



European
Commission

EU Initiative for coal regions in transition

START technical assistance support to the Jiu Valley

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“Just Transition” - Ideas, projects and finance for life after coal in Jiu Valley, 22 October 2020



Agenda

01

Initiative

**Background and
purpose of the
Initiative for Coal
Regions in
Transition**

02

Secretariat

**Overview of
activities of the
Platform
Secretariat**

03

START

**Secretariat
Technical
Assistance for
Regions in
Transition**

Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Operating since 2017

Objective of the Initiative

- **Address the unique contexts of coal regions by supporting development of transition strategies and projects**

Tools

- **Operational Country Teams & bilateral discussion with Commission experts**
- **Multi-stakeholder Dialogue (Working Groups and Annual Political Dialogue)**
- **Secretariat of the Initiative**



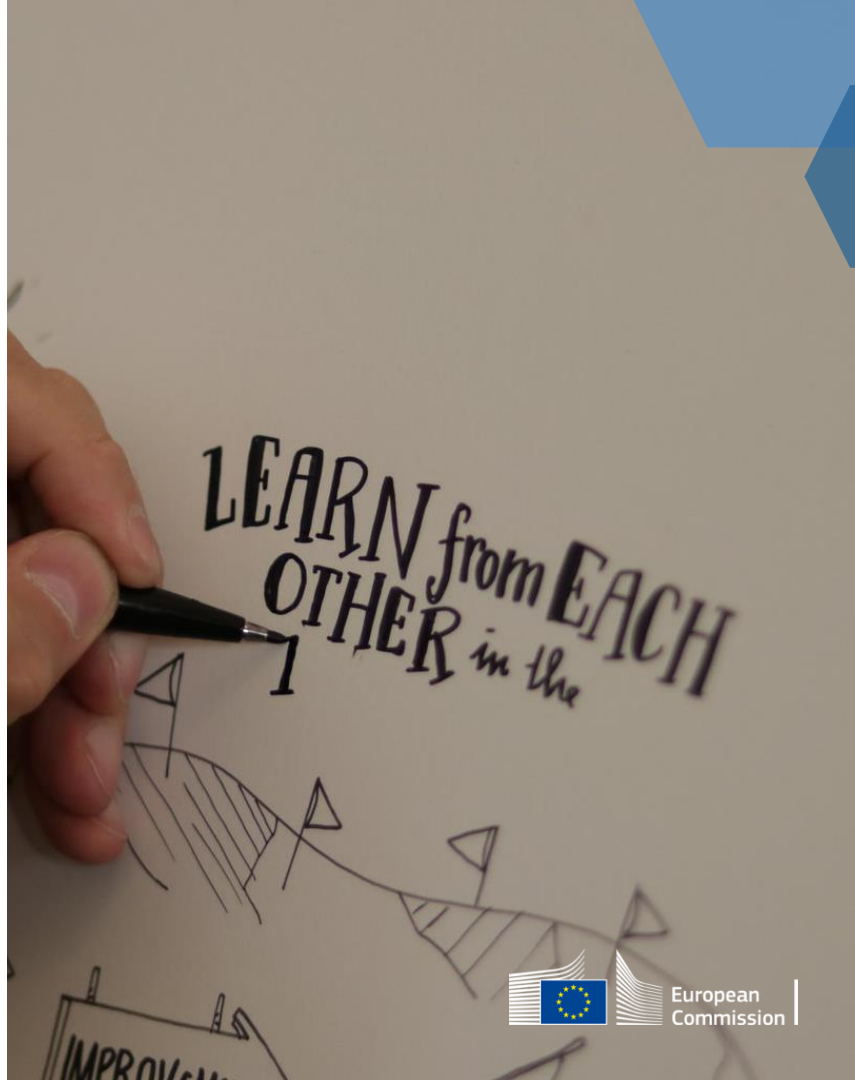
Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Gathering all relevant stakeholders

- **European Commission + National, regional and local authorities + industry, workers, academia, NGOs, local communities, etc.**

Open forum to discuss common challenges

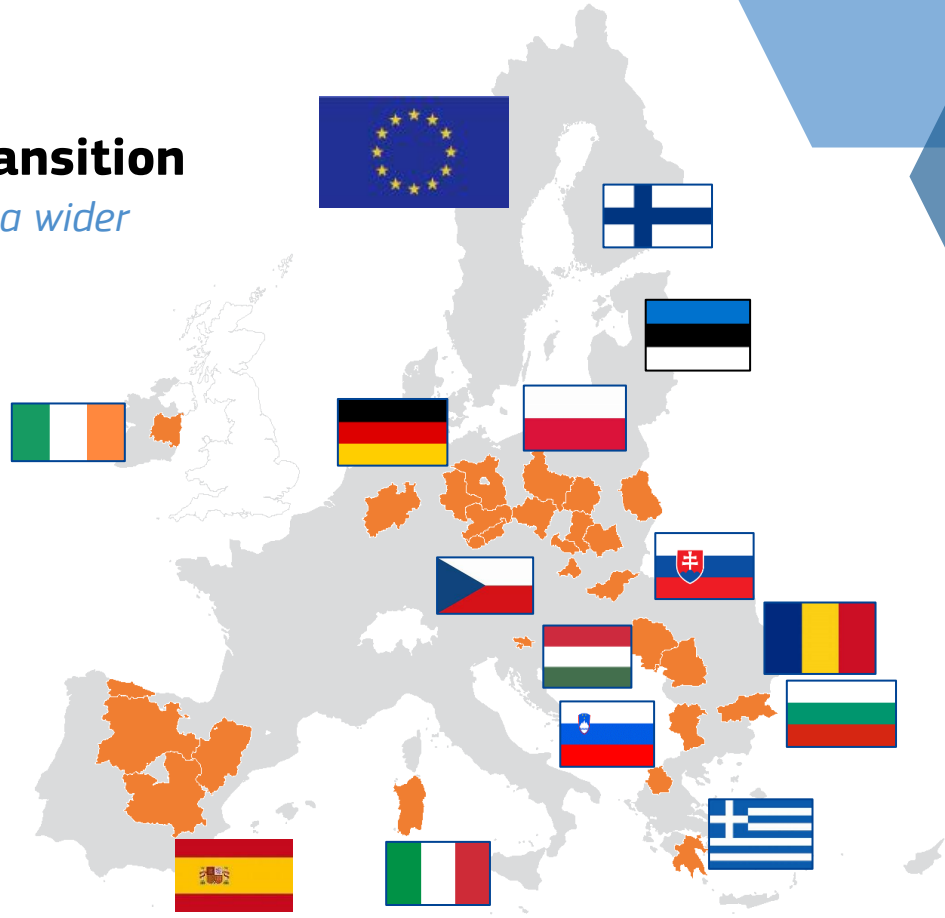
- **Projects, strategies and possible ways for stakeholders to cooperate**
- **Stakeholder dialogue, collective brainstorming, guidance on funds, political dialogue, monitor progress, etc.**



Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Open forum for a stakeholder dialogue with a wider community

Covers coal & lignite & peat & oil shale regions across 14 EU Member States



Secretariat of the Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

01

Organisation of the Working Group meetings & support to the Political Dialogue

02

Communication activities & contact point for members of the Initiative

03

Development of transition-related support materials and tools

04

Deliver Technical Assistance support to regions in transition



04

Technical assistance

**Deliver technical assistance
support to regions in transition.**



Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition (START): Overview

Resources

7 regions supported

Circa 50 to 120 days of support per region

Complementary to other existing EC (and other) support efforts

Process

Launch of call for requests: June 2019

Notification: October 2019

5 regional field visits (meetings with over 100 regional actors)

Workplans developed

Now delivering support (adapted to Covid-19 circumstances)

Completion by 2021-Q4

Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition (START): Overview

Scope

Strategy development: energy transition and economic diversification

Project identification

Project development

Governance

Specific thematic analysis

Approach

Co-creation approach

Close engagement with recipients of support

Close co-operation and co-ordination with EC (ENER, REGIO, REFORM etc.) and regional and national departments / ministries



START: Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition

	ES	Asturias	Energy transition and post-coal regional development strategy and project support	SLA & WP signed
	IE	Midlands	Holistic plan for transition, project identification and consultation	SLA & WP signed
	CZ	Karlovy Vary (Sokolov district)	Regional strategy revision and project identification and consultation	SLA & WP agreed
	PL	Malopolska	Regional action plan (climate and energy) and project support and consultation	SLA & WP agreed
	EL	Peloponnese (Megalopolis)	Road map for transition, assessment of options and consultation	SLA & WP pending discussion with national JTDP Coordinator
	RO	Hunedoara County (Jiu Valley Partnership)	Project identification, consultation, selection and support	Fact finding mission 'on hold'
	PL	Silesia	Rehabilitation and repurposing of post-industrial area	Fact finding mission 'on hold'

START support to Jiu Valley Partnership for Just Transition

Context

- **MoU 'Jiu Valley Partnership' (July 2019)**
- **Application to START: Identification, elaboration and development of transition projects (September 2019)**
- **Site visit planned for March 2020 (postponed due to Covid-19)**
- **Regional Profile published (July 2020)**
- **Maintain contact with stakeholders: municipalities, NGOs, consultants, projects, EC services (Ongoing)**



START support to Jiu Valley Partnership for Just Transition

Next Steps

- **Review assistance needs with 'Jiu Valley Partnership' representatives (October 2020)**
- **Define SLA and Workplan: activities, timetable, and support modes (December 2020)**
- **Delivery of support (from January 2021)**
- **Build on completed and ongoing actions (e.g. Transition Strategy, TRACER, ...)**
- **Co-creation and close engagement**



START Lessons learnt (so far)

- Importance of joined-up government (local, regional, national, EU) + partnerships: **'whole of region' & 'whole of government'**
- Develop a **clear pathway plan for transition** over the short and longer term
- **Affected localities need to be the focus of support and engaged in the process of transition**
- **Legacy assets can be repurposed for transition and diversification**
- **Recipients require the capacity to absorb support and engage stakeholders**

Thank you

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Example: START activities and deliverables for the Midlands Region (IE)

Regional Profile

- Outline of the situation of the peat sector, transition plans, challenges and opportunities

Midlands Engagement Process

Purpose to establish an inventory (database) of transition projects

- Guidance on project identification
- Information on emerging economic activities in rural communities and examples of innovative and community-led rural development projects
- Project registration templates
- Guidance to promoters and future monitoring
- ✓ 156 project registrations



Example: START activities and deliverables for the Midlands Region (IE)

Employment & skills Report

- **Guidance and good practice for supporting workers affected by transition and employment creation**

Midlands Pathway to Transition

Purpose to provide a tool (guide) to map regional transition in the short and longer terms (phased approach)

- **Build consensus among local, regional, national actors on transition priorities and activities**
- **Optimise resource allocation and coordination of actions**
- **Support transparency**
- **Monitoring of progress and the management of risks over time**

