ENTRANCES

ENergy TRANsitions from Coal and carbon: Effects on Societies

POLICY BRIEF

July 2023

DE-/RE-TERRITORIALISATION PROCESSES IN COAL AND CARBON TERRITORIES

Authors:

Ricardo García Mira   Nachatter Singh   Giovanni Caiati

UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA

K&I Knowledge and Innovation Srls

ENTRANCES PROJECT

ENTRANCES (ENergy TRANsitions from Coal and Carbon: Effects on Societies) is a three-year project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. The project addresses the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) aspects of the Clean Energy Transition (CET) through the development of a theoretically based and empirically grounded understanding of cross-cutting issues related to social aspects of the transition in European coal and carbon-intensive regions and the formulation of a set of recommendations able to tackle these issues. To that end, 13 coal and carbon-intensive transition regions in Europe were studied using the same Multidimensional Analytical Framework (MAF), resulting in 13 case studies and an equal set of recommendations that reveal the complexity of the transition process and the impact in the daily life of local communities in its various dimensions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy brief was developed under the ENTRANCES Project and focused on the results of the qualitative analysis of the territorial aspects of decarbonisation and energy transition in the thirteen CCIRs in nine EU countries. In ENTRANCES, the challenges faced by the CCTs and the coping strategies adopted by them to mitigate the impacts of decarbonisation policies are interpreted in light of the de- and re-territorialisation processes. These two processes are studied as central phenomena as they are narrowly connected with the clean energy transition in its double role of a factor of de-territorialisation (e.g., closing of mines and power plants) and of re-territorialisation (e.g., installation of new renewable energy projects).

To study the changing relationship between territory and the people in CCTs, we focused on three territorialisation attributes, including: territorialisation elements, which are drawn from the description of the four elements of each case study region, i.e., vision, governance, boundaries & transactions, and symbols; territorialisation components, i.e., transition and identity, which are drawn from a combination of the four territorialisation elements. The transition component includes vision and governance, and the identity component includes symbols, and boundaries & transactions; and the territorialisation mode, which is drawn from the combination of the two territorialisation components.

On the basis of these territorialisation attributes, we identified four different types of de/re-territorialisation "modes" or "postures". When a territory is both governing the transition and preserving its identity, it is in a posture of re-territorialisation. This means that the territory is implementing a guided change that is also oriented toward preserving and/or renewing its identity. In the opposite case, when there is a lack of control over both the transition and the identity components, the territory is in a mode of de-territorialisation, meaning that there is a loss of identity. The two remaining modes pertain to cases where the situation is more controversial. When a territory is in an unfulfilled re-territorialisation, the territory is protecting or renewing its identity, i.e., defending its borders and actively negotiating transactions, as well as preserving or renewing its symbols. However, in these cases, there is no coordination of actions and vision for the transition of the territory towards new patterns of organisation. Finally, when a territory is in a managed de-territorialisation mode, there is active governance and a vision of the transition, but the transition process somehow clashes with territorial identity.

Overall, the results show that the CCTs of A Coruña-As Pontes in Spain, Central Germany and Lusatia in Germany, Jiu Valley in Romania and Stavanger in Norway are experiencing the process of de-territorialisation; the CCTs of Brindisi and Sulcis in Italy are experiencing the process of unfulfilled re-territorialisation; the CCTs of Silesia in Poland, Rhineland in Germany, Upper Nitra in Slovakia and Upper Styria in Austria are experiencing the process of managed de-territorialisation; and finally, the CCIRs of Krakow Metropolitan Area in Poland and Port Talbot, in South Wales in the UK are experiencing the process of re-territorialisation.

INTRODUCTION: DE-/RE-TERRITORIALISATION PROCESSES IN CCTs

One of the main objectives of the ENTRANCES project is to understand the relationship between the CCTs and their inhabitants all over Europe and how the ongoing decarbonisation and energy transition processes are affecting this relationship. The framework of de- and re-territorialisation is used to study this relationship.

The concept of de-territorialisation refers to a process in which traditional boundaries, constraints, and distinctions related to geography, culture, and identity become less relevant or meaningful. In essence, it involves the breaking down of the traditional notion of territoriality and the blurring of boundaries in various aspects of human life. While de-territorialisation involves the breaking down of traditional boundaries and constraints, re-territorialisation refers to the process of establishing new or reinforced territorial boundaries, identities, and control mechanisms. It often occurs in response to the challenges and disruptions brought about by de-territorialisation.

