

# TRANSITIONING TO A GREEN ECONOMY IN CENTRAL EUROPE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN HUNGARY AND POLAND

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Sustainable regional development throughout Europe needs the essential transformation into a green economy. Green economy standards represent a critical public policy component for regional development in Central Europe where Hungary and Poland are especially focused. The evolving cohesion policies and The European Green Deal highlight regional innovation as their main element to fulfill sustainable development requirements between economic growth and environmental protection [1]. The success of implementation varies between regions because each territory handles governance structures and institutional readiness together with strategic resource management methodologies differently [5]. This research uses a systematic literature review (SLR) technique to assess how green economic principles have been incorporated into regional development strategies of Hungary and Poland.

## 2 MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research bases its analysis on a systematic literature review (SLR) for understanding regional approaches in Hungary and Poland that promote green economic development. The researchers obtained their data from Scopus and Web of Science databases and professional academic and policy research articles from 2018 to 2023 using Google Scholar. The research included three core terms describing “green economy” in addition to “sustainable regional development” and “green clusters” with a focus on “Central Europe”. The study granted inclusion status to peer-reviewed publications combined with EU policy documents and national strategies regarding activities for regional green transition. Researchers conducted a qualitative analysis on the selected studies to determine both common themes and governance models as well as best practices and challenges which appeared across the literature.

## 3 RESULTS

The analysis proves regional strategies implement green economy approaches through green clusters which enable renewable energy technology manufacturing and agricultural technological innovations and circular manufacturing implementations [2]. EU funding has enabled public-private partnerships to support sustainable innovation between Central Transdanubia (Hungary) and Lower Silesia (Poland). However, significant challenges remain. Regional development faces two main challenges including insufficient coordination of initiative activities

and low engagement from stakeholders as both issues stem from unsteady funding flows [3]. The research investigation highlights that the Visegrád region undergoes successful green transitions due to cross-border and international regional partnerships according to [6]. UNEP framework [4] provides an effective tool to monitor green economy advancement.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

The research demonstrates that both Hungary and Poland embrace green economic principles within their regional planning but differences appear in regional capabilities regarding coordination and strategic implementation abilities. Strategic planning must aim at EU resource targets while being inclusive based on literature recommendations about multi-level governance systems. Regional sustainability over long periods depends on policy integration and stakeholder participation for sustainable outcome achievement. It is important for future studies to analyze green cluster model scalability prospects across Central and Eastern European regions.

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