

EIT Climate-KIC skills and tools to support transformation of coal regions

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Just Transformation of Coal and Industrial Regions

Many regions and people across Europe still rely on economies that are incompatible with tackling climate change. These can be coal producing regions, or regions with polluting heavy industries.

Our aspiration is to support acceleration of the processes of decarbonisation and rapid structural change in those places, with inclusivity, climate, social, economic and democratic justice in the centre.

Portfolio of Just Transformation programmes

Ecosystem projects

Reboost – Boost for lignite coal regions in Central Europe (Germany, Poland and Romania)



Community and movement building

Post Coal Future Lab
Community Lab experiments

Deep Demonstrations of Scale

Gipuzkoa region in Basque Country, Spain
Rybnik City in Silesia, Poland

Places

-  Ecosystem & innovation projects
-  Community & movement building
-  Deep demonstration of Scale



Gorj Region,
Romania



Lausitz, Saxony,
Germany



Land of Saxony-
Anhalt,
Germany



South-Moravian
Region, Czech
Republic



Western
Macedonia,
Greece



Wielkopolska
Region,
Poland



Gipuzkoa Province,
Basque Country,
Spain



Region of
Silesia,
Poland



Example ACTIVITIES

Citizens Powering Change

Transformative Social Movement
Open Innovation learning platform

Identity, Work & Pride

Lab to reinvent the Future of Work
Regional Skills Hubs

Innovators & Investors

Diversify local economies

Diversification and Regeneration Observatory

Transformative policy for societal accountability

Policy innovators network
Just Transition sandboxes

IMPACT we aim for

Every child growing up in transforming regions can **dream and achieve** a fair, healthy future

Creativity and Entrepreneurship are **de risked**, innovators flourish in **resilient** local economies

Citizens are **empowered** to seize desirable employment opportunities that restores **dignity** in local identity

Case example – supporting skills development for Transition

Social simulations, Reboost

The Reboost simulation was designed as part of the REBOOST—A Boost for Rural Lignite Regions 3 years project that aimed to support stakeholders in three European lignite regions (Lusatia in Germany, Eastern Wielkopolska in Poland, and Gorj in Romania) in the transition from the current high economic dependence on lignite to a low-carbon future.

The simulation was tested in 3 regions with 3 language versions and with the „Train the trainers” approach.



Centre for Systems Solutions



SOCIAL SIMULATION

Reboost

A BOOST FOR RURAL LIGNITE REGIONS

a multiplayer simulation

[REBOOST social simulation - REBOOST \(socialsimulations.org\)](https://socialsimulations.org)



Fernandez

Results

Budget

0



LOG OUT

THE MAIN GOALS ARE FOR THE PLAYERS TO

- ✓ Understand the potential challenges for the energy transition phase
- ✓ Switch short-term thinking and ad-hoc solutions to long-term planning
- ✓ Experience and understand the complexity of a system-wide change
- ✓ Explore transition strategies
- ✓ Learn how to navigate through the climate crises challenges
- ✓ Develop skills for effective communication and collaboration
- ✓ Learn how to foster and integrate both technological and social innovations
- ✓ Acquire the skills necessary to effectively communicate, collaborate and seek compromises
- ✓ Form a kickoff for further region specific collaboration between participants



GARY SHEPHERD | 41
TRUCK DRIVER

It seems that here everyone is in some related line of work. On weekends, there isn't very much to do except hanging out in bars. I wish there were more options. I should visit my friends.



BARBARA HARRETT | 28
MINE WORKER

COMMUNITY VOICES

My grandparents used to tell me stories about working in the mines. My family has been at it for generations, all their friends and neighbors were mine workers. Mining is a part of our culture. With the mines closing down, I'm not sure what we'll do, I'm not sure what I will do. I always thought I would work there all my life like my grandparents and parents. I feel betrayed and abandoned.



Community

Support for the local government is at an all-time low as the closing of the mines and associated job loss impacts the whole region. Outraged citizens gathered in the main square yesterday expressing their disbelief at how the situation has been handled and at the lack of foresight in the City Hall. Demands for actions and support against Vespuvia Energy were shouted by the crowd, as were accusations of incompetence and bribery.

Government failures

THE WEEKLY PROSPECT

The closing of the mines and all related activities in Carbotellum will end more than a century-old activity. Lignite coal mining has been an important source of income, energy and an integral part of identity in the region. If the government takes no action, the closing of the mines and power plant may lead to a direct loss of 2500 jobs and an indirect loss of another 2000 to 3000 jobs by the end of the decade. To avoid large-scale unemployment, local projects and initiatives are quickly needed to ensure new job opportunities. However, Carbotellum's current economic situation means that the available budget is already tight.

