Energy Strategy to 2030 with a Decarbonisation Path to 2050 in Asturias

LOGIC, STRUCTURE AND PRIORITISATION BRIEFING PAPER

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Table of contents

PART 1: Logic and Structure....3

1. Introduction....3

2. Preliminary considerations....3

Purpose and audience....3

Strategic Scope of Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path....4

Developing consensus and ownership....4

3. Components of the Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path....4

4. Vision and objectives....5

Defining a Vision....5

Definition of a new energy model....5

Categorisation of objectives....6

5. An Illustrative Structure....6

Strategic Framework....8

Illustrative Table of contents....9

PART 2: Prioritisation of Strategic Objectives....11

1. Preliminary considerations....11

2. Setting prioritisation criteria....11

Strategic vision....11

Energy model....12

Alignment to broader policy goals, technology options, and funding opportunities....12

3. Evaluating prioritisation criteria....13

Criticality....13

Temporal dimension....13

Uncertainty (Risk to Cost/Benefit)....13

Capabilities....14

Stakeholder support and enthusiasm....14

Interdependencies and sequencing....14

Annex 1: slides "Regional Working Group presentation"....17

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PART 1: LOGIC AND STRUCTURE

1. Introduction

This paper provides guidance on the logic and structure of the regional administration's Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path and the prioritisation of its strategic objectives. The paper is based on feedback from the Directora General de Energía, Minería y Reactivación and Fundación Asturiana de la Energía (FAEN) regarding four documents circulated by the START team:

- a "Considerations and questions" paper
- an illustrative strategic structure
- an indicative table of contents
- a review of Comisión Mixta para Evaluar el Impacto de la Transición Energética en Asturias output

A roundtable discussion on 4 November, 2020, with the multi-actor Regional Working Group also shaped the paper's content (see annex 1 for presentation given at the Working Group).

It is recognised that the regional administration's deliberations regarding the nature of the Energy Strategy and alignment with related regional strategies and other planning processes (e.g. the Territorial Just Transition Plan) is ongoing. Therefore, this paper should be treated as a contribution to these deliberations, not a definitive prescription.

The Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path may not be able to be wholly finalised until these other documents and processes are significantly progressed or concluded.

2. Preliminary considerations

Purpose and audience

A strategy is used to propose, explain, and organise change in a structured and prioritised manner to achieve a defined outcome(s).

An important purpose of a strategy can be to provide an 'organisational tool' that can be used to co-ordinate the actions of and promote transparency between actors. A strategy can also act as a means ('informational tool') to promote understanding and support across a range of key stakeholders in the region, Spain and the EU. These two purposes are not mutually exclusive.

In the case of Asturias, it has been indicated by regional actors that the strategy should be developed to improve co-ordination and clarity of intent across policy makers and decision makers i.e. shaping the actions of informed professionals in regional and extra-regional public and private organisations with the power, influence and knowledge to effect change apropos the decarbonisation of the region's energy system. Therefore, the strategy

should assume a relatively high degree of professional understanding and interest amongst its audience. Consequently, the document's language can be professional in nature and the content relatively detailed.

In addition, a summary of the strategy document which is more succinct and simplified could be developed to engage a wider set of interested stakeholders.

Strategic Scope of Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path

The parameters of the energy strategy need to be clearly mapped at the outset. Before drafting, an understanding of the Energy Strategy's alignment and interface with a range of related strategies and policies is required. These are:

- other regional strategies and policies (e.g. the overarching regional Just Transition strategy; and regional economic development, environmental and spatial planning strategies)
- national strategies and policies (e.g. the National Energy and Climate Plan, the Offshore Renewables strategy)
- EU strategies and policies (e.g. the policies of the EU Green Deal and Energy Union; and thematic strategies, such as the Hydrogen Strategy, Renovation Wave, the Industrial Strategy, the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy)

In short, there is a need to understand the strategy's horizontal and vertical relationships with other plans. This is a first order priority[1]. As previously noted, the Energy Strategy most probably cannot be ultimately finalised until these other documents and processes are significantly progressed or concluded.

Developing consensus and ownership

The strategy aims to have influence over matters that are outside the direct jurisdiction of the regional administration i.e. the document aspires to shape the practices and actions of other public and private actors and civil society. Therefore, the strategy development process will need to engage with or, at the very least, consider the opinions of the actors that the document aims to influence. The regional working group is a means for developing requisite consensus and buy-in. However, to achieve an effective inclusive strategy requires a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. Hence, the views of municipalities and appropriate civil society organisations merit attention.

3. Components of the Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path

A strategy document can typically consist of four broad elements:

1. Analysis and explanation of the strategic context
2. Definition of a vision and identification and justification of objectives
3. Justification and explanation of key actions /
4. measures to deliver the stated objectives
5. Indicators and processes to assess implementation and outcomes of the strategy

In the case of Asturias, considerable analysis and contextual assessment are available through the work undertaken for the Joint Committee by FAEN. Therefore, the contextual review could be kept relatively concise in the forthcoming strategy document and reference made to these pre-existing materials.