De-territorialisation theory tells us that all territories are exposed to continuous processes of de- and re-territorialisation, meaning weakening of the current inward and outward territorial relationships and establishment of new territorial relationships. While in periods of relative stability, such dynamics result in simple adjustments to the territorial assemblage, in periods of rapid and deep change (decarbonisation and energy transition), such dynamics result in more profound modifications. This dynamic can also be explained in terms of stress in the territorial organisation, which affects all territories and can produce different effects in terms of de- or re-territorialisation.

Key questions

Key Question1. How are the decarbonisation and energy transition processes changing the relationship between territory and people in the CCTs?

Key Question2. What are the main factors affecting the de-/re-territorialisation processes in the CCTs?

Key Question3. What are the main attributes of territorialisation in the CCTs?

Key Question4. What is the mode of territorialisation in different CCTs?
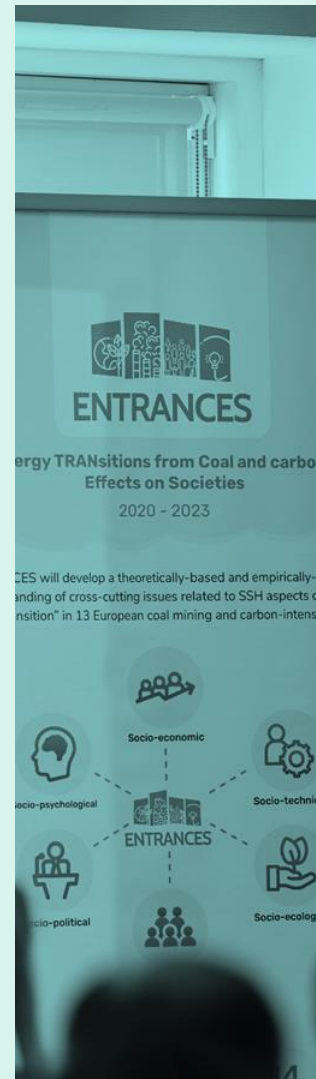
THEORETICAL INTEGRATION OF DE-/RE-TERRITORIALISATION PROCESSES

To study the process of de-/re-territorialisation in CCTs, we developed a conceptual itinerary made of three steps:

CCTs and De-/Re-territorialisation Processes

In ENTRANCES, the CCTs are defined as the territories in which coal and carbon features are represented as a distinctive part of the local identity and are a key asset for the subsistence of the local community. Due to the ongoing decarbonisation process, the pattern of territorial organisation of CCTs is in crisis, which can be better understood in terms of de- and re-territorialisation processes.

An Example of a CCT of As Pontes in A Coruña, Spain.
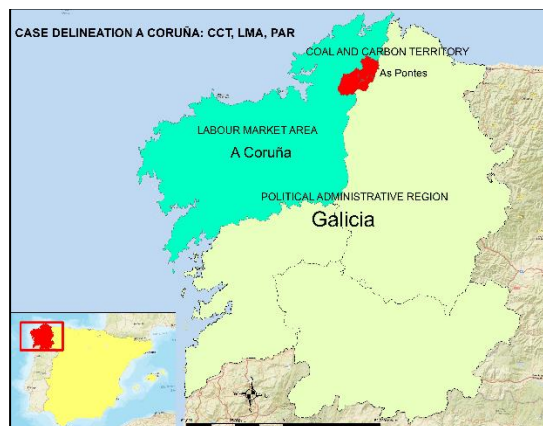
In previous research, the process of de-territorialisation has been defined in many different ways. For example, in anthropology, it has been defined as the weakening of ties between culture and place, while Deleuze and Guattari (1988) define de-territorialisation as 'the movement by which one leaves a territory'. It is a concept often associated with the fields of geography, sociology, and cultural studies and refers to a process in which traditional boundaries, constraints and distinctions related to geography, culture, and identity become less relevant or meaningful. In essence, it involves the breaking down of the traditional notion of territoriality and the blurring of boundaries in various aspects of human life.

