



Coal Regions in Transition Initiative: Platform for Coal Regions in Transition

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the context of EU Green Deal



Overall context



New EU policy and legislative context

Clean Energy for all Europeans (2018)
European Green Deal (2019)
Green Deal Investment Plan (2020)
Just Transition Mechanism (2020)

...

The clean energy transition is a source of opportunities for the EU

~1 mio jobs to be created in clean energy sector across the EU

But some sectors, regions and communities will be more affected than others

> 200,000 jobs in the coal, peat and oil shale sectors in the EU (2016)

Some EU regions and communities particularly reliant on fossil-fuel based economy.

Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Objective

Not a 'coal phase out' initiative

'No EU region, no EU citizen left behind'

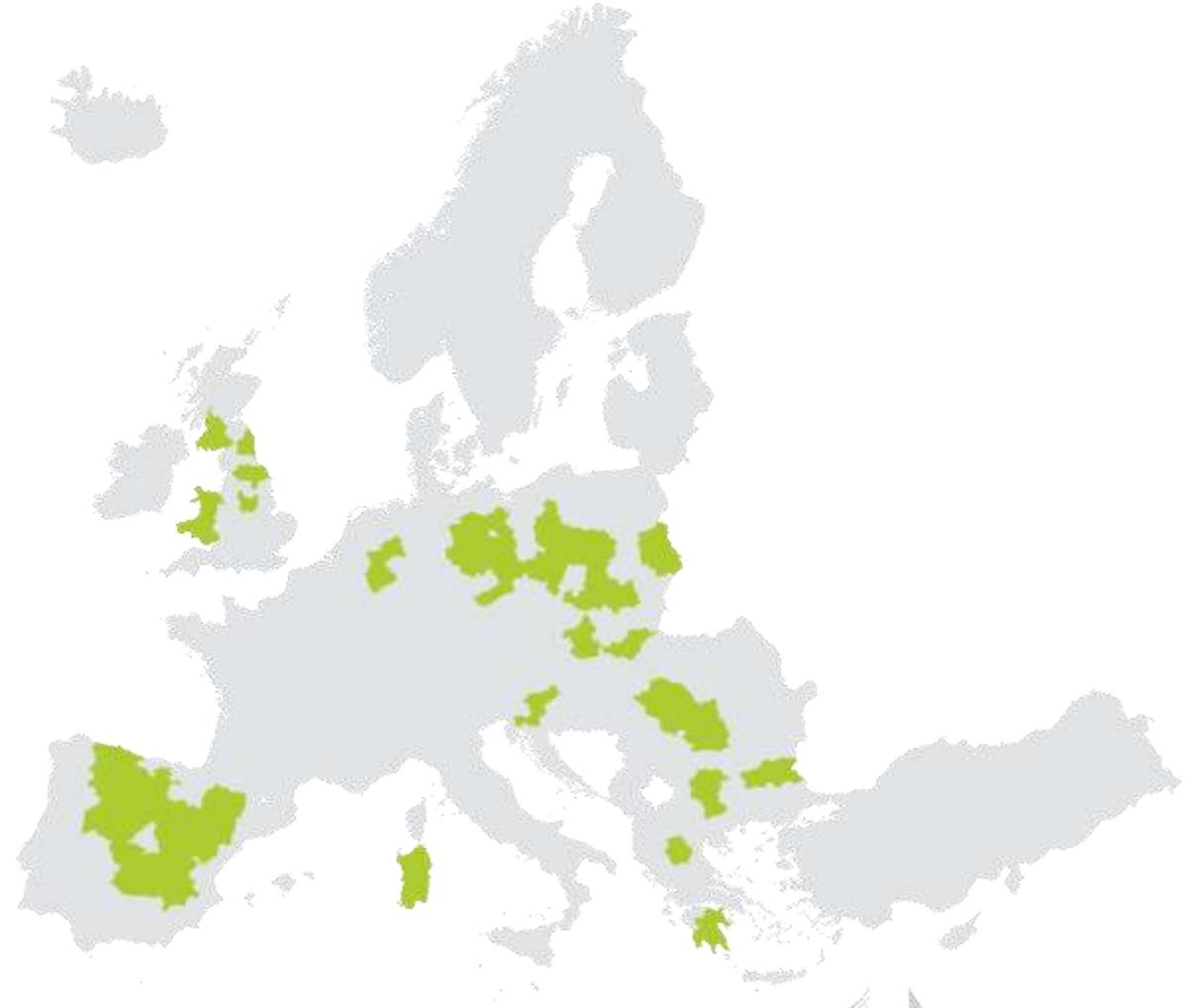
Scope

41 coal regions in 12 EU Member States

Now also covers peat and oil shale regions,
with priority on Ireland and Estonia

Tools

1. Platform for Coal Regions in Transition
2. Country teams
3. Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition



Platform for Coal Regions in Transition

Provides an **open forum** for:

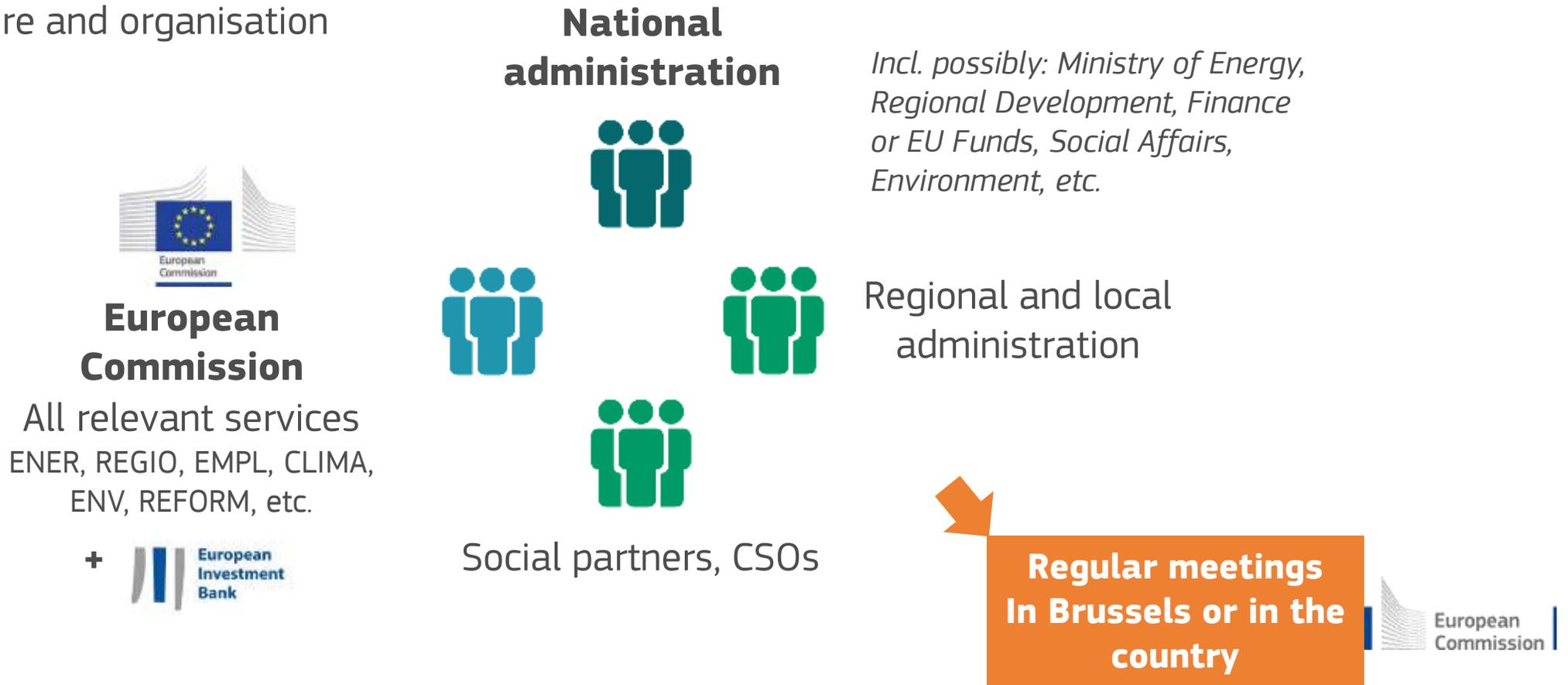
- **Stakeholder dialogue:** strategies and projects are discussed with a wider stakeholder community including NGOs, trade unions and industry.
 - **Collective brainstorming:** exchange on best practices and experiences from other sectors and project ideas are brought into the discussion.
 - **Guidance on available EU funds:** Commission services provide information on funds and programmes to support transition in coal regions
 - **Monitoring progress** made by pilot regions
 - **High-level political dialogue:** policy-makers provide recommendations on how to ensure an enabling policy framework, including the new MFF.
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- **Platform Meetings:** 1-2 April 2020, (Brussels)
 - **Annual Political Dialogue:** December 2020, Asturias (Spain)