JOB LOSS IN THE REGION

write a message...





WHO SHOULD PLAY

- ✓ Citizens concerned with climate and energy transition challenges
- ✓ Students
- ✓ Local stakeholders in coal dependent regions
- ✓ National and local policy-makers

WHO SHOULD FACILITATE

- ✓ Leaders in coal dependent regions
- ✓ Teachers, trainers and educators

Welcome to the game
Please, select your role

	Local Government: Regional Development Agency	
	Wilcox	Selected
	Local Government: Labour & Commerce	
	Mohamed	<input type="button" value="SELECT"/>
	Local Government: Health, education and welfare	
	Varga	<input type="button" value="SELECT"/>
	Vespugia Energy	
	Garcia	Selected
	Reboost Perspective	
	Fernandez	Selected
	Local Entrepreneurs Group	
	Lin	<input type="button" value="SELECT"/>



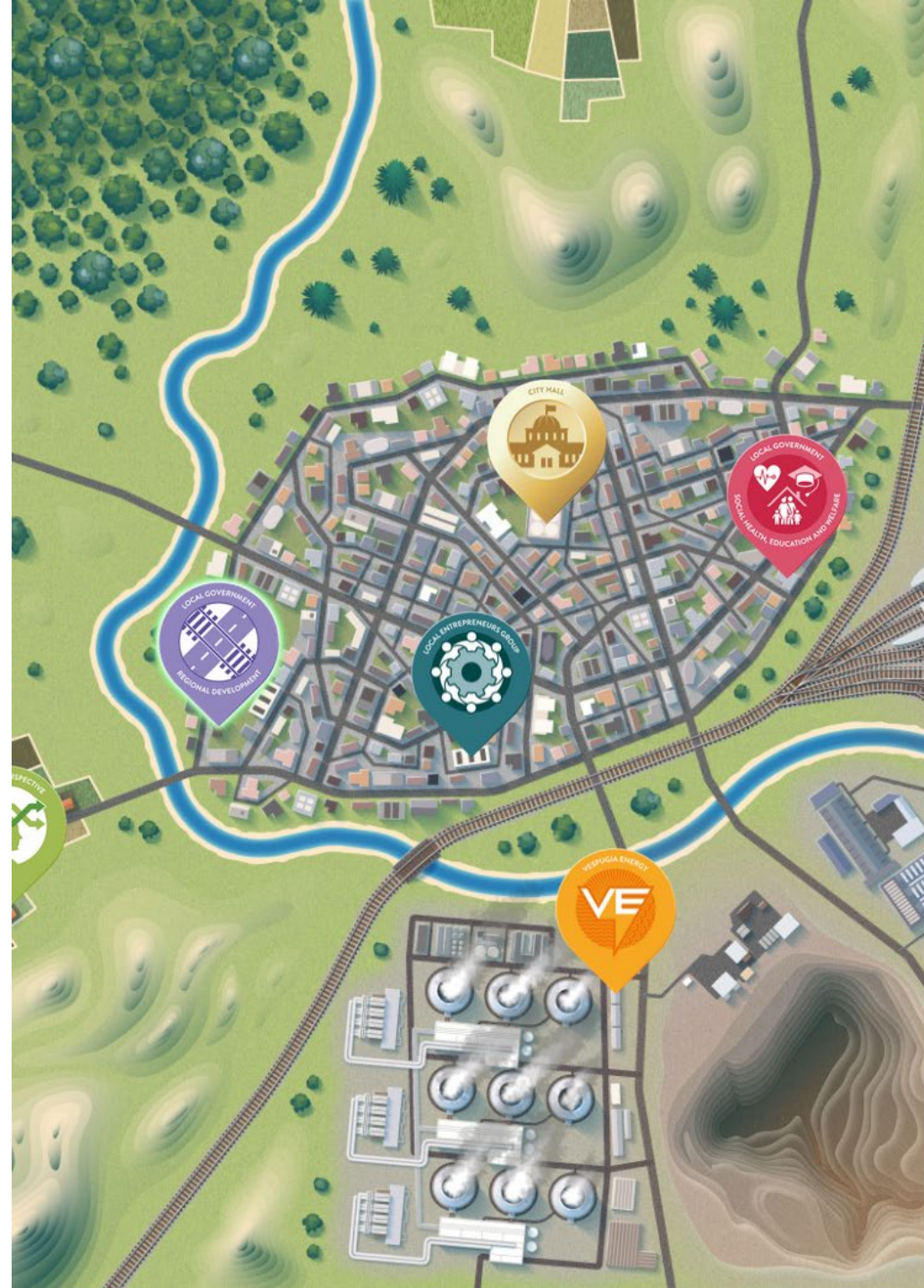
2-2,5 HOURS



12-34 PLAYERS

The REBOOST multiplayer simulation heavily relies on the aspects of role-playing.


