

EU Coal Regions in Transition Initiative:

START technical assistance

Lessons learnt from transition, good practices of projects and EU sources of funding



Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome & Introduction	Marshal Office & START
11:15 – 11:25	EU Policy Context	European Commission
11:25 – 11:35	General observations on submitted project fiches	START
11:35 – 11:50	Lessons learnt from transitions in other EU regions	START
11:50 – 12:30	Good practice examples of transition projects	Timon Wehnert Katja Muller
12:30 – 13:00	EU support and funding opportunities for transition projects	European Commission
13:00 – 13:15	Municipalities' support requirements	Marshal Office
13:15 – 13:30	Wrap-up & concluding remarks	START

Workshop Objectives

1. Provide fresh perspectives on the process of coal transition from other EU regions

2. Share good policy and project examples from other EU regions

3. Identify EU funding sources for transition

4. Provide inspiration for developing local transition projects for new EU finding period





EU Policy Context

Dr Anna Sobczak

Policy Coordinator for EU Coal Regions in Transition in the framework of EU Green Deal

European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)



EU Policy 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

• Over 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.



New EU policy and legislative context

Initiatives

Clean Energy for all Europeans (2018)

European Green Deal (2019)

Green Deal Investment Plan (2020)

Just Transition Mechanism (2020)

Energy System Integration (2020)

NextGenerationEU (2020)

...



Launching the Just Transition Mechanism

For a green transition based on solidarity & fairness



"People are at the core of the European Green Deal, our vision to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. The transformation ahead of us is unprecedented. And it will only work if it is just - and if it works for all. We will support our people and our regions that need to make bigger efforts in this transformation, to make sure that we leave no one behind."

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



The Just Transition Mechanism

Making sure no one is left behind

"We must show solidarity with the most affected regions in Europe, such as coal mining regions and others, to make sure the Green Deal gets everyone's full support and has a chance to become a reality"

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission





EU Green Deal

Improving the quality of life of current & future generations

A roadmap with actions ahead for collective recovery and a common future:



Help ensure a just and inclusive transition



Protect human life, restore biodiversity & cut pollution



Move to a clean and circular economy



Help companies become world leaders in clean products & technologies



Lead by example as a global leader



Europe's growth strategy

- Hundreds of thousands of new green jobs
- The clean energy transition is a source of opportunities for all
- These transitions will make Europe more resilient & strategically autonomous



Just Transition and recovery

Investing in green transition to stimulate growth and employment



"Rapid investment in the green energy transition is good for our short-term recovery & long-term growth, creating more sustainable & resilient societies. The European Green Deal will be at the heart of the EU's recovery plan and I encourage all governments to design stimulus packages that look forward, not back. Investing in energy efficiency, renewables, clean hydrogen and green infrastructure will pay off economically, environmentally and socially"

Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy





General observations on submitted project fiches

Marta Kulesza EU Coal Regions in Transition Initiative



Summary of submitted projects

- 21 projects covering different geographical scales and actors
- The projects have been identified throughout the region (in the counties Chrzanow, Olkusz, Oswiecim and Wadowice)
- Thematic diversity was relatively narrow
- More than a third of the projects contained elements related to energy production (e.g. photovoltaic farms and social energy)
- Other areas covered by the projects concerned training, tourism, cultural heritage and, land repurposing and business support schemes



General insights on submitted projects

- Strategic rationale: limited information on the fit with local, regional and national strategies
- Adapting to the challenges of the energy transition: some actions were general
 and not adapted to the challenges of the energy transition
- Economic diversification: no projects aimed at economic development and diversification
- Demand analysis: no analysis of demand for proposed investments
- Maturity: some projects seemed to be at a very early conceptual stage
- Funding: projects only considered JTF and ignored other sources (e.g. LIFE Programme, Modernisation Fund, etc.)