- Open forum with over 300 participants to discuss EU energy & climate policies, sharing good practice
- Focus on new EU Commission priorities, the Just Transition Mechanism, the European Green Deal, its implications for Coal Regions in Transition;
 - recent developments + concrete steps forward
- A potential of hydrogen for coal regions in transition
 - social economic impact of a fair transition
 - Clean energy technologies in coal regions

Country teams

Structure and organisation



Country Teams

Bilateral support to pilot regions

18 regions in 9 EU countries

- Help regions devising **transition strategies**
- Assist regions in identifying **transition-related projects**
- Whenever possible, support regions in **matching projects with funding opportunities**, including under EU funding programmes



Country teams

Currently 9 operational country teams

Country	Regions	Country	Regions
Poland	Silesia Lower Silesia Greater Poland Lesser Poland	Germany	Brandenburg Saxony Saxony-Anhalt North Rhine Westphalia
Czechia	Moravia-Silesia Karlovy Vary Usti	Spain	Asturias Castilla-y-Leon Aragon
Slovakia	Upper Nitra	Greece	Western Macedonia
Slovenia	Savinjsko-Šaleška Zasavje	Romania	Jiu Valley
Ireland	Midlands		

Country teams

Fruitful cooperation between **European Commission services and Member States** (national, regional, local level)

1. Discuss strategy and project development
2. Direct interface all relevant EU services
3. Possibility to access/re-allocate EU funds and programmes

Available resources

REFORM – technical assistance

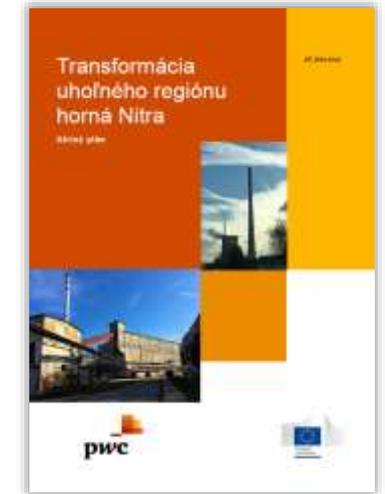
REGIO and **EMPL** – ERDF and ESF, JASPERS, EGAF, future Just Transition Fund and Mechanism

