



Just Transition in Poland

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Just transition in Poland – currently understood as „transition of the coal mining regions”

Transition started in 1990s – after fall of the communism

Ca. 400 000 miners in 1990 vs ca 70 000 today

Social and economic challenge of reducing number of miners – especially during Times of high unemployment (1990s and early 2000s)

Coal mining regions on Poland



6 coal mining regions in Poland (6 out of 16 voivodships)

3 regions are still mining lignite – one is phasing it out now

Coal mines are state-owned

No new coal mines planned in Poland

Social Agreement on coal mining phase-out signed between government and trade unions

Just Transition Mechanism



Created as part of European Green Deal

Estimated EUR 55 bn mobilized over 7 years
(2021 to 2027)

Consists of:

Just Transition Fund (est. Mobilization of
EUR 25 bn – due to cofinancing
requirements)


Just Transition Scheme – guarantees
from EU Budget (est. EUR 10-15 bn)

Additional loans from European
Investment Bank



Just Transition in Poland



 Started as early as in 2000s – although not called Just Transition yet

 Initially financed from EU structural funds (e.g. ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Funds)

 Since 2021 under EU Just Transition Mechanism

 Poland receives EUR 3.5 bn over 7 year – for 5 of its 6 coal regions

 Additional financing is possible

Finance of local and subnational governments in Poland



3 levels of local government in Poland:

Gmina (commune)
Powiat (district/country)
Voivodship (region)



Local governments receive a share of income tax on their territories (both personal and corporate income tax), as well as from some local taxes



Allowed to issue limited amount of bonds (there is a constitutional limit of 60% of GDP on overall public debt in Poland)



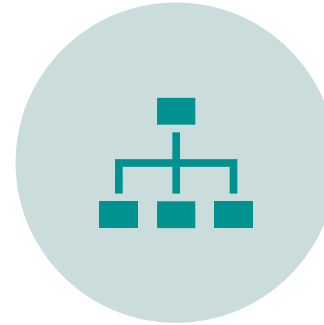
Other sources of finance consist of:

Loans – both commercial and from institutions like European Investment Banks
Finance from European Funds – like ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund
Other sources (e.g. Just Transition Fund)

Conditions on access to Just Transition Fund



Requires a Just Transition Teritorial Plans



Requires a certain level of cofinancing (depending on projects)



Requires an ambitious pathway to phase out coal mining (only 5 of 6 regions met this condition)



Poland also prepared draft country-wide JTTP

Finance for project under Just Transition can consist of:

- Money from JTF (50%-85% of the project value, depending on the project)
- European Funds
- Local governments co-financing
- Loans (depending on the project, both from MDBs and commercial banks)

Showcase – Just Transition of Silesian (Śląskie) Voivodship



Full EU Fund support – ca EUR 5.1 bn:

European Regional Development Fund – ca EUR 2.1 bn
European Social Fund+ - ca EUR 0.8 bn
Just Transition Fund – ca EUR 2.2 bn



Includes money for technical assistance



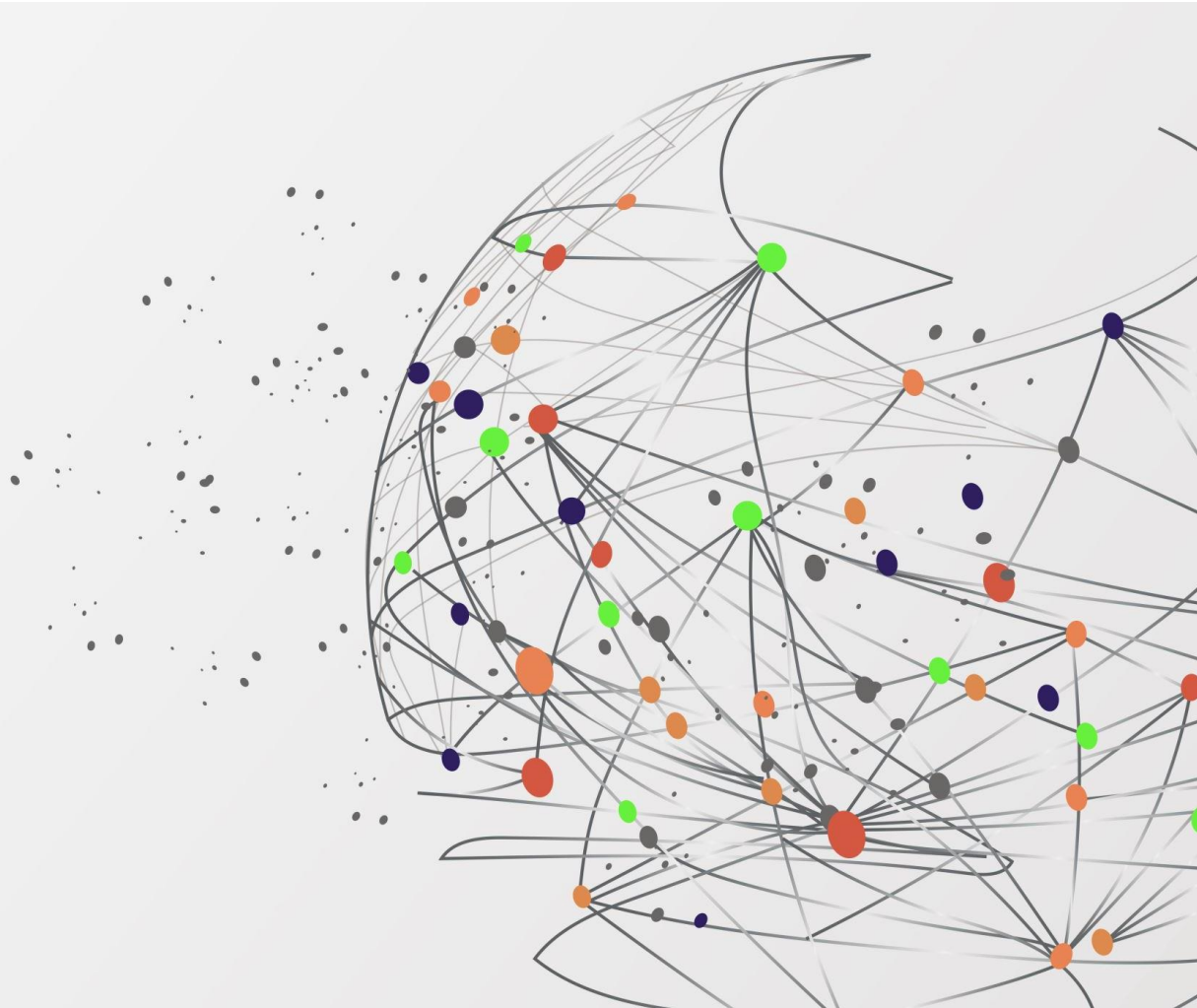
Based on 3 pillars:

Economy
Environment
Society



Promotes job creation, entrepreneurship and green

Forum of Mayors on Just Transition



Informal platform for exchange of information and experiences – especially on preparing JTTPs

Over 70 mayors from 11 countries (not just EU countries)

Four WWF offices (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece and Poland) were involved in creating the initial stages of the Forum and helped to organize first four meetings of the Forum

Thank you!



Po co jesteśmy

Aby zapobiec degradacji środowiska naturalnego na Ziemi
i zbudować przyszłość, w której ludzie żyją w harmonii z przyrodą.

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