



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 826025.



# Carbon Intensive EU regions

How can Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) contribute to the acceleration of a truly just transition?

---

Scoping workshop report

Ada Amon  
Aleksandra Wagner



**Energy-  
SHIFTS**

ENERGY  
SOCIAL SCIENCES &  
HUMANITIES  
INNOVATION  
FORUM  
TARGETING THE  
SET-PLAN

---

September 2019

# Carbon Intensive EU regions

How can Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) contribute  
to the acceleration of a truly just transition?

Scoping workshop report

September 2019

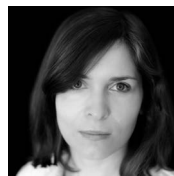
---

## Authors



**Ada Amon\***

E3G - THIRD GENERATION  
ENVIRONMENTALISM  
GERMANY



**Aleksandra Wagner**

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY  
POLAND

\*[ada.amon@e3g.org](mailto:ada.amon@e3g.org)

## Suggested citation

---

Amon, A. and Wagner, A., 2019. *Carbon Intensive EU regions. How can Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) contribute to the acceleration of a truly just transition? Scoping workshop report*. Cambridge: Energy-SHIFTS.



## Executive summary

**T**his report presents findings from a literature review and a workshop on the topic of the energy transition in carbon intensive regions of the EU, that were conducted and organised in the summer of 2019, as part of a series of scoping workshops on priority themes within the Energy-SHIFTS project.

The primary aim of the workshop was to help identify key issues for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) researchers in supporting the acceleration of successful and truly just transition processes in high carbon regions, and to generate a list of specific recommendations. The focus area was narrowed down to Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) as a culturally and socio-economically particular region of the European Union. Acknowledging the historical legacy of different transitions over the last 100 years in this region and the mark it left on societies' attitudes towards change and transition, including the willingness of different stakeholders to engage in the process, was a crucial part of the discussion.

Diverse activities were undertaken throughout the day in order to elicit participants' understandings, experiences and perceptions, and allow conclusions to be drawn about how SSH can support just transition processes in this region. A key point raised recurrently over the day was the importance of communication and collaboration between different stakeholders in order to achieve a just transition. Both communication and collaboration were core components of the workshop – in the smaller group discussions, the creation of artistic models, and identification of key agendas going forward.

Thus, it was not only the outputs of the workshop that helped identify how SSH can support a just transition, but also the activities of the workshop itself, as through these it demonstrates some ways to achieve effective engagement and communication between a diversity of individuals with differing understandings and experiences.

In preparation for the workshop, participants were provided with a literature review, which highlights key issues around the idea of a just transition. The review

finds that the majority of work in this space has focussed on the following four aspects:

1. Origins in the Labour movement;
2. Societal change and future visions;
3. Just transition management;
4. Moral obligations.

Finally, our review also considered what is missing from these debates.

Building on those insights, we designed the scoping workshop that was hosted in Prague on June 27th 2019, where the main question was: how can SSH contribute to the acceleration of a truly just transition?

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), academics, public officials and think tanks came together to identify how SSH can contribute to the acceleration of a just transition. Participants were a diverse group, with diverse understandings and experiences but a shared ambition of achieving just transitions. The range of individuals present highlights the increasing importance given to achieving just transitions. Achieving effective communication, discussion and sharing of ideas within such a diverse group can be only possible if the framework and the goal of the discussions are set clearly in advance.

The structure of the day helped achieve these goals and the organisers designed activities carefully for facilitating communication amongst varied stakeholders. The ultimate focus of the day was enabling conversation – through these discussions it allowed experiences to be shared, potential solutions proposed, and key components identified.

The first technique used to obtain these understandings was the world café, splitting the participants into three smaller groups, with discussions oriented around set questions. These focused on 1) understanding the notion of a just transition, 2) the injustices that can be observed (and individuals that are 'left behind' during transitions), and 3) the fairness of current processes of remediation (i.e. efforts to minimise or counteract negative impacts). These focused discussions enabled all participants to engage with the topics and many people's views were heard (most reinforcing each other, although some unique standpoints were voiced). Regardless of what participants were saying, the points



made were encouraged, accepted and used to inform conclusions.

The second technique for engaging participants and developing understandings of just transitions required them to engage with their creative side. Participants were posed the task of representing the steps required to achieve a just transition creatively. With plasticine, paper, post-its and coloured pens as their tools, the groups were encouraged to express themselves and their vision. Each group approached the task from a different creative angle – there were model houses with plasticine figures transformed into a stop-motion

animation, an informative 3-D poster built up using models to represent key points and add colour, and a model tiger created to represent an ‘idea and talent hunter’. Each output effectively captured necessary components of achieving a just transition.