Participants take on the responsibilities of important actors who can impact the transformation processes in rural lignite coal regions in the whole Europe.



Local Government: Regional Development Agency


Internal chat

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



The **Department of Regional Development** is responsible for infrastructure development, local programs that support citizens, and tourism initiatives. It also works closely with the country-level administration. The department has to take into consideration the running costs of projects and how fast the investments can be implemented to achieve results. In the past, it was criticized for some of the investments in the area and the stalling of some initiatives. This caused conflicts with other agencies and local communities. On the one hand, the department has to consider public opinion, on the other, the region needs investments to boost the local economy (*construction, hospitality, etc.*).

Members



Wilcox



Biomass conversion

CONVERSION OF THE COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT INTO A BIOMASS POWER PLANT



Jobs created: 100
Effects: medium term

The current coal-fired power plant, which employs 200 workers, will close by the end of the decade. The project proposes to convert the plant into a biomass power plant. This would allow it to continue operations without significant layoffs, while maintaining its energy output and reducing its environmental impact. The project will also create biomass supply chains in the region by developing wood production and logging areas in the northwest. It will protect around 150 jobs and create another 100.

Investments

0 / 5000

0

SET

On the map of the region players see various elements, including potential projects.

By clicking on them, they can open a sidebar with more info about each project and its requirements.

After discussing and establishing priority areas, organizations are invited to collaboratively fund specific projects in the region.

Case study – Rybnik 360 Deep Demonstration

Rybnik 360 Deep Demonstration allowed to identify key barriers to transformation.

The deep listening process helped to uncover the blockages that are not covered at the moment by any of the official strategies of transformation programs or support measures.

Familoki z duszą
07.05.2016 07:43 | 0 komentarzy | ska

W zakamarkach ulic Niedobczyc, w niedalekiej odległości od domu kultury, znaleźć można niezwykle osiedle. Powstało na przełomie wieków, jako osiedle robotnicze kopalni Rymer. Dzisiaj w familokach znajdują się mieszkania socjalne.

JESTEŚ BOGIEM
Otwórz

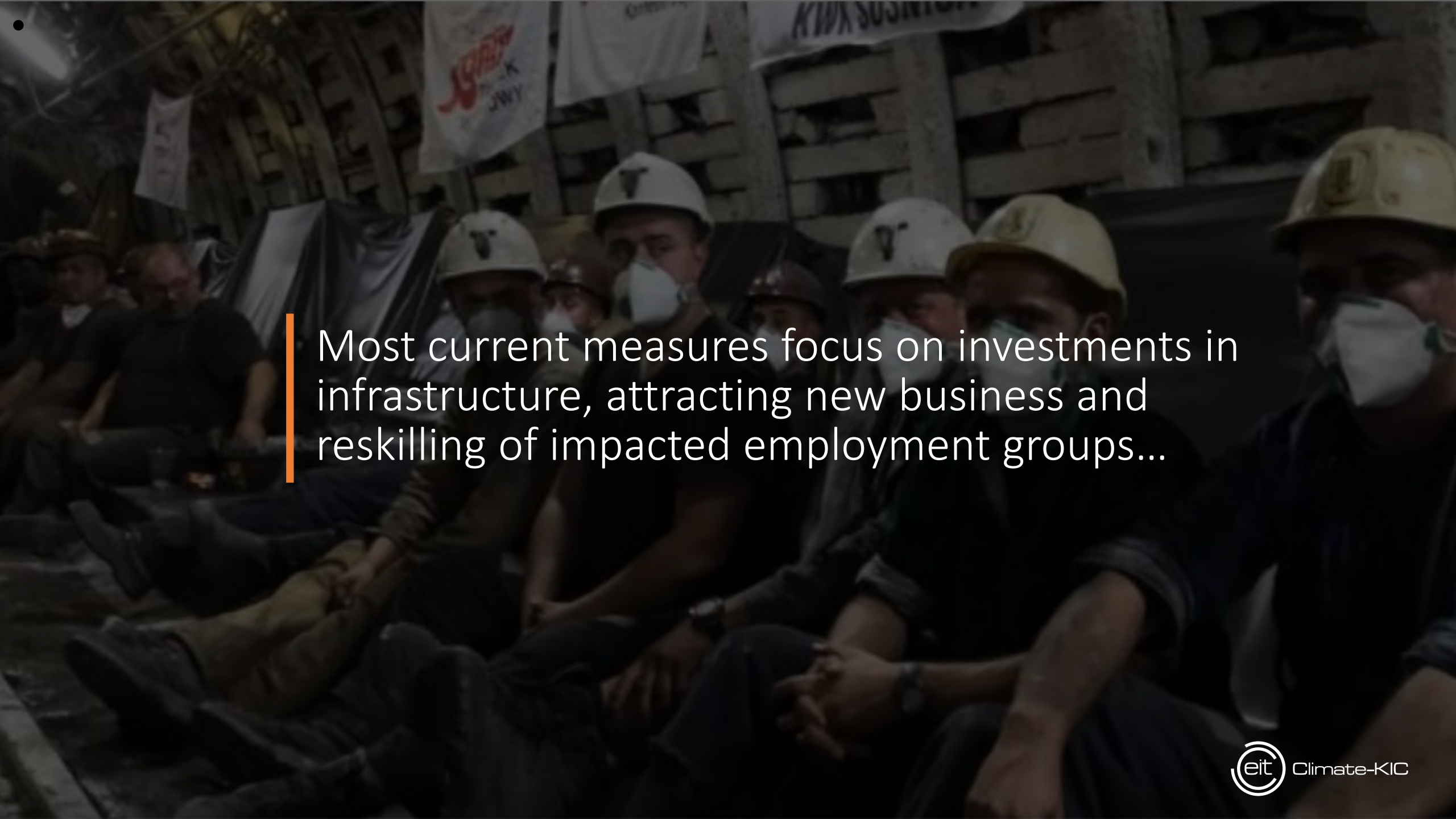
Tożsamość śląska
Raport z digital listening