Lessons Learnt from Transition in other EU regions

Robert Pollock
EU Coal Regions in Transition Initiative



The Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in 2020

Geographical coverage

- Coal regions (31) in 11 EU countries
- Peat and oil shale regions

Purpose of the initiative



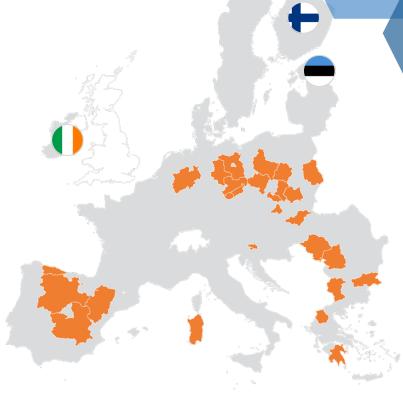
Share knowledge and experience between EU regions facing similar issues to promote a just transition



Bring stakeholders with various backgrounds and perspectives together (especially from the regional and local levels)



Provide support to assist the process of transition at the regional and local levels through START assistance





START: Diverse regions, differing needs

	ES	Asturias	Energy transition strategy and project support
	IE	Midlands	Pathway action plan for transition, project identification and consultation
	cz	Karlovy Vary (Sokolov district)	Strategy advice (skills and employment, RES etc) and capacity development
	PL	Malopolska	Project identification and support, and capacity development
些	EL	Peloponnese (Megalopolis)	Assessment of project options and assistance
	RO	Hunedoara County (Jiu Valley)	Project identification, selection and support (and consultation and governance)
	PL	Silesia	Rehabilitation and repurposing of post-industrial areas



Transition processes at the local level

- Many communities have undergone or are undergoing transition: you are not alone, do not feel isolated
- Transition is a long-term process with a number of phases: preparation, amelioration, restructuring and reinvention
- Retaining flexibility is important: policy, technological, economic, social environments etc. are fluid, and transition timelines can accelerate
- Effective transition is predicated on integrating top-down and bottom-up approaches
- Transition requires involvement of many actors: public, private, civil society. Affected communities and groups are partners and agents of change



Strategies and Governance

- A long-term plan of change (a transition pathway plan) with broad-based 'buy-in' of stakeholders is valuable
- Local strategies should be built on local assets and recognise the spectrum of 'drivers of change'
- Strategies and activities should be aligned across scales of government: local, regional, national and EU policy alignment
- Partnerships that bring together different actors and local authorities should be developed (avoid duplication, look for synergies)
- Local capacities for change should be developed: adequate local capacity is as important as funding



Project identification & development

- Learn from others but be specific regarding your local strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- Strategic justification
- Avoid duplication and displacement
- Deliverability and affordability in short and longer term (balancing ambition and pragmatism)
- Partnership and consensus
- German examples





Examples of structural change: from phasing-out coal to a climate-neutral industry

Timon Wehnert

Head Berlin Office and Senior Researcher Wuppertal Institute

12th April 2021 | Malopolska | START Workshop Initiative for coal regions in transition



Overview

A historic perspective on phasing-out coal in Germany: 60 years of structural change in the Ruhr area

The next challenge:
Decarbonising heavy industry



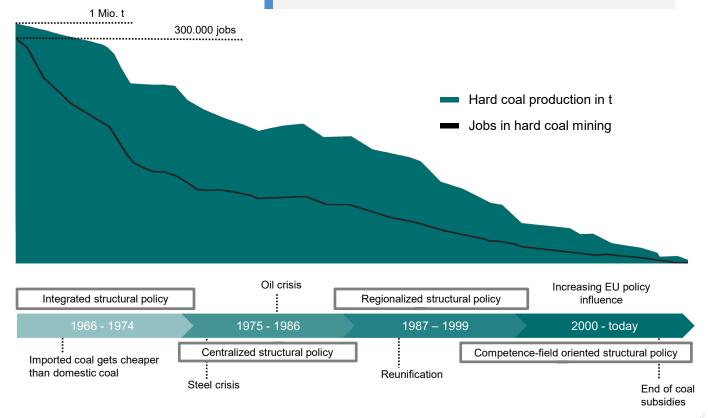
Transforming the Ruhr area

60 years of structural change in the Ruhr Area



Coal in the Ruhr Area

Employment and hard coal production



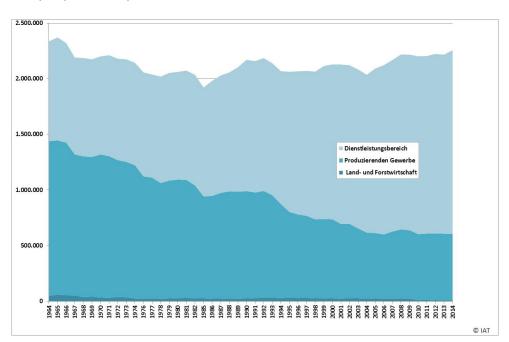
Source: Statistik der Kohlenwirtschaft e.V. (2018), own figure



