

Welcome to

## The 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the ENTRANCES Newsletter

The ENTRANCES project has successfully reached the third year and its heading to the final stages of the work plan, accomplishing its goals despite the ambitious targets and the COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

*With only 6 months ahead until its conclusion, ENTRANCES has kept aligned to its framework on developing the theoretically based and empirically-grounded understanding of cross-cutting issues related to SSH aspects (socio-economic; socio-technical; socio-ecological; socio-cultural; socio-political and socio-psychological; and gender related) of "Clean Energy Transition" in 13 coal mining and carbon-intensive regions. The effort put in place by the 14 organisations that are part of the project's consortium has proved successful in addressing these challenges taking into account relevant multi-dimensional perspectives, while involving different players at regional, national, European level.*

*At this stage, the process of data collection is finished; the case studies were completed and published, being now available on the project's website; the results of all analysis, including the comparative analysis of the case studies were also completed, and have provided a consistent framework for the development of the multidimensional taxonomy of challenges and coping strategies, which is essential for the development of the regional modelling and scenarios building that will be enriched by the upcoming regional co-creation meetings.*

*In fact, maintaining ENTRANCES commitment to a participative co-creation project development, starting April, 13 regional co-creation meetings will be organised by the case study leaders with the participation of local stakeholders. These meetings will focus on the joint analysis and discussion of the main results of the project so far, with the purpose of identifying strategies and approaches to be adopted in the region, that will be later formalized in practical recommendations for regional development, placing Entrances one step closer to the accomplishment of its main goals.*

*On another note, I would like to call your attention to the fact that the Gender Analysis Report, led by Women Engage for a Common Future – WECF, was published, highlighting the relevance of a gender-sensitive perspective in the analysis of the transition of coal and carbon-intensive regions, uncovering impacts and gaps that hid important gender inequalities.*

*Finally, it is with pleasure that I announce that we expect to share the results of this research journey in the final ENTRANCES conference, that will be held on the 5th and 6th September 2023 in Brussels, where we will present the project findings with the focus on effectively pushing for sustainable energy transition for all.*



**Ricardo García Mira, UDC**  
Project Coordinator



# News

## The next Entrances regional co-creation meetings are coming up



As the ENTRANCES project is approaching its end a new round of regional co-creation meetings, one in each case study region, will be held. This, in April 2023, 13 meetings will be organised by the case study leaders with the participation of local stakeholders. To that end five to eight local stakeholders from each region will be identified following the principle of the quintuple helix (researchers, companies, local authorities, citizens' associations, and environmental activists) and invited to participate in these meetings.

During the meetings the participant stakeholders will be informed of the findings of the ENTRANCES project and the scenarios constructed by the researchers on the possible future trajectories of each region. The participants will help to validate the different scenarios and provide ideas on the strategies and approach to be adopted for regional development.

Additionally, the participants will also help researchers to identify the main obstacles and facilitators of any change in the region.

After the meetings the participants contributions will provide an important input for practical recommendations for regional development in the 13 regions.

**ENTRANCES participation in the H2020 – Horizon Europe Contractors' Workshop on SSH in the Energy Transition**



CINEA (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency) organised a Horizon Cluster Workshop on SSH in the Energy Transition on the past 24th January. The session had the participation of Ricardo García Mira, the ENTRANCES Coordinator and Douglas Thompson. They presented the goals, methods, planning, dissemination and the general state of the ENTRANCES project. Other consortia, in addition to ENTRANCES, are forming part of this cluster of energy projects: CINTRAN, TIPPINIG+, ADJUST, BOLSTER, TANDEM, SSH\_CENTER. The objective is to promote the preparation of joint activities, including projects and products joint.

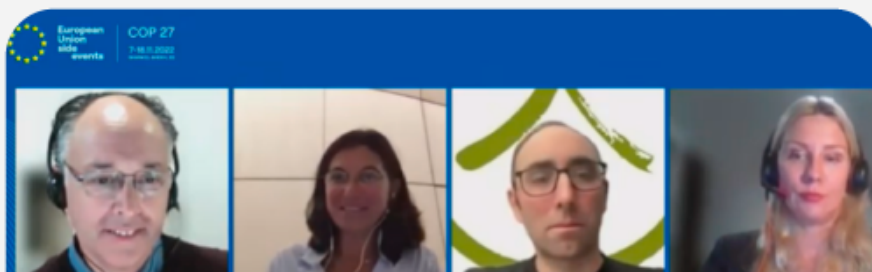
During the event, Ricardo García Mira underlined the fact that the success of the energy transition policies depends on the transformative capacity of coal and carbon regions in adapting to the ongoing shift. In the long term these areas should diminish their dependence on the monoculture industry. However, the job market also needs adaptation due to the lack of alternative positions and professional specialization in other sources of energy to provide proper workforce for a new clean scenario.