In summary, de-territorialisation represents a complex and multifaceted process in which traditional notions of geography, culture, and identity are being transformed and redefined in response to the forces of globalization, technology, and social change. It has both positive and negative implications, with benefits such as increased cultural diversity and challenges such as the erosion of traditional identities and the potential for cultural homogenization. In ENTRANCES, de-territorialisation is defined as the process of progressive weakening of the tie between a community and its territory. The project identifies in each case study: a set of factors of de-territorialisation, related to the different components or dimensions of the analytic framework (socio-economic, socio-technical, socio-ecological, socio-cultural, socio-psychological and socio-political); and the effects of de-territorialisation and their factors in terms of societal change (related to the different dimensions).

THEORETICAL INTEGRATION OF DE-/RE-TERRITORIALISATION PROCESSES

Conversely, re-territorialisation is a concept that can be understood in contrast to de-territorialisation. While de-territorialisation involves the breaking down of traditional boundaries and constraints, re-territorialisation refers to the process of establishing new or reinforced territorial boundaries, identities, and control mechanisms. It often occurs in response to the challenges and disruptions brought about by de-territorialisation.

Overall, re-territorialisation is a context-dependent process that can take various forms in different social, political, and cultural contexts. It often arises as a response to the challenges and disruptions brought about by globalization and de-territorialisation, as individuals and communities seek to reassert their control over territory, identity, and resources. In ENTRANCES, re-territorialisation is defined as the process of establishing new social linkages between a human community and its territory. This normally happens when a relative de-territorialisation process is ongoing. The project identifies in each case study: a set of re-territorialisation strategies related to the different components or dimensions of the analytic framework; and a set of obstacles and enablers met by territorial actors in developing such strategies.
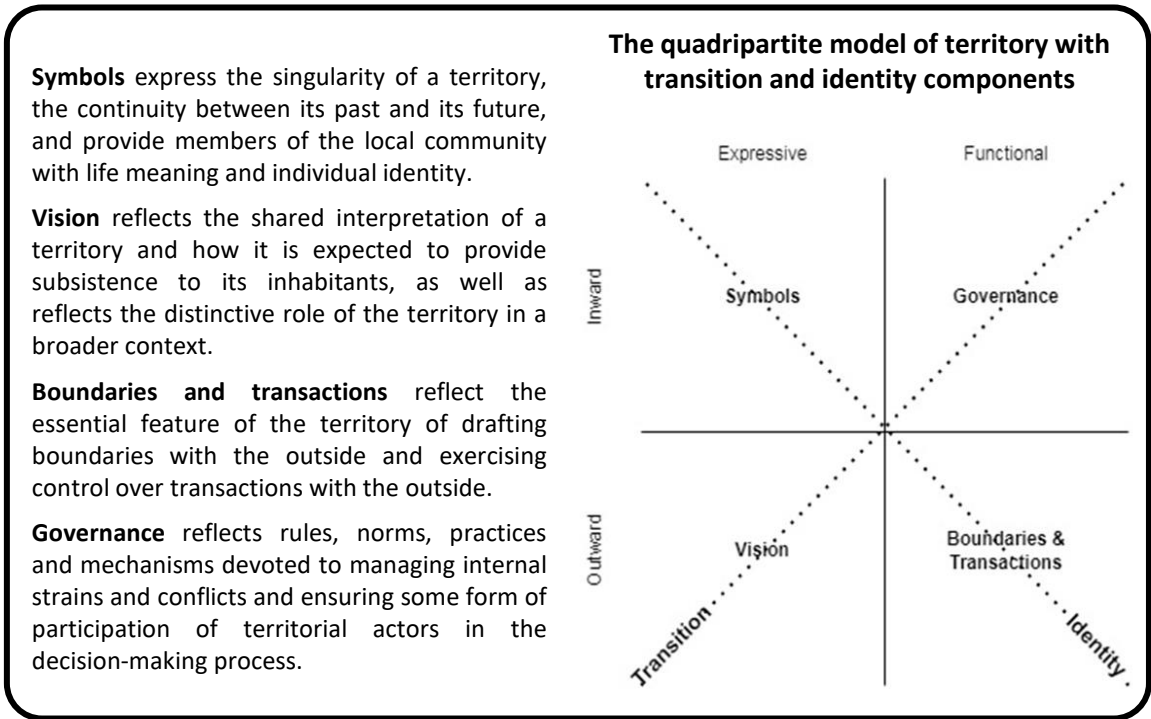
Here, it should be stressed that while de-territorialisation dynamics are structural in nature (as outcomes of overall and global phenomena), re-territorialisation should be considered an emergent agential activity, thus focused on social actors. The study of the territorialisation process of CCTs is understood by looking at two components: the ongoing transition process, i.e., how the local community is pursuing a purposeful transformation; and the ongoing identity process, i.e., how the territory is being transformed in terms of identity by the combined actions of several ongoing changes that are exercising pressure on the territory.