Ruhr Area

Employment & Unemployment

Employment by sector: 1964-2014



Quelle: Statistik Regionalverband Ruhr, Darstellung: IAT

Unemployment





Experiences and examples of 60 years of structural change



Building on coal-related knowledge

Fraunhofer UMSICHT research centre

Founded in 1980 - Initial concept: Using the knowledge related to coal mining (e.g. water, air and soil management / treatment) for other purposes

Today: A leading German research centre working on mechanical and chemical engineering





Improving the Industrial Landscape

Concept

- Connection of industrial culture, nature and leisure
- New usage of industrial buildings as leisure facilities
- Preservation of cultural heritage, creation of new creative spaces





Example: Conversion of a Steel Site

Steel Plant Phoenix - East in Dortmund

150 years of steel production

Shutdown in 2001

Disassembly of the site and sale of facility to a steel company in PR China (Zhangjiagang)





Example

Site Conversion in Dortmund

Soil removal, artificial lake, "Phoenix-Lake" Living and working at the waterfront Functional mix, passive house standard



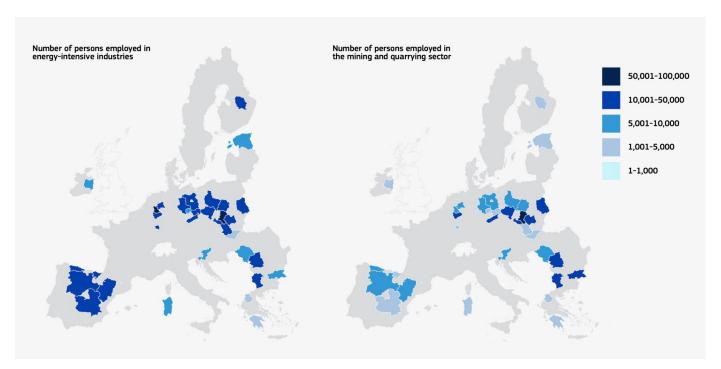


The next challenge: a climate-neutral industry



Jobs in energy intensive industry

In many coal-mining regions, there are more jobs in energyintensive industries (e.g. steel, chemical industry) then in mining





Becoming climate neutral by 2050

....is not only a governmental objective more and more private companies join in

The BMW Group Looks to Reduce CO2 for Full Vehicle Lifecycle

Siemens is going carbon neutral

With our commitment to turn our operations carbon neutral by 2030, Siemens sets a clear signal even before the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

Volkswagen is pursuing the goal of becoming balance sheet CO₂-neutral by 2050.

September 10, 2019 - Mercedes-Benz is taking the next step towards "Ambition 2039" climate-neutral mobility and pursues the realisation of the goal consistently together with its suppliers and partners.

Company News 02.07.2019 15:00

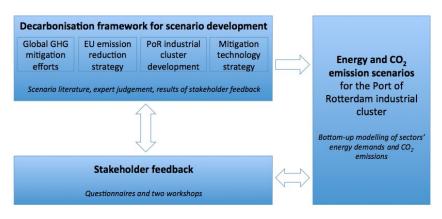
thyssenkrupp sets clear targets: Group aims to be climate neutral by 2050 – 30 percent emissions reduction planned for 2030

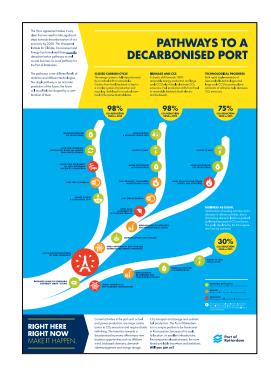


Port of Rotterdam

A long-term strategy to carbon neutrality









In4Climate

Aligning politics, industry, and science

- In4Climate is a platform for knowledge-sharing, dialogue and collaboration with North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Germany's industrial heartland
- Main goal: Accelerate innovation pathways towards climate neutrality by identifying key research requirements, supporting technical projects and discuss decarbonisation strategies.
- Stakeholders: Around 30 companies and associations from the fields of steel and metals, chemicals, cement, glass, paper and building materials; six research institutes; and the NRW state government.