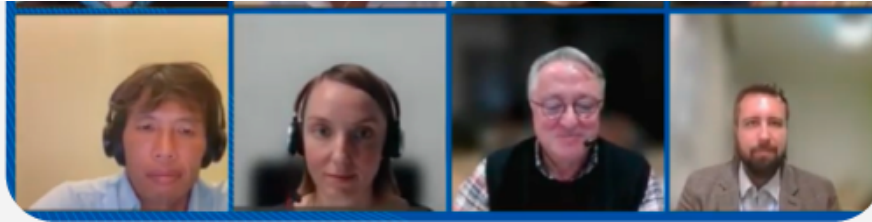
CINEA fosters decarbonisation and sustainable growth through supporting collaborative implementations of various EU programmes. The cluster meeting aimed above all to enhance cooperation between projects to share previous learnings from policy makers.

The gathering also contributed to the exchange of information on clean energy research data while considering synergies with the other EU projects of the cluster. The workshop succeeded in communicating results, overlaps and upcoming events that can support the transition to climate neutrality. The attendants' knowledge sharing led to a cutting-edge state at the end of the reunion that creates space for future debates from a new point.



## ENTRANCES at the Climate Change Summit - COP27





In the context of the COP27, the EU organised over 120 Side Events in person and virtually aligned with its goals. On 14th November 2022 the Horizon 2020 project ENTRANCES, along with its sister projects TIPPING+, CINTRAN and TRACER held the "Coal and Carbon Intensive Region in Transition(s) in Europe and Beyond" (CCIR) Side Event.

The ENTRANCES coordinator, Ricardo García Maria (University of A Coruña) participated of this meeting with Giovanni Caiati (Knowledge & Innovation) and Marcela Norena (Women Engage for a Common Future). The online side-event was moderated by the professor and researcher Diana Magalagiu (Oxford University), Neoma Business School and the Global Climate Forum. The main goal of the event was to develop a debate between different social actors in promoting a just and safe transition to decarbonise CCIRs while also stimulating local sustainable development. There were extensive discussions on the processes to push shifts in Europe and other areas. In the meantime, barriers but also opportunities when changing energy patterns in the face of different policies, geopolitical influence and environmental issues were considered.

Balbina Gluza-Czyczerska, a policy assistant at the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission (DG REGIO) and the coordinator of the Just Transition Platform, highlighted the EC's commitment to support a Just Transition for CCIRs. ENTRANCES coordinator, Ricardo García Maria, shared the key messages of the project while stating that the analysis of challenges and coping strategies requires a multidimensional approach. He focused on energy transition broader impacts in CCIRs pointing out cross-cutting issues associated with the social aspects of the changes being implemented, such as the gender role in decision-making and the underrepresentation women have in this sense. According to Ricardo García Maria the transition to clean energy must be conducted in a co-creation context to facilitate empowering citizens equally and supporting social innovation in CCIRs. He added that the increasing vulnerability of the territories is not a direct consequence of the energy transition itself but is a long-lasting process with roots in globalisation and the states loss of power. The coordinator also explained the research has presented communities' high territorial attachment and resilience capacity. Above all, there is a critical need to identify how the energy transition might trigger or foster effective adjustments in territories.

The event ended with an open session for audience participation, in which they could interact with the speakers by making questions regarding energy transition issues in varied contexts. The last takeaways included the importance of public awareness, stakeholders' engagement and integrated cooperation to succeded in accomplishing energetic shifts.

**The Gender Analysis Report was released on ENTRANCES Website**



To develop just recommendations for pushing European coal mining and carbon-intensive regions towards a safe energy transition, it is necessary to consider multi-dimensional perspectives. The path to clean energy should not be considered only a technological shift but a holistic change. For that reason, social aspects are among the priorities in the ENTRANCES scopes of research, and gender is an essential variable that integrates the Social Sciences and Humanities analysis adopted, providing crucial information on the societal implications of switching to clean energy.

In fact, the analysis of the gender variable and potential inequalities has provided a broader view of the social struggles in developing resilience in coal and carbon-intensive regions going through the Clean Energy Transition process. To that end, ENTRANCES has developed a specific Gender Analysis Report, which provides an overview of gender differences for each of the five ENTRANCES components and analyses challenges faced and coping strategies developed with a gender lens to identify potential differential risks, opportunities, and impacts. The report also covers an overview of relevant definitions and concepts and reviews key approaches of gender in energy transition research. Finally, the document points out final remarks and policy recommendations for substantial and coherent integration of gender in shaping the expected energy transition.

