



Final Report

Support to additional capacity-building measures under the Just Transition Platform

Executive Summary

December 2023

*Regional and
Urban Policy*

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the activities, deliverables and progress of the work implemented for the contract “*Support to additional capacity-building measures under the Just Transition Platform*” for DG REGIO. The Just Transition Platform (JTP) provides support to stakeholders in coal and carbon-intensive regions in the EU in the complex challenges of a sustainable and just transition towards climate neutrality. It is the key tool to help regions unlock the support available through the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM). In doing so, it supports regions, communities, workers and other stakeholders to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the transition process and implement a swift and timely transition away from fossil fuels while leaving no one behind.

The activities under the contract were implemented from January to December 2023 through the following four tasks:

1. **JTP Knowledge Hub:** Development of eight case studies and ten toolkits (with two case studies included) supporting information needs of regions eligible for the Just Transition Fund (JTF);
2. **JTP Groundwork:** Provision of needs-based technical assistance for the implementation of Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs) to stakeholders in six JTF regions, including organisation of side-events;
3. **JTPeers:** Development and management of the JTPeers Experts Database, providing a depository of 110 just transition experts from 27 countries to support JTF regions in their transition. Implementation of seven region-to-region and expert-to-region JTPeers Exchanges;
4. **JTF communication strategy:** Production of a promotional video, three short videos, two long videos and ten fiches about issues related to the just transition process in the JTF regions as well as social media posts and campaigns to promote the results and experiences from the regions to a larger audience.

1. Task 1 – Knowledge Management under the JTP Knowledge Hub

The objective of this task was to provide guidance to stakeholders in JTF regions on a number of key topics important for the implementation of their TJTPs, and to enable relevant stakeholders access to shareable information on possible transition pathways and their implications. Accordingly, eight case studies and ten toolkits, with two case studies included, were produced and published on the [JTP Knowledge Repository](#). The topics were chosen based on the needs of JTF regions, experiences in JTP Groundwork, JTPeers and past EU just transition projects as well as conversations with local stakeholders spanning a broad range of just transition foci including energy, industry, gender and inclusivity, and just transition governance. The knowledge products were produced with practical application in mind. For example, the toolkits contain a range of relevant examples and local practitioners were consulted in the writing of the toolkits and case studies to ensure products respond to identified needs in JTF regions.

In addition, four ad-hoc requests were addressed:

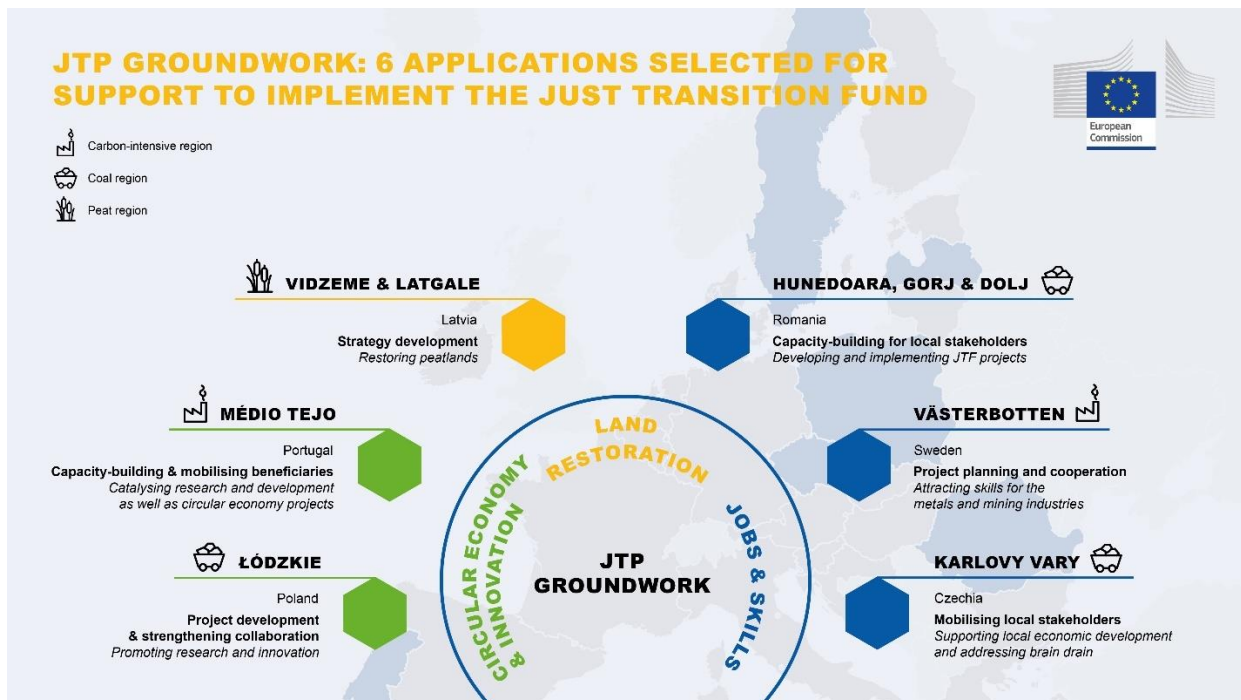
- 1) The first product delivered was a TJTP matrix, which identified the topics and funding priorities of JTF regions outlined in their TJTPs as well as an overview of the frequency of topic mentions.
- 2) The second product delivered was a concept note on how to update the current [Knowledge Repository webpage](#), including suggestions to include a search and filtering system for publications and a suggestion for a new name: JTP Knowledge Hub.
- 3) Two ad-hoc products were delivered as part of Task 3:
 - a. Two separate calls for JTPeers Experts and JTPeers Exchange: Originally it was planned to issue a combined call for JTPeers Experts and JTPeers Exchange that would have solicited just transition experts and matched them with interested regions. However, given technical delays in implementing the JTPeers Experts Database, separate calls were established. The separate calls for JTPeers Experts and JTPeers Exchange also allowed for target communication to each of the two groups, which helped the calls gain traction with each group.
 - b. An additional call for JTPeers Experts.