Summary

A very long time horizon

- Structural change takes decades not years
- It is never too early to start to prepare the alternative

Supporting the transition is possible

- Research and education are key for innovation
- There is more to transform than only the economy culture, nature and livable cities attract high skilled workers

Phasing-out coal is just one aspect

- By 2050, all the economies will need to become carbon neutral
- Energy-intensive industries need to make the right investments today





Good practice examples of transition projects

Katja Müller

Europastadt GörlitzZgorzelec GmbH

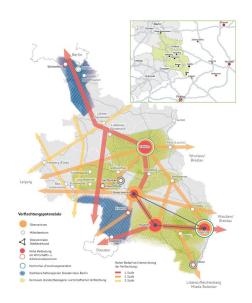






Lusatia as a Region in Transition: Goals and Priorities of Structural Development

- > Görlitz as a municipality is an anchor for the region in all geographic directions
- Görlitz offers jobs in the region
- > Research Institutes (e. g. CASUS, Building 4.0) and the Innovation Campus/Hydrogen Centre increase the attractiveness
- Cultural and Creative Professionals discover Görlitz as their place





Funding options in the regions in the just transition context (overview)

- > Structural Strengthening Act Coal Regions (Federal Government/State Level)
 - > Promotion of infrastructure and municipalities, funds are disbursed on a project/measurement basis by State Level
- > STARK programme Federal programme for the allocation of so-called consumptive funds within the framework of the Structural Strengthening of Coal Regions Act, allocation by Bafa,
- > Unternehmen Revier 4th funding call at the end of 2020- still ongoing
- **GRW funding** (National/State Level)
- > BMBF structural change programme family
 - > WIR! Change through innovation in the region
 - > RUBIN Regional Entrepreneurial Alliances for Innovation
 - > REGION innovative
- New: KOMONA BMU funding programme for sustainable projects in lignite regions 90% funding for sustainable model projects in municipalities in structurally weak regions Information at: https://www.z-u-g.org/aufgaben/kommunale-modellvorhaben-in-strukturwandelregionen-komona/
- **EU-Funds:** ERDF, ESF, Connecting Europe Facility etc.



Identified project categories

- > Business-related infrastructure
- **>** Public welfare for the improvement of business-related locational conditions
- > Urban planning, urban and regional development
- Infrastructures for research, innovation and technology transfer as well as supplementary in-company education and training
- > Climate and environmental protection
- > Nature conservation and landscape management
- Networking
- Consulation
- Qualification/education and training
- > Sustainable adaptation of public services
- Planning capacities and structural development agencies
- > Scientific monitoring of the transformation process
- > Strengthening entrepreneurial action

Category: Business-related infrastructure Project: Business Park Görlitz Schlauroth, former train industrial site



- Content: Development of a Public owned Business Park
 - > Owner: City of Görlitz
 - > Classification: GE (Commercial site)
 - Available Area: ap. 21 hectare in total, 8 ha already sold
 - > Branch profile: Machine and plant construction, Vehicle testing
 - > Purchase Price: 12 Euro/qm
- Funding: GRW Infra Amount of Investment in total: 6 Mio Euro/ 5.5 Mio Euro funding, Co-Funding National and State Level
- Identification: Concept of spatial development in Lusatia, political willingness + at least one concrete Investor with an LOI
- Development: conceptualisation, needs for reconstruction, application for funding, methods of improvement, political decisions by city council
- Outcome Measurement: jobs created (directly and indirectly) and amount of private Investment in total after 3 and 5 years



Category: Urban planning, urban and regional development Project: Testing the City of the Future - a living and



Content: project aims to generate immigration of professionals from the field of sustainable urban development.

working experiment for a climate neutral city of Görlitz

- > project is embedded in the current initiative "Europastadt Görlitz/Zgorzelec 2030 City of the Future"
- > scientific aim of the project is to gain knowledge about the local requirements and prospects of qualified workers, which lead them to settle in certain places – or not → focus will be on sustainable ways of living and working
- > project offers three-month stays to potential newcomers, which will be offered an apartment in the city free of charge during that period
- Partners: Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), represented by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Ecological and Revitalising Urban Transformation (IZS), City of Görlitz (Office for Urban Development), the municipal housing company KommWohnen GmbH and the municipal business development company Europastadt Görlitz/Zgorzelec GmbH
- **Funding**: BBSR aprox. 3.5 Mio Euros, National Level
-) Identification: Concept of former successful project "Testing the City", scientific and political willingness
- **Development**: conceptualisation, needs for cooperations, application for funding, cooperation agreements, methods of improvement,
- Outcome Measurement: scientific study on project outcomes/gualified surveys







