

SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS IN SILESIA

Positioning Silesia's Mining
Community in Sustainability
Transition Policy



DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions

COLOFON

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PAPER PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy position paper presents the expectations, hopes, and visions of Silesia's mining communities regarding the future direction of sustainable transitions in the region. It contrasts these community perspectives with prevailing policymaking approaches and situates local concerns within the broader policy landscape.

As part of the Horizon Europe DUST project, Regional Future Literacy Labs brought together citizens and policymakers to explore the main challenges and opportunities that sustainability transitions pose for mining communities in the region of Silesia. Underrepresented in transition policymaking, these communities were engaged through a partnership with the trade union KADRA.

This paper addresses three key audiences:

1. **Policymakers** at EU, national, regional, and local levels, to ensure that sustainability transition policies are responsive to the specific challenges, opportunities, and needs of mining communities in Silesia.
2. **Societal groups and NGOs**, to help amplify the voices of communities that are typically least engaged in policymaking.
3. **Citizens**, to raise awareness of regional sustainability issues and encourage dialogue among underrepresented and less-involved mining communities in Silesian.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MINING COMMUNITY

Through the DUST workshops, Silesia's mining communities emphasised their commitment to actively shaping the region's future. They highlighted that a successful transition depends on policies grounded in local realities and Silesia's proud industrial and cultural heritage, which can serve as a foundation for innovation and community-led development.

Communities envision a resilient, forward-looking Silesia and stress the importance of developing new skills, diversifying the economy sustainably, and making effective use of local resources, while improving living conditions, services, and regional connectivity.

Rejecting narratives of dependency, communities position themselves as resourceful and proactive. This perspective aligns with EU and national strategies that emphasise place-based, inclusive approaches to just transitions, reflecting local aspirations for sustainable development and long-term resilience.

To translate these ambitions into concrete action, communities identified five priority areas for strategic investment:

1. **Industrial heritage**
2. **Education**
3. **Reskilling and upskilling**
4. **Energy transition**
5. **Metropolisation**

PRESERVE THE REGION'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Developing Silesia's industrial heritage requires a strategic approach that balances preservation, revitalisation, and community use. Priorities include identifying high-value sites, engaging residents in decision-making, and promoting innovative and socially beneficial uses. This approach aims to transform post-industrial areas into cultural, recreational, educational, and economic assets.

The quotes below were shared by Silesia's RFL participants.



"In 15 years, mining will mean places like Queen Louise Mine... tourist attractions showcasing industrial heritage. ▮▮"

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Set priorities for the development of industrial heritage sites

Relevant for the regional authority (if it will be responsible for further just transition planning processes after 2027) and/or the central government (if the EU commission proposal for programming period 2028-2034) is approved by the EU Parliament, as well as for the owner of these assets, the Polish Mining Company * Jastrzebska Mining Group: catalog sites suitable for various types of revitalisation/investment; select preferred sites based on their high heritage value and the possibility of rapid investment; complete demolition of unpromising sites.

Have a dialogue with residents on the development of industrial heritage sites

Relevant for the regional authority (if it will be responsible for further just transition planning processes after 2027) and/or the central government (if the EU commission proposal for programming period 2028-2034 is approved by the EU Parliament), as well as local authorities: facilitate dialogue by local authorities; conduct information campaigns in various media, encouraging active presence in other forms of participation; promote industrial heritage (art, architecture, gadgets, design).

Transform industrial heritage sites

Relevant for the regional authority (if it will be responsible for further just transition planning processes after 2027) and/or the central government (if the EU commission proposal for programming period 2028-2034 is approved by the EU Parliament), as well as local authorities: lease selected sites to residents (for community centers, cultural centers, health centers, educational facilities, youth spaces) with a support mechanism for non-commercial or market-based activities; promote new forms of use for post-industrial sites (biodiversity and recreation, photovoltaic farms, etc.); use (post-) mining infrastructure for commercial purposes and mainly invest in projects with high innovation potential.

"Let us not forget we come from an industrial region. This is important to us, [it] is what makes us such a brand of the region"

IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL OFFER OF UNIVERSITIES AND BETTER ALIGN IT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE LABOUR MARKET

Adapting Silesia's education system to regional economic needs and specializations is essential for a just and sustainable transition. Priorities include aligning curricula with labor market demands, promoting STEM and vocational pathways, strengthening partnerships between schools, universities, and employers, and investing in educational infrastructure. This approach supports lifelong learning, skill development, and the social and professional competencies needed to enable both individual opportunity and regional economic resilience.

The quotes below were shared by Silesia's RFL participants.



"Diverse and tailored educational offer, to the needs of the labor market..."

"Young talent will add to the region's appeal, thanks to the universities here, which will surely adapt their curricula."