However, it should be noted that there is a significant and crucial difference between data that analyses the context of strategic intervention and data that acts as an evidence base for the selection and justification of strategic priorities.

A key element of the Energy Strategy should be to

1 It is START's understanding that such discussions are ongoing

identify the strategic vision and identify and justify the related objectives. This will foreground the desired end point of the strategy and legitimise the selection of objectives and associated sub-objectives to achieve this end point over time (e.g. in the short term to 2023; medium term to 2030; and longer term, 2030 to 2050).

Justification of each objective should be based on pertinent evidence regarding regional and extra-regional circumstances and trends. The evidence base of FAEN and the regional authority should be augmented by respected external sources e.g. JRC's Science for Policy Report, "Clean Growth Technologies in Coal Regions: Opportunities for Jobs and Growth", 2020. Please see below for further consideration of Vision and Objectives.

The identification of specific actions / measures to obtain the objectives and sub-objectives can be provided in a separate action plan that could be updated on a regular basis (perhaps annually). This approach would enable the 'broad thrust' of the strategy to be set out in the strategy document[2], while allowing for operational and planning flexibility and for detail to be captured in the action plan. Review of the action plan would allow for actions / measures to be adapted to inevitable changes in the context in which the strategy is set e.g. in the commercial, economic, funding, policy and technological environments.

Similarly, broad principles for monitoring and evaluation could be set out in the strategy document, while a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework and plan could be developed alongside the action plan.

4. Vision and objectives

Defining a Vision

A vision is usually a short qualitative articulation of a desired end point in the long term. Thus, in the context of Asturias, a single vision for transition could be formulated to cover both the Energy Strategy to 2030 and the Decarbonisation Path to 2050.

Some strategies adopt a small number of broad strategic ambitions in place of a vision. Regardless of preference, it is useful to have an overarching, short summary of intent. It is noted in the (translated) document of the Joint Committee that "the strategy will make it possible to identify the best energy model to suit the needs of Asturias and to align it with other regional strategies"

Thus, the vision for Asturias could be something like:

> *Creation of a regional energy system that responds to Asturian specificities, promotes regional competitiveness and sustainability, creates employment and wellbeing for residents, and contributes to Spanish and EU climate and energy goals.*

In addition to a qualitative end point, a strategy can provide quantitative targets. Obviously, climate neutrality by 2050 is the principal target of the strategy but there may be other intermediate (i.e. by 2030) or ancillary targets that the region wishes to achieve (e.g. in terms of installing new capacity, such as wind or hydrogen).

Definition of a new energy model

If it is the intention to define a new regional energy model, it would be appropriate to justify the preferred energy mix (building on the FAEN analysis) and explain related assumptions and interdependencies. This will provide an opportunity to identify where there is an anticipated step change in energy supply (e.g. wind, hydrogen, PV) and the anticipated scale of change[3]. Thereby, facilitating the prioritisation and selection of objectives.

In addition, it would be important for a new model to be determined by probable changes in energy demand, especially regarding the decarbonisation of industrial demand, and the implications for supply. Additionally, cognisance to energy efficiency (industrial/commercial, domestic and public sector) and its effect on demand should shape the new regional energy model[4]. Thus, facilitating the prioritisation and selection of objectives.

2 Key illustrative projects and programmes could also be referenced in the strategy document

3 JRC's Report, "Clean Growth Technologies in Coal Regions: Opportunities for Jobs and Growth" (2020) noted regional Wind (7.5GW) and PV (2.5 GW) potentially making a significant contribution to Asturias' future needs

4 Thus, it is proposed that the regional energy model should be more than a set of supply scenarios

A new regional model should nest within the broader national energy model and take account of probable energy investments and developments outside the region and the potential implications for Asturias. For example, if an aim of the regional model is to maintain a high level of regional generating capacity, thereby

lessening the import of energy from other parts of Spain, a rationale and justification, informed by the broader inter-regional and national context, is clearly required.

It would also be valuable to identify the aims of the new energy model. These could relate, for example, to decarbonisation, security and affordability of supply, decoupling industrial competitiveness and employment from local energy production, environmental considerations, and maintaining / enhancing energy expertise and innovation.

Finally, it would be helpful to provide a schematic of the model to aid comprehension.

Considering a Transition Pathway

EU coal regions that have undergone transition demonstrate that the process is a long and phased journey (from dealing with the immediate effects of closures through to the diversification of the economy). Moreover, to decarbonize in the long-term, bridging technologies, such as gas, may need to remain part of the energy mix as new technologies that currently exhibit low Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) evolve and become viable and economic. It is anticipated that the strategy can be divided into three temporal phases: the short term to 2023; the medium term to 2030 and the long term to 2050.

Categorisation of objectives

There is a need to categorise objectives. Too many objectives can become incomprehensible. Thus, it may be prudent to group objectives under a few broad goals. Consequently, sub-objectives can nest under the respective objectives.

It is imagined that some objectives could relate to specific temporal phases of the transition pathway e.g. short term objectives relating to the amelioration of the negative consequences of coal phase-out. It is also imagined that other objectives could cover more than one phase of transition and potentially all of them.