ENER – CEF, future LIFE energy, ELENA

CLIMA – LIFE climate, future Innovation and Modernisation Funds

ENV – LIFE environment

RTD – Horizon 2020, future Horizon Europe, RFCS

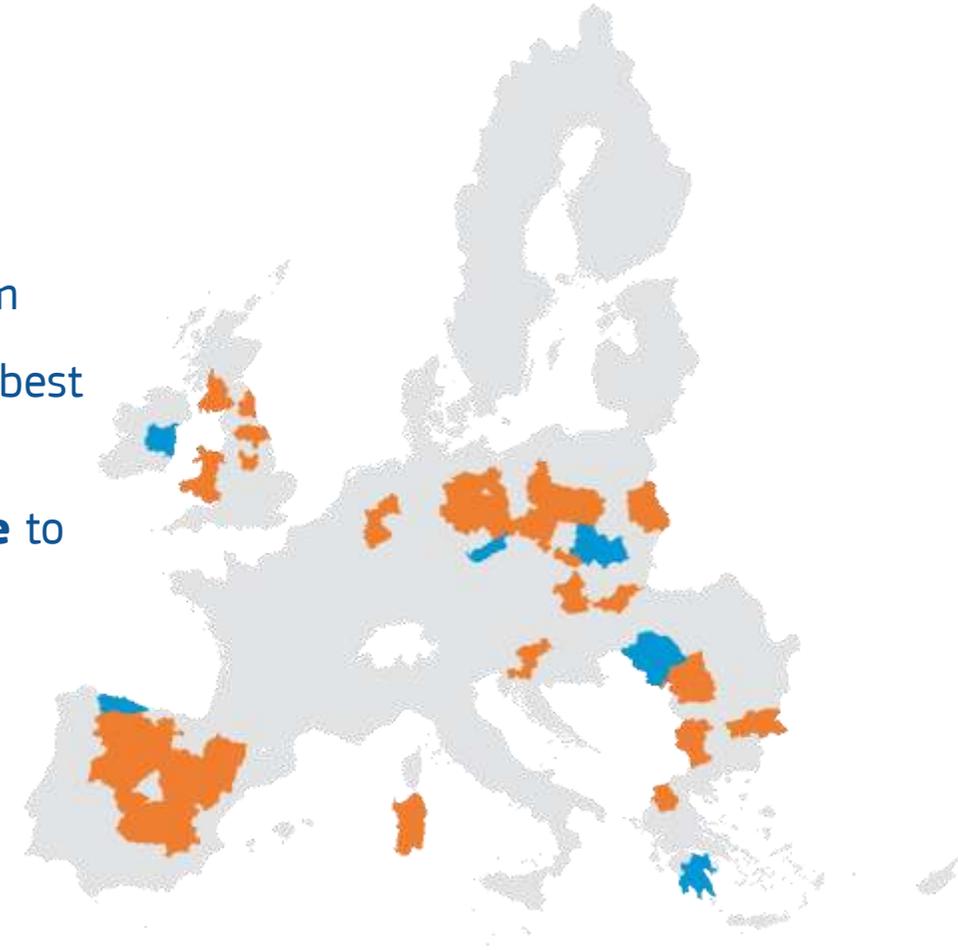


Slovak action plan for Upper Nitra (2019)

Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition

Established 1 February 2019

- Assists the European Commission in the operation of the Platform
- Develops **guidance materials** (methodologies, reports, toolkits, best practices) on transition-related issues
- Performs targeted **capacity building** and **technical assistance** to pilot regions (7)
- Set up a **knowledge hub** on transition-related issues
 - ✓ **Governance** of Transition toolkit
 - ✓ Sustainable **employment and welfare support** toolkit
 - ✓ **Site rehabilitation and repurposing** toolkit
 - ✓ Guidance on **EU funds and programmes** (2020)
 - ✓ **Technology solutions** for transition (2020)

