



# Welcome Technical Assistance Opportunities

Platform for Coal Regions in Transition

#CoalRegionsEU

Energy



# **Technical support for coal regions in transition – the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)**

**July 15, 2019**

**Coal Regions in Transition Platform - Brussels**



# The Structural Reform Support Service

**Established in 2015 to provide support for structural reforms**

- **Support on the ground, tailor-made**, covering all reform stages and a **wide range of policy areas**
- provided **upon request** from a Member State, no co-financing needed
- **Swift implementation** (annual rounds of requests)
- Providers: international organisations, private sector, experts from national administrations, individual experts, in-house expertise

## Support areas

### Governance and public administration

- Governance
- Central & local administration
- e-Government
- Management of human resources
- Better regulation
- Anti-corruption & anti-fraud strategies
- Anti-money-laundering strategies
- Judicial reform

### Tax revenue and public financial management

- Revenue administration
- Budget preparation
- Spending reviews
- Fiscal strategies & tax policy
- Supreme audit institutions/ independent fiscal institutions

### Growth and business environment

- Investment licensing
- Competition policy
- Trade issues
- Digital society
- Land registry
- Energy Union
- Better Regulation
- Management of State-owned enterprises (SOEs)
- Sectoral expertise: transport, environment, water, agriculture, etc.

### Labour market, health and social services

- Labour market, policies & laws
- Welfare system
- Pension system
- Healthcare system
- Education & vocational training

### Financial sector and access to finance

- Access to finance
- Capital Markets Union
- Bank supervision & resolution
- Non-performing loans
- Insolvency & financial literacy
- Insurance & pensions
- Competition issues



## Examples of possible support for coal regions in transition

- Supporting **collaboration projects with other Member States** and regions in similar situations through financing of study visits, workshops, etc.
- Mobilising expertise (international organisations, private sector, etc.) for developing **regional strategies** including at sectoral level, communication strategies, etc.
- **Capacity building and trainings** for public officials to facilitate implementation of identified structural reforms

## Ongoing SRSS projects in coal regions

### **Horna Nitra, Slovakia**

- Provider: PriceWaterhouseCoopers
- Support for the preparation of an Action Plan (adopted by the Slovak authorities on 3 July), including stakeholder consultation
- Support on options for rehabilitation of mining land and on minimising environmental impacts
- Study visits in other coal regions

### **Western Macedonia, Greece**

- Provider: World Bank
- Support for the preparation of a Roadmap for the transition, including repurposing of mining land
- Identification of concrete projects for economic diversification
- Stakeholder engagement



## How does it work?

- Application via **Member States coordinating authorities before 31 October each year** (generally more requests than funding available)
- **Dialogue** with national authorities on support design and implementation
- SRSS ready to **help in the preparation of the requests**

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Contact details:**

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# Coal Regions in Transition – 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary & Working Group Meetings JASPERS Technical Assistance



Philipp Horn & Šarūnas Bruzgė



# JASPERS Mission

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**J**oint  
**A**ssistance to  
**S**upport  
**P**rojects in  
**E**uropean  
**R**egions  
**S** ←

# JASPERS Mission

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**JASPERS** helps Member States and beneficiaries  
in  
**successful preparation of Projects  
supporting EU targets and objectives**

**JASPERS** assists Member States and beneficiaries in

- translating **EU policies into consistent national implementation strategies and implementation plans**, including the consideration of legal, economic and environmental frameworks,
- identifying and developing a **compliant project pipeline**,
- **developing and preparing projects for EU grants and loan financing**,
- **increasing national autonomy** through capacity building, training and sharing of EU best practices,
- removing of implementation and absorption bottlenecks.