The final session built on the previous exercises and drew conclusions in the form of a list of recommendations for Energy-SHIFTS, the SSH community and for EU research funding, which are summarised in the report.



# Contents



<b>Executive summary.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Contents .....	5
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. Just transitions in recent Social Sciences and Humanities discussions .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. The concept of a just transition .....	7
2.2. Origins in the Labour movement.....	8
2.3. Societal change and future visions.....	8
2.4. Just transition management.....	8
2.5. Moral obligations .....	8
2.6. Missing points within current debates.....	9
<b>3. Workshop: Carbon Intensive EU regions .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1. Agenda .....	10
3.2. Attendees and their affiliations .....	12
<b>4. The scoping workshop: discussions.....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1. Session 1: World Café .....	13
4.2. Session 2: Visualising the future .....	14
4.3. Session 3: Recommendations.....	15
<b>5. Recommendations .....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1. Energy-SHIFTS .....	17
5.2. Energy-SSH and the research community .....	17
5.3. EU Research funding.....	18
<b>6. Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>7. References .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Appendix 1 - Blogs .....	21
Appendix 2 – Animation .....	21
Appendix 3 – Videos .....	21



# 1. Introduction

In this report, we aim to provide an overview of the most urgent discussions around the role of SSH in supporting just transitions for carbon intensive regions, with special attention to differences between the eastern and western parts of the European Union (EU). Besides this, we identify potential new fields of study that future research might address. For this purpose, we conducted a literature review, and organised a scoping workshop with a wide range of stakeholders in June 2019.

This publication is part of a series of reports on four scoping workshops held in 2019 as part of the EU-funded Horizon 2020 project Energy-SHIFTS. Combined, the insights from these workshops inform future activities within the Energy-SHIFTS project. The objective of Energy-SHIFTS is to further the contribution of Social Science and Humanities (SSH) to the energy transition and to help policy to benefit from these insights to ac-

celerate the transition. The insights of these reports will be used to shape the process of scanning the horizon of SSH research to inform the EU's next research funding framework (Horizon Europe) through four working groups, as well as guide the process of matching policy makers to researchers in Europe in the Energy-SHIFTS policy fellowship programme.

This report is structured around different sections that cascade onto each other. Section two provides the foundation for how the scoping workshop was designed by reporting on the results of a literature review. Section three then details how we designed the workshop and how it was implemented, who participated and why we have decided to involve those people. Consequently, section four constitutes the core of this publication, in which we cover the most critical issues discussed during the scoping workshop. Finally, based on the literature review and workshop, we make recommendations for the Energy-SHIFTS project, as well as the wider research and funding community.

We hope this report will provide insights into the latest discussions and new frontiers in supporting the truly just transition of carbon intensive regions in the EU and beyond.







Current debates on this issue within energy-related Social Sciences and Humanities (energy-SSH) are briefly presented here, structured according to the four main aspects around which researchers are focusing their work. The map of concepts (fig. 1.) illustrates how certain key words have been used to anchor the topic of just transitions in SSH work during recent years. The concept map was created based on an overview of selected papers using the 'just transition' notion and related to energy-SSH. This map was intended as a stimulus to further discussion rather than the result of systematic content analysis. Based on the literature overview, we have also identified some crucial but missing elements of this research, and some issues and problems which need thorough investigation.

## 2.2. Origins in the Labour movement

The framework known as 'Just Transition' was first developed by the trade union movement<sup>2</sup>. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) adopted a Just Transition resolution in 1999 and described it as a political campaign to "ensure that the costs of environmental change [towards sustainability] will be shared fairly. Failure to create a Just Transition means that the cost of moves to sustainability will devolve wholly on to workers in targeted industries and their communities" (Canadian Labour Congress, 2000, p.3; cited in Evans and Phelan, 2016, p.331). The Just Transition concept means social and economic security for people and whole communities affected by changes in the energy industry, and also in terms of creating and promoting 'green jobs' (Healy and Barry, 2017). In 2013 these conclusions were adopted by the International Labour Organisation. Within labour-related literature, the idea of a just transition is discussed in reference to all levels: international, national, regional and local. It can be linked to the whole system or particular sectors.

## 2.3. Societal change and future visions

It has been contended that a just transformation of the socio-energy system is also a decision to live in a different type of society, not simply a low-carbon version of the current one (Healy and Barry, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> The idea of Just Transition was developed in 1970. and is usually attributed to Tony Mazzocchi, a trade unionist from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers' Union (OCAW).