For example, objectives that could encompass all three phases might relate to:

- the development of specific energy technologies
- supply and value chain development
- just transition for People - affected groups, young people etc; and Places - urban, rural etc

Subsequently, sub-objectives relating to these objectives in the short term may correspond to the early stages of a project or an industry / technology life cycle, for example:

- assessment - undertaking appropriate research, investigation, feasibility and due diligence
- permission - pursuing required legislative, regulatory and planning approvals and changes
- resource – assessing and securing funding solutions, resources, assets and capacities
- partnership -developing requisite multi-actor relationships

In the medium and longer term, sub-objectives relating to objectives that span more than one phase are likely to reflect the need for implementation, consolidation or scaling up of requisite interventions.

It should be emphasised that the sub-objectives should not be too detailed or operational in nature. Detail and operational prescription should be contained in the Action Plan.

5. An Illustrative Structure

This section provides an illustrative structure for the strategy document. If a suite of interconnecting regional strategies is being developed by the regional authority, it may be prudent to consider the potential for organisational consistency across the documents to promote understanding of their connections and emphasise their relational nature.

VISION

Creation of a regional energy system that responds to Asturian specificities, promotes competitiveness & sustainability, creates employment & well-being for residents, and contributes to Spanish & EU energy goals

ENERGY MODEL / SYSTEM

Explanation of desired energy mix; justification based on analysis and SWOT; interdependencies; assumptions

GOAL 2

A regional energy system that is an enabler of broader regional policy ambitions

❖ **Policy alignment and integration**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

❖ **Supply chain development**
❖ **New sectors**
❖ **Smart specialisation**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

❖ **Transport**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

GOAL 1

A decarbonised regional energy system that provides reliable and affordable energy linked to region-specific thematic foci

Primary energy source A
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Primary energy source B
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Primary energy source C
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Primary Energy Source D
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Secondary energy source A
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Secondary energy source B
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Secondary energy source C
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Secondary energy source D
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Secondary energy source E
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Horizontal enabling infrastructure and regulation (regional and extra-regional)

e.g. energy networks / grid; storage; ICT; research; regulation
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Region-specific thematic foci 1

Demand: Industry, incl. electro-intensive; Commercial & services; Domestic; Transport; Primary (agri., forestry etc.)
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Region-specific thematic foci 2

Environment; Circular economy; Waste management
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

GOAL 3

A regional energy system that promotes a Just Transition

People

❖ **Employment**
❖ **Young people**
❖ **Skills**
❖ **Fuel poverty**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Place

❖ **Urban communities**
❖ **Rural communities**
❖ **Community engagement and benefit**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Strategic Framework

Considering the above, an illustrative strategic framework is presented on the previous page, providing a schematic overview of the relationship between the vision, the new regional energy model, the goals and the objectives and sub-objectives. It is indicative, not prescriptive.

Three illustrative goals have been imagined:

Goal 1 - A decarbonised regional energy system that provides reliable and affordable energy linked to region-specific thematic foci

Under this goal it is envisaged that energy technologies could be divided into first order priorities and second order priorities. First order priorities, would relate to technologies that will optimise the process of decarbonisation, comply with the aims of a new energy model and align with national and EU priorities (thereby enhancing probable political, regulatory and funding support). Some of these priorities could change over time, as some “bridging” energy technologies are phased out in the medium and longer term and new, innovative technologies (that may currently have low TRLs) become increasingly viable and affordable.

It is also imagined that this goal could accommodate objectives relating to: i) changing demand (e.g. energy efficiency); and ii) decoupling of development from unsustainable use of resources and high energy consumption (e.g. circular economy, environmental and waste management). Such objectives could be conceptualised as region-specific foci.

In addition, several horizontal objectives relating to enabling infrastructure, such as grid connectivity, energy distribution systems and storage, and regulation could be enfolded in this goal.

Goal 2 - A regional energy system that is an enabler of broader regional policy ambitions

Under this goal it is envisaged that objectives could relate to policy alignment and integration of the Energy Strategy with broader regional strategic ambitions, including the development of new value and supply chains, retention of an industrial base, Smart Specialisation and transport.

Goal 3 - A regional energy system that promotes a Just Transition

Under this goal it is envisaged that the Energy Strategy identifies its explicit and specific objectives in relation to securing a Just Transition in Asturias. It is suggested that objectives are divided into the twin domains of people (e.g. employment, young people, skills, fuel poverty) and place (e.g. urban and rural communities).

Illustrative Table of contents

An illustrative Table of Contents is provided which can act as a guide to the potential sequential sections and subsections of the strategy.

The Table of Contents references "The Action Plan" (section 9), it is envisaged that this section of the strategy will only explain the rationale, purpose and nature of the action plan and the need for its regular (annual) review.

In this section there can also be broad reference to potential funding and investment streams and the need for public and private investment.