MCM
INSTITUTE



Case example: City of Rybnik

- Middle size city in the Silesia in Poland
- 51 km both to Katowice and Ostrava
- Village alike territory, access to green areas and a lake
- Coal dependent – two working mines
- Local government aware that this coal centered pathway is short-term
- Seeking for support in using opportunities coming from New Green Deal as well as Just Transformation Fund

A group of construction workers wearing hard hats and face masks, sitting in a circle in a dimly lit industrial setting. The workers are wearing various colored hard hats (white, yellow, brown) and white face masks. They are sitting on the floor, and the background shows wooden pallets and some hanging fabric. The overall atmosphere is somber and focused.

Most current measures focus on investments in infrastructure, attracting new business and reskilling of impacted employment groups...

...While hidden blockages are of a different nature

Special status of miners + past and present privileges

Glorification of miners as courageous and strong males

Deep insecurity and a lack of viable alternative for the previous life

Strong separate identity of miners and their families based on a specific ethos of the mining job

Separate culture and traditions related to miners life

Strong ecosystem around mines creating bonds within the group

Historic experience of miners needing to fight for their status and rights

Negative narratives about future

Narratives glorifying the past

Lack of trust



'It is no longer time to pretend that the transformation process does not concern us. It is time to openly start being part of it.

This project marks the start of a long marathon of change that lies ahead of us'

Mayor of Rybnik, Piotr Kuczera

Main focus areas for growth identified during the Deep Demonstration

Quality of life, incl. air quality

Safe futures (future of work, future of mining)

Common knowledge and communication

Supporting systems transformation by creating conditions to innovate is to remember that: **system is already there** and we are only bringing new lenses, tools, approaches. We are making stakeholders operating in the system ready to transform and undertake all range of complex activities to do so. Transformation readiness is our goal.

JT in other regions

Gipuzkoa

Basque Country experiences as another example of just transformation

Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa

OUR INTENT – WORKING VERSION

and D2030 Strategy

is to take a **qualitative leap forward** to redefine and dynamically manage the Etorbizuna Eraikiz portfolio from a systemic perspective, and connect with other international experiences, as a means of creating the enabling conditions and mechanisms for a sustainable Gipuzkoa.

social and economic perspectives

investments
competencies and
collaborative know-how

We will leverage local capabilities in building social capital and community activation, working through anticipatory and participatory governance, to move forward in the **systemic transformation of the territory holding its citizens at the heart.**

Our people and community

We mean to become a **space for advanced experimentation** for other regions that may want to implement this on a bigger scale with a **systemic approach to the sustainability of natural and human systems** through achieving:

