

# DeCarb NEWSLETTER

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

### ➤ PG. 2

Last update about DeCarb Project

Coal Regions in transition – 6<sup>th</sup> working group meeting

Peer Review from the Policy Learning Platform

### ➤ PG. 3

Platform for Coal Regions in Transition – 5<sup>th</sup> working group meeting

Policy talk on coal regions in transition

### ➤ PG. 4

Aalborg as national largescale green center

European week of regions and cities

### ➤ PG. 5

Agora 2019 event

Lusatia study visit



“Pairing the clean energy transition to growth and job creation in coal-intensive EU regions”

## ➤ ABOUT THE DECARB PROJECT

The EU 2030 climate and energy framework sets three key targets for the year 2030: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); at least 27% share for renewable energy and at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. The EU coal sector provides jobs to about 240.000 people. DeCarb sets out to address the challenge of pairing the clean energy transition to growth and job creation in coal-intensive EU regions.



## LAST UPDATE ABOUT DECARB PROJECT

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The reports *A1.1 Ex-ante economic and social impact assessment of regions' decarbonisation* (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/decarb/library/#folder=1700>) and *A1.2 Identification of good practices on decarbonisation and clean energy transition* (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/decarb/library/#folder=1700>) are finished and available at the website. The report *A1.4 Environmental restitution and land restoration needs analysis in DeCarb regions* will be released after the Study Visit (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November) in Cottbus (Germany), where partners will discuss the paper.



## COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION - 6<sup>TH</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING

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On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the 6<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting organized by the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition took place in Brussels where it was discussed and analysed: a) the 'Post Coal Economy and Structural Transformation' projects, focusing on the economic diversification of coal regions and b) the 'Energy System Transformation and Clean Air' projects, focusing on the improvement of air quality and technologies which are compatible with the long-term vision of the decarbonisation of the European economy. SZREDA was representing DeCarb and took part in 6 sessions, being exposed to transition success stories from across the EU and international perspectives on coal regions in transition. The event also featured sessions on: interregional dialogue, social dialogue, just transition projects, private sector investments, coal phase-out: alternatives and solutions, maximizing cohesion funds in coal regions, coal plant repurposing.



## PEER REVIEW FROM THE POLICY LEARNING PLATFORM

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During Semester 3 of the Project SZREDA, the lead partner of DeCarb project applied for Peer review from the Policy Learning Platform of Interreg Europe. Interreg Europe offers this so very useful tool for organizations that implement projects within the programme. Regions all over Europe are tackling similar challenges. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for these issues, which is why the Policy Learning Platform offers the chance to benefit from a tailor-made peer review. SZREDA was one of the selected organizations to host peers from all over Europe, who will examine the specific territorial context, and make recommendations on low-carbon transition in its coal intensive region. The visit will take place in February 2020.

SZREDA encourages any Interreg Europe project partner currently implementing a project to check the new call for interregional peer reviews, that was launched on 9 October 2019 and is now open permanently. Applicants can submit their application at any time and more details can be found on the DeCarb project website and the website of the organization - [www.szeda.eu](http://www.szeda.eu)



## PLATFORM FOR COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION - 5<sup>TH</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING

The 5th Working Group Meeting of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition was held in Brussels on July 15-16, under the coordination of the European Commission. The event was attended by representatives of central, regional and local public authorities, as well as civil society, from 41 mining regions located in 12 states of the European Union, to discuss a broad range of themes facing EU coal regions. Given the relevance of this event to the DeCarb project, as a result of the joint efforts of Mihaela Dineva –Project Coordinator from LP, Laura Buzatu- from SWORDA and Lefteris Topaloglou- from RALGWM- Greece, the presentation of the DeCarb project was included on the event agenda. Also, the Decarb initiative was promoted on the registration platform. The joint efforts of the DeCarb project partners to build interregional networks and bring together different partners met the participants' conviction that the action plans and projects should be developed in collaboration, to ensure the alignment of the projects and that the efforts complement each other. Being on this event agenda, in such a broad and motivated environment, has increased the visibility, promotion and recognition of the DeCarb project and can lead to maximizing the effects of its activities.



