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Web INTERactive management tool for coal Re- gions in transition



WINTER

Deliverable 3.2

Database of socioeconomic parameters

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The socio-economic component relates to the distributional effects of the energy transition and aims to minimise social disruption through strategies to improve equity. These strategies include the provision of social benefits to ex-miners, the provision of additional support to affected communities, e.g. through training and retraining, and possibly through job guarantee schemes.

As part of this task, data will be collected in the case study regions, e.g. on population, accessibility, land use, employment and skills profile, business sector, unemployment rate and decline in income over time in communities affected by the coal phase-out. The data is collected from statistical offices and authorities at national and EU level, from associations such as EURACOAL and trade unions, from regional organizations and from the European Commission. Collecting socio-economic data is an indispensable tool in the management of coal regions in transition. It serves as a basis for developing customised strategies to mitigate social impacts, strengthen community resilience and ultimately create a sustainable future for all stakeholders. The database will be available on the WINTER platform to enable stakeholders the application of the tools identified in the management handbook (Task 3.5).

The database of socioeconomic parameters will be available in the webtool.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SECTOR (COAL /STEEL):	COAL
TECHNICAL GROUP:	TGK 1
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1 What is socio-economic data?

Socio-economic data is information that relates to the social and economic aspects of a population or a particular region. This data includes a wide range of statistics and metrics that help to understand the social fabric and economic situation of a community. It is collected through various survey methods, including surveys, censuses, statistical analyses, interviews and other research techniques.

Socioeconomic data typically includes information such as:

- **Income and employment:** statistics on unemployment rates, types of employment, income distribution and poverty lines.
- **Education:** Data on educational attainment, school qualifications, educational institutions and training opportunities.
- **Health:** Information on health care, diseases, life expectancy and access to medical care.
- **Housing:** Statistics on housing situations, property prices, rental costs and housing availability.
- **Population composition:** Data on age structure, gender ratios, ethnic diversity and family structures.

2 Why do we need socio-economic data?

The transition of coal regions to sustainable economic models is an urgent necessity in the age of climate change. The transformation from coal-based economies to diversified and sustainable structures requires a **comprehensive strategy** that takes into account not only environmental but also socio-economic aspects. In this context, socio-economic data plays a crucial role in the management of coal regions in transition.

Collecting and analysing socio-economic data provides valuable insights into living conditions, employment patterns, education levels, healthcare and social structures in these regions. This information is essential to develop effective strategies to **manage economic restructuring** and create new jobs. By understanding the current situation, targeted measures can be taken to counteract the **social impact of the coal phase-out** and ease the transition for residents.

It is particularly important to increase social acceptance of such transformation processes. Changes in coal regions are often met with resistance as they affect existential issues in the community. Socio-economic data is invaluable in **understanding the concerns and needs of citizens** and offering targeted programmes of support. This can include developing new economic prospects, retraining the labour force, promoting entrepreneurship and expanding social infrastructure.

The successful transformation of coal regions requires a holistic approach based on **substantiated data and broad community participation**. Socio-economic information enables management decision-makers to make informed decisions that take into account both economic viability and social responsibility. The data supports political opinion formation and allows forecasting.

To summarise, socio-economic data is an indispensable tool in the management of coal regions in transition. It serves as a basis for developing customised strategies to mitigate social impacts, strengthen community resilience and ultimately create a sustainable future for all stakeholders.

The database serves as a preparatory measure for the management handbook (Task 3.5).

As discussed in **Deliverable 3.1 Report of an ideal-type governance and management structures for transition regions**, the strategic management has the task to adapt consciously chosen strategies for areas and regions to externalities and to communicate this with regard to the different interests of actors (cf. Brüggemann 2021: 45). To this end, strategic management uses an open range of analytical methods in order to rationally identify and assess opportunities and risks for a region. At the same time, strategic management activates actors, such as authorities and relevant companies, to stringently implement visions and strategies through appropriate tools and plans (Figure 1). The toolbox must be underpinned by data, the handbook will finally clarify how the cross-connections are made.