2. Task 2 – Technical assistance under JTP Groundwork

The goal of this workstream was to provide technical assistance (TA) to help JTF regions design, plan and implement a just transition to climate-neutrality, based on the respective region's TJTP.

To facilitate this, the call for application for JTP Groundwork was launched on the JTP Platform website in the first week of February 2023 and received 32 applications from 24 regions and 12 EU Member States. Figure 1 shows the selected six beneficiaries, including the foci of the respective TAs.

Figure 1 - JTP Groundwork beneficiaries



In all TAs, three workshops and one large event including local, regional, national, and sometimes even EU participants, were organised and implemented. The TAs covered a variety of topics each which were carefully scoped with the beneficiaries. Each TA produced individual learnings which are summarised in a separate lessons learnt report on the [Just Transition Platform website](#), but four key lessons learnt can be identified across the six TAs:

- 1) The importance of including and connecting with relevant stakeholders at local, regional, and often national level.
- 2) The importance of engaging with industry and academia to establish buy-in and a streamlined vision and approach for the just transition process.
- 3) The availability of funds is necessary and important but not sufficient for the actual implementation of the just transition process. JTF territories must build internal capacity and agency in addition to effectively leverage the available funding and implement the just transition.
- 4) Large-scale (>50 participants) events help to engage and network with stakeholders, improve interregional and local visibility, and inform the stakeholders about JTF opportunities in the regions. The events also provided a forum for TA beneficiaries to connect with other JTF regions within their countries and across Europe.

3. Task 3 – JTPeers (Exchanges and Database)

The objective of this task is twofold and included the development of the JTPeers Experts Database and the peer-to-peer exchange programme JTPeers Exchange. The goal of the task was to facilitate exchanges between public and non-public just transition experts to encourage knowledge sharing and network building across JTF regions.

JTPeers Experts Database

The JTPeers Experts database, hosted on the EC Europa Web Publishing Platform (EWPP), is the first of its kind in Europe to catalogue a variety of professionals in the just transition field. The database is designed to help interested parties from eligible JTF territories find and connect with experts who can provide tailored guidance and assistance to the territories in implementing their TJTP.

The first call of applications for the database launched in the second week of September 2023 and resulted in 88 applications. 80 experts from 23 countries were accepted for inclusion in the database, including 13 experts who applied to the call for JTPeers Exchange as individual experts. The database was officially launched at the JTP Conference in Brussels on 24 and 25 October 2023.