It may be appropriate to compare the emergent structure and format of the Energy Strategy with other regional strategies, if a suite of interconnected strategies is to be developed.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of strategy

1.2 Structure of strategy

2 Context

2.1 Fit with other regional strategies and policies

2.2 Fit with EU and national strategies and policies

2.3 Inter-regional co-ordination and collaboration

2.4 Methodology of strategy development

2.5 Analysis, including SWOT and Scenarios

3 Vision

3.1 Vision statement

3.2 Longitudinal perspective (to 2030; to 2050)

3.2 Target(s)

4 Energy Model / System

4.1 Explanation and rationale of desired energy model/system (supply and demand)

4.2 Assumptions and Interdependencies

5 Strategic Goals

5.1 Overview of objectives and sub-objectives

5.2 Phasing of sub-objectives – short term (to 2025); medium term (to 2030); long term (after 2030)

6 Goal 1 - A decarbonised regional energy system that provides reliable and affordable energy linked to region-specific thematic foci

Objectives and related sub-objectives

7 Goal 2 - A regional energy system that is an enabler of broader regional policy ambitions

Objectives and related sub-objectives

8 Goal 3 - A regional energy system that promotes a Just Transition

Objectives and related sub-objectives

9 The Action Plan

9.1 Recognition of the multi-actor conditionality of action

9.2 Potential structure and content

9.3 Need for responsiveness and review

9.4 Funding and investment

10 Governance

10.1 Leadership, co-ordination and accountability

10.2 Monitoring and evaluation

10.3 Managing risk and uncertainty

PART 2: PRIORITISATION OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Preliminary considerations

A priority-setting exercise provides an opportunity to take stock of recommendations and insights coming from a situation analysis and move forwards to a structured prioritisation of strategic objectives and actions. The identification of strategic priorities is a necessary part of the planning process contributing to the determination of key actions, their sequencing, and resource allocation.

Fundamentally, priority setting reflects the fact that resources are finite and, therefore, choices need to be made about their allocation across multiple and potentially competing objectives, some of which will be more crucial and relevant than others.

Any process of priority-setting that concerns public policy is inherently political. In the context of energy policy, priority setting is not restricted to issues of energy supply and demand, nor financial and economic considerations, but also needs to reflect broader societal values and goals. In this regard, choices over the prioritisation of strategy objectives should consider societal values and vision for the energy sector, which may not be uniform and may require compromise among competing visions of different stakeholders.

2. Setting prioritisation criteria

Priority setting should be determined with reference to explicitly chosen criteria. This sub-section outlines potential foundations for identifying and setting prioritisation criteria.

Strategic vision

Prioritisation criteria may be derived directly or indirectly from the vision defined for the strategy. As noted in Part 1 of this document , the identification and justification of strategic objectives should set within a strategic vision that articulates the end-point and desired outcomes to be achieved, thereby providing legitimacy to the selection of strategic objectives. This allows for strategic objectives – and associated actions – to be understood in terms of their contributions to achieving an overarching strategic vision.

Taking as an example the illustrative strategic proposed in Part 1 (“*Creation of a regional energy system that responds to Asturian specificities, promotes regional competitiveness and sustainability, creates employment and wellbeing for residents, and contributes to Spanish and EU climate and energy goals.”),* criteria for evaluating

objectives (and accompanying actions) of an energy transition strategy for Asturias may be developed in terms of, for example:

- Competitiveness: e.g. potential to contribute to maintaining and enhancing the competitiveness of economic activities in the region.
- Employment: e.g. potential to contribute to creation of attractive employment opportunities in the region.
- Wellbeing: e.g. potential to contribute to wellbeing and a just transition for residents (such as incomes, health, social cohesion, and eradication of energy poverty)
- Climate and energy goals: e.g. potential contribution to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. decarbonisation, energy efficiency, resource utilisation etc.)

Energy model

In the specific context of an Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path for Asturias, the setting of a strategic vision and the determination and prioritisation of strategic objectives cannot be disassociated from the formulation of a new energy model for the region. Formulation of a new energy model (or options thereof) is a central recommendation of the Joint Committee and will be crucial in terms of setting ambitions for the regional energy system, alongside assessing and proposing technical and technological requirements and options. A new energy model for the region remains to be proposes and defined, but it is nonetheless clear that it will occupy a central place in the identification of key objectives for an energy strategy.

A proposed new energy model must *inter alia* be consistent with the regions obligations and ambitions in terms of energy sector transition and decarbonisation of the regional economy. Equally, it must set out a pathway for transition that continually assures that the region's energy requirements can be adequately met, including in terms of security and quality of supply. With reference to the energy strategy, criteria for evaluating objectives (and accompanying actions) of an energy transition strategy for Asturias may be developed in terms of, for example:

- Decarbonisation: e.g. potential to contribute to decarbonisation and sustainability of energy production and consumption, in accordance with the region's climate ambitions.
- Energy security, supply management, and quality: e.g. potential to contribute to security of energy supply of the region and to ensuring that region's energy supply and quality can meet demand requirements.

Alignment to broader policy goals, technology options, and funding opportunities

Alignment with core EU and national energy and climate policy goals has been mentioned above, in relation to the strategic vision. In addition, alignment with energy related thematic strategies should be assessed, such as green hydrogen or offshore renewable energy.

