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# RESKILLING IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

13 JULY 2018

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COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION PLATFORM



## CEE BANKWATCH NETWORK

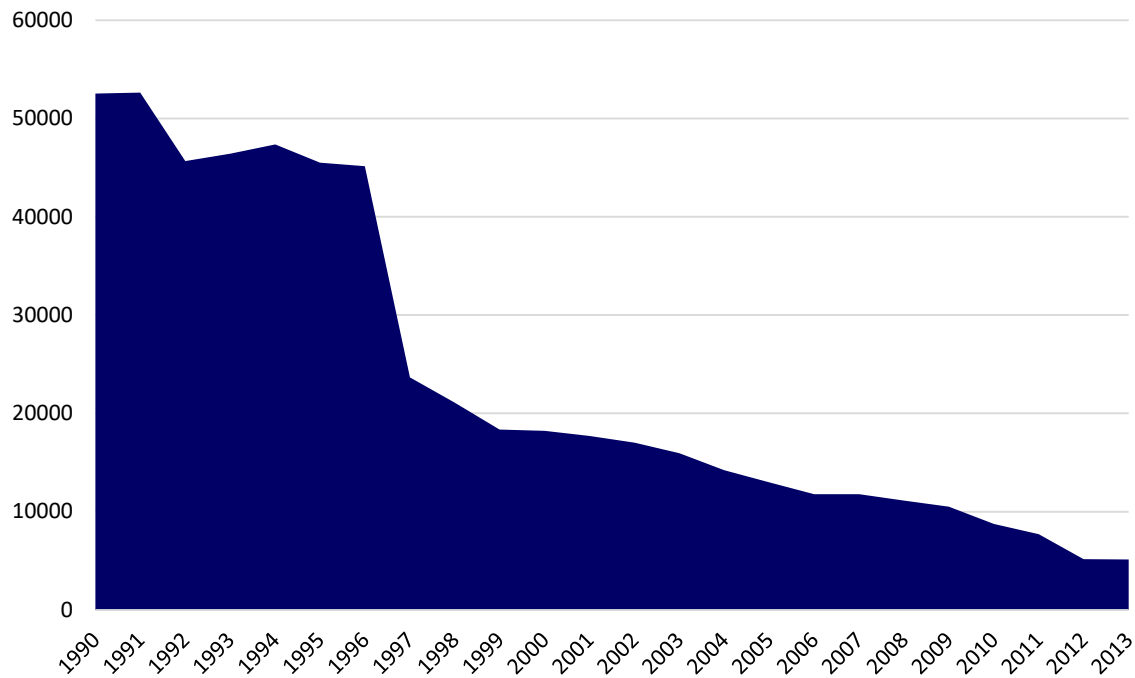
- Established in 1995, now has 17 member organizations in 14 countries in Central and Eastern Europe
- Mission: to prevent the environmentally and socially harmful impacts of international development finance, and to promote alternative solutions and public participation.
- Campaigning for a just transition in six countries (RO, BG, HU, PL, CZ, SK)
- Looking at past measures for reskilling through research on international finance, government programmes, and meetings with stakeholders in the regions.



