

## IAIA24 Impact Assessment for a Just Transformation

**SESSION 202** - Community engagement and benefit-sharing contributions to a just transition

### **Shared value towards SLO: engagement and growth, approaching Communities.**

Climate change adaptation has been demand-full of a holistic vision towards population: There won't be a netzero World if People aren't aligned and trustfull of business and politicians.

There won't be a climate balance if the Greater South doesn't have the tools and incentives to follow the greater North onto transitioning – and until then, we can't really say that we're Leaving No One Behind.

So how can we make it Work, respecting Human Rights and Local Communities?

**Enhancing people's rights and a social license to operate, the energy transition @EDP is focusing on local communities. Projects enhance the respect needed, with a shared value perspective.**

**to move forward promoting identity needs, reskilling and restoring assets to move ahead, through innovation.**

EDP set to be coal free by 2025, all green by 2030 and net zero by 2040, engaging onto the process of Respecting Community while growing (RE) and decommissioning from CO2: in Sines (Portugal)2021, and now enduring Spain, where all Coal Power Plants are being shut down. But besides the social challenge while decommissioning, there's also the challenge of "invasion" while deploying new renewable Energies.

Communities fear the unknown: *what are these aliens coming into our landscape?* We are now identifying risks as the path to prevent crisis, thus enhancing profit.

A [Local Engagement Policy](#) was enforced. Its procedures imply an HR assessment; map our local stakeholders and early engaging with their leaders, as with their culture, struggles, sacred grounds. Listen.

The shared value approach is crucial to avoid business' obstacles: at EDPR NA, the **Community Relations Coordinator** is someone from the community who is enthusiastic about the RES projects and has a familiarity with their hometown;

@ LatAm and Spain, [Keep It Local](#) empowers for green jobs, qualifying abandoned areas; [Closer2You and EDPR Rural](#) rebuild deprived areas, empowering farming communities.

Leaving coal behind, Spain created [ENTAMA](#) to foster business entrepreneurship and reskill.

In Portugal, the Sines Coal Power Plant shut down was known 6 months before its closing. An against-time action plan was set: A consortium of 2 Univ. [studied the Local Economy](#): future jobs, cultural outlines, reskill. With the City Hall and the National Employment Institute, we created a [local cabinet](#), with job training, psychological support and social rescue for the population. An [entrepreneurship program](#) at the local tech school empowered local businesses, and a Social Fund gave back to the community social responses through ONG. [FAS](#) was a measurable [awarded](#) plan, consulting with community and sharing Data achieved. A [case study at the WEF](#) toolkit for the ET.

To map our local stakeholders and early engaging with them, means getting to know your terrain and its identity: what are its characteristics, how does that population act, what fears do we raise ahead of construction...

And getting to know them is not just identifying its leaders, but rather knowing its culture and History: what are their struggles, their historical pain points, their sacred grounds in all areas?

Getting to know them is to really engage. Listen. Further listen – and apply what we listen to, to what and how we plan on doing there.

While building new technology Renewable Energy projects throughout 30 countries, what emissions, hurting sounds, behavior challenges do they bring along? *How exactly are we (the community) going to be engaged OR exploited through the process of these aliens coming in, taking what's ours and getting their gains with no sharing?*

All those questions are natural and will only be avoided if prevented: Communication Channels, trustful ones, need to be deployed in early stages of development, having the local populations be the first to know that we're coming and what are we coming for – with them, for them.

But also the supply chain needs to be involved – from procurement stages, suppliers need to meet sustainability standards in order to be contracted, further taking our commitments to Scope3, and making sure that they are aligned with who we are contracting locally. EDP developed a Sustainability Path with different level classifications for its value-chain: all companies are evaluated and rated. If their sustainable standards are low, they'll know what we identified as lacking or wrongly addressed – and we'll show them the step-by-step suggested in order to go up our classification. Suppliers are contracted depending on this rating, and we'll then be able to measure their impact while representing EDP at our deployments/ developments.

It really has to go up to a 360° engagement from C-Level to very local relations, and it has to be driven by purpose in order to be applicable throughout the 30 countries where we operate, so...a lot to be done, but we're on our way.

*We Chose Earth* really means that We Chose People!

## AUTHOR BIO

Policy, Regulation & Stakeholders team @ EDP (Energy Company). Head for Community Engagement across the 30 countries where the Group operates. Previous Director for Social Innovation at the EDP Foundation in Portugal (2013/2019). 2003/2013 CEO for the Gil Foundation in Portugal. 20 years as a Journalist in Press, Tv and Radio media since 1986.