**JASPERS** also provides technical advice and assistance to the EC on sector and project matters.

# Impact of JASPERS Support 2007 - 2019

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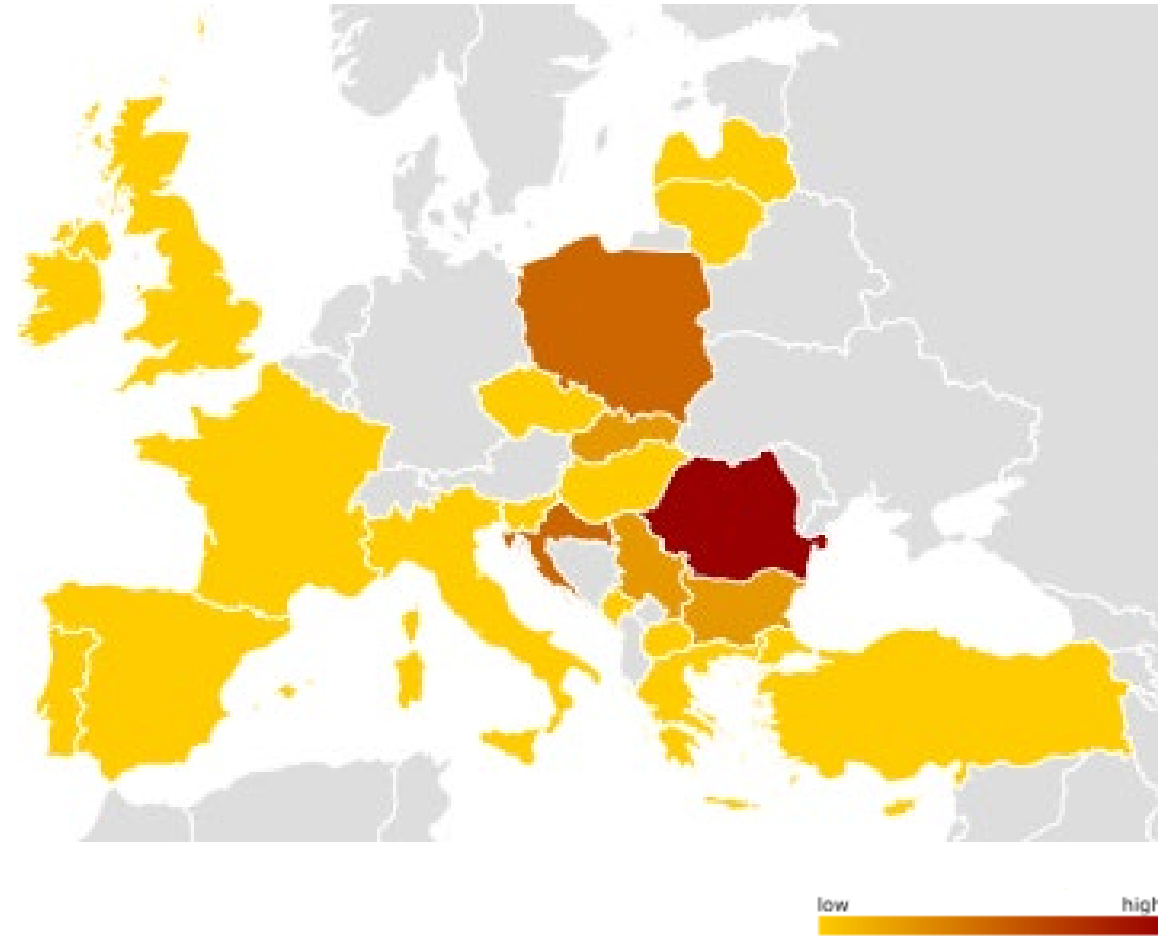
More than  
**630** JASPERS-  
supported projects approved  
since 2007

For a total project cost of  
above  
EUR **100** bn

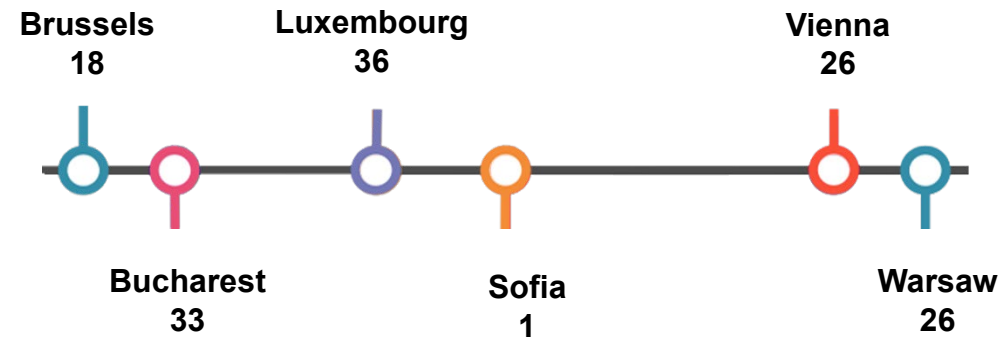
And EU grant volume of  
above  
EUR **58** bn

