



As FITTER-EU closes its first year of activity, the project has reached several exciting milestones. This newsletter brings you highlights from our recent consortium meeting, progress on our review process, key deliverables shaping the path ahead, and a deeper look at the project's growing impact and collaborations.

Consortium Meeting in Madrid

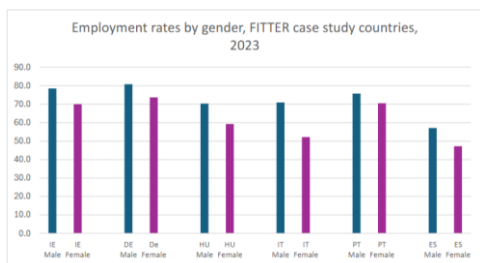
The FITTER-EU Consortium gathered in Madrid for a dynamic two-day in-person meeting, hosted by the Complutense University. This milestone event served as a strategic moment to reconnect, reflect, and realign our shared vision.

Day 1 focused on fine-tuning our core methodologies, planning of upcoming co-creation activities with stakeholders, and exploring critical datasets, in particular those provided by the Eurostat, that can be used for tracking the impact of twin transition policies. Breakout sessions gave task leaders space to collaborate closely and define common priorities.

On Day 2, we welcomed active engagement from the External Coordination Board (ECB), both online and in-person. The ECB reviewed our methodological framework and contributed to discussions on mapping vulnerabilities across sectors and scenario countries. The meeting culminated with the presentation of FITTER-EU evolving roadmap and consensus on the next steps towards reaching the project's goals.



Embedding Social Justice in Twin Transition



Highlighting the project's efforts to embed social justice in twin transition research, new deliverables were recently published laying the groundwork for the FITTER-EU project by elaborating on the concept of a just transition and related definitions. The core section includes a literature review of theories, approaches, and indicators of social justice and equality, alongside an analysis of key drivers of inequality in the contemporary European Union.

The 'green' and 'digital' dimensions of the twin transition are examined for their impact on inequalities across four sectors: Energy, Transport, Building & Housing, and Food & Agriculture with six national case studies conducted by the consortium's research teams in Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. Each team carried out desk research to gather data on existing structural inequalities at the national level.

A set of selected topics relevant to the twin transition process was also analyzed using data from national Labour Force Surveys and the Eurostat dataset to provide data for observing country-specific trends, and to identify gaps in data to be addressed later. Additionally, public debates in each country were analyzed, with different thematic areas highlighted by the respective national research teams.

Vulnerabilities mapping in 4 baseline domains

An important FITTER-EU activity in the framework of WP 3 is the analysis of the twin transition process and its associated vulnerabilities across four key sectors in six countries: Hungary, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. The analysis draws on data from online workshops with international experts, national long-term strategies, online consultations with experts on the twin transition, and desk research of relevant reports and statistical sources. Essentially, the analysis summarizes the results of a vulnerability assessment related to the twin transition in four main sectors.

In the energy sector, case studies from all six countries are examined, with a focus on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, hydrogen capacity, and energy security.

In the mobility and transport sector, case studies from Spain and Hungary are analyzed, emphasizing the use of renewable energy sources, the deployment of electric mobility, alternative fuels, and the efficiency of public transport systems.

In the housing and construction sector, two case studies from Germany and Portugal are included, with attention given to energy efficiency, housing renovation and insulation, and the development of smart housing. This section also addresses the issue of housing poverty and its implications within the transition process.

In the agriculture and food sector, case studies from Ireland and Italy are considered, focusing on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, sustainable energy practices, and the efficient management of natural resources.

Additionally, the FITTER-EU project gathered insights from international experts on the twin transition across these four sectors. These insights highlight growing concerns about the negative impacts of the transition process on structurally vulnerable groups, while also identifying opportunities for social innovation and outlining possible action lines to address deepening inequalities.