Extensive literatures (which we do not have scope to review here) discuss the necessity of new patterns of social practice, and new ways of thinking about energy, ecology and the economy. However, as Jasanoff claims, "while technological change is seen as essential to the transition, less attention is paid to the fact that disparities within societies demand differentiated solutions." (Jasanoff, 2018, p.11). The idea of a just transition has thus been proposed as an essential (but often neglected) element within any approach to global energy futures.

## 2.4. Just transition management

Literature also analyses how the goals of climate mitigation and green economies could be achieved in a way that secures energy justice for traditional energy production regions. Some researchers suggest that a new just transition management approach "has the potential to successfully resist the influence of the resources sector, by providing cheap, secure renewable energy and supporting affected workers into roles in the renewable energy sector" (Goddard, 2018, p.111). The core of this approach is reflexive and participatory governance where sets of transition experiments are governed by a representative network of multilevel and multisector stakeholders (Lorbach and Rotmans, 2010). It entails a commitment to guarantee an active role for vulnerable groups that are often marginalised from energy decision-making. Others warn that inclusive policies, understood in terms of creating the conditions for plural viewpoints and collective learning, are essential in shaping the direction of global transitions (Jasanoff, 2018, p.14). Inclusive transition management also means offering publics greater access to scientific resources and official political institutions at all levels of policy-making (Jasanoff, 2018, p.14).

## 2.5. Moral obligations

The idea of a just transition can also be understood in terms of moral obligations, and is closely linked to other concepts relating to justice (climate justice, energy justice and environmental justice) as well as solidarity (e.g. transregional, transnational and transgenerational). A just transition, through this lens, is treated as a fundamental issue relating to our humanness and the meaning of life (Galvin, 2009, p.176). What is important here is not only the moral implication of energy practices, but also how this moral claim is communicated to policymakers (Galvin, 2009, p.184). If the just





transition is understood as a moral claim, such thinking can resonate with the moral compass of policymakers, or prompt deeper reflection, and thus help persuade leaders to implement fairer energy policies.

## 2.6. Missing points within current debates

Based on our review, weak or missing points within current debates on the just transition in energy-SSH include:

- The lack of operationalisation of just transition concepts in terms of social practices and policy tools. In other words, what does a just transition actually entail and how can we practically achieve it?
- Priority given to environment protection over labour security. How are these sometimes competing agendas balanced, and what are the social costs of environmental policies?
- A need for understanding of the differences between “workers as workers in workplaces and workers as citizens outside their workplace” (Räthzel and Uzzell, 2011, p.1221). This refers to the contradiction between the social roles people hold as workers and those they hold as members of a wider community. As Räthzel and Uzzell (2011, p.1216) notice, “trade unions might have been slow in placing climate change issues on their agenda, environmental movements have been slow to recognize the legitimacy of workers’ interests in defending their jobs”. More fundamentally, discourses rooted in the study of labour use ‘interest’ as a key notion and establish the relations between humans and nature as exploitative. Nature is conceptualised as a condition of human wellbeing, and as such is an ‘interest’ of general society. But in the discourses of labour

unions, which usually focus on more immediate or short-term interests, nature is not as important for wellbeing as employment. In consequence, it is not understood as a partner in the production process, but rather as a provider of goods (or, in some cases, as a victim of negative consequences of exploitation).

- A need to understand climate, energy and environment as interconnected issues, in both scientific and public debate over transitions. In many scientific papers and press articles devoted to energy transitions, we notice a privileged position is given to one or other of these issues, while the other two are subordinate. It is clear however that energy transitions are complex phenomena and the governing of these is a challenge for policy that involves coordinating different systems with their different logics of operation. In the era of specialisation and fragmentation of scientific and expert knowledge, attempts to link different dimension of these complex phenomena seem to be especially needed.

This general overview of the academic debate on just transitions was sent to participants before the workshop, and was intended to be a starting point to the discussion on their understandings of the notion of just transition. Participants, inspired and provoked by the literature, were asked to reflect on it in the light of their own experiences. They had a chance to explain and develop their own perspectives and build a mutual understanding within the group. Further workshop sessions were focused around more detailed categories of actors, inequalities or resources linked to the ‘transition’, inspired by the literature. The outcome of this was the co-creation of a semantic map of the notion of a just transition, rooted in both theoretical and practical collective knowledge.

## 3. Workshop: Carbon Intensive EU regions

On June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, a highly participative workshop took place under the title ‘Carbon intensive EU regions – How can Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) contribute to the acceleration of a truly just transition?’. The event was organised in Prague, Czechia, and the workshop format was designed to engage intensively with different stakeholders, mainly from CEE countries.

