

Call for paper abstracts

What

This call aims at the collection of paper proposals to be included in the “Handbook on the Just Green Transition” that will be proposed for publication to a leading international publisher. The handbook will be open access. The publishing fee is covered by Horizon GreenFORCE project.

The handbook editors are Erblin Berisha (Politecnico di Torino, Italy), John Moodie (Nordregio, Sweden) Ledio Allkja (Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Albania) and Marija Jeftic (University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography, Serbia)

Book Topic

Just Green Transition is now a prominent topic in policy discourse and academic literature as the shift to carbon-neutral technologies has a profound impact for societies, economies and governance processes. As many European states are experiencing, the socio-economic costs of just green transitions are not necessarily homogenous within European regions and can impact differently across diverse societal groups. Consequently, to avoid negative impacts and promote the opportunities presented by transitions, the European Union (EU) has recently introduced the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), to support European regions to eliminate their dependence on heavy polluting industries, while leaving no one (and no region) behind in the process. How effectively just green transitions are implemented will have an important impact on the socioeconomic growth of European regions and might help overcome geographies of discontent, particularly in those regions that historically suffer from sustainable economic development, such as the Western Balkan Region.

Book Focus

Even though the concept of just green transition is rapidly emerging within academic and policy circles there is no standard definition of what the just green transition is and how it can be implemented effectively to support European regions and societies. This book will: 1) examine the concept of just green transitions and its key dimensions; 2) explore the key policy thematic areas at the heart of the just green transition and socio-economic and governance challenges and opportunities within each policy theme; 3) provide emerging practice examples of just green transition policies developed and implemented across the Western Balkans and other European territories.

Book Contributions

We invite contributions from authors interested in the just green transition concept. We would like to receive chapter ideas under the following topics that will inform the book’s structure.

Theorizing Just Green Transitions

The concept of Just Green Transition is gaining increasing attention academic circles in response to recent policy developments supporting the shift to climate-neutral economies and societies. The concept of just green transition remains in its relative infancy, but recent studies have identified some central dimensions, including the technical (process), economic (financial), social (just), environmental (green), and spatial (territorial). Authors are invited to contribute theoretical chapters that develop our understanding of the concept of just green transitions and the key dimensions outlined.

Just Green Transition Policy Themes

The notion of Just Green Transition permeates the policy discourse at all levels of governance (international, national, regional and local levels). In policy documents, Just Green Transition often acts as a broad umbrella term, which covers a range of key policy thematic areas, such as climate resilience and adaptation, clean energy (e.g. energy efficiency processes in industries, businesses, and homes), circular economy, renewable energies, environmentally friendly transport, sustainable agriculture and food production, depollution of air, water and soil, and protection biodiversity and ecosystems. Authors are invited to contribute chapters that broaden our understanding of the key thematic policy areas under the theme of just green transition, focusing on issues, including: 1) how these themes have been described and characterized in policy discourse; 2) how each theme relates to the just green transition concept and key dimensions; 3) the practical socio-economic and environmental challenges and opportunities related to each theme; 4) and how these themes impact on governance mechanisms, institutional arrangements, and stakeholder collaborations; 5) citizen engagement with each topic; 6) green transition is spatial/urban planning policy

Just Green Transition Practices in Europe

The European Union has made just green transitions a central policy objective as part of the EU Green Deal and supported through financial mechanisms including the EU Just Transition Mechanism and Funds. Authors are invited to contribute chapters that provide new knowledge and insights on innovative just green transition policies and practices from across EU Member States. This could, for example, include articles examining EU Just Transition Plan processes, or any best practice example policies related to the development and implementation of just transition green policy themes outlined above (e.g. climate resilience and adaptation, clean energy, circular economy, renewable energies, environmentally friendly transport, sustainable agriculture and food production, depollution of air, water and soil, and protection biodiversity and ecosystems).

Acknowledging it, the editors invite authors to contribute to the debate by exploring the multi-dimensional aspects of just and green transition in the field of circularity, sustainable development, spatial planning and territorial governance, regional economy, human geography, spatial and social justice etc. Moreover, comparative and evidenced-based contributions are welcome.

