

Just Transition: scientific base for bringing the principles into practice

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Ingrid Coninx, Bertram de Rooij, Thamar Zeinstra (WEnR)
Marijke Dijkshoorn-Dekker, Monica van Alphen, Annemiek Eweg, Daniel Mekonnen (WEcR)
Esther Koopmanschap, Thies Reemer, Likoko Eunice, Tossa Harding (WCDI)

Objectives and methods

Just transition is at the core of many policy documents, in the Netherlands, at the European level as well as international policy documents. But what does it mean? How to make sure that transitions are just? And just for who? This project helps policymakers to operationalise just transition by collecting scientific evidence.

Methods applied: literature review, desk study, facilitating panel session and dialogues, interviews, networking

Results, solutions and contribution to transitions

- The main conclusion is that justice is interpreted in different ways that can lead to confusion, frustration and conflict when not expressed explicitly during the transition process.
- We have also observed that scientific evidence on operational approaches is too limited at the moment to put justice into practice. The scientific dialogues are abstract and theoretical and miss an operational component.
- The solution that we elaborated is an operational framework that can be used as a talking board to explore the pathway to integrated justice in the transition process.
- However, this operational framework is solely based on science and there are still some gaps that needs to be further explored to make it fully useable in practice
- A research agenda with pending knowledge gaps is elaborated
- And a follow up plan to look at empirical practices in 2022 to further elaborate the pending gaps of the framework.

External partners

- In 2021, we did collaborate with Sniffer, a UK based organisation of knowledge brokers for a resilient Scotland, and with CCAFS. Both organisations partnered with us in our session at the Climate Justice Forum, September 2021
- We also reached out to our networks to attract partners to collaborate with in 2022: Darwin Living Lab, Kennisregio aan Zee, Climate Alliance, Foodrails, City of Groningen, and the European Environment Agency

