



European
Commission

EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the context of EU Green Deal

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CoalRegions inTransition

*“Just Transition” Ideas, projects and finance for life after
coal in JiuValley, 22 October 2020*



Overall EU Policy context



New EU policy and legislative context

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

~1 million 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

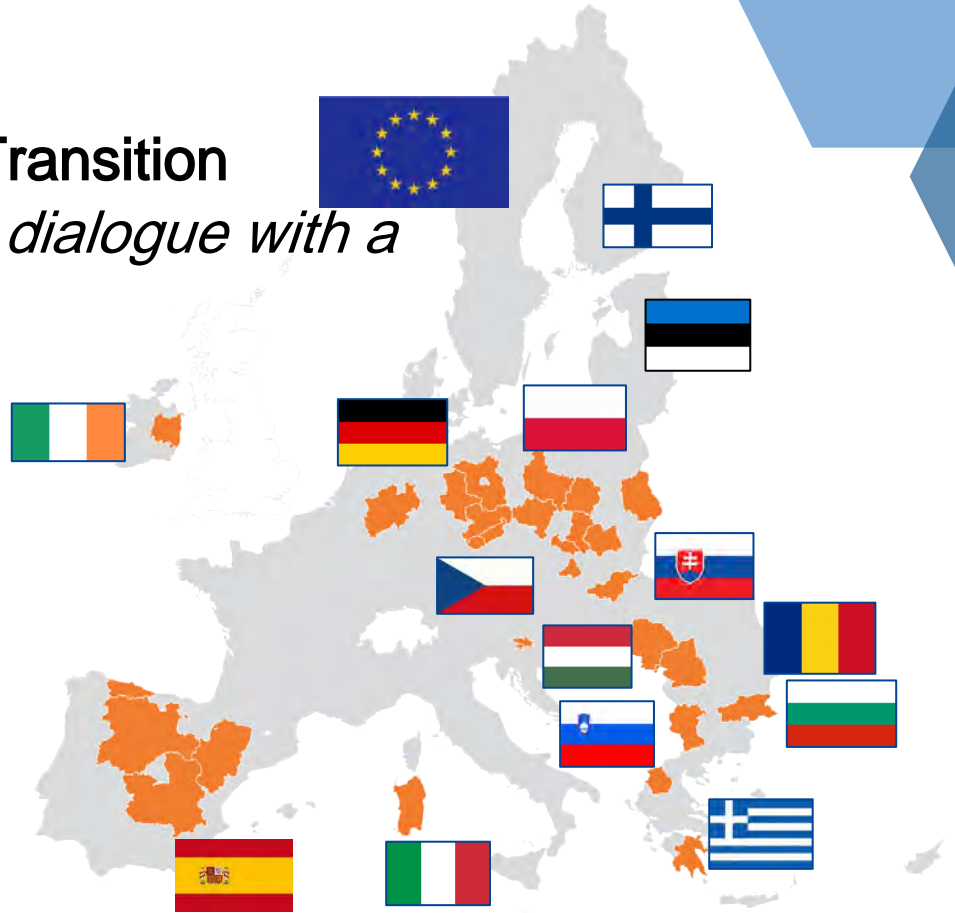
Initiatives

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

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



Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Open forum for a stakeholder dialogue with a wider community

A **Dialogue with stakeholders** around decarbonising energy production and diversifying local economy



Regional/local
administration



Social partners, Civil
Society, Industry, Trade
Unions, NGOs, Academia

Collective **brainstorming and exchange** of best practices and experiences

Assisting the regions in devising energy transition strategies, identifying transition-related projects, matching them with funding opportunities

Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

A knowledge hub on energy transition for coal regions

Targeted **capacity building + technical assistance** to 7 pilot regions



x 2



Guidance materials (methodologies, reports, toolkits) on transition-related issues ([weblink](#))

Webinars dedicated to the following on 4 toolkits ([DG Energy's YouTube channel](#))



Lewarde (France)

Heritage led regeneration



Problem and challenges

Persuading stakeholders about heritage preservation

Preserving mining culture while making heritage accessible to the public and future generations



Good practice

Establishment of an iconic national tourist centre, co-financed by the former coal-mining company

Viability secured due to collaboration between various stakeholders and targeting a range of users



Lessons learned

Engaging and co-ordinating plans and funds across different levels (local, regional and national)

Developing a long-term business model



Problem and challenges

Deep open cast lignite mining with pits hundreds of meters deep and kilometres long