This workshop gathered policy- and decision-makers, researchers, representatives of Non-Governmental Associations (NGOs) and individuals for a discussion on priority themes in the field of just transitions. For the production of this workshop, E3G collaborated with the **Jagiellonian University** (Krakow) with active support from **CEE Bankwatch Network**. Please refer to the Appendices for blogs and other outputs of the session.

The chosen venue, format and the different techniques used over the course of the workshop created a trustful atmosphere in which the final conclusions were quite easy to bring together. As most of the participants were from an NGO background and actively supporting the transition process within the local high carbon regions in their daily work, the workshop was designed to rely on their first-hand experience and observations. Before the workshop, all participants received the brief summary of recent SSH discussions on the notion of just transition, identifying different approaches, but also the gaps and tensions in this academic discussion.

This was meant to be a preparation for the workshop's discussions and help attune them to the workshop aims.

### 3.1. Agenda

The workshop started with an introduction informing participants about the Energy-SHIFTS project and workshop goals. Then, participants were asked to do some individual work with a ‘key experience matrix’ chart. It was a starting point for group discussions based on a world café methodology.

This part of the workshop concluded with creating a conceptual map of just transitions based on the notes and visuals of the small working groups. Then these notes and posters were combined, and as a result a large map was created.

The second part of workshop was based on visual methods. The participants, split into three groups, created their collective (negotiated) vision of just transition pathways, considering the temporality, materiality, actors, symbolical resources, policy tools, challenges, risks and barriers. They were stimulated by using colourful cartoons, plasticine, sticks, etc. This helped to create future scenarios and was a stimulus for discussing how the process should be started, what the key resources and expected results are.

The third part of the workshop built on all the earlier discussions and used also the atmosphere created by the collective work throughout the day. It was designed as an open plenary session, where participants worked on listing recommendations on how SSH could contribute to accelerating the just transition.





## Workshop agenda

8:30 – 9:00 – REGISTRATION & COFFEE

### 9:00 – 9:30 – Introduction

*Presenting the project (Ada Amon, E3G) and expert data base (Léa Pilsner, E3G)  
Getting to know each other, individual introduction, warming up (facilitated by Aleksandra Wagner, JU)  
Expectations and background*

### 9:30 – 11:30 – Understanding and defining 'just transitions' (collecting experience, perspectives)

*Individual work- collecting key experiences of transition processes (experience matrix)  
Work in groups: From just a transition towards just transition*

- Understanding the notion of just transitions;
- What injustices are present and who is left behind and ignored;
- How fair the processes of remediation of such injustices are

*Techniques: world café/ maps/pieces of thinking  
Results: concept map*

11:30- 12:00 – COFFEE BREAK

### 12:00 – 13:15 – Creating 'just transition pathways' – envisioning the future: where are we going, how and when?

- Visions of just transition to low-carbon society/economy/community
- Actors – who should be engaged and how to involve those groups
- Materiality – technology, economy, politics – how to make them just and how these are interlinked
- Temporality (time horizon, intergenerational justice – how and why urgency can create inequalities)
- What is/could be the role of SSH in shaping the transition to low-carbon society

*Techniques: scenario building, creative visual method, discussion  
Results: envisioned pathways of just transition*

13:15 – 14:15 – LUNCH

### 14:15 – 16:00 – Collecting recommendations – how SSH can contribute to support/accelerate just transitions in carbon intensive regions

*List recommendations and agree on the way forward  
Techniques: Work group, reporting back and plenary discussion  
Results: list of recommendations*

16:00 – 16:15 – WRAP UP AND CLOSING REMARKS



#### Participant feedback

“The participation of all the stakeholders is our biggest challenge in CEE... I had the opportunity to go to coal regions, and experienced that the creative solutions are key. Lead people are needed from day one to generate the debate and involve others.”

Alexandru Mustata, CEE Bankwatch Network

“Just Transition is connected to fear, sadness and all-over negative things. On the other hand, it can be linked to new opportunities, green futures and big ideas. I’m keen to learn here on how to persuade others about the latter characteristics of this transition to come.”

Petra Kolinska,  
Green Circle of Czech Republic



“Just Transition for me is redeveloping the region in a socially just way. This should also include reinforcing the communities. In the earlier changes, which came as an economic shock (at the collapse of the socialist system), these communities were weakened, therefore they need to regain their internal power.”

Alexa Botar, Friends of the Earth,  
Hungary.

