



Press Release

Horizon 2020 project

ENTRANCES - ENergy TRANSitions from Coal and carbon: Effects on Societies

THE CHALLENGE OF THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ENERGY TRANSITIONS

ENTRANCES Project Concludes Final Conference in Brussels

The EU-funded ENTRANCES project has successfully concluded its Final Conference, held on September 5th and 6th, 2023, in the vibrant city of Brussels. Over one and a half days, the conference played a pivotal role in unveiling the paramount discoveries of the ENTRANCES project, with a profound focus on addressing the formidable challenges tied to the energy transition. These challenges hold particular significance in thirteen regions spanning nine EU and associated countries, deeply rooted in coal mining and carbon-intensive practices.

This landmark event witnessed the active participation of distinguished policy makers and local experts, engaging in thought-provoking discussions and delving into policy and practical recommendations at both the EU and regional levels. The central theme of the conference was to foster dialogue and collaboration, aiming to contribute to a more sustainable and informed approach to the ongoing energy transition in these critical regions.

The conference opened with a compelling address by Ricardo Garcia Mira, the ENTRANCES project coordinator. He reiterated the project's core objectives, which revolve around exploring the social aspects of the energy transition in thirteen coal and carbon-intensive regions in Europe. Ricardo shed light on the two theoretical processes central to the project, emphasizing the critical importance of deterritorialization, which bridges the gap between territory and communities, ultimately guiding policy-making to establish a vital connection between them.

Manuela Jane Conconi, Project Officer of CINEA, extended warm congratulations to the project coordinator and the entire consortium. She praised their dedication to completing 13 case studies amidst the challenges posed by the global pandemic. Manuela emphasized that while the ENTRANCES project might conclude, its research work will continue to shape the future under the guidance of other researchers.

Sander Happaerts, Policy Coordinator of the Just Transition Fund - DG Region, underscored the project's immense significance for policymakers across Europe. He stressed the importance of the case studies



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conducted in various regions, highlighting the need for collaboration between local universities, research centers, educational institutions, and policymakers to drive the transition effectively.

Fabio Domanico, Deputy Head of Unit - Fair Green and Digital Transition, commended the ENTRANCES project for providing invaluable evidence on the ground. This evidence addresses not only economic and employment considerations but also social policy aspects in the study regions. He emphasized that such evidence is instrumental in shaping policies that ensure the right strategies are in place.

Mags Bird from the WWF European Policy Office extended her heartfelt congratulations on the successful completion of the project. She praised the consortium for sharing substantial, thought-provoking, and meaningful results with the audience.

Ricardo García Mira, the coordinator of the ENTRANCES project, concluded the conference by summarizing its key takeaways. He emphasized the imperative need for collaboration across multiple disciplines, involving policymakers, policy communication experts, and citizen engagement to achieve a real transformation of territory and enhance the quality of life in the region.

The ENTRANCES project has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the landscape of clean energy transition in coal-intensive regions, and the knowledge and collaborations forged during the Final Conference will continue to guide the path toward a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

For more information, please visit the [ENTRANCES project website](#) or contact:

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