The gender analysis has found that common challenges in the studied regions might affect women and men differently and determine different opportunities or risks for them. However, the planned strategies to overcome the challenges rarely include gender as an aspect to be considered and vary widely in gender responsiveness. This is the case, for example, for emerging challenges related to changes in the composition of the population due to outmigration and population ageing. There is growing evidence of the links between gender and migration and the gendered differentiated risks that population ageing imposes, but policies and strategies frequently neglect these. Other challenges, such as the economic diversification of the regions or the transition governance processes, also demand analysis with a gender and intersectional lens. This is key to avoiding reinforcing existing inequalities and enhancing the active participation of all actors in achieving a just transition. In total, the analysis identified 12 gender-relevant challenges.

Based on the study's findings, the task team identified four key messages, reflecting on different levels of exclusion of gender in the territorialisation processes of coal and carbon-intensive regions, that can serve as a basis for the elaboration of more inclusive decarbonisation policies and strategies. Those messages are related to the way in which gender neutrality in the societal interpretation of the transition, the exclusion of women from decision-making, the drain of women from the territory and biased territorial symbols define an adverse context for women to engage in the processes of territorial change.



## Informative videos on ENTRANCES website

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In order to share an overview of challenges and coping strategies faced by the 13 coal and carbon intensive regions studied in Entrances two videos were developed and made available on the project's website (Videos – ENTRANCES – Horizon 2020 (H2020) Project ([entrancesproject.eu](https://entrancesproject.eu))).

The 2 videos present the Carbon and Coal Regions, respectively, and were developed as shortcuts to understand the project goals and the different challenges each of these regions face while transitioning to clean energy.



The ENTRANCES | Case Studies - Carbon-intensive regions **video** presents 6 European carbon intensive regions: Brindisi (Italy), Kraków Metropolitan (Poland), As Pontes, A Coruña (Spain), Upper Styria (Austria), Stavanger (Norway) and South Wales (UK).



The ENTRANCES | Case Studies - Coal mining regions **video** covers 7 European coal mining regions: Silesia (Poland), Lusatia (Germany), Rhineland (Germany), Central Germany (Germany), Jiu Valley (Romania), Sulcis Ilesiente (Italy) and Upper Nitra (Slovakia).



## Sister Projects

Together with CINTRAN, TRACER and Tipping Plus, ENTRANCES is a member of a cluster of EU-funded Research and Innovation projects on regional Energy Transitions research. With similar aims and objectives, all four projects will contribute to the achievement of “European-level Clean Energy Transition” individually and as a whole with optimised impacts.

### CINTRAN

**CINTRAN** ([www.coaltransitions.org](http://www.coaltransitions.org)) or “Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition – Unravelling the Challenges of Structural Change” will study the structural changes of decarbonisation in order to find ways to minimise the risks. The researchers will combine quantitative model-based research with qualitative in-depth analysis. The qualitative research will focus on four highly fossil-fuel dependent regions: Western Macedonia (Greece), Silesia (Poland), Ida-Virumaa (Estonia) and the Rhenish mining area (Germany).



#### In a nutshell, CINTRAN will:

- Focus on four highly fossil-fuel dependent regions
- Study structural changes of decarbonization
- Combine quantitative model-based research with qualitative in-depth analysis

## TRACER

**TRACER** ([tracer-h2020.eu](http://tracer-h2020.eu)) supports 9 coal-intensive regions in Europe to design (or re-design) their R&I strategies in order to facilitate their transition towards a sustainable energy system. Six of these nine European target regions are from EU Members States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania), and three from countries outside the EU (Serbia, Ukraine, UK), yet all of them facing the same challenges.



### In a nutshell, TRACER will:

- Support nine coal-intensive regions
- Identify best practices and relevant social challenges in the target regions
- Develop smart strategies towards a sustainable energy system

## Tripping Plus

**Tipping Plus** ([tipping-plus.eu](http://tipping-plus.eu)) intends to advance the scientific understanding of the critical concept of Social-Ecological Tipping Points (SETPs) to support successful clean-energy transitions in Coal and Carbon Intensive Regions (CCIRs). It will provide an empirical in-depth social science understanding of fundamental changes in socio-demographic, geographical, psychological, cultural, political, and economic patterns. The project will comparatively analyse 20 European and non-European regions.



### In a nutshell, Tripping Plus will:

- Address 20 case studies (EU MS and non-EU)
- Analyse regional social-ecological systems
- Recommend on the most effective tipping interventions toward low-carbon, clean energy transitions



If you'd like to receive more project related information, please send an email to:

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