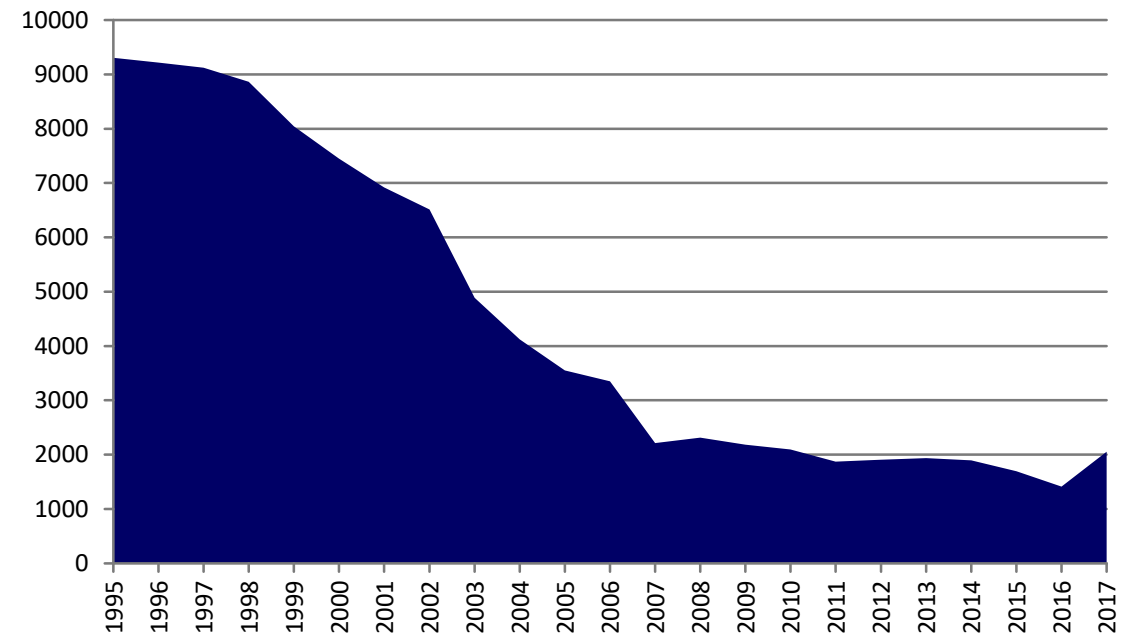
**Bankwatch  
Network**

# COAL INDUSTRY IN THE 1990S SEES A DRAMATIC REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL

Employees in hard coal mining, Hunedoara, RO



Employees in lignite mining, Hlavný banský úrad Banská Štiavnica, SK



## RESKILLING IN THE 1990s AND EARLY 2000s: POLAND

- Optimistic assumption that the mining jobs would be replaced by a new, thriving services sector – reskilling reflected that
- Many miners became long-term unemployed, leading to social exclusion (still can be felt in places like Bytom)
- Today: more favourable economic context, shortage of labour
- Mistrust in transition from the communities following the previous process.



## RESKILLING IN THE 1990S AND EARLY 2000S: ROMANIA

- Reskilling done by the company: based on demand
- Often resulted in migration to other regions/countries as there were no local jobs
- Successful program which empowered community through active participation throughout project implementation





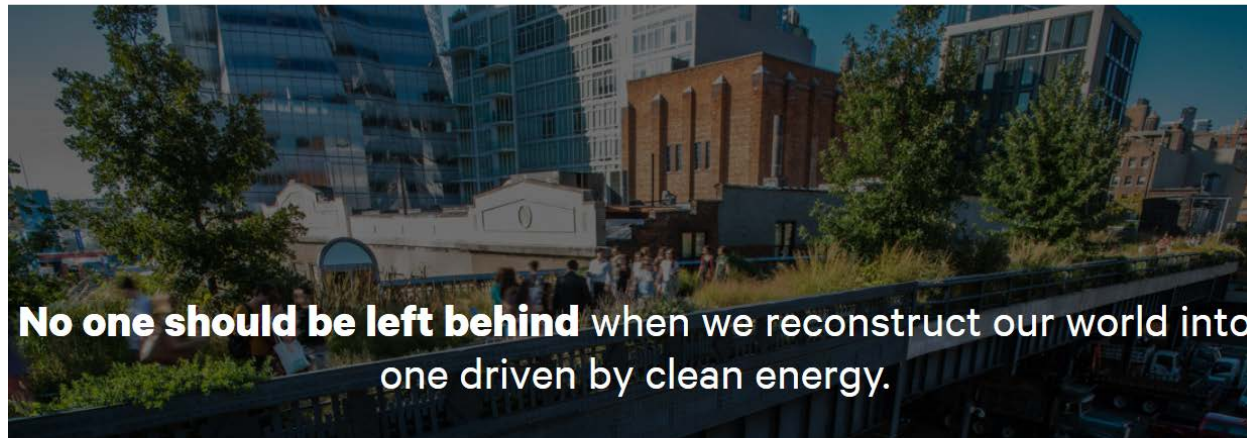
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**No one should be left behind** when we reconstruct our world into one driven by clean energy.