Scarred, exhausted landscape that defined the area



Good practice

Abandoned pits flooded with water and landscape rehabilitated

Comprehensive regeneration programme

Europe's largest artificial lake district with over 20 lakes



Lessons learned

Popular recreational area with beaches, forests, cycle paths, water sports etc. can be created

It's long term; 40 years of environmental regeneration

Jiu Valley (Romania)

Retraining of miners for energy transition



Problem and challenges

- Lack of economic diversification
- Risk of poverty coupled with demographic decline
- Absence of national plan for coal phase-out



Good practice

- Development of plans for reskilling workforce
- Exploitation of wind energy opportunities at national level
- Training local miners at scale to become technicians working in Romanian wind industry



Lessons learned

- Linking supply and demand through targeted retraining and public private partnership
- Transitioning carbon based extractive employment to RES is achievable

START Technical Assistance

7 regions selected in 6 EU member states



x 2

Support for

- Strategy development
- Project identification and development
- Governance
- Capacity development

5 early lessons

- Legacy assets can be repurposed for transition and diversification
- Importance of joined-up government (local, regional, national, EU) + partnerships
- 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 process
- Recipient of START TA requires capacity to absorb support and engage stakeholders

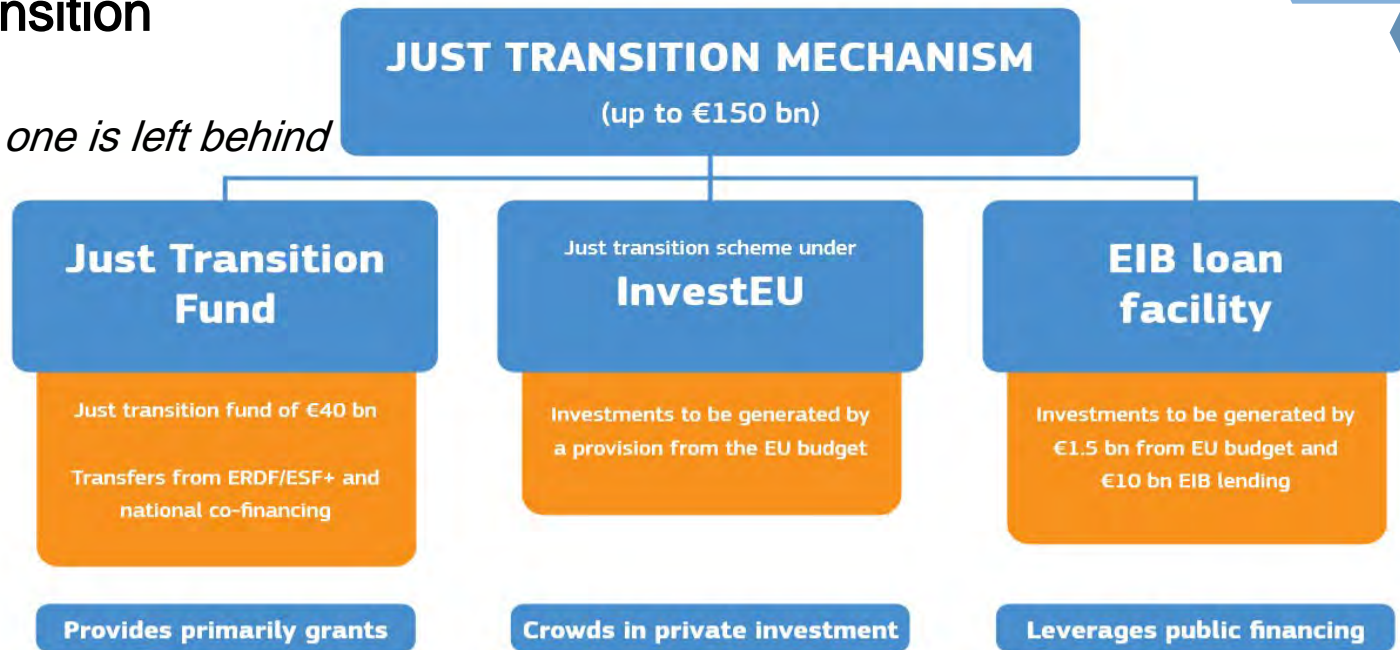
Policy priorities shaping investments in energy

• European Green Deal • Clean Energy Transition • Long-term decarbonisation strategy