- Content: aim is to, provide and bring together technological as well as social innovations
 - alliance wants to open up new ways for the region and its people to transform structures of the working and living environment
 - existing activities of regional players are being combined in an innovation-driving alliance
 - unites and promotes initiatives and contributes to the sovereign further development of the Upper Lusatia region in a changing Lusatia through a consistently pursued innovation management and training offers
- **Funding:** National level aprox. 7.5 Mio Euros
- Identification: Contest of Ideas from the region in 2018, two-stage procedure
- **Development:** conceptualisation, needs for cooperation, application for funding in the contest, cooperation agreements,
- Outcome Measurement:
 - Number of further training hours or scope f company competence plans/strategies of the further training profiles or offers developed
 - Persons reached (number, age and gender),
 - · Exit qualification of the participants,
 - If applicable, influence of the further qualification on further professional development





Category: Sustainable adaptation of public services (planned) Project: GoeMoNa

- **Content:** Within the framework of these projects, municipalities and other public institutions can examine their services to see how they can strengthen sustainable or ecological management of the private sector through changes and also implement these changes
 - > In the City of Görlitz, a sustainability manager is to be hired as part of this project, under whose leadership a municipal sustainability concept for the realization of sustainability goals for the local implementation
 - > project follows a multidimensional approach of the design of sustainability policy/municipal development, which includes cross-sectoral problem perspectives, social and technological aspects as well as participation- and efficiency- orientations
- **Funding:** National level aprox. 0.5 Mio Euros
- **Identification**: Contest of Ideas from the region in 2021, two-stage procedure, Contest of ideas still running, possible start of Project: 2022
- **Development**: conceptualisation, needs for cooperation, application for funding in the contest, cooperation agreements,
- Outcome Measurement: tba within the sustainability concept



https://www.z-u-g.org/aufgaben/kommunalemodellvorhaben-in-strukturwandelregionenkomona/

Category: Strengthening entrepreneurial action (planned) Project: Creation of an Innovation Ecosystem - Creative Industries Lusatia



- > Content: The role of cultural and creative industries in helping to address climate change, while not obvious, is profound. Cultural and creative practitioners of all kinds have always been closely intertwined with social change, in large parts because they help shape our understanding of the world, frame ideas, anticipate change, and open hearts and minds to new ways of thinking.
 - project bundles existing resources, networks actors and creates a platform for exchange, collaborative work and peer -learning in Lusatia.
 - resulting innovation ecosystem Creative Industries Lusatia makes the region visible as a potential area and offers a basis for settlements in the field of cultural and creative industries and networks actors beyond industry boundaries
- **Funding**: tba, national, state or EU level aprox. 3.5 Mio Euros
- Identification: Conceptualisation in 2021 still running, possible start of Project: 2022
- **Development**: conceptualisation, needs for cooperation, application for funding, cooperation agreements,
- Outcome Measurement:
 - Number and affiliation of people reached
 - results of project (qualified surveys in context of entrepreneurial indicators)



https://www.kreative-lausitz.de/



European City of GörlitzZgorzelec GmbH





Support and funding opportunities for coal regions in transition

Krzysztof Wójcik

European Commission, DG REGIO





Support and funding opportunities for coal regions in transition

Dr Anna Sobczak

Policy Coordinator for EU Coal Regions in Transition in the framework of EU Green Deal

European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)



Just Transition Mechanism

A key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind, mobilising **up to €150 billion** over the period 2021-2027



Just Transition Fund €17.5 billion, generating at least €100 billion investments



InvestEU Just Transition Scheme mobilising €30 billion in investments



EIB public sector loan facility €10 billion in loans, backed by €1.5 billion of the EU budget, mobilising up to €30 billion of investments



- All investments under the JTM need to be implemented based on territorial just transition plans TJTPs, which are being prepared by MSs in cooperation with regional/local stakeholders and social partners.
- TJTPs need to be consistent with the NECPs and identify the most affected territories (coal regions and carbon intensive regions at NUTS3 level)
- Only the approval of TJTPs enables access to all three JTM pillars.





RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

FLAGSHIP AREAS FOR INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

POWER UP

CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES AND RENEWABLES

RENOVATE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS

RECHARGE AND REFUEL

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND CHARGING STATIONS

CONNECT

ROLL-OUT OF RAPID BROADBAND SERVICES

MODERNISE

DIGITALISATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SCALE-UP

DATA CLOUD CAPACITIES AND SUSTAINABLE PROCESSORS

RESKILL AND UPSKILL

EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT DIGITAL SKILLS

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility





Green dimension of Recovery and Resilience Plans

- How each investment and reform contributes to the 37% climate mainstreaming target.
- How the component will contribute to the 2030 climate target and 2050 climate neutrality target.
- In detail explain whether and how they will ensure that all measures respect the 'do no significant harm' principle.
- The Taxonomy Regulation can be used to explain how the measures contribute to the green transition and tackle the resulting challenges



Green priorities (examples)

Decarbonising industry, developing renewable energy capacities, building renovation.



