transition in Central Eastern Europe

Wednesday 19th of June, 14.00 to 15.30

EU Sustainability Week, Room to be confirmed

Background

The global energy transformation is happening, driven by the dual imperatives of limiting climate change and fostering sustainability. This shift is also a path of opportunity. The global energy transition might underpin sustainable and resilient economic activity, create jobs, and improve overall social welfare. The extent to which these benefits can be reaped depends on the outcome of the multiple interactions between the energy transition roadmap and the socio-economic system where it is deployed: The socio-economic footprint analysis provides insights into the transition's opportunities and challenges.

A collaborative effort is required for a successful transition towards sustainability and resilience. Fostering and nurturing this collaborative framework at the national, regional and global levels needs successfully addressing the just and fair transition dimensions.

Countries, regions and communities closely linked to the fossil fuel economy face specific transition challenges that have to be collectively addressed through consistent and holistic just transition policy frameworks.

This is the case in CEE where the transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy systems can cause significant societal disruptions for affected regions. These disruptions need to be addressed taking into account the current status and concerns of the population as well as the opportunities and challenges brought about by the energy transition, with cooperation and coordination between different stakeholders in the region being key for sustainability and resiliency.

The global dimension from the climate change challenge and the socio-economic dynamics from the transition process require developing a collaborative framework that transcends national borders. Fairness is a fundamental component for underpinning and fostering this collaborative framework.

This session focuses on the transition's justice and fairness requirements, discussing the policy frameworks needed to address them with a focus on the Central and Eastern Europe.

Agenda

14:00 – 14:15	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>Just and fair energy transition: insights from the transition's socio-economic footprint with focus in Central Easter Europe</p> <p>Xavier Garcia-Casals, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)</p>
14:15 – 14:30	<p>Fostering Just Transition through the EU climate and energy governance</p> <p>Tom van Ierland, DG CLIMA</p>
14:30 – 14:45	<p>How transnational cooperation supports energy transition in Central Europe</p> <p>Matija Vajdic, Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Secretariat</p>
14:45 – 15:00	<p>Decarbonization in Poland</p> <p>Maciej Burny, Department of International Affairs, Polish Energy Group (PGE)</p>
15:00 – 15:15	<p>What lessons can CEE countries learn from the German energy transition?</p> <p>Sascha Müller-Kraenner, Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V./German Environmental Action (DUH)</p>
15:15 – 15:30	<p>Q&A session and closing remarks</p> <p>Moderated by Xavier Casals, IRENA</p>