

Pilot 2019: Start-up financing Global South - Project report

Energy Transition with CREATE: Carribbean Research Alternatives for a Transformation in Energy and Economy.

- **Department at the TU Berlin:** Economic and Infrastructure Policy (WIP)
- **Partner country:** Colombia
- **Partner Institutions:** Universidad del Magdalena/Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, Universidad Nacional de Colombia/Institute of Environmental Sciences (IDEA).
- **Priority Addressed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**



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SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

SDG 13: Climate protection measures

SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the goals

The Department of Economic and Infrastructure Policy (WIP) at TU Berlin with its junior research group CoalExit used the start-up funding to hold a workshop, which it organized jointly with the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences at the Colombian Universidad del Magdalena (FEM/Unimag) in Santa Marta, Colombia. The workshop was titled CREATE (Caribbean Research Alternatives for a Transformation in Energy and Economy). More than 50 actors from communities affected by coal mining, civil society, trade unions, NGOs and academia - including numerous researchers from all over Colombia - participated. During the workshop, affected stakeholders were encouraged to voice their concerns and priorities to some of Colombia's leading researchers on topics such as the socio-environmental impacts of coal mining, equitable energy transition, and environmental conflicts. CREATE's primary goal was to engage in dialogue to identify formats and opportunities for participatory research on coal phase-out and energy transition in the La Guajira and Cesar regions.

According to community representatives, NGOs, and unions, the most urgent task is to develop accessible formats for communities, workers, and NGO staff to better inform perspectives and challenges related to divestment from fossil fuels.

Among the outcomes of the CREATE workshop is a draft proposal for a mobile Just Transition Academy. This will provide relevant knowledge about the critical components of just transition (e.g., restoration, productive alternatives, land rights, etc.) and empower communities to initiate the transformation of their territory even before the established industry decides to do so.

In addition, concrete steps will be taken to intensify scientific exchange between WIP/TU Berlin, FEM/Unimag and the Institute of Environmental Sciences (IDEA) at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, for example through the format of study tours or research internships. Again, a priority will be to cover participatory research methods and topics that empower and engage communities not as objects, but as subjects and partners* in research (e.g., citizen science formats for environmental design, citizen energy as a productive alternative, etc.).

Finally, the workshop was enriched by established researchers* in the Colombian public education system who call for a strict ethical code in community relations. They expect a sensitive awareness of the possibility of co-opting academic and community work by actors in the Colombian coal industry, who are less interested in the development of the transition process.

The CREATE Workshop significantly strengthened TU Berlin's collaboration with its Colombian partners, and in particular the cooperation between the CoalExit junior research group of WIP/TU Berlin, FEM/Unimag and IDEA/Universidad Nacional de Colombia. It also contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 13 Climate Action, and 17 Partnerships to Achieve the Goals.