# Current Demand for JASPERS Assistance

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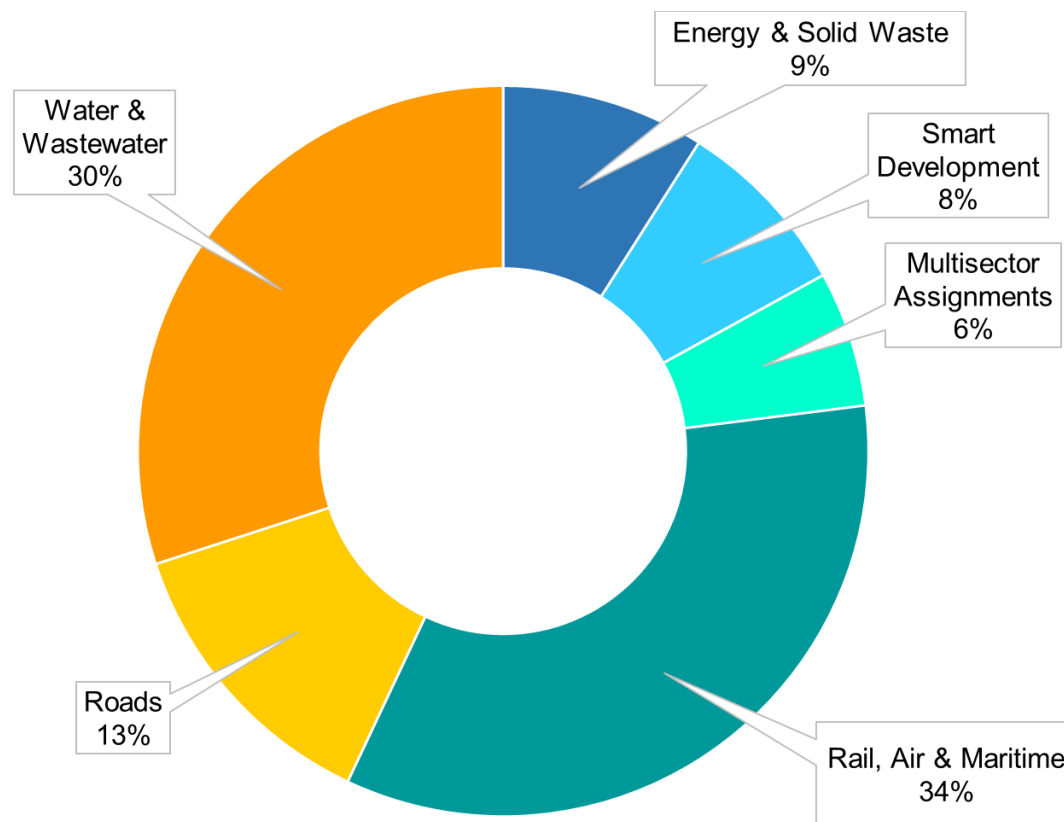


Local presence with **142** employees in **5** offices



- Proximity to beneficiaries reduces response time and facilitates knowledge sharing
- Local knowledge translates into good understanding of relevant issues affecting projects
- Multi-lingual and multi-cultural environment

# Current Demand for JASPERS Assistance



Current assistance demand is focused on

- **large & complex projects** like transport sector and water/wastewater
- **challenges from innovative demands** like Smart Development, Smart Cities, Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and shift to Circular Economy



# JASPERS support to Coal Regions in Transition

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## JASPERS CRiT Assignments in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia:

JASPERS has prepared a **standard methodology for screening of projects under CRiT** that could be applied for all corresponding regions.