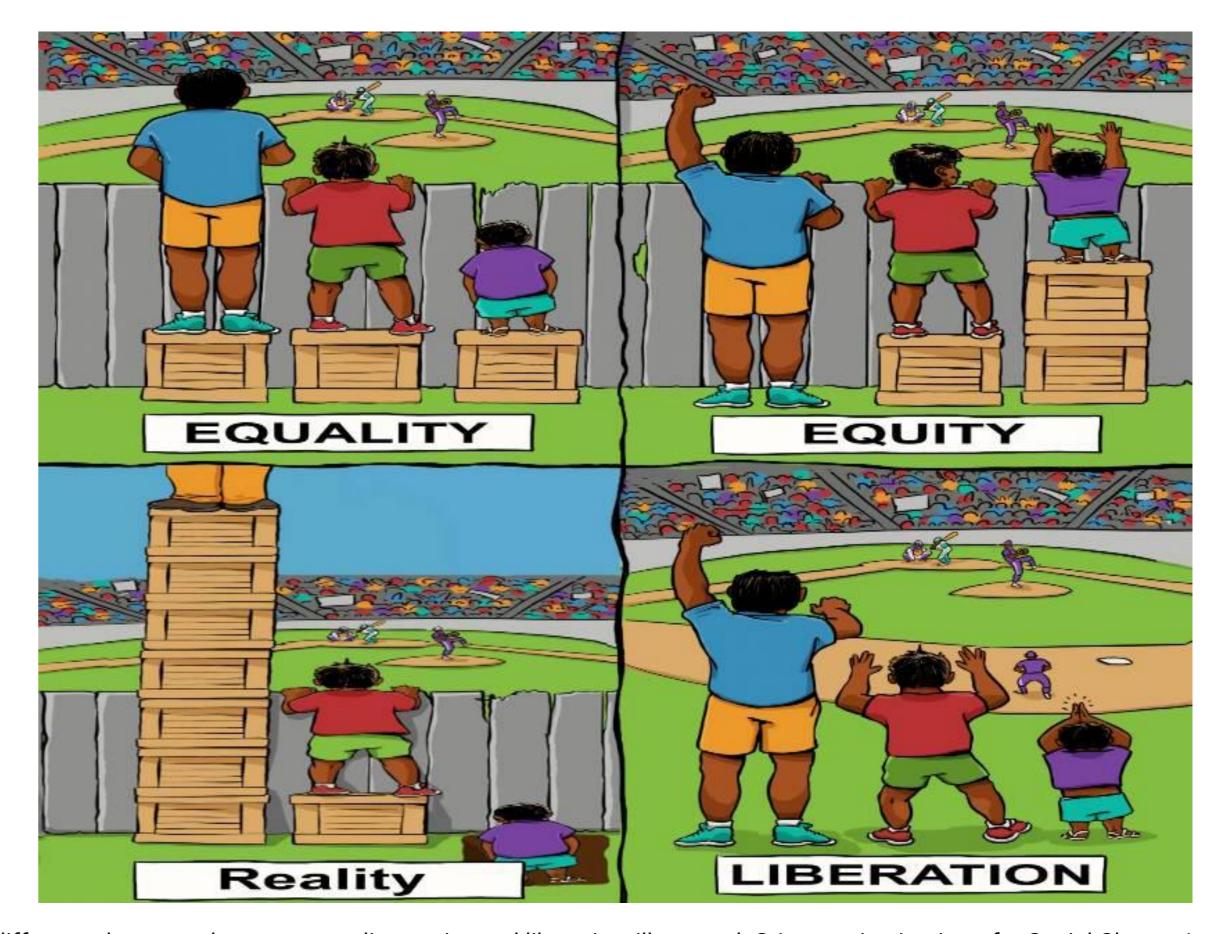


Source: Markus Spiske

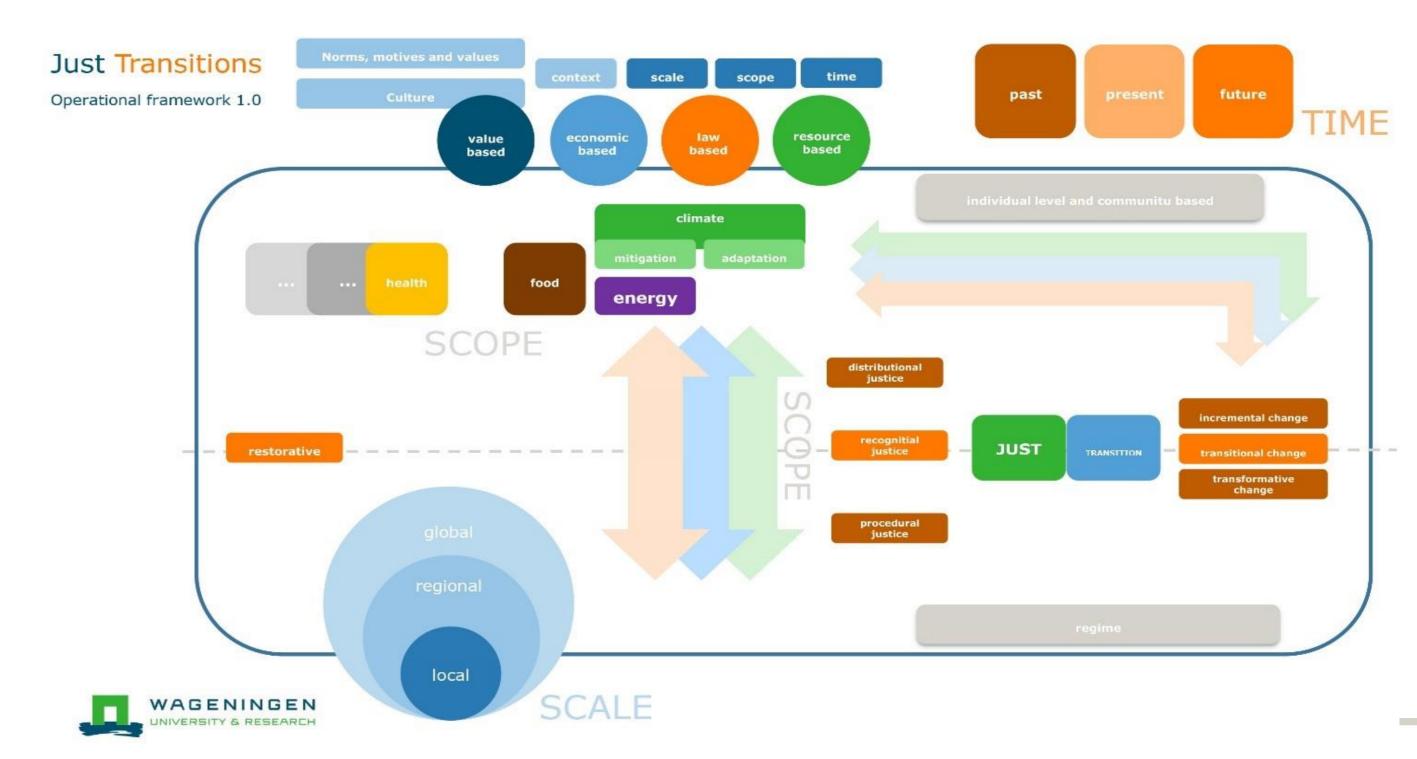
What's next?

The scientific findings so far are not sufficient to finalise the operational framework. In 2022 and probably also the year beyond, will be needed to study justice practices, to learn from it and to facilitate sensemaking and co-development of the operational framework. This is needed:

- 1. To deepen our understanding on how to operationalise justice in transitions and consequently also build capacities of policymakers, scientists, businesses and practitioners
- 2. To facilitate the dialogues for sensemaking and co-development of the operational framework to encourage wide use of the framework and underlying methods, also long beyond the end of the project.



The difference between the terms equality, equity, and liberation, illustrated; © Interaction Institute for Social Change | Artist: Angus Maguire



Questions for audience

- What does just transition mean for you?
- Do you want to participate in our sense-making dialogues to jointly explore how to operationalise just transition in different transition contexts?



Wageningen University & Research
P.O. Box 123, 6700 AB Wageningen
Contact: Ingrid.coninx@wur.nl; Marijke.Dijkshoorn@wur.nl
T + 31 (0)317 488360