

Understanding Inequality in Europe's Green & Digital Future

Europe's green and digital transitions aim to transform economies and societies, but they do not benefit everyone equally.

READJUST examines how inequalities emerge when ambitious transition policies interact with unequal regional capacities, institutional contexts, and human adaptive capabilities. By combining theory, indicators, and simulation, we explain why well-intended policies can unintentionally widen inequality across regions and sectors.

What Drives Inequality?



Unequal starting points

Regions with weaker skills, infrastructure, and institutions benefit less from the same policies.



Policy ambition vs. delivery capacity

Highly ambitious policies can fail, or backfire, when delivery capacity is weak.



Adaptive capabilities

People's and firms' ability to learn, reskill, and innovate shapes long-term inequality paths.



Risk of one-size-fits-all policies

Uniform policies amplify disparities unless they account for local and sectoral differences.



Blended policy instruments

Combining skills, infrastructure, and financial support reduces inequality more effectively.



Inequality as an emergent outcome

It arises from interactions between policies, institutions, and heterogeneous actors, not from single decisions.

What Policies Can Do: Key Takeaways

Align ambition with capacity

Strong local systems turn goals into results.

Strengthen adaptability and inclusion

Invest in skills, innovation, and support.

Tailor to regions and sectors

Design context-specific strategies.

Keep policies flexible

Adapt to feedback and evolving needs over time.



READJUST provides evidence for ambitious, inclusive, and adaptive transition policies - ensuring that no one is left behind



Funded by
the European Union

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Website



LinkedIn