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON EDUCATION

Adapt education to the needs of the economy and regional specialisations

Relevant for regional universities: develop comprehensive educational programs aligned with labour market and employer needs; align secondary and higher education curricula with regional specialisations (e.g., IT, energy, creative industries); promote STEM and technical disciplines; enhance the status of vocational education as a viable and essential career path.

Develop educational cooperation and partnerships

Relevant for regional universities: promote partnerships between universities and employers (formal agreements, internships, joint projects); expand inter-university collaboration, including through the ERASMUS program; strengthen cooperation between primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions.

Link reskilling to real job opportunities

Relevant for the Ministry of Education & Science, Regional Labour Offices, National Employment Agency, and local employers: design training modules for miners and plant workers that correspond directly to vacancies in renewable energy, construction, logistics, and IT. Companies that benefit from EU or state support must sign agreements to employ a quota of program graduates.

Strengthen the education system and educational infrastructure

Relevant for regional authorities, local authorities, Ministry of Education and Ministry Tertiary Education and Science: establish a mega-university to enhance development potential and access to funding; partially reallocate resources from industrial sectors to science and education; ensure high-quality education in schools by addressing deficits in basic competencies.

Educate for a Just Transition

Relevant for all levels of the education system, along with local & regional authorities: maintain education and vocational training in the mining sector until the closure of mines; support the development of interpersonal skills and social competencies.

"Awareness among young people related to a just, green transformation."

ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO DRIVE THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Building a flexible, market-responsive education system is key to supporting lifelong learning and career adaptability in Silesia. Priorities include comprehensive career guidance at all educational stages, active involvement of teachers, and targeted support for mid-career retraining. Programs should facilitate vocational transitions from traditional industries, promote digital and AI skills, to empower residents in navigating economic and technological change.

The quotes below were shared by Silesia's RFL participants.

"Not a Silicon Valley, but... technologically developed [...] that will attract young people."

"Highly diverse and accessible job offers and education, [...] not only for students, but also for people who change industries."

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING

Develop a flexible and market-responsive education system

Relevant for all levels of the education system, local & regional authorities, and the Ministry of Education (responsible for primary and secondary education): institutionalise career guidance across the entire education pathway; establish comprehensive career counseling at all stages of education (primary, secondary, tertiary) as well as in the workplace. This should follow the principle of “early shaping matters” and involve training local HR youth partners through a train-the-trainer program led by professional HR business partners and vocational counselors with a true calling for the role; actively involve primary school teachers in career counseling. Teachers, who know their students best, should be actively engaged in career guidance processes from an early stage. Support for Mid-Life Career Changes; provide preparatory, mental, and awareness-building support to individuals aged 40+ (starting from 30+) who are preparing for professional retraining.

Implement vocational retraining for workers in traditional industries

Relevant for regional authorities and Polish Mining Company * Jastrzebska Mining Group: implement a program to support workers transitioning from mining and mining-related industries to the defense sector, including temporary compensation for lost daily wages; Co-Finance Program for Mine Liquidation Plants (ZLK) - provide co-financing for ZLK facilities to create temporary employment opportunities for miners and associated businesses.

Support Artificial Intelligence awareness and training campaigns

Relevant for regional authorities and the Research Institute for AI (located in Katowice): launch public campaigns and training programs to promote the smart and safe use of AI, under the slogan: “Use it wisely, and stay resilient to the risks of AI implementation.”

Provide systemic support for vocational flexibility

Relevant for regional authorities and the Polish Mining Company * Jastrzebska Mining Group: local and national authorities should create and promote new instruments to encourage and activate community members toward career adaptability; establish the role of “Community Transformation Assistant” - introduce and support, both financially and legislatively, the role of a local transformation facilitator or community mobiliser. These individuals, often activists or local leaders, require systemic microfunding support. Despite their community-based engagement, this work should be treated on par with formal employment, similar to assistants for people with disabilities.

BALANCE SPEED, SECURITY, AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN SILESIA'S GREEN TRANSITION

Ensuring a secure, fair, and sustainable energy transition is a central priority for Silesia. Key objectives include maintaining energy security and transmission, respecting the Social Agreement for mining closures, expanding local and stable energy sources such as renewables, and integrating post-mining areas into the energy system. The approach also addresses energy poverty through targeted support and emphasises transparent communication to inform communities about the benefits, opportunities, and economic implications of the transition.

The quotes below were shared by Silesia's RFLP participants.

"Use existing resources as much as possible, also infrastructure, especially for district heating [...] utilize mine water as a heat pump."

"Diversified energy sources to avoid energy poverty. "

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Make energy security a priority

Relevant for the central government (as owner of all coal mines and conventional power plans in Poland): ensure the security of energy transmission; maintain minimum strategic reserves of coal mining; conduct a multidimensional analysis of the profitability of energy transformation.

