Just transition: the socio-economic challenge of phasing-down conventional generation

Towards clean, secure and affordable energy systems in Southeast Europe

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Introduction to E3G

- E3G is a non-profit organisation, established in 2004, and comprised of independent experts on climate diplomacy, energy policy, finance and risk

- We work to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy

- E3G has offices in London, Brussels, Berlin and Washington DC
  - But has worked extensively in Asia, Latin America and Africa
Why to chose JT in WB?

- Decarbonisation needs to happen anyway
- Better to be prepared
- Having a vision of reindustrialisation of the region is giving a higher chance of benefitting and for more people benefitting from the process
- Provides a venue of the EU accession and further exchange with EU institutions, eg. Coal Regions in Transition Platform
Definition and origin of just transition (JT)

• “Public policies aim to maximise benefits and minimise risks for workers and local communities in the transformation.” ILO
  – The term and the inclusive process was developed by North American trade unions.

Nature of the process:
• Happens on subnational level
• Needs communication between players
• That requires TRUST

... this is usually a problem in CEE and WB
Energy is power – CEE and WB tradition

- Incumbent energy industry: High carbon & Centralised
- Strong ties with the political establishment
- Renewables are less attractive and rewarding from political perspective
- State capture
- Revolving doors
- Kleptocracy
- Corruption...

EU and IFIs have a major role in diverting the money flow towards low carbon development including replacing high carbon employment with low carbon employment

Democratising energy
Just Transition in WB

- EU funding and technical assistance aligned with the Paris goals
- JT would serve as an additional pillar of cooperation – paving a secure way to accession
- Coal Regions in Transition Platform - institutionalising the relationship
Related recent reports from E3G

High carbon lock-in vs. Low carbon opportunity in the western balkans


Funding the just transition to a net zero economy in Europe

https://www.e3g.org/docs/E3G_Report_Just_Transition_and_EU_Budget.pdf
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION...

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