

### 3. Just Transition Agreements – Coal mine closures in the region of El Bierzo-Laciana, Spain

**Lead researchers: José María Zavala Pérez (Oxfam Intermón)**

**Supporting researchers: Marcus Erridge and Irina Velicu (CES), Judith Clifton and Daniel Díaz-Fuentes (University of Cantabria), Daniel Chavez (Transnational Institute)**

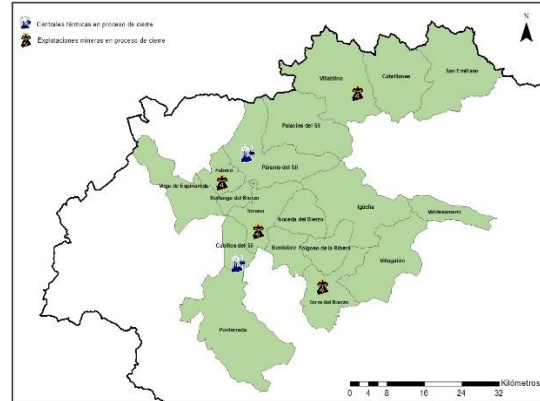
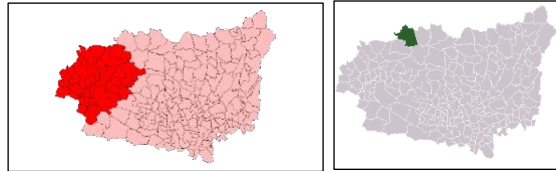


#### Summary

This case study tackles the social impact of the Just Transition Agreements, the main tool developed to implement the Spanish Just Transition Strategy in territories affected by the closure of coal mines and thermal and nuclear power plants. The study evaluates how just transition policies impact the social well-being of communities affected by the closure of thermal power plants and mining operations in the Spanish regions of El Bierzo and Laciana (León). It identifies key achievements, advantages, challenges, and insights relevant to other JTAs and policymaking processes in Europe. The primary target collective is the population at risk due to decarbonisation policies, addressing aspects such as employment quality, adaptability to new processes, perception compared to other regions, training and skill updates, and the impact on the productive and social fabric of affected areas. The stakeholders interviewed highlight the late and insufficient intervention to address the economic impacts resulting from the closure of mining facilities and power plants.

## Key data points

- 24% of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Castilla y León region in 2024.
- In the province of León, the percentage of people working in the industrial sector decreased from 15.6% in 2019 to 9% in 2021.
- The 18 municipalities included in the agreement lost a total of 6% of their population. Eight of them lost more than 10% of their population.



A total of 18 locations are included in the Just Transition Agreement focused on the areas of El Bierzo and Laciana (province of León).