

URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DIST/Centro Interdipartimentale R3C - Just Green Transitions in Italy and beyond: governance, monitoring, projects

Funded By	Dipartimento DIST Centro Interdipartimentale R3C
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Context of the research activity	<p>The proposed doctoral fellowship aims at financing quali-quantitative research focusing on the analysis of the implementation of the EU just green transitions paradigm in the Italian context, with particular attention for (i) governance models and mechanisms; (ii) spatial policies and monitoring systems; (iii) projects and actions on the ground. The candidate will also position the Italian case within the broader European framework, in order to derive potentially useful lessons and policy recommendations.</p>
	<p>As outlined in the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change (2021), climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, the EU has launched the European Green Deal, aiming at transforming the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring (i) no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050; (ii) economic growth decoupled from resource use and (iii) no person and no place left behind. In order to make sure that this last objective is achieved jointly with the first two, in 2021 the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) has been instituted, as the key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way. More in detail, JTM provides targeted support to help mobilise around €55 billion over the period 2021-2027 in the most affected regions, to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the transition. It addresses the social and economic effects of the transition, focusing on the regions, industries and workers who will face the greatest challenges.</p> <p>To reach the objective, the JTM acts through the development of Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTJs), that define the territories in which the JTM funds will be used. The identification of these territories is carried out through a dialogue with the EU Commission. These TJTJs set out the challenges in each territory, the development needs and objectives to be met by 2030, the types of operations envisaged and specify governance mechanisms, that however should be then adapted to the specific domestic governance conditions.</p>

Objectives

Whereas in various European countries and regions the JTM and the Plans deriving from the latter are being implemented, in Italy the policy process is lagging behind, and the two Plans concerning the two areas that have been selected as pilot cases (Taranto and Sulcis Iglesiente) are at present available only in draft form.

The proposed doctoral research fellowship aims at studying lights and shadows of the JTM to implement in the Italian context the EU Green Deal, and to position it within the broader European framework in order to identify good practices that may provide useful reference for policy and decision makers active in our country.

To do so, it draws on the literature on comparative policy analysis and on policy mobilities, diffusion and transfer. At the same time, its activity is located within the broader framework of transition and resilience studies.

More in particular, the selected candidate will be required to:

- Develop a critical review of the literature concerning the green transition towards a carbon neutral society and how the latter has been recently complemented with the concepts of social and spatial justice;
- Produce a systematic, comparative review – based on desk research – of the implementation of the JTM in the 27 EU Member States, in terms of the state of advancement, adopted governance models, selected pilot areas, monitoring systems;
- Develop a survey to collect a selection of projects that are currently implemented throughout Europe in order to identify good practices and warnings;
- Focus in more detail on the Italian case and, adopting a case study mixed methodology, explore and assess the implementation of the JTM in the country, both in relation to the general framework and to the two pilot Plans that are currently under development.;
- Drawing on the previous activities, develop a number of policy messages and recommendations focusing on how to facilitate the implementation of the JTM in Italy, to be then tested and validated through the engagement with relevant stakeholders.

Importantly, the topic of the proposed doctoral research fellowship lies at the very core of the research activity and the mission of PoliTo Responsible Risk Resilience Centre – R3C. In particular, it positions straddling Cluster 2 “Planning the Resilient City” and Clusters 3 “Measuring Urban Resilience”.

In this light, the activity of the selected candidate is expected to enhance interdepartmental, multidisciplinary collaboration among the members of R3C, individuating synergies and spaces for future joint research. Moreover, it will consolidate common ground for future funding applications in the framework of the main international research programme (i.e. Horizon Europe and ESPON).

Skills and competencies for the development of the activity

PhD candidate is expected to show interest in the theoretical understanding and implications of the green transition, as well as in the differential functioning of spatial governance and planning systems and their implications for climate change adaptation.

The candidate is fluent in written and spoken English.