

# Just Transition in Spain: regional perspective



## REJENERAXION Project

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# Outline

- ❖ Institutional framework: regional perspective
- ❖ Regions affected by the ecological and social transition
- ❖ Selected sectors & regions
- ❖ Instruments for just transition
- ❖ Involvement of social partners
- ❖ Qualitative research

# Institutional Framework: regional perspective

## Instruments at national level

- ❖ Institute for Just Transition (ITJ) & Just Transition Conventions: *regional delimitation*
- ❖ Spain's Territorial Just Transition Plan (2022)
- ❖ Spain's Just Transition Fund

## Territorial Plan

Draw up by regional administrations and the ITJ



## Main objectives

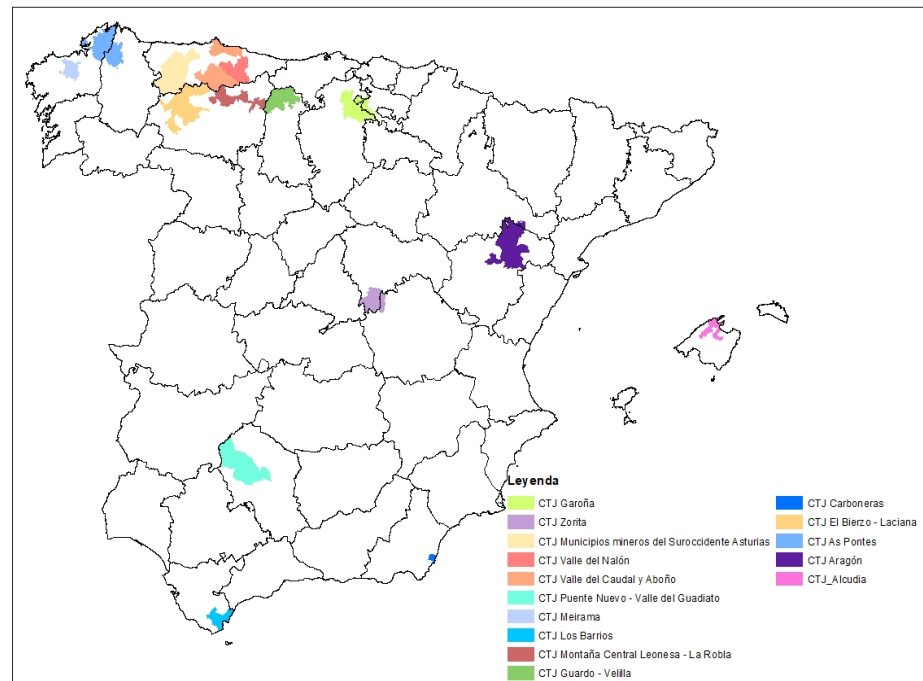
- Zero impact on population and employment
- Economic diversification
- Boosting decarbonisation and industrial renewal
- Attention to the ruralised areas
- Sustainable business projects
- Investments with similar wages
- Energy innovations adapted to territories
- Identity consolidation, in mining and industrial heritage
- Vocational training and retraining.
- Efficient use of government resources

# Regions affected by the ecological transition

The **most affected areas** are in Asturias, León, Palencia, A Coruña, Teruel, Almería, Cádiz and Córdoba, as well as the area of Alcudia (Mallorca)

## Common elements:

- Closure of coal-fired power plants and/or coal mines
- Impact on ancillary companies
- High level of unemployment
- Ageing population
- Excessive dependence on activities undergoing closure or transformation
- Need of training, re-skilling and labour market integration



# Selected energy sectors & regions

| Sector transformation                                     | Province, Region                | Characteristics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coal & Coal thermal power plant to eolic and solar plants | Teruel, Aragón                  | Teruel has low business density and low population density. <b>Closure</b> of the coal thermal power plant located in the Andorra region (2018). Coal was an <b>central</b> activity and wealth, providing a higher per capita income. Socio-economic <b>impact</b> : → 524 direct jobs, 306 subcontracted jobs and more than 2,000 jobs in the area.                                                                            |
| Coal & Coal thermal power plant to eolic & green hydrogen | A Coruña, Galicia               | As pontes is a low density municipality, in A Coruña province, which is developed by the metropolitan area. <b>Coal mine</b> closed in 2007. <b>Coal thermal power</b> closure was initiated in 2019, but the energy crisis modified the timing. In 2022, the government confirmed its closure. Socio-economic <b>impact</b> : → 197 direct jobs, 330 subcontracted jobs and more than 1,500 jobs in the area (Univ. da Coruña). |
| Coal thermal power plant to biomass                       | Ciudad Real, Castilla La Mancha | Puertollano is a traditional mining and industrial town in the province of Ciudad Real, specialized in the sectors of services, tourism, agriculture and hunting. <b>Coal mine</b> closed in 2007. <b>Coal thermal power</b> closed in 2013. Socio-economic <b>impact</b> : → 197 direct jobs, 330 subcontracted jobs and more than 1,500 jobs in the area                                                                       |

# Instruments for just transition

## *Just Transition Agreements*

- ❖ Sectoral and company agreements by social partners (and Government) on just transition