Table 1. Overall share of energy from renewable sources, 2019-2023

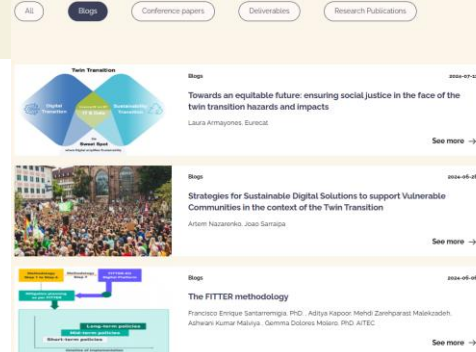
TIME	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
GEO (Labels)					
European Union	19,887	22,038	21,886	23,087	24,531
Germany	17,266	19,09	19,281	20,913	21,547
Ireland	11,979	16,16	12,996	13,068	15,253
Spain	17,852	21,22	20,550	21,896	24,852
Italy	18,181	20,359	18,883	19,131	19,561
Hungary	12,634	13,85	14,134	15,193	17,361
Portugal	30,623	33,982	33,982	34,675	35,163

Source: Eurostat (2024e)

Blogs

FITTER-EU considers publishing blogs on its webpage an important activity to share intermediate results with a wider audience. Blogs offer a deeper level of engagement with readers, providing valuable content to inform and educate those interested in the project's progress. The goal is to increase the frequency of blog posts in the second year of the project. Up to now, several blog posts have been published, including:

- An introduction to FITTER-EU plans and ideas regarding the analysis of how the twin transition may affect vulnerable groups in the four sectors under consideration.
- An exploration of potential strategies to support vulnerable communities in the context of the twin transition.
- A detailed explanation of FITTER-EU methodology, including a description of each step in the process.



Collaboration in Action: Sister Projects and Shared Vision

FITTER-EU does not act alone. Our work is part of a wider ecosystem of EU-funded initiatives that share a commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and participatory transitions.

By connecting with sister projects in related areas – from climate policy to digital innovation and social inclusion, we create a rich space for shared learning, joint events, and cross-project synergies. These relationships ensure our tools and findings have broader relevance, and they help us scale up our impact across the continent.

A new sister project – GreenPaths, has recently joined the FITTER-EU collaborative action. GreenPaths focuses on three main areas:



- A shift towards a sustainable model of production and consumption;
- A shift towards a social model grounded in equity and social cohesion;
- A shift towards enhanced citizen participation and broader social dialogue.

FITTER-EU maintains strong collaborative ties with the GreenPaths project due to their overlapping focus areas. Furthermore, several experts are actively involved in both initiatives.

Results and Impact

FITTER-EU is currently undergoing its first project review, marking the completion of a successful and highly productive first reporting period. The intermediate results are reflected in several cornerstone documents, which are already informing about co-creation processes, scenario-building activities, and outreach strategies. As we move forward, we remain focused on creating tangible tools for policymakers, grounded in justice, participation, and evidence.

During this reporting period, FITTER-EU has prepared a comprehensive literature review of theories, indicators, and approaches to social justice, along with an analysis of how the twin transition (green and digital) impacts inequalities in four sectors: Energy, Transport, Housing & Construction, and Agriculture & Food. Furthermore, FITTER-EU made a step forward and used desk studies, national strategies, expert consultations, case studies from six countries – Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain and data from Eurostat along with national statistics to analyze and assess the national variations in inequality and social justice.

The FITTER-EU project emphasizes the importance of integrating social justice into the twin transition process, offering insights from international experts about the potential negative impacts of the transition on vulnerable groups. Too often, transition policies prioritize technical or economic performance while overlooking the structural inequalities that shape people's access to opportunity. FITTER-EU challenges this approach, recognizing that without addressing power asymmetries, resource gaps, and systemic exclusion, transitions will only reproduce or even exacerbate existing injustices.

We are also excited to announce that our paper has been accepted for presentation at the ERSA 64th Congress, which will be held in Athens from August 26th to 29th, 2025. This prestigious event will address critical issues for a progressive world, with the theme "Regional Science in Turbulent Times: In Search of a Resilient, Sustainable, and Inclusive Future," which aligns perfectly with our work in FITTER-EU. The paper will be presented by AITEC and TFC Research and Innovation Limited project partners.



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