

**'JUST TRANSITION' OF UPPER SILESIA
AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED REGIONS IN EUROPE. A NEED FOR IN-DEPTH,
COMPREHENSIVE, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AS A SUPPORT FOR
EFFECTIVE AND RATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY.**

**PRELIMINARY DECLARATION OF 'JUST TRANSITION RESEARCH GROUP'
ESTABLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA IN KATOWICE**

1. The process of decarbonization and a radical departure from fossil fuels in favor of a green, ecologically sustainable economy is needed in the world, in Europe, in Poland, and the Upper Silesian region. It throws down a generational challenge of a global scope, especially with regard to places with the most developed industry as well as concomitant forms of culture and tradition.
2. The European Union in the European Green Deal program has committed itself to achieve climate neutrality by year 2050 and thus become a leader in promoting global changes. Although the implementation of this goal poses particularly high risks and difficulties for Upper Silesia and other coal and carbon-intensive regions, we recognize that it will serve also the best interest of their residents, including younger and future generations.
3. The accomplishment of the European Green Deal objectives will be very hard, above all, for those European regions which historically have been and still remain based on coal mining and the energy-intensive industry using fossil fuels. For Upper Silesia, currently the largest mining region in Europe, the decarbonization process means a profound energy, economic and social transformation.
4. An effective and socially fair transition of such regions not only requires considerable financial support but also a well-thought-out, comprehensive and socially agreed deal of 'Just Transition'. Its development and implementation should be accompanied by multifaceted diagnoses, as well as the development of scenarios and models of the expected benefits and costs in accordance with the principles of rational public policy based on evidence and reliable scientific knowledge.
5. The University of Silesia in Katowice, as the largest university in the region, recognizes that an important part of its mission is delivery of the intellectual, explorative and educational resources to play a significant role in the development and implementation of the 'Just Transition' concept and policies. It should be instrumental for the Upper Silesia as well as other European regions facing a need for the profound transformation of the economies, lifestyles, cultures, and social values.
6. Therefore, an interdisciplinary 'Just Transition Research Group' has been established at the University of Silesia in Katowice, with an objective to undertake intensive research and educational efforts as well as to establish cooperation with domestic and foreign scientific centers, and social partners interested in conducting research on all issues relevant to the concept of 'Just Transition'.

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**Just Transition Research Group
University of Silesia in Katowice**

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