Consider the social dimension of energy transformation

Relevant for the central government, the regional government, and trade unions: respect the Social Agreement with mining sector from 2021 (extinguishing mines by 2049); develop a fair system of subsidies for stable energy sources – such as gas boilers.

Develop new, stable energy sources

Relevant for the central government: expand local energy sources and storage facilities (including the development of cluster and cooperative activities as an important element of the region's energy security); ensure Stable energy sources including SMRs (Small Modular Reactors); expand integration of energy and heating systems; use post-mining areas for energy purposes.

Combat energy poverty

Relevant for the central government: offer bill subsidies, support in procedures and subsidies for thermal modernisation.

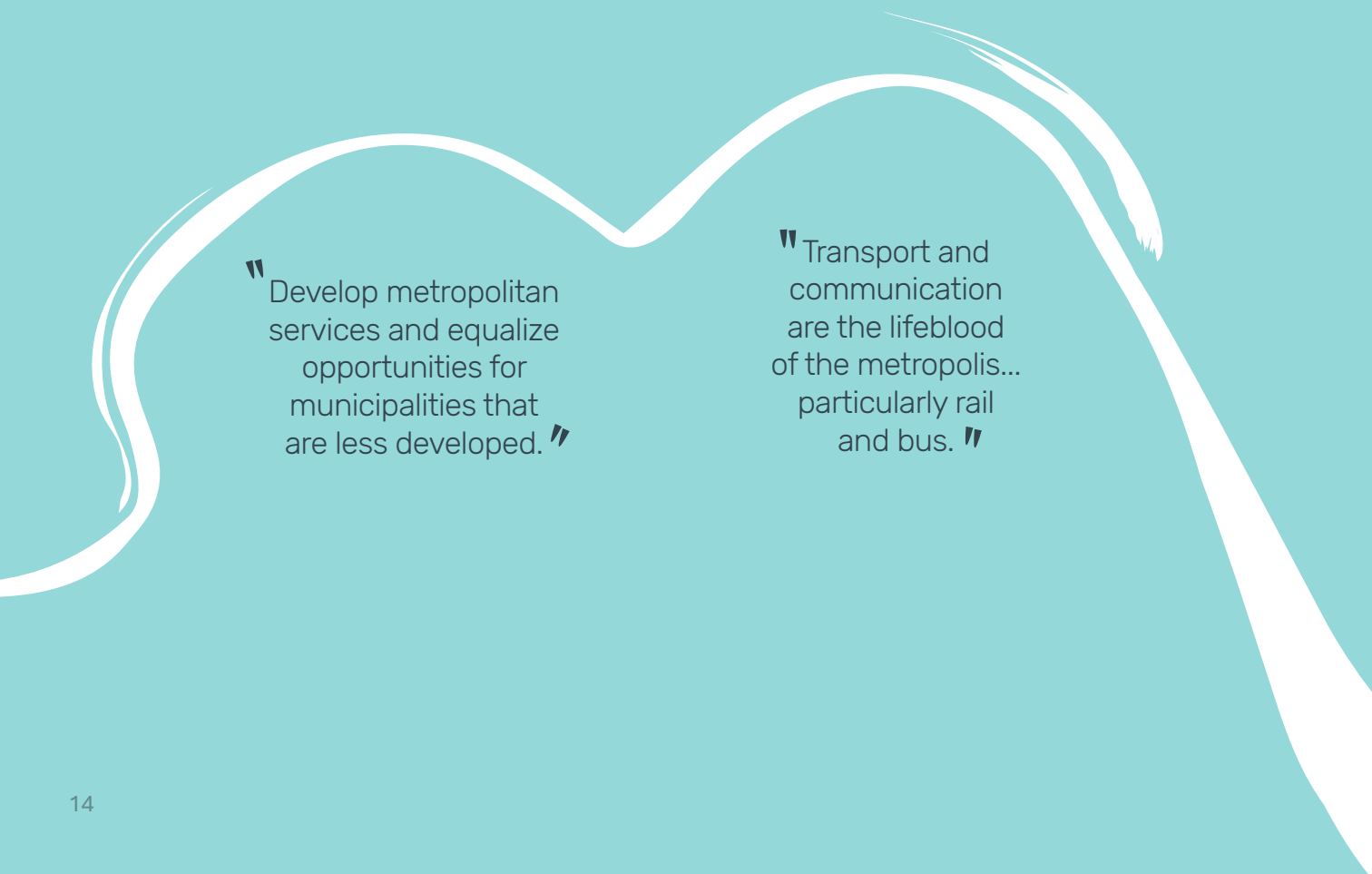
Inform citizens about the transformation

Relevant for the central government, regional governments and local government: communicate the benefits and opportunities of the transformation: communicate economic issues, including access to coal in Polish mines.

