

„JUST TRANSITION FOR SILESIA”
A COMPETITION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The climate policy objectives adopted by the European Commission (*The European Green Deal*) predict that European Union member states will have developed a climate neutral economy and industry by the year 2050. Achieving this goal presents an immense challenge, especially for regions such as Upper Silesia, which have been, until the present day, particularly reliant on high-emission industry based on the exploitation of fossil fuels. Pursuant to the European Commission’s plan, such regions are supposed to develop and implement “territorial just transition plans”. These plans are necessary for a region to be granted special EU funding intended for acceptable regional transformation which alleviates the economic and social consequences of profound changes needed to depart from the present model of natural resources exploitation.

A few months ago, the University of Silesia established the interdisciplinary Just Transition Research Group, associated with its Research Centre for Public Policy and Regulatory Governance. Scientific research and active participation in the transitions awaiting our region and similar places across Europe will become a key area of activity for the University of Silesia in the decades to come. Therefore, we would like to announce **an open competition** for the University of Silesia doctoral students (both members of the Doctoral School and those working in a different mode of doctoral studies). Participants are requested to prepare short working papers on selected aspects of „Just Transition”, adhering to the following rules:

1. By **30th April 2020**, send a **short proposal of your paper’s topic (max. 500 words)** to cbpr@us.edu.pl.

The proposals can be written in Polish or in English. The topic might be, for instance, a conceptual analysis, a comparative approach, a proposal for a solution to a problem reached by implementing the author’s own idea, a meta-analysis of the state of research, an empirical study, etc.

2. By 7th May 2020, members of the Just Transition Research Group will select no more than three proposals and contact their authors.

3. By **15th June 2020**, the selected authors will prepare **working papers of 6500-10000 words** (approx. 18-30 standard typed pages) adhering to their proposed topics.

4. The papers can be written in Polish or in English.

5. The topics of the proposals may encompass any subject areas related to the concept of “just transition”, especially social, philosophical, psychological, cultural, political and legal aspects of public policies which might optimally serve the practical implementation of the idea of “just transition”.

6. Each of the authors of the selected working papers will receive a **financial prize of PLN 3 thousand** (gross amount), and the Research Centre for Public Policy and Regulatory Governance at the University of Silesia will make their their papers available for regional authorities and external stakeholders engaged in the process of programming and implementing the transformation of Silesia. The authors will also receive an invitation to participate in the work of the Just Transition Research Group.

7. The authors of the papers will retain their copyrights, so that they are able to use parts or the whole of the papers' content to prepare publications of a strictly scientific nature.

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