### 3.2. Attendees and their affiliations

The range of individuals present – from NGOs to public officials, academics to think tanks – highlights the increasing importance given to achieving just transitions. In total 18 people came together; a diverse group, with diverse understandings and experiences but a shared ambition of achieving just transitions.

The group of 18 attendees consisted of researchers, including early stage researchers (4 persons), local officials including one ex-deputy mayor (3 persons), and NGO representatives (11 persons) from local grassroots through national advocacy to European think-tanks. The gender balance was weighted towards females, as only 4 participants were male. In terms of geography, most of the people were of Eastern European origin (15 coming from Czechia, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine) and only 3 came from Western European countries (France, Germany and the UK).

Videos from the event can be found in Appendix III.





## 4. The scoping workshop: discussions

### 4.1. Session 1: World Café

The organisers used the world café technique. Three groups were set up and each group visited all three tables, discussing three different aspects of just transitions:

1. Understanding the notion/term of just transition
2. Where are injustices present?
3. How fair could the process of remediation of the injustices be?

At the first table the attendees were trying to understand the notion/term of just transitions. Points raised include:

- This term is rarely used in practice; it is difficult to understand for local people as their experience does not relate to a truly inclusive and participative process regarding the development of their own region and community.
- Instead of this, activists (in Slovakia and Poland) used the translation 'fair transformation', or 'regional development' (in Czechia and Hungary).
- There are some bad connotations of political transformation in the CEE. These processes were often cruel in the past and had many victims in terms of poverty, social degradation, unemployment etc. A series of transitions happened over the last century and never brought positive changes to people, but are still vivid in families' memory.
- The language of just transformation is empty for people, they do not know what they can expect.
- It reflects the tension between different social roles (workers; citizens; citizen-consumers; inhabitants; entrepreneurs).

But:

- It is associated strongly with participatory dialogue.
- It is understood in terms of justice, fairness, inclusive engagement and taking responsibility.

Implications and possible solutions were mentioned, including:

- A need for decision-makers to go beyond rhetoric and implement action for equality in benefit and cost distribution. This would require watchdog groups and citizens to hold politicians accountable – ensuring they 'walk their talk' and make interventions in order to set up inclusive processes, provide the necessary resources and use their power to seriously consider the different options, among other things.
- A suggestion to connect the language of just transitions with security (social, economic and environmental).
- A call to focus more on the quality of life.
- A need for forward-looking, well-targeted, and strategically thought-through regional planning, and for honest evaluation (noting that big projects, drawing on fashionable terms, often have no significant or long-term results).

Participants at the second table were talking about the question: where are injustices present? Points included:

- People do not feel connected to their region – they want to leave it rather than contribute to its development.
- Time matters – a 'quick wins' approach is typical for short term projects and is toxic in terms of creating and maintaining regional capacity (for example, limiting ability for the absorption of investment, and limiting investment in longer term planning and skills).
- Inequality exists in capacity/skills – carbon intensive regions are not attractive to young people, therefore these regions are getting demographically older.
- Lack of capacity to participate makes people self-excluded. It is partly due to the lack of a culture of participatory processes in these countries. There is no capacity for people to organise themselves, with little or no institutional support to rely on.
- Injustice exists in the transport sector, due to inequality of infrastructure (e.g. the hegemony of car monocultures, and rural areas being excluded because of lack of transport).

Possible solutions focused on ways of giving hope to residents and promoting social innovation, including:

- Recognising local talents, ideas and skills; encouraging skilled people to remain in their local area; investing not only in infrastructure but in people themselves; and developing tools to help make youth feel engaged and responsible.



- Supporting local capacity/participation, for example by showing good examples; training people who could lead the process; and exchanging expertise with similar regions.
- Developing more green jobs.
- Developing awareness and recognition of the history of the region, stimulating vision/imagination and building a holistic vision for the region.

At the third table they were talking about how fair the process of remediation of the injustices could be. Points included:

- Political interests – defined as economic success – often take precedence over workers' interests when it comes to decarbonising the economy. EU funds are a motivation in some cases to attract political attention to an issue, but there is a lack of long-term solutions.
- There is a lack of systematic solutions to provide a future for workers laid off from fossil companies. Current solutions in place (compensation schemes or public work schemes) are not providing the answer.
- Local and regional authorities are in many cases supportive of just transition processes but are insufficiently represented, because often bypassed by national governments. Note that this state of play differs from member state to member state with support for just transitions being sometime found more at national level rather than local (such as in Czechia).
- There is no culture of consultation in the CEE countries, therefore it is not possible to have honest discussion around the expectations or desires of affected communities.
- On the policy level, changes in remediation measures happen very fast, therefore preparation for these changes is close to impossible.
- Coal miners' unions tend to act as a barrier to just transition processes taking place. They represent the interests of the coal mining business and have little incentive to work towards a just transition process for their workers.
- For successful and fair re-development, regions must be able to develop new economic niches whilst also being made attractive to investors through infrastructure improvements. Regeneration experts are valuable but often not listened to by authorities.