The handbook will be structured as follows:

- Part I: theorizing just green transition
- Part II: just green transitions policy themes
- Part III: just green transitions on the Western Balkans
- Part IV: just green transition practice in Europe

Deadline

If you are interested in contributing, please submit an abstract of your contribution by March the 15th, 2023.

Confirmation of the selected abstracts around of April the 7th, 2023

The full chapter (between 6000 – 8000 words) is expected to be delivered within September 2023.

The book is expected to be published in 2024.

Abstract Length and style

The abstracts should measure around 500 words in length and include the following:

- background and purpose: description of the problem, study objectives, research question(s) and hypotheses;
- Methods: study design, including a description of participants and selection strategies, data collection procedures, measures, and approaches to analysis;

- Findings: specific results in summary form;
- Conclusions and implications: description of the study's main outcome(s) and implications for practice, policy or further research.

The abstract should also include the following:

- The title of the contribution
- The author or authors (the corresponding should be identified)
- Their affiliation and email contact
- Authors' biography (60-80 words max)
- Keywords (from three to a maximum of six)
- Key references (for a maximum of five)

How to send a proposal

Proposals should be sent by filling out the google form at this [LINK](#). For additional information please contact info@greenforcetwinning.net

The Project

This handbook has been envisioned within and by the consortium of the GreenFORCE Horizon Project (2022-2025). GreenFORCE aims at fostering excellence in the "Western Balkans' green transition" scientific research and innovation of Co-PLAN (Albania), CEA (North Macedonia), and UB-GEF (Serbia) as a means to enhancing their research profile, strengthening research and management capacities of their staff, and contributing to convergence between Western Balkans (WB) and EU research capacities, as well as to wider policy initiatives for the WB region. This objective is reached through the twinning partnership of five organisations that will work closely to produce territorial knowledge through exploratory research and institutional learning; will transfer and exchange knowledge among partner organisations through applying the knowledge management cycle; and will engage in networking for sharing, cross-fertilizing and amplifying knowledge at the societal level. The five partner organisations are Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development in Albania as the coordinating partner; the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography (UB-GEF) in Serbia and the Center for Economic Analysis Association (CEA) in North Macedonia, as the two regional partners; and Nordregio, a pan-Nordic research organisation based in Sweden, together with Politecnico di Torino, Italy (POLITO), as the leading EU research institutions. POLIS University in Albania is the affiliate partner of Co-PLAN.

Handbook Editors' short Bios

Erblin Berisha (*PhD – Urban and Regional Development*) is an assistant professor at the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST) of Politecnico di Torino. His research focuses on the evolution of Spatial Planning Systems and Territorial Governance in the Western Balkan region in the light of international influence. He is also interested in understanding the impact of green and just transition in the Western Balkans.

John Moodie (*PhD/MA political science*) is a Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio Research Institute specialising in EU regional development in the fields of green economy, innovation, and marine policy. His most recent research has examined the concept of just green transition and its key dimensions. He also formed part of the research team that worked closely with Swedish national, regional and local actors in the development and preparation of EU Just Transition Plans for eligible Swedish Regions.

Ledio Allkja (*PhD- Spatial Planning*) is a senior spatial planning expert and researcher at Co-PLAN, Institute of Habitat Development. Ledio is also a lecturer of spatial planning systems and EU Policies at POLIS University in Tirana. His main areas of research focus on spatial planning systems, territorial governance and

Europeanization. Over the years he has led and been part of several projects in different areas such as spatial planning, social housing, land value capture, and more recently with a special focus on disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Marija Jetic (PhD, spatial planning) is an Associate Professor at the Department for Spatial Planning at the Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade. Her scientific and professional specialisations are oriented towards spatial and regional development, principles and methods of regionalization, regional policy, urban and rural renewal. Recently she has been dealing with the implementation of the green agenda in planning policies and the green transition effects on spatial policies in Western Balkans.