Welcome

Interregional dialogue: key elements of transition strategies

Platform for Coal Regions in Transition

#CoalRegionsEU
Shaping regional stakeholder dialogues for a transition of coal regions
Empirical and practical findings

Martin Schön-Chanishvili
Germanwatch
Brussels, 16th of October 2019
Why stakeholder dialogue?

- you need **ownership** of different stakeholders to make the **transition** work
- ownership comes from
  - being part of change at an early stage
  - shaping the outcomes
Your experiences. Some conflicting pairs...

- **efficiency vs. effectiveness**
  a) systemic approach, broader cooperation
  b) focused group of multiplicators

- **process vs. output**
  a) using time to work on relationships
  b) using time to work on projects

- **structure/strategies vs. content/projects**
  a) developing differentiated structures and strategies
  b) focusing on implementation
Structure

1. Study & Findings
2. Practical experiences
3. Discussion
Study
Transformation Experiences of Coal Regions:
Recommendations for Ukraine and other European countries
Study

✓ 4 countries
  - Czech Republic
  - Germany
  - Romania
  - Ukraine

✓ Analysis of
  - national policies
  - concrete regional cases (coal regions)

✓ authors from academia, consulting, expert community
✓ recommendations, check-lists for regional, local and national authorities

Part of project "New energy, new possibilities for Donbas", funded by BMZ
✓ Interested in the executive summary? You can get your copy from me / or download it (bit.ly/1ttransformation-coal-summary)

✓ Interested in the full study? You can download it (bit.ly/1transformation-coal)
Findings
National level
Findings: National level through regional lense

- generally: put local needs and ownership first!
- regions and local authorities should be represented in national transition bodies
- societal dialogue: phase-out date, re-allocation of subsidies
- restructuring funds for regions, re-training programs, adaption pension system
- option: merger of coal companies and setting up of environmental fund
- adaption of secondary and higher education
Findings: focus on local and regional levels

1. Creation of local and regional programs for economic and social development
2. Diversification of economic activities (creation of industrial and technological parks etc.)
3. Shifting to sustainable energy generation (installation of RES capacities, energy efficiency etc.)
4. Creation of new local and regional educational institutions, research and innovative centers
Findings: focus on local and regional levels

5. Improvement of local **infrastructure** (transport, digital etc.)
6. Creation of a **regional planning agency**, which has a mandate for the specific mining area
7. Establishment of regional **participation events** (workshops, conferences) for municipal actors, **strategic planning sessions** engaging all stakeholders
Practical experience
6 Coal Towns in Donbas united to form a Platform for Sustainable Development

cumulated data:

- 265,000 inhabitants
- 40-80% of local budgets from coal company taxes
6 Town mayors / councils

Civil society: 3 local NGO

Business: Chamber of Commerce

academia/education: universities, colleges
Approach

Addressing challenges of Coal towns pro-actively and Paris-compatible:

- economic diversification & innovation;
- energy efficiency & renewables;
- social safety, education & innovation
- environmental safety.
Approach

- intermunicipal cooperation
  - at least 4 from 6 Coal towns take part in project implementation
  - implementation on basis of intermunicipal enterprise

- multi-stakeholder cooperation
  - local NGO, businesses, education facilities as cooperation partners

- business for sustainability
  - Cluster formation with local businesses, direct cooperation with Chamber of Commerce
  - creation of new jobs, production, services on the basis of business initiative
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Project idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Renewable Energy Sources (RES)     | ▪ solar PV on municipal buildings  
▪ energy cooperative             |
| Economy and infrastructure        | ▪ technology hub / start-up development  
▪ industrial park  
▪ electromobility / public and private transport  
▪ museum of technology / industrialization |
| Education                          | ▪ vocational education  
▪ retraining                    |
| Ecology                            | ▪ household waste management / sorting  
▪ recycling facility on closed coal mine  
▪ mine water for reuse. Creation of wastewater treatment system  
▪ installation of mine-based heat pumps  
▪ biogas production on the basis of landfill sites and silt lakes |
First Lessons Learnt

- regional cooperation resource-intensive
- cooperation with other levels (national, inter-regional): possible conflicts, challenging
- quick wins (projects) needed
- coordinating figures & structure needed
- synergy, specific roles:
  - businesses can help with ideas, job creation
  - CSO can help with ideas, public awareness
- helpful: external facilitation by national CSO
Discussion
Your experiences. Some conflicting pairs...