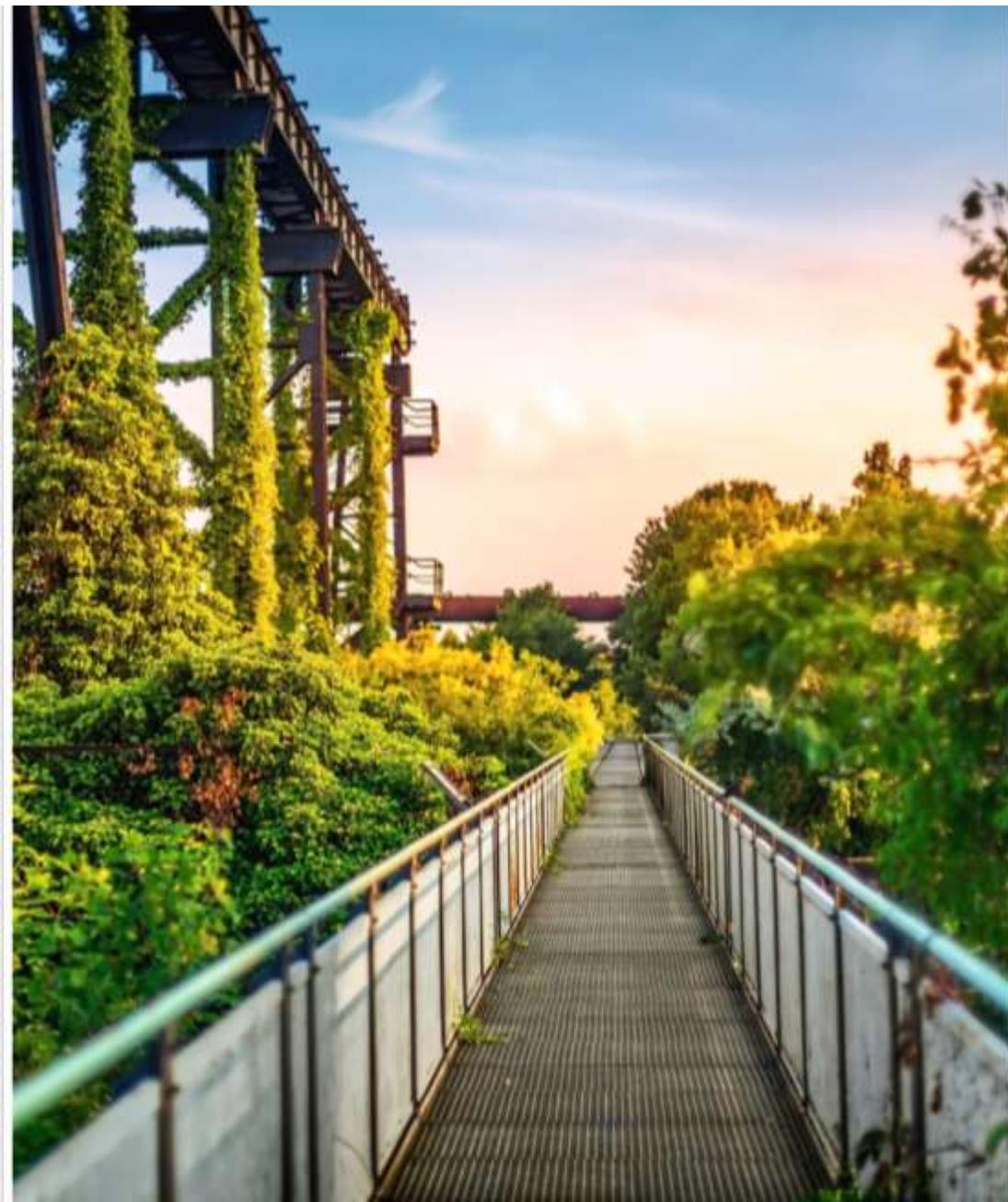




START: Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition

Support to address two central aspects of transition

- 1. Economic Diversification:** reorientation towards sectors and activities with long-term sustainable growth potential
- 2. Decarbonisation:** promoting technological transition towards low carbon emission energy production and consumption



START: Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition

Capacity building, knowledge sharing and advice:

- **Strategy development** for regional economic diversification and transition
- **Governance and planning** for the formulation and implementation of transitions strategies
- **Project identification and prioritisation** of transition-related projects
- **Project development** support for design of projects and action plans for implementation



START: Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition

Thematic Areas (illustrative):

- Sustainable spatial economic development
- Energy systems and technologies
- Environmental issues
- Employment and labour force
- Social cohesion and social welfare
- Heritage and culture

Secretariat's Tailored Made Technical Assistance to 7 coal regions in transition

	Applicant	Focus
ES	Asturias	Energy transition and post-coal regional development strategy and project support
IE	Midlands	Holistic plan for transition, project identification and consultation
PL	Malopolska	Regional action plan (climate and energy) and project support and consultation
CZ	Karlovy Vary (Sokolov district)	Regional strategy revision and project identification and consultation
EL	Peloponnese (Megalopolis)	Road map for transition, assessment of options and consultation
R O	Hunedoara County (Jiu Valley Partnership)	Project identification, consultation, selection and support
PL	Silesia	Rehabilitation and repurposing of post-industrial area

Good practice cases

1

Transforming the lignite-fired Matra power plant into part of a renewable energy cluster



2

Information platform for post-industrial and degraded areas in Silesia (OPI-TPP)



3

Task force on Just Transition for Canadian coal power workers and communities



4

The Lewarde mining history centre



5

Wałbrzych special economic zone „INVEST-PARK“, Poland



6

RESTART-Strategy for economic restructuring of Czech coal regions



Just Transition Mechanism

Announced on 14 January 2020

1. Just Transition Fund

EUR 7.5 bln, allocated to Member States according to industrial GHG emissions and employment in extractive industries

