

Designing long-term systemic transformation frameworks for regions

Accelerating the shift towards climate neutrality

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To tackle climate change, the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal set out very ambitious goals that require an urgent and radical transformation of the EU economy. Reaching the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 needs immediate action going beyond the level of fostering innovation and digitalisation in societal niches. It calls for an innovation path which sets out to design carbon neutral societal systems and focus investments in zero-carbon solutions.

The TRANSFORMER project takes up this challenge by applying the **Transition Super-Lab (TSL)** approach as *“large territorial initiatives for real-life management of the transition from fossil-fuel-based to zero-carbon local economies”*. This approach considers entire regions as living laboratories, i.e. Super-Labs, in which new ways of transformation towards a climate-neutral future can be developed, tested and implemented.

TRANSFORMER Super-Labs bring together all relevant stakeholders of a region: universities, municipalities, companies, and civil society organisations to work in new cooperation formats and design project ideas for transformation to long-term climate neutrality. The goal of the co-creation is to systematically develop and experimentally test a portfolio of innovative solutions, while simultaneously transforming more than one societal system (e.g. transportation and industrial production, nutrition and carbon sinks) and to develop a roadmap with financing concepts for the four regions.

Four real-life Transition Super-Labs (TSL) will be piloted in European regions with an especially difficult transition challenge ahead – the **Ruhr Area (Germany), Emilia Romagna (Italy), Lower Silesia (Poland) and Western Macedonia (Greece)** – addressing five key sectors: **Mobility, Circular Economy, Energy, Agriculture & Food Production, and Industry** through specific leverage points connecting them.

In order to foster replication and scaling up of solutions, TRANSFORMER will provide continuous monitoring of innovation activities by scientific institutes in all four TRANSFORMER Super-Labs and accompanying comprehensive interregional policy learning through comparative research, disseminated through workshops and a Knowledge Hub.

At the end of the project, TRANSFORMER will develop a roadmap per region that will include milestones for implementation, financing, and funding opportunities for other Super-Labs to be developed and replicated, to serve as the core of a regional climate neutrality concept.

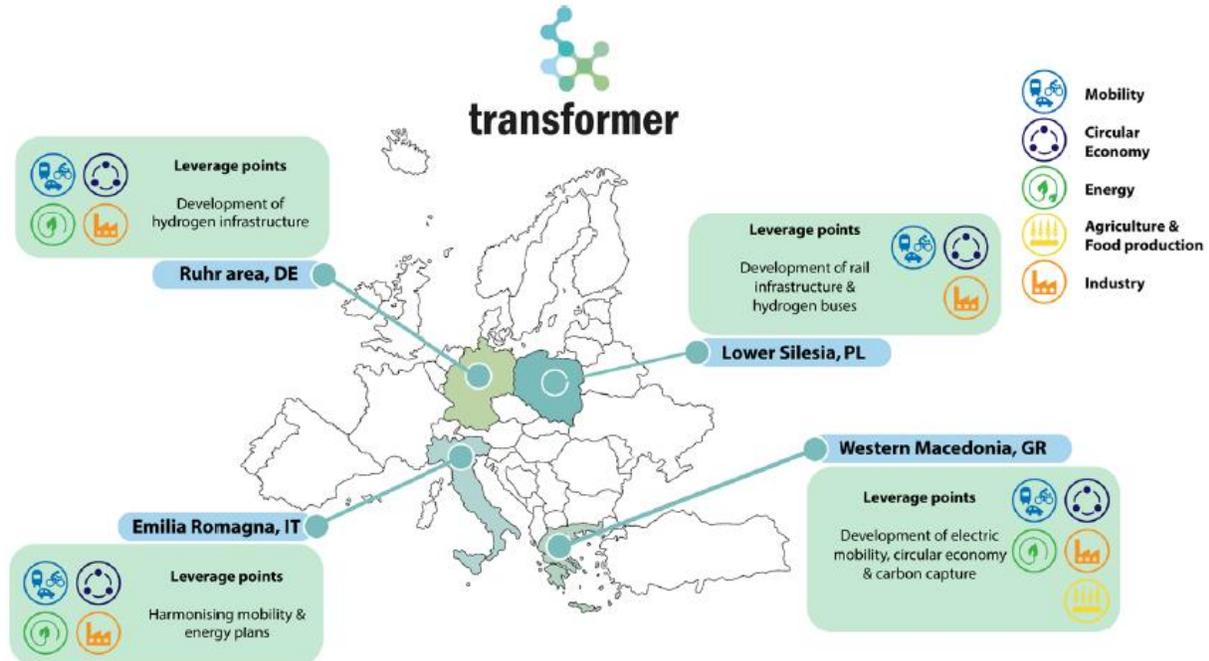


Figure: Map of TRANSFORMER Super-Labs

Consortium partners:

- Ruhr-University Bochum (as Coordinator)
- Rupprecht Consult – Forschung & Beratung
- Business Metropole Ruhr
- Emilia Romagna Region
- Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation (Fondazione ITL)
- FIT Consulting
- Dolnoslaski Fundusz Rozwoju
- Warsaw University
- Foundation “Dumni z Lubina”
- Regional Development Agency of West Madedonia (ANKO)
- Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)
- Twenty Communications
- European Network of Living Labs

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