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**Nouvelles perspectives pour la justice spatiale**

**Journée d’étude**

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**Title:** Spatial justice as a prerequisite for a just transition towards green economy

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Talks about Green Deal implementation have been dominated so far by the great development opportunities opening for mono-industrial regions through investments in sustainable projects, while discussions about power relations between stakeholders deciding a community's green future have been avoided. Focusing on the Jiu Valley micro-region, a coal extraction basin in western Romania, this research shows that some communities are struggling more than others in the post-mining transition, depending on their level of awareness and preparedness. Under the slogan "*No one will be left behind*", the European Commission promises funding and assistance to ensure a just transition. This paper questions the very notion of” *just transition”* and the odds for achieving such a goal in an unevenly developed European Union, where geography itself may be unjust.

Mining should be regarded from the very beginning as a temporary activity and once the extraction completed the land rehabilitation process must consider its subsequent use. Successful mine closure scenarios involve a continuing human presence with economic returns; therefore, the most appropriate closure activity requires meticulous territorial analysis and consultations between stakeholders for deciding the reclamation strategy that will aim to obtain spatial justice.

Spatial justice can only exist where inhabitants are allowed to produce the place where they live as a collective, creative work, and there cannot be just transition without spatial justice. Where planning is unfair and certain social actors are excluded from the decision-making process, the transition can deepen inequalities instead of providing more prosperity. Such situations may occur frequently in communities with a poorly developed civic culture where citizens do not know how to claim their” right to the City”.

Monitoring the stage of implementation of the Green Deal in the Jiu Valley, this paper analyses the extent to which post-mining strategies are developed through participatory democracy and whether they reflect the vision of the inhabitants on the lifestyle they aspire to. Equally, the study follows the perception of the locals on the role they could play in changing the geography and in influencing the decisions determining the future of the space they live in.

**Key words:** coal mining; Green deal, Jiu Valley, Just transition; Spatial justice, Romania

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