BALANCE METROPOLITAN GROWTH WITH LOCAL IDENTITY AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the metropolitan region is central to fostering economic growth, social cohesion, and strategic competitiveness in Silesia. Priorities include enhancing Katowice's national and international position, ensuring transparent governance and public engagement, and supporting key sectoral specialisations such as medicine, energy, creative industries, IT, and cybersecurity. Equitable development is emphasised through strengthened links between the Metropolis and surrounding urban agglomerations, creating a polycentric urban region.

The quotes below were shared by Silesia's RFLI participants.



"Develop metropolitan services and equalize opportunities for municipalities that are less developed."

"Transport and communication are the lifeblood of the metropolis... particularly rail and bus."

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON METROPOLISATION

Strengthen the metropolitan city

Relevant for GZM – Upper Silesia Metropolis, and Katowice City (as main / core city of Metropolis): strengthen national and international positioning of the Metropolis; communicate benefits of the metropolitanisation through targeted campaigns and inclusive dialogue; clearly delineate responsibilities between the city and the metropolitan authority (e.g., waste management, healthcare, education); raise public awareness of metropolitan policies through accessible information campaigns (e.g. on trams and buses); conduct multidimensional analysis of cost-effectiveness and strategic viability of establishing a mega-city in the GZM metropolitan area.

Develop a polycentric Urban Region

Strengthen functional linkages between the Metropolis and the Rybnik, Bielsko-Biała, and Częstochowa agglomerations.

Focus on specialisations within the metropol

Relevant for GZM – Upper Silesia Metropolis, and Katowice City (as main / core city of Metropolis): develop excellence in medicine and healthcare services; expand energy sector, with emphasis on renewable energy sources (RES); support creative industries (culture, design, media, arts); advance information technology, including gaming, AI, and graphic design; foster development of the space industry; strengthen cybersecurity capacities; enhance transport and logistics infrastructure and services.

Ensure a just Metropolis

Relevant for GZM – Upper Silesia Metropolis, and Katowice City (as main / core city of Metropolis): ensure just allocation of financial resources among constituent cities; promote equitable labor market development across the Metropolis; integrate regional, local, and sectoral strategic frameworks; create investment incentives for post-industrial areas (e.g., tax reliefs, streamlined administration, links with KSSE); improve road and rail connectivity within the Metropolis and with surrounding regions; establish economic zones and stimulate growth in underdeveloped municipalities; foster collaboration among social housing stakeholders for equitable residential development.

COMMUNITY AND POLICY FUTURES: VISUALISING DIVERGENT PATHWAYS

We recommend unfolding the poster when reading this section, to explore the artwork in context.

Imagined probable futures

The probable futures reflect what the community expects will happen if current trends continue without major interventions. The groups participating in RFLI turned attention to four topics: (a) slow energy transformation of the region's economy along with dissatisfying diversity of regional economy, (b) loss of the specificity and identity of the region, (c) educational offer not adapted to the needs of the changing labor market, (d) and negative social effects energy transformation. The topics were perceived differently by the groups. Miners, for example, emphasised the importance of maintaining the Social Agreement, partial modernisation of the industry and market-driven company investments. Senior miners emphasised external impulses (EU funds). The fear of losing the identity of the region is specifically visible in the statements of young people. Negative social effects were most often mentioned by seniors. According to them, the energy transition will impact especially small municipalities and deepen demographic problems.

Imagined preferred futures

In contrast, the preferred future reflects the community's aspirations for the Silesia region. Across all groups, three priorities stand out:

1. **Well-developed education.**
2. **A successful energy transition** that ensures both energy security and economic diversity.
3. **Technology-driven solutions:** Strategic documents highlight innovation, digitalization, and automation as drivers of the transition, but there is less emphasis on social equity and service provision.
4. **Improved living conditions** in the Katowice subregion.

Young people, seniors, and miners placed strong emphasis on education, though with different perspectives: miners highlighted the need for developing new competencies, seniors called for practical fields of study, and youth stressed adapting educational programs to the needs of the new economy. The community members and institutional representatives focused on energy transition, again from varied viewpoints: seniors pointed to opportunities to use water and methane resources from closed mines, while youth and institutions underlined the importance of energy security. Visions of living conditions also diverged. Miners prioritised local influence over incoming industries as well as quality housing and recreation. Seniors emphasised metropolitan integration into a single "mega city," while youth associated attractive living conditions with the overall success of the transition.

These hopes are powerfully voiced by community members themselves:

"Let us not forget that we come from an industrial region, this is important to us!" 

"We need diversified and tailored educational offering, to meet the needs of the labor market, and join this new economy."

"Develop metropolitan services and equalise opportunities for municipalities that are less developed."



"Diversify energy sources to avoid energy poverty." 

