

IC - (21128) - SOCIAL ASPECTS OF TRANSITIONS TO CLEAN ENERGY: A CO-CREATION APPROACH

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Background and objectives

One of the main objectives of the EU is to accelerate the energy transition, decarbonising the energy sector, to cut emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. The discussion is how to manage the de-carbonisation process in those regions still dependent on fossil-fuel-based industries, as well as what kind of processes characterize the transition currently ongoing.

The main objective of our research is to analyse the social aspects of the transition to clean energy, focusing at: a) producing a comprehensive knowledge on this transition; b) Develop a better understanding of the differentiated problems faced by European coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition and the coping strategies they developed; c) Co-create a set of policy recommendations reflecting the lessons learned.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

. We explore 13 case studies under: Coal mining regions and Carbon intensive regions, providing models and evidence on key processes of transitions, through multi-scale, multi-region comprehensive research involving a number of disciplines from social and psychological sciences . We will present here the case of As Pontes in the NW of Spain.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

A short report on socio-psychological key factors, dynamics and patterns will be presented in order to contribute to better understand how clean energy transition can be understood to the light of recent developments of the theories of attachment to place, place identity and outward migration.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The de-territorialisation process in these regions has raised critical constraints for management, because the progressive weakening of the tie between a community and its territory. Europe has technology to move from fossil fuels to clean energy, but we need to identify the factors, dynamics and patterns that make that social dynamics remains challenging. On the other hand, planning of clean energy transition, requires to understand the entrenched attitudes in which people see themselves.

Palavras-chave : energy transition; social impacts, decarbonisation policies; co-creation.