Regarding solutions, points mentioned by participants included:

- The importance of working with young people.

- Anticipation of the inevitable changes triggered by climate policy. NGOs can support understanding of these by bringing and translating knowledge about sudden changes in similar regions.
- The value of showing examples from other countries; for example, to draw ideas for good practice in just transitions.
- The suggestion that NGOs can generate bottom-up movements demanding more information on longer term regional and national plans, and also contribute regarding how preparation of the local community should be designed.
- The need to explore co-operation options that are not top-down, to ensure civil society's voice is better heard. The European Commission's Platform for Coal Regions in Transition is a positive example. Increasing the variety of stakeholders involved beyond national ministries, providing less of a platform for the industry and involving a variety of stakeholders such as researchers would be welcome too.
- The need to empower communities to ensure they feel they are part of the process and are all on-board to support the re-development of their regions. This can involve new engagement methods such as art projects or new tools (e.g. 'feeling maps') successfully employed in other social projects.
- The need to recognise the reality of each member state when it comes to layers of government supportive of just transitions, while empowering and actively involving regional and local authorities, who are generally much more supportive of just transition processes than central governments.
- The need to create an independent coal miners' union that would be a more progressive alternative to the current ones.
- The need to develop regeneration plans for regions with the help of experts.

## 4.2. Session 2: Visualising the future

During the second session attendees were focusing on the future in visual terms. This applied technique for engaging participants and developing understandings of just transitions required attendees to engage with their creative side. Participants were again split into groups and posed the task of representing the steps required to achieve a truly just transition creatively. With plasticine, paper, post-its and coloured pens as



their tools, these groups were encouraged to express themselves and their vision. Each group approached the task from a different creative angle – there were model houses with plasticine figures transformed into a stop-motion animation, an informative 3-D poster built up using models to represent key points and add colour, and a model tiger created to represent an ‘idea and talent hunter’. Each output effectively captured necessary components of achieving a just transition.

### 4.3. Session 3: Recommendations

The final session was designed as a plenary and resulted in a long list of recommended research topics to the scientific (SSH) communities and research funders. Attendees also discussed researchers’ and SSH scholars’ role in the process of the development of just transitions in the overall EU and the narrower CEE context.

Creating a long list of recommendation for making SSH more useful/impactful, the participants were answering the following questions:

- How could SSH contribute to make the needed transition just/fair?
- What do we expect from researchers?
- How could they help us in our work?

After listing the ideas as a brain-storm session, we grouped the ideas to create the following ‘wish-list’.

- A key challenge is multi-stakeholder cooperation: “In CEE we have similar historical experience but weak capacity of cooperation between countries/different groups”. SSH research could help to build better collaboration; therefore interdisciplinary studies of useful models and practices in this field should be undertaken. Research could help identify the factors/conditions for good cooperation. In particular, it could focus on:
  - Tools for effective dialogue (how to engage partners in dialogue, how to make outcomes of dialogue impactful). This could draw on the applied science of facilitation.
  - Building capacity for getting funds (how to finance projects).
- Studies focussing on the future would be useful; e.g. prognosis, unintended consequences analysis, trend assessment, but also imaginaries of the future, new patterns of thinking and alternative scenarios. Research should also pay attention to studies of ongoing transition, especially in comparative

perspective, and develop the field of innovation studies.

- Participants underlined the need for more analysis of communication. SSH can help to build effective communication strategies and support critical thinking by presenting the results of discourse and media analysis. The critical edge of social science can provide a defence against manipulation, fake news, and populism, while philosophy should help to promote critical thinking. A related area of significant concern was education. SSH could provide answers to questions on how to educate people on global and local problems.
- Participants proposed mapping talent clusters; SSH could provide know-how and help develop the tools and methodologies for using them.
- Another idea was ‘local archaeology’, which can help to discover and describe the history of the region and social memories. This is necessary to build identity and connection with the region, and in consequence to help people take responsibility for the ‘commons’.
- The transition does not simply mean new resources in an old world, but rather demands new patterns of social practice, and deeper relations with local symbols (art) and materiality (architecture, infrastructure). Cultural analysis has a lot to offer here.
- Transitions are also a challenge for effective management. Small steps could have big impacts – this highlights the huge potential of management studies on how to organise and control stability and change in the process of transformation.
- Society also needs reliable analyses of the economy and human resources, in order to know how to prepare individuals and communities for the coming changes.
- Another issue discussed during the workshop was health aspects: social consequences of health issues can be recognised by SSH.
- The critical evaluation of current policies and analysis of policies on different levels should be a core interest for SSH. Participants agreed that ethical rules for public activity are very important. They expect significant contributions from SSH thinking here.
- In terms of methodologies, more field-oriented research (case studies, and comparative case studies, with local context recognition) would be useful. Joint projects (between scholars and activists) would help with knowledge transfer.





