

START

Secretariat Technical Assistance for Regions in Transition

Applications Open on 10 January, and the Application Deadline is 23 February

A new call for START technical assistance applications is open from 10 January to 23 February 2024.

START is a technical assistance facility of the EU Initiative for coal regions in transition and aims to contribute to a just transition by supporting regions that are highly dependent on the extraction and combustion of solid fossil fuels in their efforts to decarbonise energy production and usage, diversify their economies, and progress their social development. "START has delivered technical assistance to regions, covering a wide range of transition-related thematic areas and topics, notably in areas of strategy development, governance, stakeholder consultation and engagement, community cohesion and resilience, and project identification and assessment.

START is intended to be used to support activities and outputs that cannot be adequately covered by alternative technical assistance and capacity-building instruments. START provides tailored short-term needs-based advice, assistance, and capacity-building to enhance capabilities and expertise to design, plan, govern, implement, and finance transition-related activities that are aligned with the EU's energy and climate targets and objectives. The scale of resources allocated to individual technical assistance assignments is typically in the range of 50 to 75 person-days of delivered support, provided over a 6-to-10-month period.

START support is based on a tailored mix of face-to-face and on-line mechanisms, which may include visits, scheduled dialogue and meetings, workshops and webinars, desk analysis and research, and specialised expert advice. START can access to a network of experts located in Member States to assist in the delivery of support, whilst also bringing local knowledge and language capabilities. To facilitate capacity development and enhance the relevance and future implementation of outputs, START places a strong emphasis on co-creation with the recipients of support. Accordingly, recipients will be expected to make available adequate resource and time to enable joint working.

EU regions with activities in the extraction and energy use of coal and lignite, peat, and oil shale as defined under the EU initiative for coal regions in transition are eligible to receive START support. Their eligibility is not conditional on the existence or status of a region's Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP). However, in regions that have a finalised TJTP, any requested START activities should align with the contents of this plan and should not replicate processes already undertaken during development, drafting and implementation of this plan.

Typical applicants for START support are public administrations, especially local and regional authorities, and civil society organisations operating in communities that are heavily affected by the transition away from fossil fuels. This does not preclude cooperation with national-level authorities or inclusion of other relevant regional and local actors as potential recipients of START support. Applications are particularly welcome from smaller regional actors, such as municipalities, groupings of municipalities, and civil society organisations that actively contribute to the transition process at regional, local, or community levels.

MORE INFORMATION

- 🔗 [START application form and guidance available on the START webpage here](#)
- 🔗 [Newsletter subscription](#)

If you have queries concerning a potential application for START support, please contact the START team at: secretariat@coalregions.eu (using the subject heading "START: query").