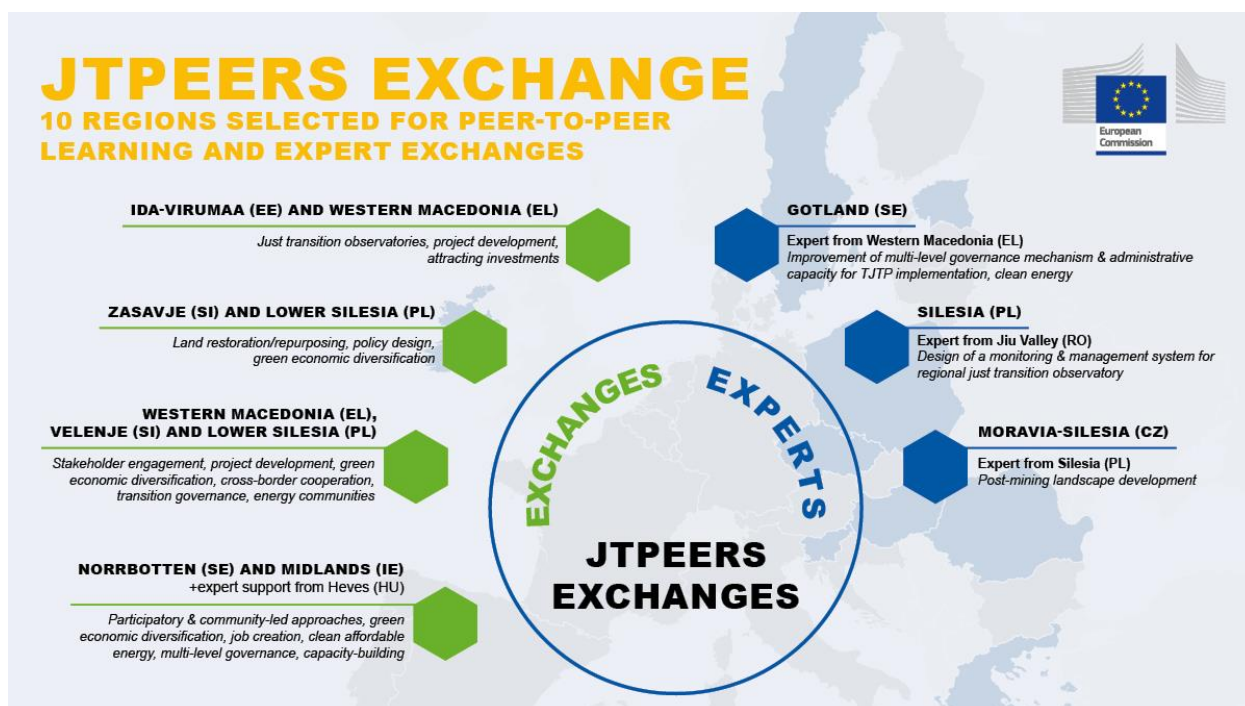
Following the initial success of the JTPeers Experts Database and the high demand by additional just transition experts, an additional second call was launched two months later, in the second week of November 2023. This second call received 37 applicants from 18 different countries, of which 31 were approved for inclusion in the database.

In total 125 applications were received in response to the two calls for applications, demonstrating the high demand and interest of just transition experts. A total of 110 just transition experts from 27 countries (21 EU) are included in the database.

JTPeers Exchange

JTPeers Exchange is a peer-to-peer programme that facilitates knowledge exchange and mutual learning through in-person and online exchanges between JTF regions and JTPeers Experts. The call for JTPeers Exchange launched in the beginning of May 2023 and received 39 applicants from 16 EU countries, representing multiple sectors, including research organisations, SMEs, and local, regional and national public authorities. Ultimately, 16 applicants from ten JTF regions were selected for seven exchanges, Figure 2 shows the beneficiaries and their exchange topics.

Figure 2 - JTPeers Exchange beneficiaries



Given the diversity of beneficiaries and topics, all exchanges resulted in individual learnings. However, all beneficiaries highlighted the relevance of peer-to-peer exchanges, both to advance the transition and to understand that regions are not alone in the process.

The JTPeers Experts Database and JTPeers Exchange both provide tangible support for TJTP implementation, with the database designed to enable users to seek out expert(s) who can address their needs. The database and peer-to-peer exchanges facilitate potential future engagement with a diverse community, connecting experts with practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders from eligible JTF territories, and promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange which can all be directly applied to enhance the implementation of TJTP/JTF measures.

4. Task 4 – Communication activities

The goal of this task was to promote ongoing activities under the JTP as well as specific project deliverables and outcomes. Continuous promotion of all ongoing project activities was provided and six videos, including one promotional, two 2 informational, and three short videos, and ten fiches were produced:

- 1) One promotional video was produced to generate interest around the JTP;
- 2) Two informational videos on the on the different facets of the JTP and the implementation of JTP Groundwork respectively;
- 3) Three short videos on key knowledge products (gender toolkit, educational and skills catalogue, project funding catalogue);

- 4) 10 fiches on ongoing activities (e.g. JTP Groundwork and JTPeers), as well as summaries of a variety of knowledge products, such as the energy communities toolkit, biomass toolkit, and measuring the just transition catalogue.

The videos were produced in English and subtitles are provided in six EU languages to broaden reach and ensure engagement across diverse linguistic communities.

The delivery of a diverse range of communication products and their promotion across different channels and media increased the reach of the JTP and created different opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the JTP and learn about its activities.

5. Impact

The delivered activities outlined above have all served as capacity building measures for just transition regions under the Just Transition Platform. Each of the delivered activities directly supports just transition territories to more effectively implement their transitions. JTP Groundwork and JTPeers provide direct, hands-on support, offering resources tailored to support the territory in questions. JTP Knowledge Repository offers topical knowledge on key just transition topics identified by regions, building their capacities to better understand key issue areas for current and future project implementation. Finally, the comprehensive communication strategy, promoting ongoing activities and outcomes in different formats and across different channels, ensuring JTP resources and results were clearly communicated and known by relevant stakeholders across JTP territories.