Policy futures

One result of the first stages of the labs is a mapping of sustainability transition policy measures. The policies were identified based on their specific relevance to the green transition or their focus on regional or local issues, such as regional development documents. The labs mapped sustainability transition policies relevant to the green transition and regional or local development. These include national-level measures such as the National Energy and Climate Strategy and the Social Agreement; regional policies like the Silesia Development Strategy and the Territorial Just Transition Plan; local strategies from Katowice, Ruda Śląska, Mysłowice, Chorzów, and Siemianowice; and metropolitan-level initiatives under the Greater Silesia Metropole (GZM) development strategy.

A full list of policies is provided in the Annex.

In comparison to the community's desired future, the policy documents present a future which is more focused on industry and social transition as well as technical advances.

From the policy documents, a few focus areas have been identified. These include green growth & transition towards a low-carbon economy; demographic change caused by, for instance, out-migration of youth; transportation systems and connectivity on the local, regional, and international scale; and the (metropolitan) settlement structure. Policies also pay attention to issues that are of importance for communities, such as health & wellbeing, and civic engagement & knowledge. However, communities view on these issues is more broad and detailed at the same time.

From the policies, several aspects of concern were identified and a list of ‘Territorial capitals’ (TCs) was created. The tables below outline key territorial capitals identified in policy perspectives and place them alongside territorial capitals mentioned by the community.

This juxtaposition highlights how both policy and local perspectives engage with the region’s core assets and challenges.

Natural capital

Policy perspective		Community perspective	
Biodiversity, e.g. in Natura 2000 areas and forests	Water resource & management	Environmental externalities and pollution	Natural resource management
		Land regeneration	

Economic capital

Policy perspective		Community perspective	
Development of the energy sector	Economic diversification & conversion	Economic diversification & conversion	
Green growth & transition towards a low-carbon economy	(New) services & industries, e.g. health and cultural services		

Built environment capital

Policy perspective		Community perspective	
Settlement structure	Institutional factors in the built environment, e.g. the real estate market	Mining sites	
Cultural life, facilities, and services			

Human capital

Policy perspective		Community perspective	
Demographic change	Cultural practices (way of life) & ethnicity	(Future) jobs, skills, and competences	Local community & civic organisations
Civic engagement & knowledge		Quality of public institutions & trust	Family & community life
		Cultural practices (way of life) and traditions	

Infrastructure capital

Policy perspective		Community perspective	
Green growth and industrial infrastructure, e.g. water treatment	Transportation systems & local, regional, and international connectivity	(Renewable) energy infrastructure	
Digital infrastructure			



DRAFTING THE MINING COMMUNITY STATEMENTS

After mapping both policy and community futures, the two perspectives were carefully compared. This comparison provided a detailed analysis of how community concerns align with, diverge from, or complement the scope of existing sustainability transition policy measures. Based on these insights, a series of statements were drafted to capture key areas of agreement and tension for further public deliberation.

Insights into aspects where community members and policymakers held diverging views were transformed into statements for public deliberation. Examples include:

"Revitalization of post-industrial areas with the participation of the local community is necessary because it better meets social needs. "

"Jobs for people aged 40+ should be particularly protected. "

It is important to note that certain issues were emphasised in policy perspectives but not in community discussions, and vice versa. For example, both communities and policy documents highlighted the importance of universities, as reflected in the shared statement:

"Universities should create educational programmes that meet the needs of the future. "



In contrast, this statement

"The energy transformation in Silesia should be gradual and evolutionary – traditional industries should be phased out in a balanced manner. "

originated from community discussions but was not actively addressed in policy documents.

The full list of statements is presented in the Annex.

GAUGING THE REGIONAL PUBLIC OPINION

Five fast facts about the Pol.is deliberation in Silesia

1. **Total participants:** 558 people took part in the online deliberation.
2. **Original statements:** 30 statements were drafted based on community and policy discussions.
3. **Added statements:** 15 new statements were submitted by participants during the deliberation.
4. **Total statements evaluated:** 45 in total (original + added).
5. **Total votes cast:** 18.568 votes were submitted. This includes all *agree*, *disagree*, and *pass* responses across all statements, showing how actively participants engaged with the material.

During the final stages of the RFLLs, the community-generated statements were submitted for public deliberation via the *Pol.is* platform in the Silesia region. The aim was to gather broader public input on key locally raised themes.

The results provide insights into which issues generated the most engagement, where consensus existed, and where opinions diverged. Some statements attracted strong agreement or disagreement, revealing clear divides. Distinct opinion groups formed around statements such as:

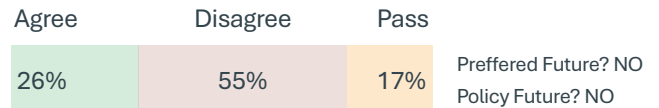
- » **Energy obtained from renewable energy sources will ensure grid stability and energy security.**
- » **Silesia is losing its metropolitan foundation —it's time to accept the change and fight for a better quality of life, instead of chasing the lost power.**

While some statements sparked substantial interaction and voting, others received limited attention —suggesting that not all issues resonated equally with the wider public.