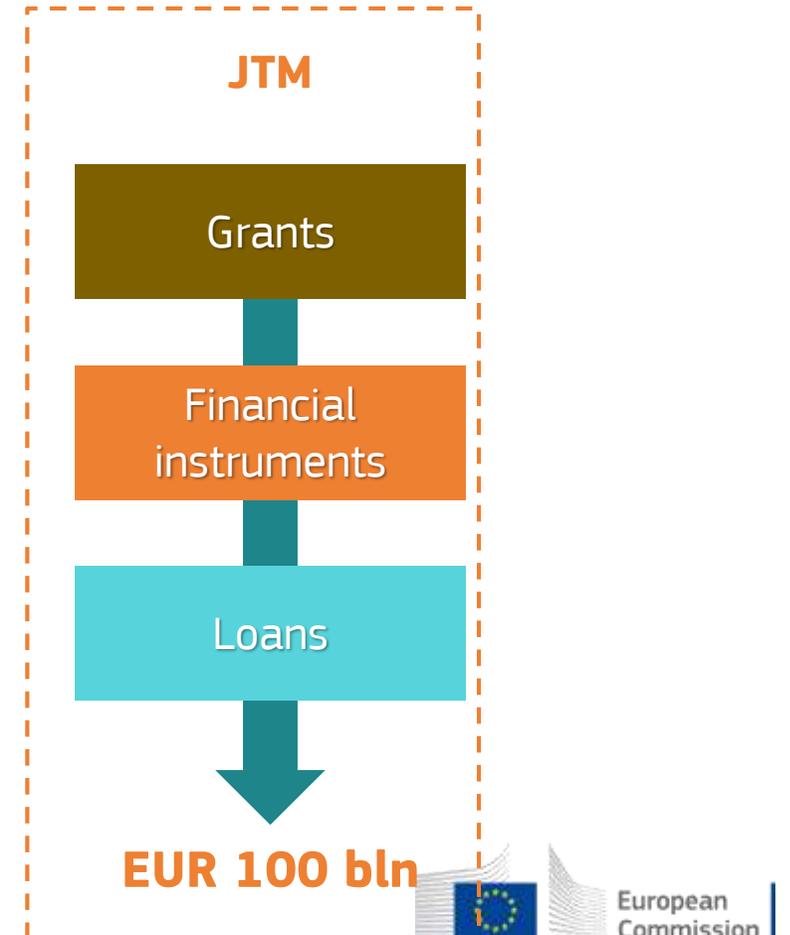
2. Dedicated window under InvestEU

Allowing to de-risk investments in 'just transition' regions, with a guarantee mechanism

3. Public loan facility

Helping projects with lower leverage effect, operated by the EIB

With a potential to generate EUR 100 bln in investments over the next decade



Just Transition Mechanism

Example of energy-related eligible projects

Region X, currently mining coal, with a coal-fired power plant and related district heating network to be phased out before 2030

JTF

Rehabilitation of former mining site for ultimate repurposing into recreational and productive use