- **Assignment for Poland**
  - Perform assessment of projects in for compliance with the objectives of the Coal Regions in Transition initiative
  - Identify potential sources of financing and need for technical assistance
  - Provide recommendations on projects
- **Assignment for Czech Republic**
  - Perform project screening for compliance with the objectives of the Coal Regions in Transition initiative
  - Advise on eligibility of the projects for ESI Funds, i.e. whether the project could be still financed under the relevant operational programme
  - Potential review of individual projects as relevant
- **Slovakia**
  - Transport and energy projects in the upper Nitra region

# JASPERS CRiT Standard Screening (1/4)

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The **standard methodology for CRiT project screening consists of 2 stages:**

Stage I – General Project Eligibility – Assessment Pass / Fail

Stage II – Project Proposal Assessment – Qualitative Assessment & Recommendations

## **Stage I – General Project Eligibility**

Criteria:

- Location in a Coal Region in transition (NUTS2 with ongoing coal-mining activities)
- Contribution **to at least one** of the following objectives
  - Structural transformation and diversification of the economy
  - Job creation and economic growth
  - Development of advanced technologies
  - Improvement of energy efficiency and transformation of energy systems
  - Smart urban development and resilience
  - Positive impact on environmental and climate change goals

## Stage II. A - Project Impact

### 1. Contribution to local/regional/national/EU policies, programs and strategies

*Criterion assesses project contribution to relevant local/regional/national/EU policy and strategic documents (notably: Local/Regional Development Strategies, National Long-term Development Strategies, National/Regional/Local (Spatial) Plans, Regional/National Smart Specialisation Strategies, National Energy Policy, EU 2020 strategy, EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework and EU 2050 Energy Roadmap etc.)*

### 2. Impact on local economy and businesses

*Criterion assesses the impact of the project on the economy of the project's region measured in terms of: economic profitability of the project, contribution to GDP growth, innovation potential, creation of new businesses (especially start-ups, or SMEs in general).*

### 3. Impact on employment, reskilling and retraining

*Criterion assesses the direct impact of the project on reskilling, retraining, up-skilling of coal mining employees – measured in terms of number of people affected; as well as the direct and indirect effect of the project on employment and social innovation in the region – measured in terms of Full Time Equivalents.*

### 4. Impact on environment

*Criterion assesses project impact on environment (e.g. human beings, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climate, landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, etc.) and its potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation. A particular focus on the potential of the project to mitigate air pollution and reduce GHG emissions. Only projects with neutral or positive effect on GHG production to be considered. Priority is given to the projects with higher impact on reduction of GHG emissions, and/or projects referring to generation or use of electricity from renewable sources, increase of energy efficiency and development of energy storage.*

### 5. Innovativeness and replication potential

*Criterion assesses the innovativeness of the project and potential successful replication in other coal regions in transition, while achieving results comparable in scale. The criterion also assess the project's utilization and development of advanced technologies.*

# JASPERS CRiT Standard Screening (3/4)

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## Stage II.B – Soundness of the Project

### 1. Feasibility of the Project Implementation Plan

*Clarity and comprehensiveness of the project implementation plan, timetable for implementation of the project, including major project milestones (physical and financial indicators to monitor implementation, output and result indicators), maturity of the project (including, if applicable: preparation of feasibility study, business plan, financial analysis, economic analysis, risk assessment, EIA, state aid decision).*

### 2. Institutional capacity

*Criterion assesses the capacity of the promoter in terms of technical capacity, legal capacity, financial capacity, administrative and project management capacity.*

### 3. Technical feasibility

*Criterion assesses the project's technical feasibility, notably: is the technical solution able to adequately address the project objective, is the project capable to achieve its intended results, is the technical concept sound and aligned with "best available technology", project compliance with EU and national regulations and standards in force.*

### 4. Business case soundness

*Criterion assesses the soundness of the business case (or other justification of the project), in particular the analysis of the underlying demand for the project and project output, the option analysis and the financial analysis.*

### 5. Risk management

*Criterion assesses project's exposure to risks and corresponding risk management (plans). The evaluation would be limited to the main risks to the project, notably: demand, design, land acquisition, administrative and procurement, construction, operational, financial, regulatory, legal including state aid, environment, climate change.*