It may also be appropriate to define priority setting criteria that relate to other policy aspects. For example, in terms of smart specialisation and innovation policy, or in relation to sectoral policies, especially for those sectors that may be most affected by energy transition (e.g. energy-intensive industry, agriculture and forestry). Here, alignment of energy strategy objectives with other 'non-energy' policy objectives may be included as part of the criteria for priority setting. For example, while more related to industrial policy, an Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path for Asturias may also integrate objectives such:

- Decoupling economic and energy growth: e.g. decoupling growth of the region's industrial base from the regional energy supply
- Industrial development: e.g. strengthening the integration of the region's industrial (and technology) base in supply and value chains for renewable energy technologies.

Further, although it is stated previously that priority setting should be undertaken ahead of decision-making on resource allocation and budgeting, it may

nonetheless be relevant to consider the alignment of strategic objectives with potential funding opportunities – and opportunities to leverage public funding schemes to secure public and private investments – as part of the priority setting process. In the context of energy strategy, this may equally be relevant in terms of consideration of support for development and implementation and different technological options.

3. Evaluating prioritisation criteria

The previous sub-section has outlined possible considerations for the identification of criteria for prioritising strategic objectives (and accompanying actions). Having identified appropriate criteria, consideration also needs to be given to their operationalisation.

Criticality

A first dimension to defining a prioritisation of objectives (and accompanying actions) is to assess their relative importance or contribution to achieving the overriding strategic goals. For example, objectives may be categorised as:

- Essential: an objective that must be accomplished if the strategic goals are to be attained.
- Important: an objective that will have significant positive impact (or contribution) to the attainment of strategic goals.
- Desirable: an objective that is desired attribute of (implementation of) the strategy but may not be essential (or important) to accomplishing strategic goals.

In essence, such a categorisation provides a hierarchy of objectives. By recognising that there are some 'critical' strategic objectives that must be achieved, and that necessary resources must be made available to achieve them, there is an implicit recognition that it may eventually be necessary to shift resources away from desirable (or important) objectives in order to accomplish critical objectives.

Temporal dimension

A second dimension to defining a prioritisation of objectives is the consideration of the temporal dimension. This may arise, for example, where the situation analysis reveals issues that must be addressed urgently, whereas other issues can be addressed over a longer period. Thus, objectives may be categorised according to their time dependence, for example, whether they should be accomplished in the short, medium, or longer-term[1]. Alternately, objectives can cover different time periods, with associated sub-objectives changing over time.

In the specific context of an Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation Path for Asturias, a temporal dimension to categorisation of objectives may arise because of policy commitments (at regional, national, or supra-national level). The temporal dimension may also take account of policy and funding cycles. For example, where funding opportunities that could help support achieving certain objectives may be available only in the short-term or, conversely, may become available only in the longer term.

Uncertainty (Risk to Cost/Benefit)

A third dimension to defining a prioritisation of objectives may be to consider the relationship between risk and the potential costs and benefits[2] associated to of achieving strategic objectives (including the timing of costs and benefits). Most obvious would be to prioritise objectives that are associated with little risk (or cost) and that deliver benefits in a relatively short timeframe. Prioritising, such 'low hanging fruit' that quickly provide successful outcomes can help build momentum and encourage further participation towards achieving more significant objectives over the longer term.

In the context of an Energy Strategy and Decarbonisation

1 e.g. short-term objectives to ameliorate negative consequences of coal phase-out; medium-term objectives to reposition energy system for decarbonisation; and longer term objectives to attain carbon neutrality
2 This refers not just to financial costs and benefits, but to all relevant economic, social and environment etc, costs and benefits.

Path for Asturias, trade-offs between risks and potential costs and benefits are relevant in terms of technological choices. For example, key technologies such as hydrogen and floating offshore wind that could occupy a prominent role in a future energy model for the region, are not yet mature. This implies uncertainty (risk) over both the timeframe for development of the technology and eventual benefits for the region, both in terms of energy supply potential and potential for involvement of the region's technological and industrial base.

Capabilities

A fourth dimension concerns consideration of the skills and expertise to implement strategic objectives and whether (or not) the requisite capabilities for implementation are available in the region, or can be accessed with ease.[3] Achieving strategic objectives is more likely if actions can draw upon or create synergies with existing capabilities. Conversely, even though strategic objectives may have high appeal, they may be difficult to pursue – either in terms of cost, capacity, or associated risk – if the necessary capabilities for implementation are unavailable or insufficient. In this context, it may be relevant to map regional capabilities against strategic objectives, to consider how current capabilities can be leveraged to achieve strategic objectives, and to assess the costs (and potential benefits) of investments to develop required capabilities where they are missing.

Stakeholder support and enthusiasm

A fifth dimension to defining a prioritisation may be based on the extent of stakeholder support and degree of enthusiasm for achieving different strategic objectives. Understanding stakeholder support for strategic objectives can provide a basis for prioritisation of objectives for which there is the highest widespread public support and 'ownership'. Recognising that stakeholders may differ both in their prioritisation of different strategic objectives and in their level of influence over implementation of actions and eventual achievement of objectives can help identify areas of potential conflict and opportunities for trade-offs. At the same time, it can be used to promote 'inclusiveness' by ensuring that prioritisation of objectives is not determined only by the most prominent, or powerful, stakeholder groups.