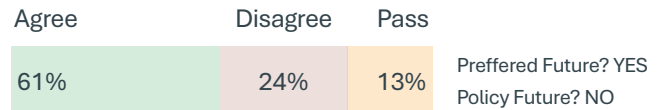
The *Pol.is* table on the right page illustrates the consensus statements and includes agreement levels for each.

Consensus statements

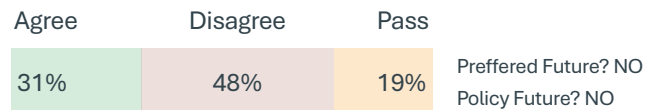
Revitalising brownfield sites in Silesia without community consultation makes sense because it is more efficient.



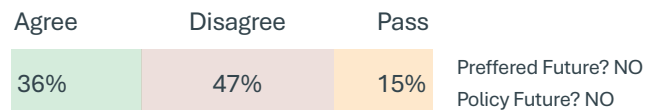
Revitalisation of brownfield sites in Silesia must involve the local community.



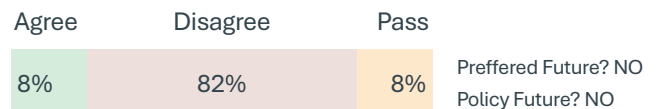
Industrial heritage hinders the development of Silesia.



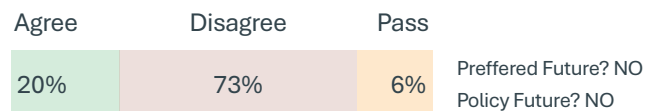
Better to demolish the old post-industrial buildings in Silesia and start all over again.



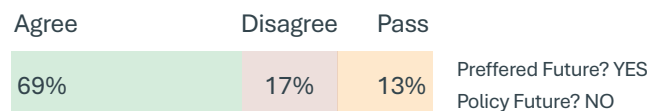
Only the knowledge gained at the Universities is practically useful.



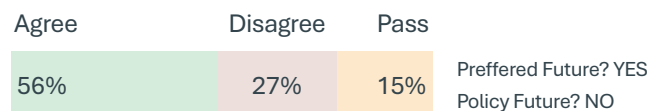
AI will not change labour markets.



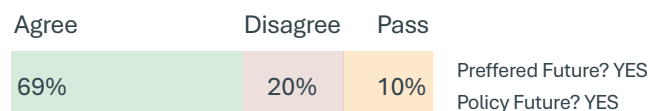
Assistance from the city, region, state is essential when the community is involved in adapting to change.



The energy transition in Silesia must be long-term, as traditional industries must be phased out in a balanced way.



Universities should create study programmes fit to labour market.



REGIONAL FUTURE LITERACY LABS: STEP BY STEP PROCESS

The Regional Futures Literacy Labs (RFLLs) were conducted in the four case study regions of Norrbotten (Sweden), Lusatia (Germany), Stara Zagora (Bulgaria), and Katowice (Poland). In each region, a distinct transition community was involved. Each lab followed these steps:

- 1. Preparatory step:** The impacts of local, national, and EU sustainability transition policy measures were mapped.
- 2. First workshop:** Communities and policy-makers met for the initial RFLL workshop to discuss the projected impacts of transitions and transition policymaking on communities. At the end of the workshop, communities decided on the scope of upcoming deliberations.
- 3. Second workshop:** Community members discussed their expected and preferred futures in relation to sustainability transitions.
- 4. Futures analysis:** An analysis of the conversations enabled the visualisation of the futures that communities expect to happen—referred to as plausible futures—as well as the futures they would prefer—referred to as preferred futures.
- 5. Policy comparison:** A comparison between these community futures and policy impact projections—referred to as policy futures—provided insights into communities' opinions and positions on local, national, and EU policymaking.
- 6. Third workshop:** Communities developed these positions into policy statements.
- 7. Public deliberation:** The policy statements were then submitted for public deliberation in each case study region. The e-democracy tool *Pol.is* enabled the public to vote on and comment on the statements.
- 8. Fourth workshop:** In the final RFLL workshop, communities translated the outcomes from earlier steps into practical recommendations for policymakers at various levels of government.





SETTING THE SCENE

Why are community-led sustainability transitions important?

Sustainability transitions involve deep socio-economic changes that impact communities in diverse and unequal ways across Europe. These transitions can bring both opportunities and challenges, especially in regions with slower economic growth. For transitions to be fair and effective, they must be designed through place-based, community-led policymaking that empowers citizens, increases awareness, and builds resilience. Active citizen involvement ensures policies are accountable, inclusive, and tailored to local needs—especially those of underrepresented groups.