# JASPERS CRiT Standard Screening (4/4)

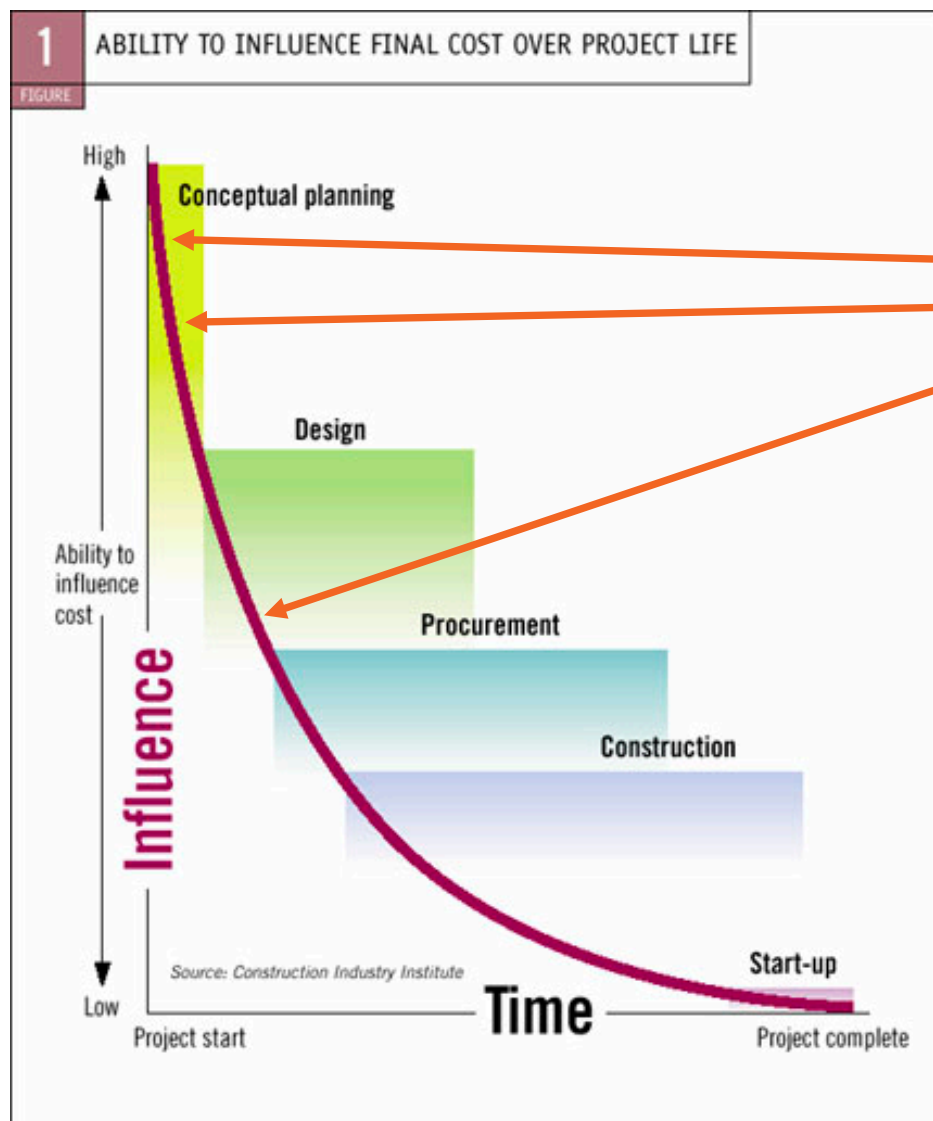
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JASPERS delivers advice\* in terms of

- Project General Eligibility,
- Project Impact and Project Soundness,
- in case of incomplete information: recommendations for completion,
- identified options for further Project enhancements,
- potential attention points (if any),
- need and options for Technical Assistance,
- financing options,
- general conclusions and recommendations with the objective to make the Project “bankable” and/or eligible to grants

\* standard: one stand-alone report per proposed project

# JASPERS Impact on Project Quality & Cost



Project Stages that determine Project Quality and Cost:

1. Demand Analysis
2. Option Analysis
3. Design principles

With the experience and lessons learned from 600+ European assignments, **JASPERS** can help the Project Quality.

Project Quality is the condition to “bankable” Projects and grant eligibility.