A quadripartite model of territory

In ENTRANCES, we understand "territory" as a social assemblage aimed at exercising control over the inhabited space. In this respect, a territory operates across different dimensions and levels. Firstly, a territory has both expressive (symbols and vision) and functional (governance and boundaries & transactions) dimensions. The expressive dimension highlights the cognitive and discursive elements of territorial assemblage, while the functional dimension provides the material and relational elements. Secondly, the territorial assemblage works in two directions or levels: inward, meaning that it should ensure that the constitutive relationships of the territorial assemblage are kept together; and outward, meaning that the territory should manage and negotiate the relationship with the broader outside. Combining these levels and dimensions, a territory can be analysed through a quadripartite model composed of the four resulting elements.

THEORETICAL INTEGRATION OF DE-/RE-TERRITORIALISATION PROCESSES

Symbols express the singularity of a territory, the continuity between its past and its future, and provide members of the local community with life meaning and individual identity.

Vision reflects the shared interpretation of a territory and how it is expected to provide subsistence to its inhabitants, as well as reflects the distinctive role of the territory in a broader context.

Boundaries and transactions reflect the essential feature of the territory of drafting boundaries with the outside and exercising control over transactions with the outside.

Governance reflects rules, norms, practices and mechanisms devoted to managing internal strains and conflicts and ensuring some form of participation of territorial actors in the decision-making process.

The quadripartite model of territory with transition and identity components

The analysis of transition and identity processes in coal and carbon territories

In ENTRANCES, we used the quadripartite model of territory to analyse the transitional and identity processes ongoing in the coal and carbon territories. The model allows us to describe the **transition** process by looking at the emerging vision of the territory and which forms of governance are being implemented to manage and orient the transition. At the same time, **identity** processes might be described by looking at how territorial symbols and territorial boundaries are changing. The two components represent different forces that are in action in the territorialisation process. It is worth highlighting that each of the two components has both an expressive and a functional element and operates both "inward" and "outward".

TERRITORIALISATION ATTRIBUTES IN THE 13 CCTS IN THE ENTRANCES PROJECT

1 Territorialisation elements

The territorialisation elements are drawn from the description of the four elements of each case, i.e., **vision, governance, boundaries & transactions and symbols**.

Note: ACO – A Coruña, Spain; BRI – Brindisi, Italy; CEG –Central Germany, Germany; JVL – Jiu Valley, Romania; KMA- Krakow Metropolitan Area, Poland; LUS – Lusatia, Germany; PT – Port Talbot, South Wales UK; RHI – Rhineland,Germany; STA – Stavanger, Norway; SUL – Sulcis,Italy; SIL –Silesia, Poland; UNI – Upper Nitra, Slovakia; UST – Upper Styria, Austria.

Based on a set of qualitative criteria for each regional case study, the four key elements of the model have been assessed with a "positive" when the analysis indicated an increased or maintained control over the territory, and a "negative" when the analysis indicated a decreased control over the territory, and an "intermediate" when the analysis indicated a more ambiguous situation.

|	Positive	Intermediate	Negative
Vision	Shared interpretation of the territory in its transition pathway	Clear vision of the transition pathway, but scepticism and intermediate conflicts about it in the territory	There is no clear transition vision. Intermediate presence of multiple contrasting visions
Governance	Territorial transition is an explicit process that is governed by specific plans, mechanisms and resources. The transition is also aligned with or improves the governance of the territory.	Transition is an explicit process that is governed by specific mechanisms and resources. However, the transition is not aligned with territorial governance mechanisms.	Lack of an explicit territorial transition plan or spaces. Territorial governance is fragmented, de-powered or dependent on external actors.
Boundaries and Transactions	New boundaries or transactions are promoted directly by local actors and intermediate or the territory retains significant negotiating power with new transactions.	Territorial boundaries and distinctive features are defended, but the territory is only in a defensive position, not proactively promoting intermediate positive changes.	Territorial boundaries are defined by external actors, while the territory is not able to defend or negotiate changes. The transaction resulted in a loss of territorial relations.
Symbols	New symbols emerge that can counter past territorial stigma (if any), at least for the local community. Presence of positive territorial symbols in the absence of stigma.	New symbols are emerging, but they are not yet able to counter territorial stigma.	Presence of territorial stigma or erosion of past territorial symbols. New symbols are not emerging in the territory.