Reskilling programme for former miners to work in rooftop PV installation

InvestEU

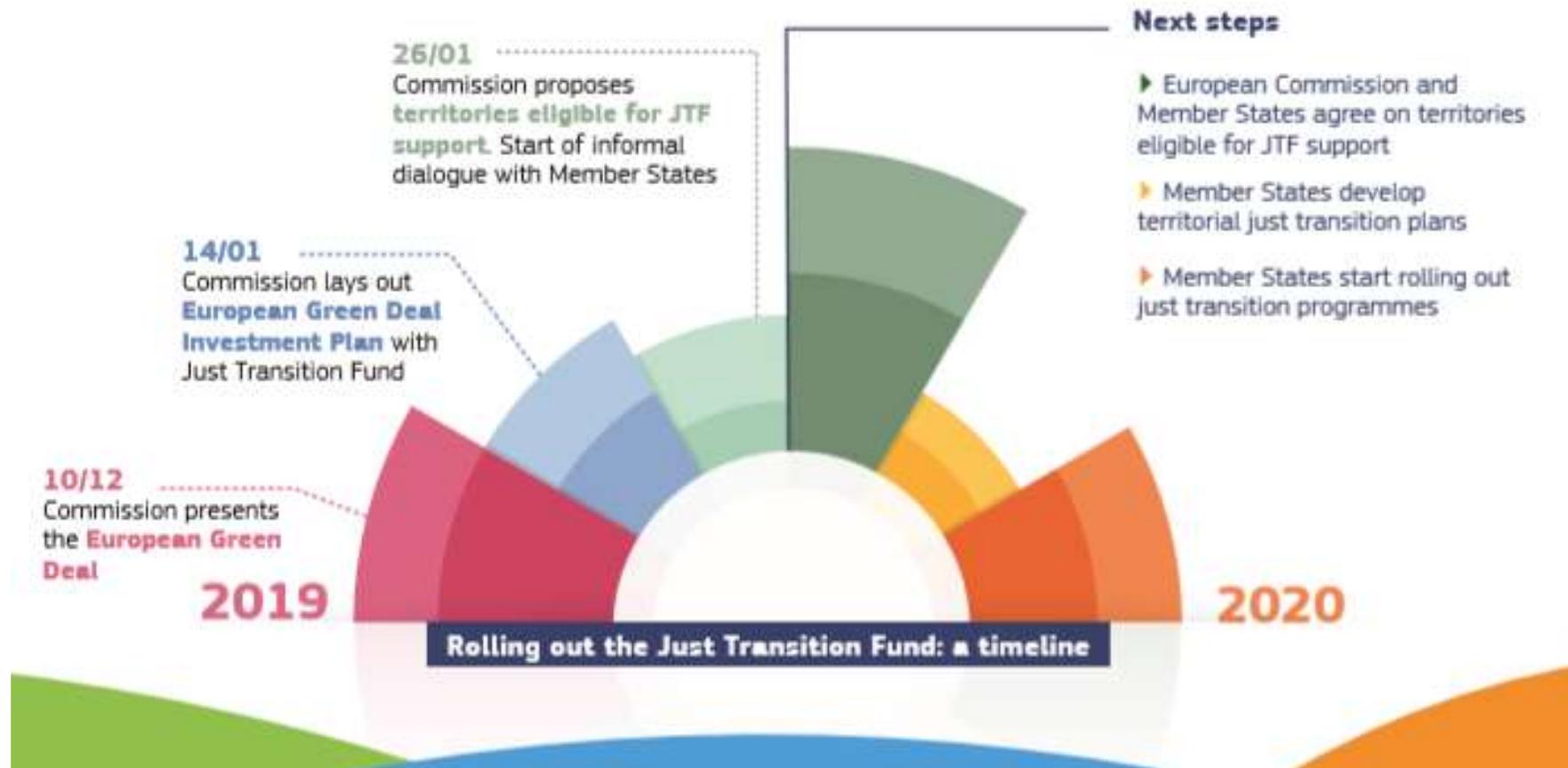
Energy efficiency programme, renovating private homes and installing rooftop PVs

Support scheme for local SMEs providing incubation and business development services

Public loan facility

Energy efficient **renovation of social housing** owned by the town hall

Upgrade of **publicly-owned district heating system** to use clean energy instead of coal



Leaving no one behind in the transition to a greener Europe

The EU's objective is to be climate-neutral by 2050. Reforms that help accomplish the cuts in CO2 emissions are necessary. This year, the Commission's investment guidance therefore focusses on ensuring a fair transition towards a greener Europe.

The Semester country reports zoom in on the regions and sectors that are most economically and socially challenged by the transition towards climate neutrality. Based on this analysis, the Commission proposes on where and how to target the financial support from the Just Transition Fund. Territorial just transition plans will be a prerequisite for receiving such support. These plans will be discussed and developed in dialogue with the Member States, in the same of cooperation as for the programming of the Cohesion Policy funds.

Just Transition Fund

Implementation phase



Select **beneficiary regions** at NUTS 3 or inferior level

Develop **transition plans** (incl. with TA from REFORM)

Spend funds according to plan



Recommends **beneficiary regions** under European Semester (Annex D bis)

Adopts **transition plans** after assessment

Monitors spending and respect of plan



EUROPEAN SEMESTER 2020

The country reports assess Member States' progress in implementing country-specific recommendations (CSRs), the tailored policy guidance the Commission provides each year. The following provides a selective overview of Member States' progress with the implementation of country-specific recommendations.