Action research and living experiments would also be useful.

Main questions for SSH include:

- How to transfer knowledge from science to policy-making;
- How to unionise the different sectors (including 'green energy' industries) and work towards holistic policy;
- How to engage people/creative industries/ artists in collaboration;
- How to map local talents/skills;
- How to make communication effective (among institutions/people/regions/countries);
- How to make sustainability less focused on technology and more on people.

The role of SSH scientists should be in:

- Sharing expertise, supporting citizens;
- Building mutual trust;
- Delivering data on local context;
- Translating scientific evidence – showing how to use it in policy-making;
- Supporting the educational and information-sharing function of mass media;
- Creating/generating debate – building public visibility of alternative visions, scenarios and arguments.



## 5. Recommendations

In this section we provide recommendations for the Energy-SHIFTS project, as well as providing lessons for the wider research community and EU research funding programmes. For details of the Energy-SHIFTS work packages, please refer to <https://energy-shifts.eu>.

An overarching consideration for all stakeholders is the importance of understanding the special socio-economic circumstances of the CEE countries, and of helping to identify specific needs around the transition in this region, to ensure it is just and fair. This region and the people living here still have memories of quite dramatic transitions from the last two generations. Hence there is a resistance to engaging in a substantial new transition process. One of the major challenges is to help all stakeholders understand that change will come regardless of their participation, and recognise the benefits of taking part.

The other major problem is how to build trust and inclusive engagement. Dialogue on energy transitions usually engages the state, local authorities, experts, business representatives and trade unions. The wider spectrum of stakeholders is needed, however: activists, inhabitants, NGOs, artists, scholars, teachers, journalists and other media actors. They all need to be active players within this global transition, which is implemented locally, to minimise the negative effects of the changes that are needed.

### 5.1. Energy-SHIFTS

- General: The SSH agenda on just transitions should focus more on communication and helping local/regional communities to engage in the process. Energy-SHIFTS can contribute to this, and explore how to build trust among the different stakeholders.
- General: Different inclusive ways of designing the procedures of just transition could be developed and explored within the Forum, as it is important for stakeholders to own the process in order to accept the outcome.
- Working groups: These can find examples of past transitions and ongoing transitions, from which lessons can be drawn for regions currently experiencing transitions.

- Working groups: Inviting experts beyond academic researchers would be welcome to ensure that knowledge is transferable to real practice. A research agenda with relevant outcomes for policy and practice cannot be formulated by academic researchers alone.
- Policy fellowships: Many regions that are critical in terms of achieving a just transition are in the CEE area; therefore relevant experts with appropriate language skills should be identified, as they can play an important role in supporting such developments.
- Policy fellowships: Considering the salience of the municipal level for just transitions, we recommend recruiting a substantial number of fellows from municipalities, taking into account the agency of municipalities in respective Horizon 2020 countries. Working on possible solutions and best practices for challenges at the municipal level could increase the impact of Energy-SHIFTS' activities.

### 5.2. Energy-SSH and the research community

**Energy-SSH projects should help address the following questions:**

- How to transfer knowledge from science to policy-making;
- How to unionise the different sectors (including 'green energy' industries) and work towards holistic policy;
- How to engage people/creative industries/artists in collaboration;
- How to map local talents/skills;
- How to make communication effective (among institutions/people/regions/countries);
- How to make sustainability less focused on technology and more on people.

**SSH researchers should play a part in supporting just transitions by:**

- Sharing their expertise and supporting citizens;
- Building mutual trust with communities and various stakeholders;
- Delivering data on local context;
- Translating scientific evidence and demonstrating how to use it in policy making;
- Supporting the educational and information-sharing function of mass media;



- Creating/generating debate – building public visibility of alternative visions, scenarios and arguments.

