



7th BOLSTER regional policy dialogue

How can Territorial Just Transition Plans be truly inclusive towards marginalised communities?



2 October 2024 – 10:00 - 12:30 CEST



Online

ABOUT THE EVENT

The [BOLSTER project](#) (Bridging Organizations and marginalised communities for Local Sustainability Transitions in EuRope) aims to understand how marginalised communities are affected by European Green Deal (EGD)-related policies and to assess whether involving them in decision-making processes increases the support for transition plans.

In this framework, ECAS and the BOLSTER consortium partners are organising a series of 10 regional policy dialogues focused on the [project's target regions](#) and 3 EU policy dialogues.

This policy dialogue will explore the findings of the project in Bulgaria, with a particular emphasis on the Stara Zagora region. It will address how Territorial Just Transition Plans and related projects can actively engage marginalised groups in the societal and green transition. Focusing on the impact of Just Transition funding on vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, the event will bring together researchers, policymakers and civil society to share diverse perspectives.

The dialogue's objectives are two-fold. First, it aims to identify the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities within current Just Transition project calls and stakeholder engagement efforts. Second, it aims to highlight best practices from various regions, offering actionable strategies for local authorities, NGOs and citizens to support marginalised communities and grassroots initiatives throughout the Just Transition process.



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Programme of the event

Agenda	
10:00 – 10:05	Welcoming of participants
10:05 – 10:55	<p>Presentations on Regional Perspectives on Just Transition Plans and marginalised communities</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Christina Nikolova, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria- Alexandra Lulache, Housing Coordinator Make Better Association Romania- Dr. Artur Ochojski, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland- Remina Aleksieva, Expert, Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria
10:55 – 12:15	<p>Panel discussion – Challenges and strategies for enhancing inclusiveness of Just Transition plans</p> <p>10:55 – 11:15: Tour de table and introduction of the panel discussants</p> <p>11:15 -12:15: Slido questionnaire and discussion with the panelists</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ivaylo Stoyanov, Head of Strategic Planning and Programming Department, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria- Monica Stoyanova, Senior Expert in the Strategic Planning and Programming Department, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria- Zornitsa Roussinova, President of Economic and Social Council, Republic of Bulgaria- Dr. Artur Ochojski, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland- Prof. Darina Zaimova, Trakia University Institute for Sustainable Transition and Development – Stara Zagora, Bulgaria- Milena Ilieva and Stanimira Pashova, World Without Borders, Bulgaria <p><i>Moderator:</i> Savannah Schuurbiers, European Democracy Coordinator at European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)</p>
12:15 – 12:30	Final comments from speakers and attendees