Slovakia

has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

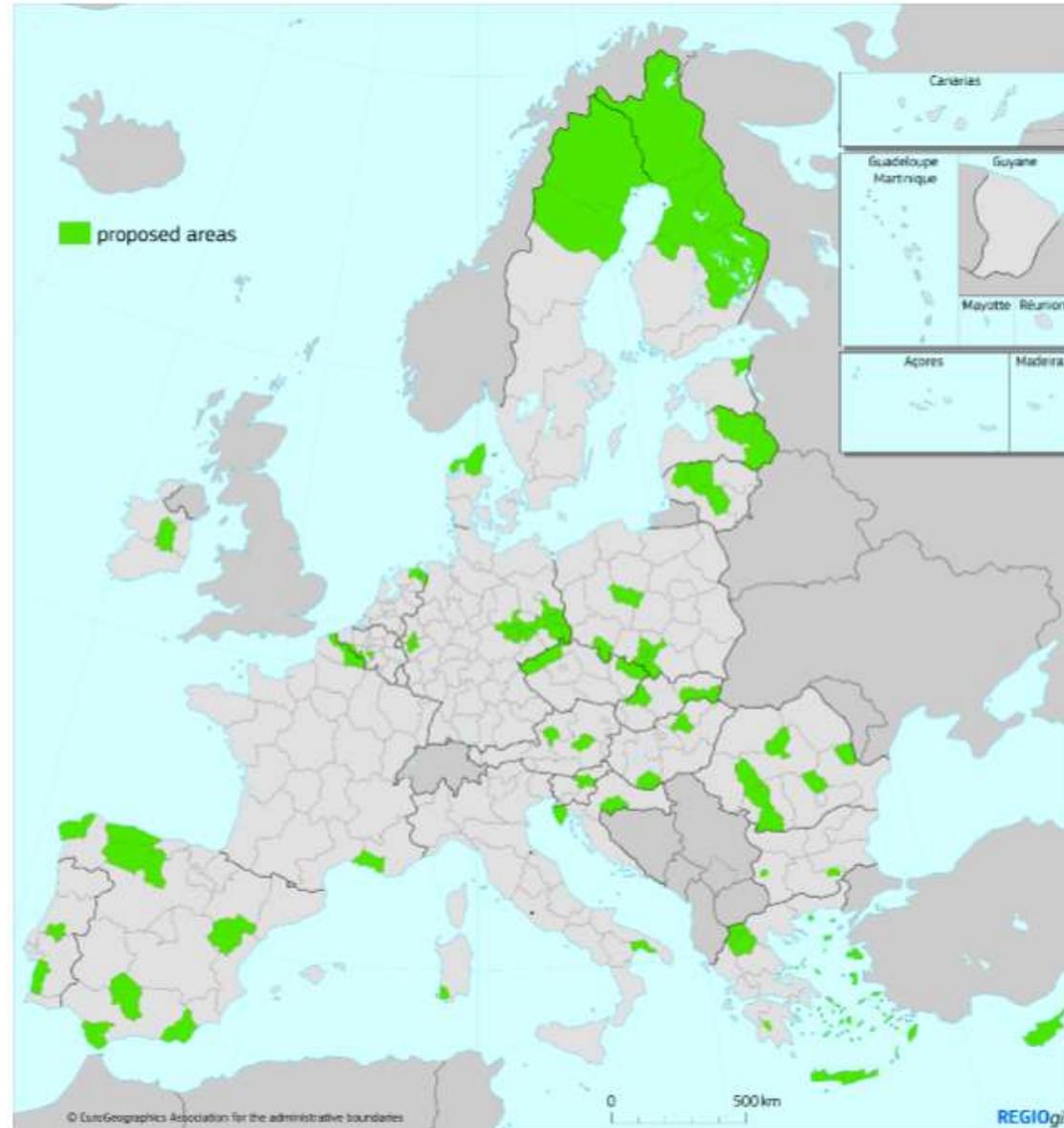


Focusing investment-related economic policy on energy efficiency

SOME
PROGRESS

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/csr_factsheet_v9_0.pdf

Just Transition Fund territorial eligibility – Preliminary Commission analysis



https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/annex_d_crs_2020_en.pdf

Examples of key actions of the JTF could target in Trenčín and Košice

To tackle the transition challenges and support the sustainable competitiveness

- Investments in regeneration and decontamination of sites, land restoration and repurposing projects;
- Investments in research and innovation activities and fostering the transfer of advanced technologies;
- Upskilling and reskilling of workers;
- Investments in the deployment of technology and infrastructures for affordable clean energy, in greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Technical assistance.

To increase the use of digital public services

- Digitalisation and digital connectivity

To further support sustainable regional and local development

- Investments in the creation of new firms, including through business incubators and consulting services;
- Investments in enhancing the circular economy, including through waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling.

Thank you



#CoalRegionsEU @Energy4Europe

DG ENERGY



<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions>

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