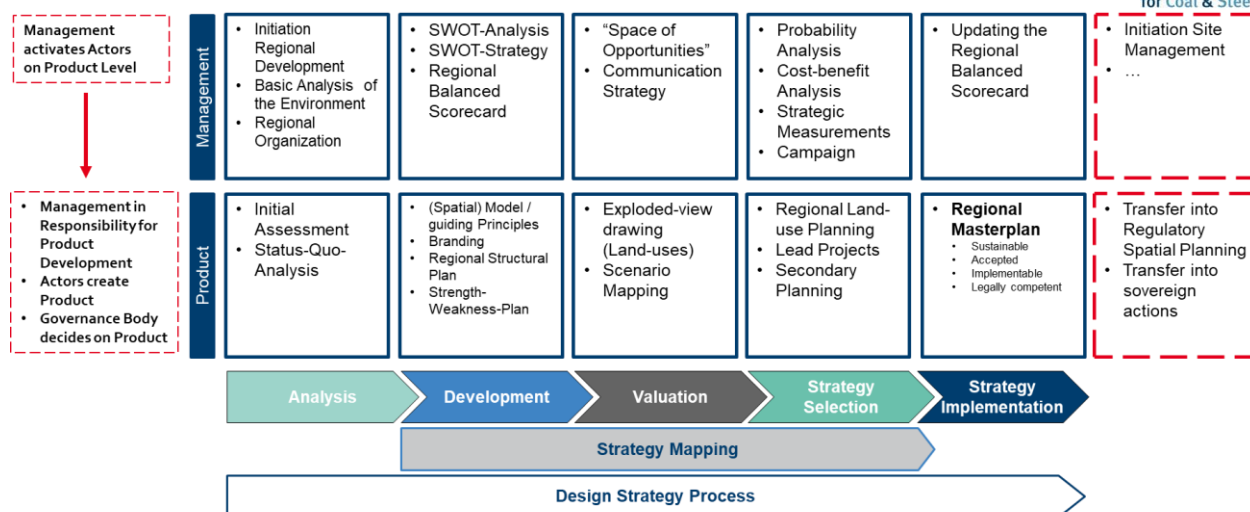


Figure 1: "Ideal-type" governance and management structure in a transition region (modified from Brüggemann 2021: 40 & Feldmann 2009: 57)

The database is based exclusively on data that is **freely available** and free of charge at the time of collection. Merging the data enables barriers to be broken down and data to be linked. We strongly recommend the establishment of a regional statistics centre to support transformation projects.

3 Socioeconomic database

The database consists of a total of 4 spreadsheets. The first three spreadsheets contain all completed indicators for the three case regions (Ruhr area - Germany, Wielkopolska - Poland and Western Macedonia - Greece). For the Ruhr area regional data was found for all of the indicators agreed in Milestone 3.1 (Structure of database of socioeconomic parameters).

The last spreadsheet of the current database compares the available data from the Greek and Polish region on the regional scale at time of collection.

The majority of German Ruhr area data stems from the statistics portal¹ of the RVR (Regional Association Ruhr). The majority of Greek and Polish data originates from EUROSTAT², the Statistical Office of the European Union. All other data sources are named at the appropriate place within the database. The data was collected between November 2022 and December 2023. A cross-link between the management structures and the data will be established within the management handbook (Task 3.5).

4 References

Brüggemann, Jürgen 2021: Städtebaulich-strategisches Projektmanagement für Stadtquartiere. In: FZN [Forschungszentrum Nachbergbau]; THGA [Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola] (Edit.): Berichte zum Nachbergbau (3). Bochum

Feldmann, Philipp (2009): Die strategische Entwicklung neuer Stadtquartiere – unter besonderer Berücksichtigung innenstadtnaher oder innenstädtischer brachgefallener Industrieareale. In: Schulte, Karl Werner; Bone-Winkel, Stephan (Edit.): Schriften zur Ökonomie (53). Regensburg, Immobilienmanagerverlag

¹ available online at <https://statistikportal.ruhr/>

² available online at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>