### 5.3. EU Research funding

---

EU research funding should play a central role in supporting just transitions by:

- Securing more funds for SSH projects that support the process and activities of empowering local communities (through history, communication science, education, policy analysis and evaluation, for example);
- Developing mechanisms for transferring the knowledge and research results obtained from academia to stakeholders, translating lessons for the benefit of real users;
- Addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and supporting them in the process of applying for funds;
- Building links between knowledge produced in different sectors through interdisciplinary projects and multisector cooperation;
- Developing more inclusive research policy (in terms of gender and geographical and disciplinary balance).



---

## 6. Acknowledgements

---

This deliverable report is part of the Energy-SHIFTS project, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°826025. We would like to express our gratitude to the EU for funding Energy-SHIFTS, without which this report would not have been possible.

We are also grateful for the input, the energy and the time of our workshop participants, as well as for the efforts of the CEE Bankwatch Network for attracting such a diverse group of NGOs, local policy makers and scholars. The workshop wouldn't have been the same without Rebekka Popp, Ami Crowther and Olena Nedozhogina, whose engagement and enthusiasm were a valuable contribution to it. Special thanks to Aleksandra Wagner of the JU for the energy and time put into the careful design of the workshop and Léa Pilsner for her help in organising the event and all suggestions on the report.

We would like to thank Sarah Royston (Global Sustainability Institute, Anglia Ruskin University) for reviewing the report and her valuable advice on how to make the report reader-friendly.

Special thanks to Acento team for their excellent work for communication and layout design.



## 7. References

- Buchmann, K., Robison, R. and Foulds, C., 2017. *Transport sector decarbonisation – a social sciences and humanities annotated bibliography*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), 2000. *Just Transition for Workers During Environmental Change*. Ottawa: CLC.
- Evans, G., and Phelan L., 2016. Transition to a post-carbon society: Linking environmental justice and just transition discourses. *Energy Policy*, 99, pp.329–339.
- Galvin, R., 2019. What does it mean to make a moral claim? A Wittgensteinian approach to energy justice. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 54, pp.176–184.
- Goddard, G., 2018. Just transition management: Balancing just outcomes with just processes in Australian renewable energy transitions. *Applied Energy*, 225(1), pp.110–123.
- Healy, N. and Barry, J., 2017. Politicizing energy justice and energy system transitions: Fossil fuel divestment and a “just transition”. *Energy Policy*, 108, pp.451–459.
- Heffron, R.J., and McCauley, D., 2018. What is the ‘Just Transition’? *Geoforum*, 88, pp.74–77.
- Heffron, R.J., and McCauley, D., 2014. Achieving sustainable supply chains through energy justice. *Applied Energy*, 123, pp.435–437.
- Heidenreich, S., Thronsen, W., Sari, R., Sonetti, G., Ryghaug, M., Kern-Gillard, T., Arrobio, O., Mourik, R. and Nikolaev, A., 2017. *Competitive, secure, low-carbon energy supply – a social sciences and humanities annotated bibliography*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Jasanoff, S., 2018. Just transitions: A humble approach to global energy futures. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 35, pp.11–14.
- Just Transition Research Collaborative, 2018. *Mapping Just Transition(s) to a Low-Carbon World*. Research report. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
- Loorbach, D., and Rotmans, J. 2010. The practice of transition management: examples and lessons from four distinct cases. *Futures*, 42, pp.237–246.
- Mullen, C., and Marsden, G., 2016. Mobility justice in low carbon energy transitions. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 18, pp.109–117.
- Räthzel, N. and Uzzel, D., 2011. Trade unions and climate change: The jobs versus environment dilemma. *Global Environmental Change*, 21, pp.1215–1223.



---

# Appendices

---

## Appendix 1 - Blogs

---

'Heatwave in Prague', by Olena Nedožhogina (University of Tartu, Estonia): <https://energy-shifts.eu/heatwave-in-prague/>

'How SSH can contribute to the acceleration of a truly just transition?', by Ami Crowther (University of Manchester, UK): <https://energy-shifts.eu/ssh-just-transition/>

## Appendix 2 – Animation

---

Funny animation of a future vision of an inclusive process of just transition, by Ami Crowther: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dpC8r2mveY>

## Appendix 3 – Videos

---

A video with participants' interviews and comments from the workshop can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFi4H8tt7eo>

See also video interviews with:

Alexandru Mustata, CEE Bankwatch Network (Romania): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFi-4H8tt7eo>

Olena Nedožhogina (University of Tartu, Estonia): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae7DWg1\\_XEA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae7DWg1_XEA)

Ami Crowther (University of Manchester, UK): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCMwTh8JNfM>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 826025.

energy-shifts.eu



ENERGY  
SOCIAL SCIENCES &  
HUMANITIES  
INNOVATION  
FORUM  
TARGETING THE  
SET-PLAN