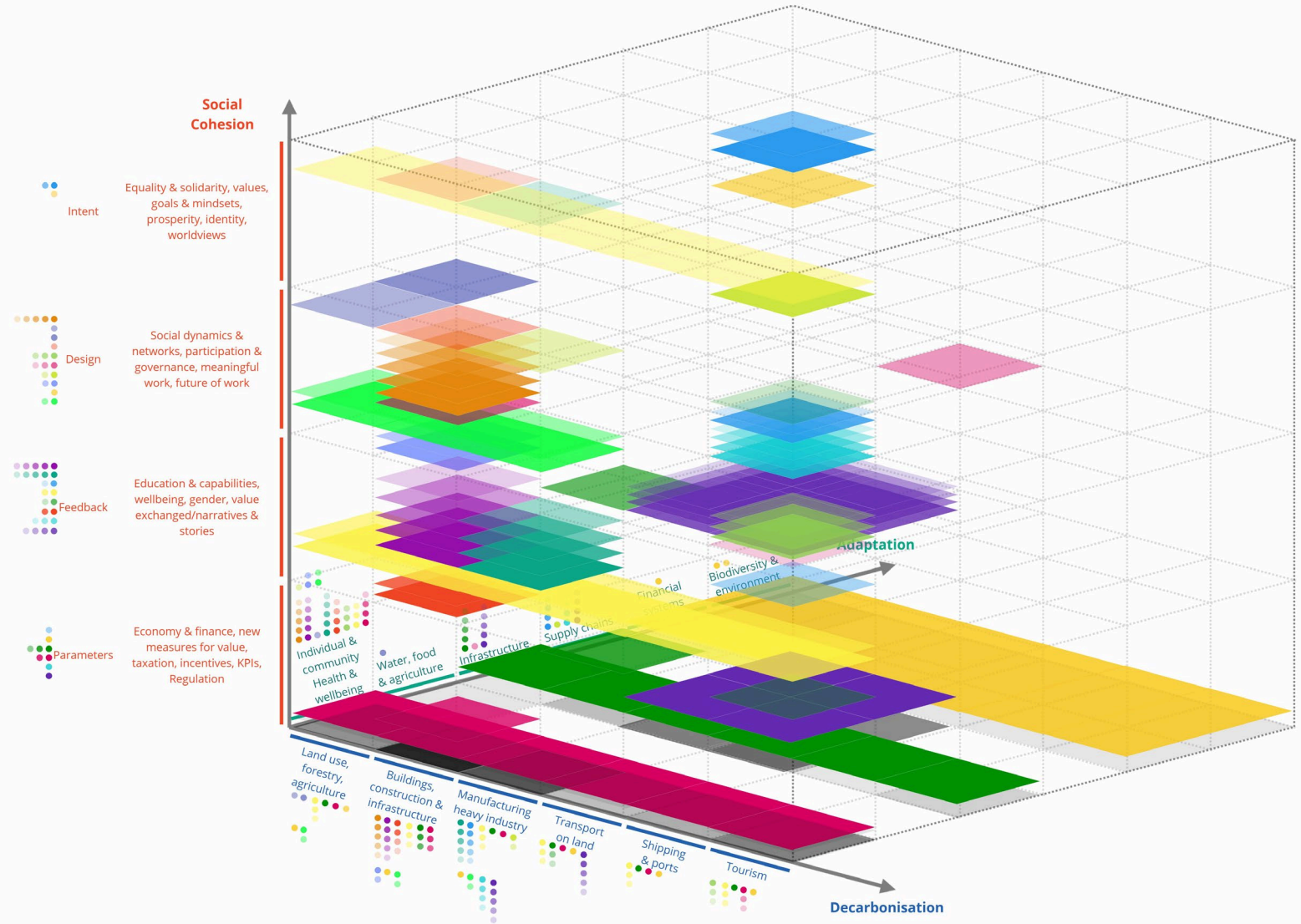
Future of work

1. equal, just and cohesive society
2. digitalization for sustainability and citizen engagement
3. industrial resilience and restoration of ecosystems by design

JT in other regions

Gipuzkoa

Basque ambition coming together as a portfolio for sustainability



Post Coal Future Lab



An open space, independent, neutral and shared, where the experimenters from coal-dependent regions can come together, learn, exchange and innovate collaboratively.

Activated in: Poland, Czechia, Greece, Romania

PCFL aims to:

- Create enduring transformations by implementing evidence-based policies and long-term planning
- Increase participation and collaboration including representatives of diverse sectors
- Address territorial challenges and opportunities by developing portfolios of place-based interventions
- Empower communities and workers through capability building and reskilling
- Reactivate the economy promoting diversification and entrepreneurship.
- Attract investments leveraging public and private resources

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