TERRITORIALISATION ATTRIBUTES IN THE 13 CCTS IN THE ENTRANCES PROJECT
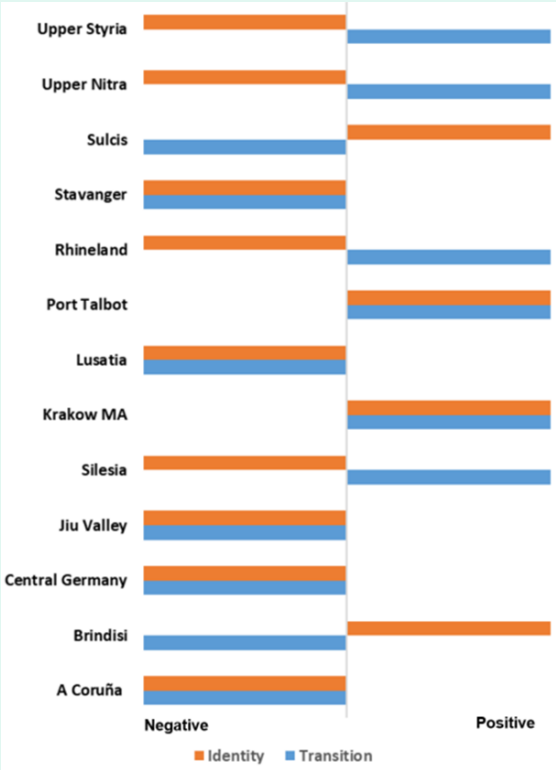
2　　**Territorialisation components**

Territorialisation components include **transition** and **identity**, which are drawn from a combination of the four elements of territorialisation. Following the model, the transition components are obtained by combining two elements of territorialisation, i.e., vision and governance. Similarly, the identity component is obtained by combining two remaining elements, i.e., borders & transactions and symbols.

Assessment of Territorialisation elements and components in the 13 ENTRANCES CCTs

Assessment of the territorialisation elements
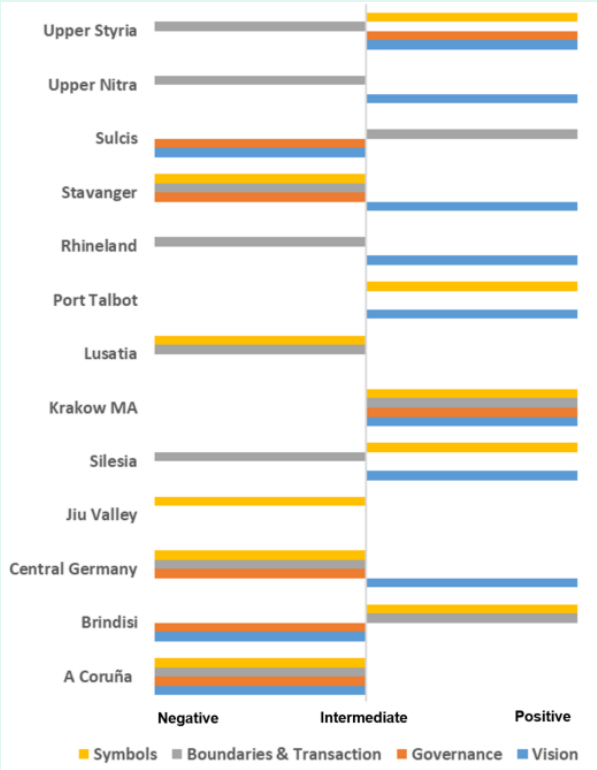
Assessment of the territorialisation components