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# JASPERS

Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions

<http://jaspers.eib.org>







# EU Technical Assistance Support to Coal Regions

Coal Regions in Transition  
Platform Meeting  
15-16 July 2019

Energy

## Agenda

- Introduction
- Existing EU Technical Support to Coal Regions
- START: Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition
  - Purpose and scope (+Q&A)
  - Application and delivery (+Q&A)
- Discussion: Technical Assistance needs and provision



# Existing EU Technical Assistance Support to Coal Regions

Energy

## EU Technical Assistance Mechanisms

- Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)  
**Ariane de Dominicis**
- JASPERS, European Investment Bank  
**Philipp Horn, Sarunas Bruzge**



# START: Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition

Paul Baker and Robert Pollock  
Senior Advisors, Secretariat

Energy

## START

### Rationale

START recognises:

- The socio-economic and environmental challenges of achieving “Just Transition” at regional and local levels
- Gaps in expertise / capacity for transition strategies, and to plan, govern, implement and finance transition
- Tailored technical assistance to help regions and local communities take practical steps towards transition

## START

## Objectives

Support to address two central aspects of transition:

- **Economic Diversification:** reorientation towards activities with long-term growth potential
- **Decarbonisation:** promoting technological carbon emission energy production and consumption

Delivered technical assistance should:

- Improve understanding of transition support needs and 'lessons' across coal regions
- Leave a legacy of enhanced transition-related expertise and capacities in supported regions

## START

## Resources

- Complementary to EC (and other) support efforts, including Country Teams
- Initially cohort of circa 6 regions to be supported
- Circa 60 to 120 days of technical support per region
- 2 dedicated (full time) senior advisors
- Pool of specialists thematic and technical experts
- Networks and contacts across EU regions and beyond
- Secretariat TA is not intended for project funding



## START

## Scope

Capacity building, knowledge sharing, and targeted advice on

- **Strategy development** for regional economic and the transition from coal consumption / technologies
- **Governance and planning** for the formulation and implementation of transitions strategies
- **Project identification** and prioritisation of projects
- **Project development** support for design of definition of action plans for project implementation, including assistance with identification of funding

## START Themes

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

START

Secretariat

Support Materials

- Good practice case studies for transition
- Guidelines on transition strategies and KPIs
- Toolkit on transition governance
- Toolkit on sustainable employment and welfare
- Toolkit on environmental rehabilitation and clean strategies
- Compendium of EU funds and programmes
- Report on transition technologies

## START

### Application Process

- Applications submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> September
- [ec.europa.eu/coal-regions-in-transition](https://ec.europa.eu/coal-regions-in-transition)
- Applicant must be public authority (national, regional, local)
- 3 main sections of the application form
  - Evidence of Admissibility*
  - Specification of technical assistance request*
  - Transition context*
- Notification of outcome by 7<sup>th</sup> October (indicative)

## START Application

### Admissibility Criteria

- Commitment  
*Demonstrate a commitment and capacity to collaborate*
- Consensus  
*Demonstrate consensus on needs / priorities, incl. across government levels*
- Fit with Secretariat Support Services  
*In scope of Secretariat's support services*
- Needs and rationales  
*Clarity of rationale / motivation for request*

## START Application

## Admissibility Criteria

- Results and outcomes  
*Delivers or leads to economic diversification and energy transition benefits*
- Scale of resource request (days)  
*Request proportionate to nature of the support and Secretariat resources*
- Timeframe  
*Completion of support should not be after 31 October 2021*

## START Application

### Specification of Request

- Description of technical assistance request  
*Types of support sought and specific thematic areas to be covered*
- Knowledge, skills and capacity requirements  
*Weaknesses, shortages and gaps to be addressed*
- Urgency of technical assistance needs  
*Temporal nature of issues to be addressed (materialised or anticipated)*
- Breakdown of resources requested  
*Number of days allocated to different activities*
- Timeframe: phasing and key milestones  
*Spread of technical assistance days and key milestones*

## START Application

### Specification of Request

- Recipients of technical assistance  
*Identify recipients if different from applicant*
- Beneficiaries of technical assistance  
*Identify groups that will benefit from outcomes together with geographic locations*
- Socio-economic outcomes  
*Indicate qualitative and quantitative socio-economic outcomes*
- Energy transition / decarbonisation outcomes  
*Indicate qualitative and quantitative transition / decarbonisation outcomes*
- Knowledge and capacity development outcomes  
*Expected knowledge and capacity development benefits for applicant / recipient organisations*



## START Application Transition Context

- Locations and communities to which TA relates
- Geographic characteristics of coal industry
- Socio-economic characteristics of coal industry
- Nature and scale of transition challenges
- Current strategies and plans
- Current partnerships, initiatives, investments
- Other current or applied for TA

