Reflections on the just transition debate

Alexander Reitzenstein
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It is complex and challenging...
...but the costs of inaction, including for working communities worldwide, are much higher than the costs of action...

PNAS et al 2018
...and there is growing evidence on good practices for just transitions
There is no blueprint for a just transition but exchange between similar regions is crucial.
The challenges will grow with the progressing transformation of economies…

Figure 5. Regional employment in fossil fuel extraction and energy intensive industries (NUTS2 level)
...and affect all sectors of the economy

“There are a number of pathways for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in line with our vision: all are challenging, but could be feasible from a technological, economic, environmental and social perspective. Reaching this objective requires deep societal and economic transformations within a generation touching every sector of the economy.” (EU Commission: A Clean Planet for All, Nov 2018)

Figure 6. GHG emissions trajectory in a 1.5 °C scenario

EU Commission 2018
The European Green Deal - Opportunity for proactively shaping the change?
- **Transitions are not new.** The news is that climate change is speeding up economic and social transition processes
- **Proactivity and forward-looking measures** are key to create new perspectives for regions
- **Building on strengths and assets** but **avoiding lock-ins** is a fine line
- Administrative coordination and local access to funding, including for civil society, are crucial
- **Being honest and realistic** on what government-driven structural change processes can deliver, is key for credibility
- **Realize opportunities and co-benefits of a speedy transformation**