TERRITORIALISATION ATTRIBUTES IN THE 13 CCTS IN THE ENTRANCES PROJECT

3   Territorialisation mode

The territorialisation mode is drawn from the combination of the two components, i.e., **transition** and **identity**. It allows us to single out four different types of de- or re-territorialisation "modes". When a territory is both governing the transition and preserving its identity, it is in a **re-territorialisation** mode. This means that the territory is implementing a guided change that is also oriented toward preserving and/or renewing its identity. On the contrary, when there is a lack of control over both the transition and the identity components, the territory is in a **de-territorialisation** mode, meaning that there is a loss of identity. The two remaining modes pertain to cases where the situation is more controversial. When a territory is in an **unfulfilled re-territorialisation**, the territory is protecting or renewing its identity, i.e., defending its borders and actively negotiating transactions, as well as preserving or renewing its symbols. However, in these cases, there is no coordination of actions and vision for the transition of the territory towards new patterns of organisation. In this mode, which is highly ambivalent, a reactive or even creative process is started, but it is not supported adequately, thus the re-territorialisation process is still unfulfilled. Finally, when a territory is in a **managed de-territorialisation** mode, there is active governance and a vision of the transition, but the transition process somehow clashes with territorial identity. As the transition is focused and shaped around targets that are not aligned with territorial identity, this leads to a depletion of territorial relationships and a consequent weakening of the territorial assemblage.

Territorialisation modes across the ENTRANCES CCTs

		Identity Component	
		Negative	**Positive**
Transition component	**Negative**	De-territorialisation (A Coruña-As Pontes, Central Germany, Jiu Valley, Lusatia, Stavanger)	Unfulfilled re-territorialisation (Brindisi, Sulcis)
	Positive	Managed de-territorialisation (Silesia, Rhineland, Upper Nitra, Upper Styria)	Re-territorialisation (Krakow MA, Port Talbot)

CONCLUSION: DE-TERRITORILISATION IN 13 ENTRANCES CCTS

In the life of a territory, de- and re-territorialisation processes happen simultaneously. Territories keep changing with the changing society and modes of production. New forms of relationships, visions and symbols emerge, and the old configurations (socio-economic, political and cultural) and symbols disappear.

The ongoing processes of decarbonisation and energy transition are disrupting the regular functioning of the CCTs and changing their identity and character. The symbols of the industrial past and the visions of economic prosperity based on fossil fuels are veining, and the territories are looking for new symbols and visions to build a new territorial identity. The route that these territories will follow in the coming decades will depend on the decisions taken today.

Among the 13 CCTs studied in the ENTRANCES project, the CCTs of A Coruña-As Pontes in Spain, Central Germany and Lusatia in Germany, Jiu Valley in Romania and Stavanger in Norway are moving on the path of de-territorialisation, which means the relationship between territory and people is deteriorating, while the CCTs of Krakow Metropolitan Area and Port Talbot are experiencing re-territorialisation, which means that the new relations between territory and people are growing and new symbols of territorial identity are emerging.

The situation in Brindisi and Sulcis CCTs is quite peculiar, where the territories are protecting or renewing their identity as well as preserving or renewing their symbols. However, there is no coordination of actions or vision for the transition of the territory towards new patterns of organisation. Similarly, the CCTs of Silesia in Poland, Rhineland in Germany, Upper Nitra in Slovakia and Upper Styria in Austria are moving towards managed de-territorialisation, which means there is active governance and a vision of the transition, but the transition process somehow clashes with territorial identity.

In the future, it will be interesting to see how the different CCTs, which are at different stages of decarbonisation and energy transition and have different transformative capacities, evolve in the coming decades.

ENTRANCES

ENergy TRANsitions from Coal and carbon: Effects on Societies

Project Partners

UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA

Coordinator
udc.gal
Spain

ENEA
Italian National Agency for New Technologies,
Energy and Sustainable Economic Development

enea.it
Italy

K&I Knowledge and Innovation Srls

knowledge-innovation.org
Italy

IWH

iwh-halle.de
Germany

Leibniz Institute of
Ecological Urban and
Regional Development

ioer.de
Germany

ZSI

zsi.at
Austria

NTNU

ntnu.edu
Norway

eurada

eurada.org
Belgium

Mineral and Energy
Economy Research
Institute
Polish Academy of Sciences

min-pan.krakow.pl
Poland

uaic.ro
Romania

spi
Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação

spi.pt
Portugal

wecf

wecf-france.org
France

CENTRE OF SOCIAL
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
SCIENCES **SAS**

prog.sav.sk
Slovakia

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL
CAERDY�

cardiff.ac.uk
United Kingdom

Contact

✉ info@entrancesproject.eu

Follow Us

🅕 🅣 in ▶ @H2020Entrances

Website

🌐 www.entrancesproject.eu