*"Europe has to work together - the energy transition doesn't stop at the border" - Katja Müller*

## POLICY TALK ON COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION

Dr Lefteris Topaloglou, Director of LGA-WM (Energy Community Secretariat), participated in the High-Level Policy Talk on Coal Regions in Transition and the Energy Community, that took place on 13th of September 2019 in Warsaw (Poland). The Platform for Coal Regions in Transition covers 41 regions in 12 EU countries

with over 900 engaged stakeholders. The purpose of the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition is: a) To create a **sense of community** between stakeholders, by allowing them to exchange opinions on their common issues, challenges and possible solutions; b) Develop a **common understanding** of what a just well-planned transition is; c) **Engage all stakeholders in discussions on a positive agenda**, focused on the future development of the region, in order to build bridges between the (often polarised) positions of different stakeholders.



## AALBORG AS NATIONAL LARGE-SCALE GREEN TEST CENTER

The Danish Growth Team for Green Energy and Environment Technology has recommended the establishment of two national test centers, where enterprises and utility companies can test new and innovative green solutions in a large-scale setting.

Aalborg Municipality already works with green solutions and for many years a focus on sustainability has been part of the DNA of Aalborg. The area around Nordjyllandsværket Power Plant is an obvious location for such a test center, because already has the necessary infrastructure in place. In addition, the conversion plan for the Nordjyllandsværket Power Plant already involves the implementation of a combination of various renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, excess heat, geothermal solutions, and large heat pumps.



Photo: Aalborg Energikoncern. Nordjyllandsværket Power Plant.

## EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES



During the 4<sup>th</sup> day annual event “European Week of Regions and Cities”, one day (9<sup>th</sup> of October) was dedicated on an international debate about the ways of building bridge between black and green energy, supporting the renewable energy, batteries and storage energy. Representatives of SZREDA participated in the workshop of 9<sup>th</sup> October and shared their experiences on how to introduce clean energy. More specific Mrs Dylag from Lodzkie, a stakeholder of DeCarb, gave a speech on “Communal Civil Energy” pointing out that “Civic energy is based on three pillars: *prosumerism, local energy communities and activating activities led by the commune. Recognizing the great*

role of energy in contemporary life, participants should multiply their activities for renewable energy, energy efficiency and building an energy-conscious society". Additionally, partners from Portugal, Spain, Slovenia and Poland shared their experience, actions and phases of going through the process of changing to greener Europe.

## AGORA 2019 EVENT

Extremadura Energy Agency (Agenex), Project partner of DeCarb, participated in the Agora 2019 event that took place in Badajoz on 13<sup>th</sup> of September. During this event there was a debate about the Socio-economic impact of renewable energies and the training needs of this sector aiming to boost professionalization and increase competitiveness of the companies related to green energy. Cosme Segador, Director of AGENEX has highlighted that "it is a job and wealth sector and there is a need for continuous and specialized training so that professionals can adapt to the technological evolution of the sector".



## LUSATIA STUDY VISIT

The partners of the EU project "DeCarb" have visited Lusatia on 6 and 7 November. The focus of the study visit was the exchange with Brandenburg representatives from industry and administration about the potential of recultivation and use of mining landscape. The host was the Brandenburg Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, partner of DeCarb project.

*"Brandenburg is a role model throughout Europe when it comes to shaping mining landscape for the future. The recultivation technologies and reuse concepts from Lusatia can be a blueprint for other European coal regions"* said the Minister of Economic Affairs, Jörg Steinbach. For Brandenburg, there are special opportunities in the field of renewable energies as well as in the application of hybrid and storage technologies on mining landscapes.



Part of the program was a meeting with regional stakeholders and companies in the evening of 6 November in Cottbus, with the aim of establishing direct contacts. On November 7, Lausitz Energie Bergbau AG (LEAG) presented recultivation projects in the Welzow-Süd region. These are examples of private and public cooperation with scientific institutions.



## PROJECT PARTNERS



Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency (BG)



Lodzkie Region (PL)



Eszak-Alfold Regional Energy Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)



South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency (RO)



Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Energy, State of Brandenburg (DE)



House of Energy (DK)



Regional Association of Local Governments of Western Macedonia (GR)



Energy Agency of Savinjska, Saleska and Koroska Region (SI)



Extremadura Energy Agency (ES)

**DeCarb**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional Development Fund



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## ABOUT US

DeCarb is co-funded by INTERREG Europe / European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