What is the current status of sustainability transition in Silesia?

Due to delays in accessing the Just Transition Fund, a number of projects in the region are only just emerging, as they are still at the stage of detailed planning. Local governments and companies are only now preparing documentation, acquiring land, and organising consultation meetings with residents. However, initial signals from the European Commission, referring to the possible resignation from the Just Transition Mechanism in the next programming period (2028–2034), are dampening this slowly fading enthusiasm.

Why is the mining community less engaged in Silesia's transition?

The mining community did not contribute to the Territorial Just Transition Plan programming, and due to the public aid principle, miners as well as mining companies cannot be beneficiaries of the Just Transition Fund. Thus, the group is excluded from financial support (i.e., the Just Transition Fund). Moreover, the Social Agreement (defining the timeline of the coal phase-out) has still not been approved by the European Commission (the Agreement was signed in 2021). This places the group at risk of a geography of discontent.

HORIZON EUROPE'S DUST PROJECT & THE REGIONAL FUTURE LITERACY LABS

The DUST project, funded by Horizon Europe, aims to democratise territorial responses to sustainability transitions by increasing citizen participation and trust. Through **Regional Future Literacy Labs**, the project fosters inclusive, place-based dialogue between citizens and policymakers in transition-vulnerable regions.

These labs help citizens imagine and prepare for the future, increasing their capacity to adapt. They aim to:



The labs follow an eight-stage structure, using both in-person workshops and the digital engagement tool *Pol.is*.



ANNEX

Complete list of analysed policy

- » Miasto Katowice. (2023). Strategia rozwoju miasta Katowice 2030 (projekt do konsultacji ustawowych) [City of Katowice development strategy 2030 (draft for statutory consultation)]. Katowice.
- » Sejmik Województwa Łódzkiego. (2021). Strategia Rozwoju Województwa Łódzkiego 2030 [Development strategy of the Lodzkie Region 2030]. Łódź.
- » Sejmik Województwa Śląskiego. (2020). Strategia Rozwoju Województwa Śląskiego „Śląskie 2030” [Development strategy of the Silesian Voivodeship “Silesia 2030”]. Katowice.
- » Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Śląskiego. (2022). Terytorialny Plan Sprawiedliwej Transformacji Województwa Śląskiego 2030 [Territorial Just Transition Plan of the Silesian Voivodeship 2030]. Katowice.

Complete list of seed statements

Industrial heritage

- » Revitalising brownfield sites in Silesia without community consultation makes sense because it is more efficient..
- » Revitalisation of brownfield sites in Silesia must involve the local community.
- » Industrial heritage drives the development of Silesia.
- » Industrial heritage hinders the development of Silesia.
- » Better to demolish the old post-industrial buildings in Silesia and start all over again.

- » It is better to fund the renovation and maintenance of old post-industrial buildings that bear witness to Silesia’s industrial past.

Education

- » Universities must create educational programmes that respond solely to the future needs and transition of Silesia.
- » Only the knowledge gained at universities is practically useful.
- » Silesia has the potential to become recognised through its renowned universities, just as Silicon Valley is known for technology.
- » Universities will not play a significant role in building the Silesian brand.

Jobs and reskilling

- » Job prospects in Silesia will improve due to the region’s growing potential - young people will be attracted to stay or return.
- » Young people will be able to find better jobs and a better life in other regions or abroad.
- » Changing careers at 40+ will be a new necessity in life.
- » Jobs for people aged 40+ should be especially protected.
- » The use of artificial intelligence will eliminate routine tasks at work.
- » Artificial intelligence will not cause significant changes in labour markets.
- » The determination of ordinary people is enough to initiate and implement change.
- » Assistance from the city, region, state is essential when the community is involved in adapting to change.

Energy transition

- » The energy transition in Silesia must be radical in order to create a new image for the region.
 - » The energy transition in Silesia must be long-term, as traditional industries must be phased out in a balanced way.
 - » Funding and support for the energy transition is available and distributed in an equitable manner ensuring that everyone in Silesia affected by the changes in mining and traditional industries receives appropriate assistance.
 - » Funding and support for the transition is not readily available and does not apply to everyone in Silesia who is experiencing the costs of extinguishing mining and other traditional industries.
 - » Renewable energy together with the use of industrial (post-mining) infrastructure will ensure energy security.
 - » Energy from renewable sources will not ensure energy security.
- » Only business investment is a generator of development and transformation of the cities that make up the GZM.
 - » Silesia has a clear vision for development and sustainable transition after the phasing out of heavy industry.
 - » There is no overall vision for the development and transformation of Silesia after the phasing out of mining.