- ▶ **Renovation wave and affordable housing:**
Renovation Wave initiative for public and private buildings aimed to boost renovation and energy performance of buildings across the EU; addressing energy poverty
- ▶ **Renewable energy:**
Increasing the use of renewable energy sources (to meet 2030 targets); Strategy on offshore renewable energy; Renewable energy financing mechanism
- ▶ **Grids and energy system integration:**
EU Strategy for energy system integration
- ▶ **Renewable hydrogen:**
EU hydrogen strategy

The Just Transition Mechanism

Making sure no one is left behind



This visualization is based on the EC's proposal currently debated by the European Parliament and the Council in the context of the negotiations for the next EU budget, including the revision of 27 May 2020 taking into account the EU recovery plan.

Which energy projects can JTF support with grants?

- compatible with the clean energy transition (affordable clean energy, RES, energy efficiency)
- addressing the socioeconomic consequences of the transition and creating new economic activities and jobs in the region;
- benefiting most vulnerable communities
- addressing energy poverty, retraining affected workers
- coherent with the overarching energy strategy of the region, locality and country (e.g. NECP, renovation strategy, restructuring strategy, phase out, etc).



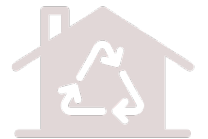
Clean energy



Retraining programme



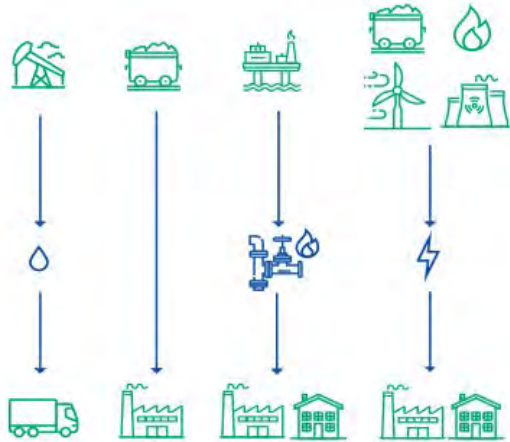
Energy innovation



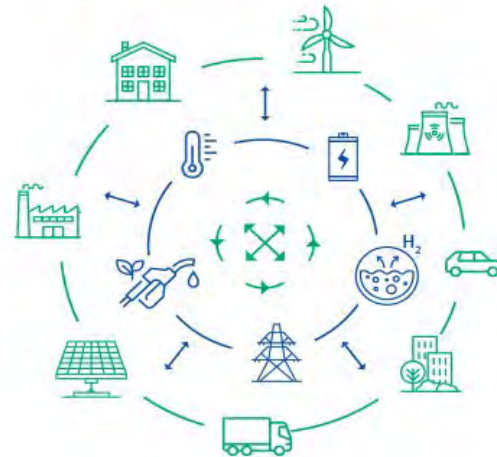
Home renovation

EU Energy System Integration Strategy

The energy system today :
linear and wasteful flows of energy,
in one direction only



Future EU integrated energy system :
energy flows between users and producers,
reducing wasted resources and money



EU Energy System Integration Strategy

An **Integrated EU Energy System** will have three main characteristics:

- A **more efficient and “circular” system** , where waste energy is captured and re-used
- A **cleaner power system** , with more direct electrification of end-use sectors such as industry, heating of buildings and transport.
- A **cleaner fuel system** , for hard-to-electrify sectors like heavy industry or transport



Additional EU funding for energy projects

MODERNISATION FUND

Supporting investments in:



in 10 lower-income EU Member States



Funded by the EU Emissions Trading System

INNOVATION FUND

Driving clean innovative technologies towards the market



Supporting innovation in:



Funded by: EU Emissions Trading System

Clean Energy Transition for the green recovery under LIFE Programme

Energy Efficiency First and Buildings Renovation: generating “**Renovation Waves**” across the EU, which creates local jobs and growth

Just Transition: addressing vulnerable groups and territories that are lagging behind to create for them new growth opportunities and bridge the gap to front-runners

Energy Communities : enabling energy transition in local communities to redesign **local energy systems** and accelerate the deployment of **renewable energy generation at consumer site**

- ✓ Tentative budget of €1 billion (grants)
- ✓ Centralised direct management
- ✓ Timeframe 2021-2027



Thank you

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[Website](#)

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[DG Energy's YouTube channels](#)