Interdependencies and sequencing

Following from the above, a simple prioritisation of individual strategic objectives may not result in an optimal outcome if interdependencies across objectives are not considered. For example, if priority-setting results in the identification of a collection of short-term priorities, this may not necessarily enable longer term strategic goals to be attained. Consequently, it remains important that a focus on short-term priorities does not lose sight of longer term strategic goals and ensures that appropriate actions are implemented at the appropriate time as the groundwork for achieving strategic goals in the longer term.

Where strategic goals are represented through multiple strategic objectives, with dependencies between objectives, there may be different strategic pathways – including in terms of alternative sequencing of the actions –towards achieving the strategic goals. In this context, rather than just undertaking prioritisation of individual objectives that are meshed in a network of dependencies, there may be added value in undertaking an evaluation and prioritisation of alternative pathways for achieving strategic goals. Prioritisation of pathways can build on the approaches for prioritising individual objectives, but it can also consider the flexibility within different pathways that could allow the strategy to respond to changing future circumstances.

3 Capabilities can be understood widely, covering regional competences in terms of skill and knowledge, behavioural and cultural, management and administrative, financial, information systems and data, etc.

Table 1 List of Mixed Commission recommendations

1	**Strategy development**
1a	Development of a regional energy strategy to 2030 with decarbonisation path to 2050
2	**Promote existing and new regional energy resources**
2a	Facilitate onshore and offshore wind projects
2b	Hydrogen and biogas as vectors
2c	Exploitation of Region's Forest Biomass resources
2d	Facilitate commissioning of waste energy plants
3	**Promote new energy model based on technological diversification**
3a	Regional electricity storage as a hub for development / guarantee of quality of supply
3b	Promotion of energy rehabilitation of buildings and self-consumption
3c	Hybridisation of technologies
3d	Promotion of electric mobility
3e	Facilitate use of alternative fuels in the transport sector
4	**Maintaining current use of resources and facilities**
4a	Maintain mini-hydraulic activity
4b	Maintain co-generation activity
4a	Maintain activity of mini hydraulics
4c	Gas as transition energy vector
5	**Change in the energy regulatory envirionment**
5a	Update to electricity sector law 24/2013 and other regulations
5b	Specific energy measures for electro-energy industrial consumers
5c	Administrative alignment
5d	Review adequacy of land management and urban management regulations
5e	Optimisation project administration
5f	Regulation and planning in the livestock and agroforestry sector
5g	Administrative authorisation of the Musel Port re-gasification plant
6	**New Infrastructure**
6a	Commissioning of Musel Port re-gasification plant
6b	Ensuring quality electricity supply and facilitate self-consumption
6c	Promoting basic supply networks (e.g. mobility charging points and gas; urban heat networks)
7	**Exploiting mining, energy and industrial experience**
7a	Exploiting mining & ind. knowledge and ecosystem
7b	Promoting sustainable mining
7c	Enhancing value of mining and industrial heritage
8	**Energy transition as a catalyst for economic activity, employment, and innovation**
8a	Take advantage of energy transition as an accelerator of economic activity
8b	Development of products and service associated with energy efficiency improvement
8c	Promote energy efficiency & self-consumption for energy efficiency in buildings
8d	Boost new mobility and transport modes
8e	Promote sustainable mobility for business and individuals
8f	Exemplary role of public administrations
8g	Harnessing selected sectors to promote collective actions
8h	Boosting activities is sectors (livestock & agroforestry) related to energy transition

9	**Take advantage of synergies in energy and environmental actions**
9a	Take advantage of synergies in energy and environmental actions
10	**CROSS CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS**
10a	Increase investment in R&D / Strengthen R&D in technologies and Energy
10b	Boosting regional technologies and production chains
10c	Transformation from a linear to a circular economy
10d	Boosting ICT and digitalisation of companies and buildings
10e	Training and skills development
10f	Private-public collaboration for energy transition
10g	Addressing energy poverty through building rehabilitation
10e	Awareness raising

ANNEX 1: SLIDES „REGIONAL WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION“

European Commission

Iniciativa de la UE para las regiones carboníferas en transición

Apoyo y asistencia técnica de START a Asturias

Secretaría para la Iniciativa para las Regiones Carboníferas en Transición

01 **Reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo y Diálogo Político**

02 **Comunicaciones**

03 **Materiales y herramientas**

04 **Asistencia técnica**

ECORYS · Climate Strategies · ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability · Wuppertal Institut

INITIATIVE FOR COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION

START

Secretaría de Asistencia Técnica a las Regiones en Transición

INITIATIVE FOR COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION

START

Ambito

- Elaboración de la estrategia: transición energética y diversificación económica
- Análisis temáticos (empleo y habilidades, RES, etc.)
- Identificación y desarrollo de proyectos
- Gobernanza y capacidad

Enfoque

- Co-creación
- Colaboración estrecha con los destinatarios regionales
- Colaboración estrecha con los servicios de la CE
- Participación de ECORYS Bruselas y Madrid

