TOWARDS A JUST COAL TRANSITION
A LABOR MARKET PERSPECTIVE

As Europe’s largest coal producer, Poland is at the forefront of the European coal exit narrative. The donorship of a just transition framework is also crucial for affected regions in other large coal-producing countries like the US and Australia. The current “zero emission coal” strategy could cost us our fossil fuel industries, money, national prestige, and lower living standards.

LIMITED NUMBER OF WORKERS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE TRANSITION

- Directly affected: 20,000 workers
- Indirectly affected: 100,000 workers
- Total: 120,000 workers

The expected job loss is significant, as the coal industry is already declining. Workers are trapped by a lack of job opportunities in other sectors that can match their education, experience, and qualification levels.

COAL-RELATED EMPLOYMENT IS HIGHLY CONCENTRATED

- 16% of the EU’s coal employment
- Concentrated in a few regions, particularly in Poland

Several European countries, including Poland, are heavily dependent on coal for energy production. This concentration has led to significant job losses in affected regions.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS IS IN DANGER

- The coal exit could make European industries less competitive
- This could affect trade balance and GDP growth

The coal exit could make European industries less competitive, leading to a decrease in trade balance and GDP growth.

THE RISKS OF AFFECTED INDUSTRIES ARE MORE FOR NON-RURAL WORKERS

- Non-rural workers are more exposed to the coal exit
- This could lead to social unrest and political instability

Those who work in rural areas are more likely to be affected by the coal exit, leading to social unrest and political instability.

JOBS MATCHING TOOL TO ASSESS VULNERABILITY OF LABOR TRANSITIONS AND REASSURING NEEDS IN CURRENT AND FUTURE LABOR MARKETS

This tool can help match workers with new job opportunities, including those in renewable energy sectors.

KEY CHALLENGED ROLES FORWARD WILL BE

- Earnings care and maintenance
- Business and administrative support
- Energy production
- Development

These roles will be crucial in the transition period, providing new job opportunities in various sectors.

REFERENCES