- **efficiency vs. effectiveness**
  a) systemic approach, broader cooperation
  b) focused group of multiplicators

- **process vs. output**
  a) using time to work on relationships
  b) using time to work on projects

- **structure/strategies vs. content/projects**
  a) developing differentiated structures and strategies
  b) focusing on implementation
Thank you!
Findings: focus on local and regional levels

8. Development of a **unique marketing campaign** for the area, relying on the potential for innovation, economic development and cultural heritage/tourism

9. Early **re-cultivation and revitalization** of the lands located in the areas that have been affected by mining activities, management of waste, water etc.

10. Creation of **business-friendly economic environment** (through local legislation etc.), promotion of the region as such
Platform’s support materials

The Platform secretariat is developing guideline documents, reports and toolkits on the following key themes:

- Collection of **Good practice** case studies
- Guidelines on **Transition Strategies** and KPIs
- **Governance** of Transition toolkit
- Sustainable **employment and welfare support** toolkit
- **Site rehabilitation and repurposing** toolkit
- Guidance on **EU funds and programmes** (2020)
- **Technology solutions** for transition (2020)
Responding to need of regions

A lot of information already exists but is fragmented, or not tailored to needs of practitioners in regions.

Platform support materials are fine-tuned to needs, based on:

• Needs assessment at workshops and expert interviews
• Peer-review of draft materials in platform meetings

Knowledge hub for relevant transition-related resources

Contribute to peer-to-peer learning
Good practice cases

Providing key lessons and examples in key dimensions (e.g. strategy, finance) as well as holistically

1. Transforming the lignite-fired Matra power plant into part of a renewable energy cluster
2. Information platform for post-industrial and degraded areas in Silesia (OPI-TPP)
3. Task force on Just Transition for Canadian coal power workers and communities
4. The Lewarde mining history centre
5. Wałbrzych special economic zone „INVEST-PARK“, Poland
6. RESTART-Strategy for economic restructuring of Czech coal regions
Guidelines on transition strategies and KPIs

- Tools for assessing starting point
- Methods for selecting projects
- Role of indicators and examples
- Governance and stakeholder participation at the heart of the policy cycle
Toolkit on governance of the transition

• Key concepts: leadership, power balance, link to policy cycle

• Step-by-step:
  1. Understand the existing governance structure
  2. Addressing resistance
  3. Identify the levers, windows of opportunity
  4. Assign responsibilities for key decisions
  5. Legitimise and make transparent

• Assessment of existing tools
• Examples from coal regions
• Links to further resources
Building right governance model

• RE:START example: governance structure that matches national institutions with regional counterparts

• Combines integrated national strategic planning with expert knowledge and advice from regions (thematic working groups)

Example: Czech RE:START strategy

Source: Governance model of implementation of RE:START Strategy in Czech Republic. Presentation by Karel Tichý to Coal Regions in Transition Platform, Brussels, 8th April 2019
Making the process participatory

- Are you informing or are you involving? Lessons on what has worked best at each stage
- Success factors: e.g. stakeholders committed to the process rather than to a specific outcome
- Facilitating, budgeting, monitoring.
- Common barriers:
  - Resource-intensive
  - Certain groups dominating discussion
  - Hard to sustain momentum
  - Ready-to-implement tools

Cooperation
Some form of shared decision-making e.g. through Partnerships, public representation in governing bodies or negotiations.

Consultation
Survey, townhall meetings, other forms of public enquiries.

Information
One way flow of information, depending on the level of transparency.
Making the process participatory

Example: Upper Nitra

- Sep 2017: Round table about the future of Upper Nitra
- Jan 2018: four local working groups start preparing Action Plan (Economy / Transportation / Tourism / Social infrastructure), results followed up by experts
- Consultation process and updates of action plan included public presentations, hearings and comment rounds

Source: Consultation process of Action plan in region of Upper Nitra (Slovakia). Presentation by Ondrej Seban (PwC Slovakia) at Coal Regions in Transition Platform, Brussels, 16 July 2019
Activating civil society

- What is civil society?
- Principles, strategy, resources, incentives
- Examples of different roles played by NGOs (international, national, grassroots) in coal regions
- Civic and community engagement tools for different scales and purposes, including from non-coal context

Source: www.playthecity.nl
Closing ideas

Role of Platform for Coal Regions in Transition to make relevant knowledge accessible
Potential for strengthening peer-to-peer exchange of experiences and knowledge among coal regions

Questions to spur the discussion:

1. What knowledge needs would render themselves better to one-to-one exchanges between regions vs. multi-lateral exchange among regions?
2. How do you decide whether to involve or to inform?
3. What is the one thing that would help you deliver meaningful participation of civil society in your region’s transition process?