INITIATIVE FOR COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION

Secretaría de Asistencia Técnica a las Regiones en Transición (START): Perspectiva general

Recursos

Entre 50 y 110 días de apoyo por región (90 días Asturias)

Complementario a otras actividades de apoyo

Proceso

Regiones seleccionadas en Octubre 2019

5 visitas regionales sobre el terreno y elaboración de planes de trabajo

COVID-19 y compromiso virtual

Finalización de las actividades a finales de 2021 (Asturias Q1 2021)

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START: Regiones diversas, necesidades diferentes

ES	**Asturias**	Estrategia de transición energética y apoyo a proyectos
IE	**Midlands**	Plan de ruta para la transición, identificación de proyectos y consulta
CZ	**Karlovy Vary (Distrito Sokolov)**	Asesoramiento estratégico (aptitudes y empleo, energía renovable, etc.) y desarrollo de capacidades
PL	**Malopolska**	Identificación y apoyo de proyectos y desarrollo de capacidades
EL	**Peloponeso (Megalópolis)**	Evaluación de opciones de proyecto y asistencia
RO	**Distrito de Hunedoara (Valle de Jiu)**	Identificación de proyectos, consultas y apoyo
PL	**Silesia**	Rehabilitación y readaptación de la zona postindustrial

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Midlands START (IE)

Marzo de 2020 a septiembre de 2020

Ejemplo

Actividades y productos de START para la región de Midlands (IE)

Midlands Engagement Process

Objetivo: Establecer una base de datos de proyectos de transición

- **Proceso de participación y orientación on-line**
- **Información sobre los impulsores del cambio y los proyectos de buenas prácticas**
- **Plantillas de registro de proyectos y proceso de presentación**
- **156 registros de proyectos**

Ejemplo

Actividades y productos de START para la región de Midlands (IE)

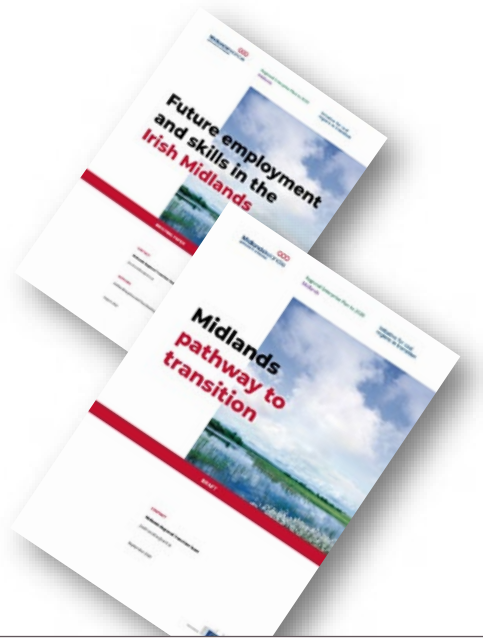
Informe de empleo y habilidades (Employment & skills Report)

- **Orientación y buenas prácticas de apoyo a los trabajadores**

Ruta de transición en Midlands (Midlands Pathway to Transition)

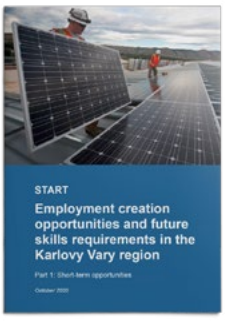
Documento que traza la transición en el corto y largo plazo

- **Crear consenso sobre las prioridades y actividades de transición**
- **Optimizar la asignación de recursos y la coordinación de las acciones**
- **Apoyo a la transparencia**
- **Vigilar los progresos y riesgos en el tiempo**



Karlovy Vary START (CZ)

Agosto 2020 >



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Apoyo de START en Asturias

Tarea 1: Desarrollo de la estrategia

- Asesoramiento sobre la estructura de la Estrategia Energética
- Identificación de áreas de alineación con las políticas y prioridades tecnológicas y de transición de la UE
- Asesoramiento sobre priorización de objetivos estratégicos, basados en las recomendaciones de la Comisión Mixta y en los escenarios
- Identificación de buenas prácticas en otras regiones de la UE
- Identificación de posibles oportunidades de financiación

Estrategia Energética 2030 y Ruta de Descarbonización 2050

- La estrategia debe:
  - establecer una visión y racionalizar los objetivos y subobjetivos conexos y propicios
  - secuenciar las prioridades estratégicas en el tiempo (hasta 2025, 2030, 2030>)
  - promover la coordinación y la claridad entre los múltiples actores
  - actuar como un medio para involucrar y comunicar a las partes interesadas a nivel regional, nacional y de la UE
- Debe elaborarse un plan de acción de medidas clave para permitir la respuesta a un contexto cambiante en el tiempo y garantizar que el documento de estrategia tenga una dimensión práctica
- Las recomendaciones de la Comisión Mixta fundamentan este enfoque - requieren la categorización y la debida consideración, e.g., la prioridad, secuencia, ajuste de políticas, dominio (estrategia o plan de acción)

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE OF STRUCTURE

VISION
Creation of a regional energy model that responds to Asturian specificities, promotes competitiveness & sustainability, creates employment & well-being for residents, and contributes to Spanish & EU energy goals