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## ETUC: Involving trade unions in climate action to build a just transition

ETUC



## Just Transition: eco-modernising or system change?

Chrislain-Eric Kenfack



# CZECH REPUBLIC - RESTART

- Meetings with experts and the public and promote participation through social and traditional media
- Focusing on local tradition but learning from other countries
- Awareness that it is a long process
- Participatory structure: working groups led by public authorities, business or NGOs; Regional Supervisory Board includes representatives from universities, businesses, trade unions and other associations
- Imperfect – nothing on air pollution, RES support, passive participatory process with no feedback yet, stalling



Just Transition

## Strategy for coal mining regions in Czechia brings hope

Just Transition

**'RESTART will win the trust of the people if it's stable'**

Just Transition

Last year, the Czech government adopted a Strategic

Vladimír Burt, in front of the municipality building.

# STUDY TRIP OF CEE STAKEHOLDERS TO CZECH REPUBLIC

- End of May: local stakeholders from BG, HU, PL and SK came to CZ
- Countries with similar history and levels of development
- Similar problems with migration from the areas – stopping a mine expansion had the opposite effect
- In several countries the society is divided as transformation planning is done exclusively at political level

The image shows a screenshot of a news article from EurActiv. The article is titled "Jezera v bývalých lomech nebo příležitosti pro filmaře. Česko jde příkladem v době končící těžby uhlí" (Lakes in former mines or opportunities for filmmakers. The Czech Republic is an example in the end of coal mining). The article is dated 23. květen 2018 and is authored by Dan Heuer and Kateřina Davidová. The article text includes a warning: "UPOZORNĚNÍ: Názor autora/autorů se nemusí shodovat s názorem redakce EurActiv.cz". Below the text are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. The article is accompanied by three photographs: a man pointing towards a landscape, a street scene in a town with colorful buildings, and a view of a lake in a valley.



# RESKILLING IN POLAND THROUGH THE COAL PLATFORM

- Pre-selection of projects without consultation with local stakeholders
- All 24 projects will benefit partly or fully state-owned coal companies, instead of addressing long term needs of the region (reskilling for jobs in different sectors, need for changes of support infrastructure)
- Selection through three closed Country Team meetings



# RESKILLING IN SLOVAKIA THROUGH COAL PLATFORM

- Participatory process initiated by local authorities in Prievidza after they were selected as a pilot region
- 4 working groups, 60 participants (entrepreneurs, municipalities, CSOs), 20 meetings
- Parallel process started by regional authorities in a closed meeting with EC, Government and two companies, lacking transparency
- New working group under vice-PM focused on quick financing of selected projects



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Most countries already had a similar need for reskilling in the 90s/ early 2000s in a worse context and with unimpressive results, yet in some regions the same process is being repeated expecting better outcomes.
- There are positive examples as well, and wider consultation increases the chances that valuable input will be collected.
- Migration is a common element in most regions – even if job-creating solutions are identified, without consultation they might not be attractive for the communities.
- Reskilling should be understood in the context of the redevelopment needs of the region, based on broad consultation that includes local and regional authorities, trade unions (including non-coal), local businesses as well as civil society.
- The transformative projects that are in line with Paris Agreement should be prioritized over a continuation of subsidies for the coal industry.
- Although the need for beginning reskilling is urgent, this should not be done by sacrificing democratic principles. On the regional level, often only coal companies have the capacity to produce projects so quickly.

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