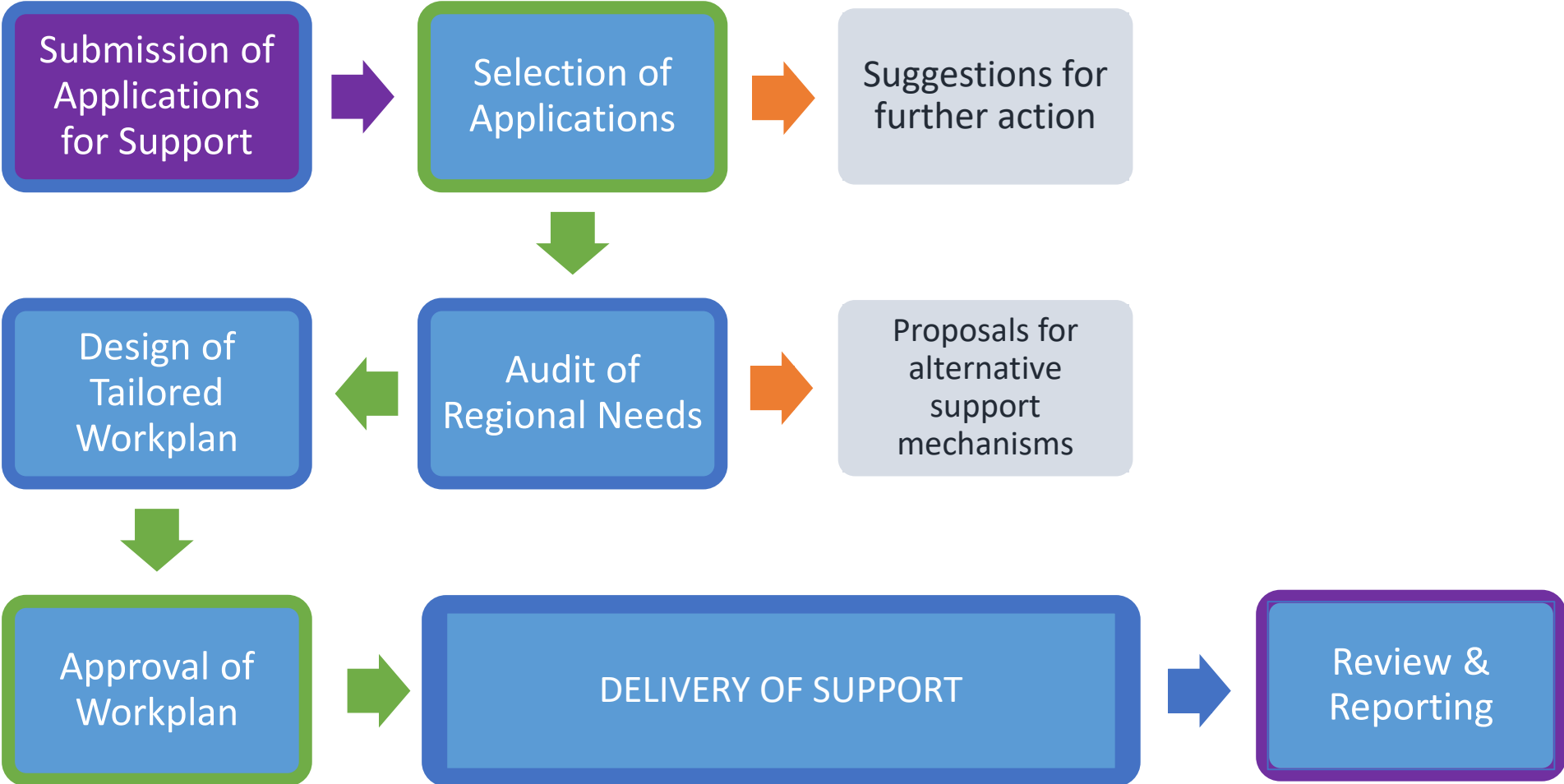
## START

### Selection Process

- Admissibility Criteria
- Prioritisation Criteria
  - Urgency*
  - Relevance of request*
  - Type of request / thematic area*
  - Allocation of resources*
  - Regional characteristics*
  - Availability of alternative support*
- Evaluation involves representatives of EC and the Secretariat

START

Technical Assistance Process Overview





Platform for Coal  
Regions in Transition

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