Building Renovation wave for Climate Neutrality and Recovery

Making Europe's Buildings Remarkably Different



Decarbonisation of heating and cooling



Tackling energy poverty and worst-performing



buildings Renovation of public buildings and social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and administrative buildings



A set of policy measures, funding tools and technical assistance instruments to break down of existing barriers throughout the renovation chain - from the conception of a project to its funding and completion, for example: Renovate' & 'Power Up' Flagships in the Recovery and

Resilience Facility under NextGenerationEU:

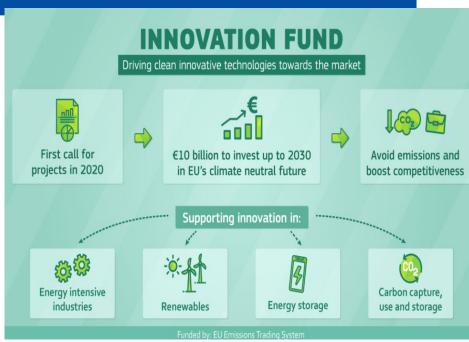
- Simplified rules for combining different funding streams European
- Multiple incentives for private financing



Modernisation and Innovation Funds



Modernisation Fund contributes to the significant investment needs of the 10 lower-income Member States to modernise their energy systems



Innovation Fund is one of the world's largest funding programmes for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund

Clean Energy Transition under LIFE Programme

- Facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy by funding coordination and support actions
- Targeted at breaking market barriers that hamper the socio-economic transition to sustainable energy, engage multiple small and medium-sized stakeholders, multiple actors including local and regional public authorities, non-profit organisations, consumers.



budget of €1 billion (grants) centralised direct management

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/clean-energy-transition

- Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

EU Region to EU Region Exchanges

- Involves at least one EU coal region in transition and at least two EU regions located in at least two different EU Member States.
- Designed around an array of possible themes related to clear energy transition, involves experts in the field from each side, as well as representatives of labour associations, communities and businesses.
- The design may involve a wider community of stakeholders, which would develop creative solutions how to address the energy transitions tailored-made to the needs of the particular community where the exchanges take place.
- Study visits, mentoring, seminars, workshops, and training sessions; Mentoring and guidance of the exchange participants, focused on the skills and competency building of community members and representatives of local public administration.

https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6792



Initiative for Coal Regions in the Western Balkans & Ukraine

Open platform for a region-wide, multi-stakeholder dialogue sharing experience, knowledge and best practices on transition-related issues

Region to Region exchanges and transfers of knowledge, experience and best practices on transition-related issues between EU, the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Coal Learning Academy on transition-related issues providing dedicated trainings on governance, community engagement, environmental reclamation, repurposing of land and assets for relevant stakeholders

Technical assistance (expert support) to pilot regions to develop transition roadmaps to be used and implemented by relevant public authorities

Access to financing for transition projects or programmes















Covenant of Mayors

How can Covenant signatories tackle energy poverty?

Policies & measures to alleviate energy poverty need to be adapted to the specific situation in terms of climate, housing quality, economy and the structure of energy costs, as well as mobility patterns. Here you can find some examples on how you can tackle energy poverty:

- Financing improvements in the energy efficiency of households
- Minimum energy efficiency standards in buildings
- Free of charge energy audits & advice for low income households
- Reducing energy bills via social tariffs or energy bill subsidies
- Disconnection protection during the winter months
- Information & awareness raising on energy & climate issues
- Improvement of the accessibility to public transport connections
- Insulation of vulnerable facilities to protect against cold & heat, possibly accompanied by green solutions at neighbourhood scale







https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/en/

EU Initiative for coal regions in transition

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/EU-coal-regions/coal-regions-transition_en

Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-in-the-western-balkans-and-ukraine/initiative-coal-regions-transition-western-balkans-and-ukraine_en

Coal Learning Academy

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-in-the-western-balkans-and-ukraine/coal-regions-learning-academy_en

#CoalRegionsEU #CoalRegionsWBUA

Twitter: <a>@Energy4Europe

DG Energy's YouTube channels







Municipalities' support requirements

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Thank you

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Twitter: <a>@Energy4Europe

DG Energy's YouTube channels