ENERGY MODEL / SYSTEM
Explanation of desired energy mix; justification based on analysis and SWOT; interdependencies; assumptions

GOAL 2
A regional energy system that is an enabler of broader regional policy ambitions

- Policy alignment and integration
  - Objectives
  - Sub-objectives
- Supply chain development
- New sectors
- Smart specialisation
  - Objectives
  - Sub-objectives

GOAL 1
A decarbonised regional energy system that provides reliable and affordable energy linked to region-specific thematic foci

- Onshore wind: 1600mW (+1082mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Offshore wind: 770mW (+770mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Pumped storage hydropower: 625mW (+500mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Other fuels: 248mW (+193mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Photovoltaic: 138mW (+135mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Natural gas / H2: 600mW (0) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Hydropower: 651mW (-2mw) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- CHP: 164mW (+30mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Biomass: 103mW (+62mW) — Objectives, Sub-objectives
- Biogas: 14mW (0) — Objectives, Sub-objectives

Horizontal enabling infrastructure and regulation (regional and extra-regional)
e.g. energy networks / grid; storage; ICT; research; regulation
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Region-specific thematic foci 1

Demand: Industry, incl. electro-intensive; Commercial & services; Domestic; Transport; Primary (agri., forestry etc.)
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Region-specific thematic foci 2

Environment; Circular economy; Waste management
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

GOAL 3
A regional energy system that promotes a Just Transition

People
- **Employment**
- **Skills**
- **Fuel poverty**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Place
- **Urban communities**
- **Rural communities**
- **Community engagement and benefit**
- Objectives
- Sub-objectives

Apoyo de START en Asturias

Tarea 2: Apoyo al proyecto

- **Elaborar una plantilla de proyecto y criterios de selección**
- **Clasificar, evaluar y priorizar las propuestas de proyectos sobre la base de la información disponible**
- **Identificar las lagunas del proyecto**
- **Identificar posibles oportunidades de financiación**

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Posibles áreas de debate

- **El Escenario Objetivo representa un importante paso adelante en la generación de electricidad, que requiere una inversión sustancial en algunas fuentes de energía (e.g., las tecnologías eólicas). Esto implica de facto una priorización estratégica de algunas acciones para desarrollar la oferta energética de la región.**
- **Existe un análisis riguroso de las posibles oportunidades de transición de la oferta energética regional, pero una menor evaluación de las oportunidades de la demanda para la descarbonización y las mejoras de la eficiencia energética.**
- **La pertinencia y viabilidad de la aplicación de una estrategia energética regional para Asturias se verán afectadas por la evolución de la demanda y la oferta de energía extrarregional y las inversiones conexas.**
- **Una estrategia energética regional para Asturias debe estar en consonancia con un desarrollo económico más amplio, con la diversificación/innovación y con los objetivos de transición justa para la región. Sin embargo, la estrategia energética se elaborará a priori antes de redactar una estrategia de desarrollo regional más amplia.**
- **Los recursos son finitos en los sectores público y privado. Por tanto, las prioridades estratégicas de inversión necesitan una explicación/justificación clara y razonada. Se debe revisar periódicamente un "Plan de acción" para la aplicación de la estrategia, incorporando procesos para responder a medida que cambien las circunstancias.**

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Gracias

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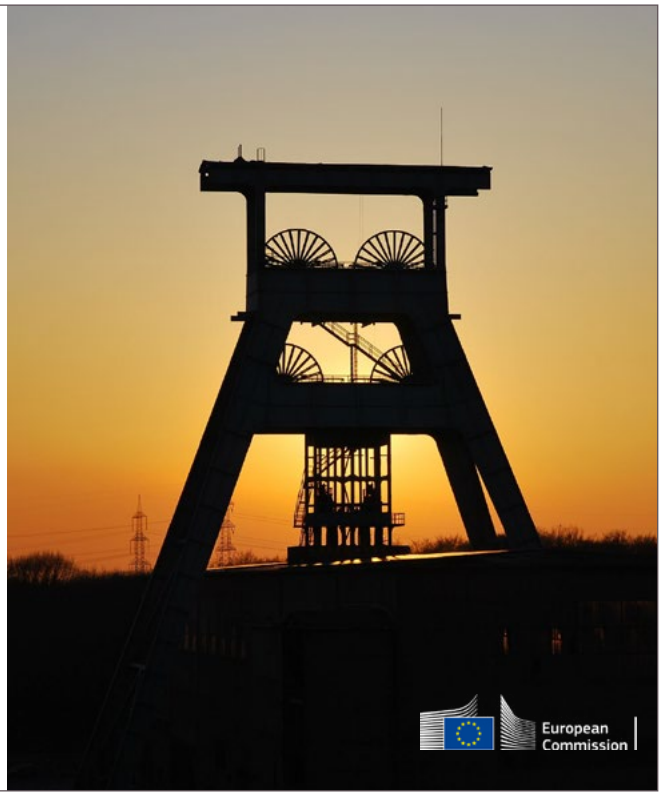
DG Energy's YouTube channels