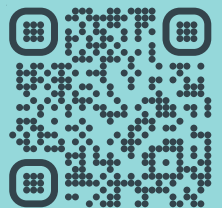
Metropolisation

- » Together, the GZM cities can be stronger in their transformation as a mega-city without losing their identity.
- » The creation of a single strong city from the cities that make up the GMC will not accelerate the transformation and strengthen regional identity.
- » Only new public investments (kindergartens, schools, playgrounds, public transport, etc.) are necessary for the development and transformation of the cities forming the GZM.

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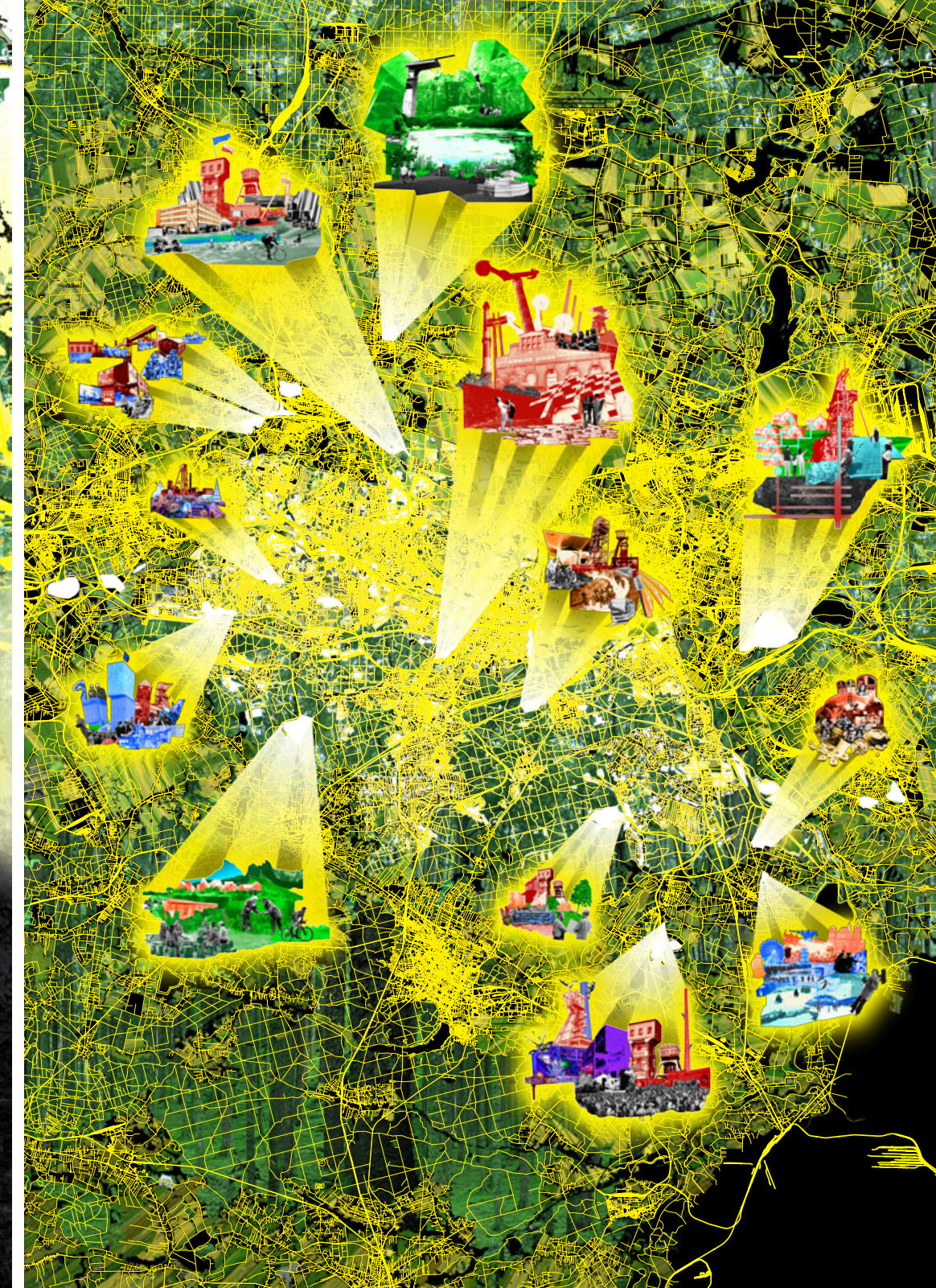
Wizja podregionu katowickiego i Śląska w świele polityki regionalnej

A vision for the Katowicki subregion & Silesia according to regional policy



Obawy i nadzieje społeczności górniczej podregionu katowickiego i Śląska

A mining community's fears & dreams of the Katowicki subregion & Silesia



Przyszłość podregionu katowickiego i Śląska oczami społeczności górniczej

A mining community's preferred future for the Katowicki subregion & Silesia



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