

# **Towards a just and green transition. The making and implementation of Just Transition Plans in Sweden and what can we learn from it.**

## **Abstract**

A Just Transition Plan is a framework for ensuring that the shift to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy is carried out in a fair and equitable way. However, the design and implementation of Just Transition plans can be complex and challenging, requiring close collaboration between diverse stakeholders and careful consideration of trade-offs and potential unintended consequences. The research aimed to investigate the Just Transition planning process in Sweden and extract the transferable lessons to Italy. The research delves into the value and the consequences of the Territorial Just Transition Plans and examines how the governance dynamics can play a significant role in the Just Green Transition planning processes. The ESPON TANGO project provided an appropriate ground to investigate the planning process and stakeholder involvement procedures leading to Just Green Transition Plans in three counties of Sweden - Gotland, Norrbotten, and Västerbotten - as well as one county of Italy, Sardinia. The analysis is primarily based on a desk review of policy documents, governance impact analysis, and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders. The thematic interpretation technique is implemented to evaluate to what extent Territorial Governance indicators contribute to the Territorial Just Transition planning process. Findings reveal that Just Transition Plans seek to extend the discourse of sustainability beyond the environmental and economic concepts towards social and equity concerns, though they face serious challenges like partially exclusivity, uncertainty, slow progress, and a top-down approach. Furthermore, the study underscores the relevance of Territorial Governance's place-based approach to evaluate the power dynamics at different levels, competing interests among involved actors, the manner of coordination of actors, and the potential obstacles that might hinder the implementation.

**Keywords:** Just Transition, Green Transition, Climate Transition, Territorial Governance, Territorial Just Transition Plans, Just Transition Fund program

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