

## A | Methodological Appendix

### Group 28:

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**Overview:** This appendix delineates the methodology employed in the preparation of the policy paper titled “Forging a Green Path: Poland’s Coal Odyssey to Sustainable Horizons”. The paper investigates the major strengths and weaknesses of the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan (GDIP) and its implementation in Poland, particularly in the context of the Just Transition Fund (JTF).

### A.1 | Project Timeline and Milestones

- **Initial Team Meeting (Oct 20, 2023):** Assigned one pillar of the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan to each team member to conduct research and to identify the strengths and weaknesses. Collectively researched US IRA Policies for comparative analysis. Created a Google Drive allowing us share and work on documents simultaneously.
- **First Meeting with Umberto Platini (Oct 24, 2023):** Discussed research on motivating private sector funding in EU green transition and a potential focus of the policy paper on eastern countries being left behind. Through past research, it was identified that the EU does not focus on funding from private companies. This is a huge issue because it is usually those same big companies that are the most polluting. Furthermore, in comparison to the US IRA, the EU relies heavily on public funding, which leaves room for skepticism on the GDIP and green policies across Member States. We the possibility of a comparative analysis of the measures of US IRA, and whether or not they could be implemented in eastern Europe.
- **Second Team Meeting (Nov 15, 2023):** Focused on identifying specific issues within the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan. Narrowed focus on post-communist Member States and the Just Transition Mechanism and Fund. We worked on the basis of the Cohesion Fund and tried to identify which countries benefited from it the most and then made a parallel with the JTF. We found that it was the same countries: Poland, Romania, and Czech Republic.
- **Second Meeting with Platini (Nov 17, 2023):** Updated Platini on the progress of the project and confirmed our continued focus on the EU Green Deal, specifically looking into consequences of the green transition on institutional factors, e.g. the job market in V4 countries. We initially considered focusing on the V4 countries, but decided that narrowing it down to one would allow an in-depth analysis.
- **Third Team Meeting (Nov 15, 2023):** Focused on identifying specific issues within the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan. Began narrowing focus to Post-Communism Member States (PCMS) and the Just Transition Mechanism and Fund.
- **Fourth Team Meeting (Nov 24, 2023):** Planned the structure of our policy paper, allocating different sections such as the problem definition, case study, and comparative analysis to individual team members. This division of work, based on each member’s expertise, set the stage for a comprehensive and cohesive paper, with a collaborative review and feedback session planned for our next meeting to refine and integrate our contributions.
- **Fifth Team Meeting (Nov 30, 2023):** Decided to focus directly on Poland, as scope was limited and the country was identified as a good case study. Goal of the paper: show issues within the JTF (allocation of funds), and not the JTM.
- **Sixth Team Meeting (Dec 2, 2023):** Improved structure and content of paper in group. Developed targeted recommendations in the group by combining findings of problem analysis and comparative analysis to IRA.

- **Seventh Team Meeting (Dec 7, 2023):** Developed and made sections in paper more concise. Extracted the most important points into the policy brief. Decided on and applied layout. Team Members tasked with proofreading, editing and shortening the policy paper, the methodological appendix, and policy brief.
- **Third Meeting with Umberto Platini (Dec 12, 2023):** Received feedback on our focus on Poland as a case study within the JTF and the GDIP context. Advised to revise the executive summary and case study to more clearly highlight Poland's representative nature and its applicability to broader EU transition challenges. This guidance emphasized the importance of showcasing Poland not just as a unique case, but as a model offering insights for other EU Member States with similar economic and energy contexts.

## A.2 | Expanded Research Methodology

### 1. Qualitative Analysis

- **Policy Analysis:** In-depth examination of EU policies, particularly the Green Deal Industrial Plan and Just Transition Fund. Analyzed the structure, objectives, and effectiveness of these policies in the context of Poland's transition from coal.
- **Literature Review:** Extensive review of academic articles, policy papers, and reports related to EU's climate goals, green transition strategies, and the socio-economic impacts of these transitions on Member States, with a special focus on coal-dependent regions.
- **Case Study:** Detailed study of Poland as a primary example, focusing on its coal dependency, economic and social challenges in transitioning to green energy, and the role of EU funding. Secondary case studies included other EU Member States for comparative purposes.

### 2. Comparative Study

- Developed a framework to systematically compare the EU's Green Deal Industrial Plan and the US Inflation Reduction Act. This included comparing objectives, implementation strategies, funding mechanisms, and outcomes.
- Identified successful strategies and potential pitfalls from the US model that could inform EU's approach, particularly in the context of industrial and economic transitions in coal-dependent regions.

### 3. Stakeholder Analysis

- Identified key stakeholders in Poland's transition, including government authorities, local industries, workers' unions, environmental NGOs, and communities in coal regions.
- Analyzed how the transition affects different stakeholders and their respective roles and responses. This involved assessing the socio-economic impacts on local communities and the response of industrial sectors.

## A.3 | Expanded Tools and Resources

### Collaborative Platforms

- **Google Drive:** Used for storing and organizing all research materials, drafts, and final documents. Allowed real-time collaboration and version control.
- **Communication Tools:** Regular use of email, Zoom, Google Meet, and Whatsapp for team coordination and meetings.
- **Project Management Software:** Utilized Asana for task assignment, progress tracking, and deadline management.

### Research Databases

- **Academic Journals and Libraries:** Accessed through university subscriptions for peer-reviewed articles.

- **EU Policy Document Repositories:** Used official EU websites and databases to access policy documents, white papers, and legislative texts related to the Green Deal and Just Transition Fund.
- **Government Reports and Statistics:** Sourced from Polish government websites and statistical offices for up-to-date data on Poland's energy sector and economic indicators.

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