## *Just Transition Conventions*

- ❖ Support tool of the Government for just transition.
- ❖ They include: a) diagnosis report, b) Participatory report, c) Protocol of action and d) territorial agents
- ❖ **In total:** 15 conventions were signed, covering 197 municipalities and 8 Autonomous Communities

## *Just Transition Fund*

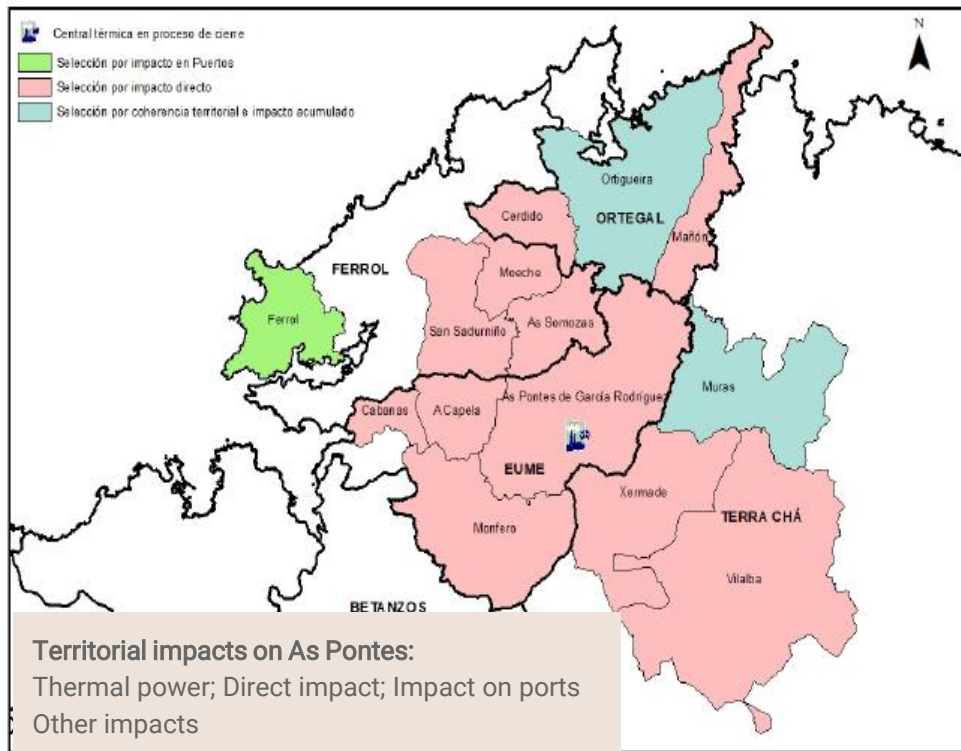
- ❖ Support for energy efficiency, renewable value chain and circular economy projects, in training, employability and social economy

# Stages of the just transition conventions

## Fases del Convenio de Transición Justa



# Analysing territorial impacts



## Just Transition Conventions: Diagnosis reports

*Extensive knowledge of the area and its impacts*

### Main contents:

- Demography
- Municipalities included
- Economic and employment impacts
- Natural and historic heritage
- SWOT Analysis

Example: As Pontes: [report](#)



# Involvement of social partners: two channels

## ***Agreements at sector and company levels: tri-bipartite social dialogue***

2019: Decision of closure of thermal power coal plant of Andorra

- ❖ The **trade union and the company** bargain for options to their workers. Participation at the implementation stage but the monitoring instrument is not working.

2020: Agreement for a just energy transition for thermal power plants in closure.

- ❖ Sectoral representatives from **government, trade unions and the affected companies**.
- ❖ The objective: to minimize the labor, social and economic consequences in the affected companies and areas, through relocations and the search for alternative activities.
- ❖ **Monitoring activities by social partners**

## ***Just transition conventions: open participation***

Convention for Just Transition in Aragón

- ❖ Instrument of participation created by the Just transition ministry, in collaboration with regional government and municipalities.
- ❖ Diagnosis, information and proposals at regional level
- ❖ Open social participation process, but more formal than real.

Example of participation report: [Andorra](#)

# Qualitative research: obstacles and drivers

## OBSTACLES

### Timing:

- Time gap between the closure and the beginning of new projects
- Diversity of actors affected with different interests
- Mistrust on new projects

*“Process has been accelerated and unplanned”*

### Axes of conflict:

- **Big** private energy companies vs **Small** projects for productive diversification
- **Renewable energy** infrastructures are **extensive** in territory and have **ecological impacts**.
- **Territorial & economic gap**: who produces? who consumes? impact on sectors? (ie. agriculture)
- Assumption of **socioeconomic and ecological costs** vs benefits for a few big energetic companies.

## DRIVERS

### Great investment in the region:

- ❖ Opportunities for big projects but also for small ones
- ❖ Opportunities for investing on public services: fixing population and good job opportunities
- ❖ Promotion of sustainable energy communities

*“Compensating for the effects of transition”*

### Boosting social dialogue for a good governance:

- ❖ At different levels
- ❖ In all the stages, from diagnosis to monitoring

*“To be listened and to decide”*

# Thanks for your attention !

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