



# Just Transition Platform Working Groups

Action 12: Compile a compendium on good practices on energy transition governance in cross-border/interregional cooperation

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## Action 12: Compile a compendium on good practices on energy transition governance in cross-border/interregional cooperation

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**Action contributors:** Chemelot Circular Hub

**Category:** Chemicals

The **Just Transition Platform (JTP) Working Groups (WGs)**, established in November 2021, bring together all stakeholders from across Europe with a common concern for the people and places affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy. The WGs for **Steel, Cement and Chemicals** each have a focus on a specific carbon intensive sector that is heavily impacted by the transition, while a fourth WG focuses on **Horizontal Stakeholder Strategy**.

After finalising their [Scoping Papers](#), outlining the focus areas and objectives of their WG, the WG members developed a [common Implementation Plan](#), which sets out their 17 Actions. This plan was finalised and published in April 2023. Throughout the rest of the year, the action leaders, together other WG members contributing to the action, have been implementing their respective action.

This document presents the final output of Action 12: Compile a compendium on good practices on energy transition governance in cross-border/interregional cooperation.

### **Disclaimer:**

*The information and views contained in the present document are those of the members of the Just Transition Platform Working Groups on Steel, Cement, Chemicals and Horizontal Stakeholder Strategy and do not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained therein. The Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the content and the use which may be made of the information contained therein. Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged and the original meaning or message of the document is not distorted. The European Commission shall not be liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse. The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).*

# Introduction

## Challenges addressed by Action 12

The top priority is the transformation of energy-intensive industries, such as the chemical industry, towards climate neutrality, addressing the industry's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint globally and fostering innovation in related sectors. Europe's energy transition requires a systemic overhaul for climate neutrality by 2050, emphasising smart, flexible, and renewable energy systems. Investments should target low-carbon infrastructure, energy efficiency, and lead markets to support the shift to a climate-neutral industry. Amidst geopolitical uncertainties, like the war in Ukraine, achieving such change necessitates coordinated efforts, cross-border cooperation, and involvement of all stakeholders. The Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs) need to engage all levels of energy governance, extending beyond regional/local strategies. Cooperation with state and neighbouring regions, especially in cross-border areas, is crucial for the energy transition goals.<sup>1</sup>

## Objectives of Action 12

The aims of the initiative are to compile instances of effective energy transition governance from Just Transition Fund (JTF) regions through a survey on best practices. The initiative seeks also to illustrate how specific projects in JTF regions (in 2023) have addressed energy supply challenges in areas with energy-intensive industries. The output is intended to raise awareness and facilitate the sharing of successful approaches, expediting the just transition process. In Central and Eastern Europe for example, ongoing discussions focus on coal, overlooking potential carbon leakage risks in energy-intensive sectors.

## Stakeholders targeted by Action 12

The output of the Action is targeted at public authorities, in particular of JTF regions, (energy) companies, academia and civil society organisations with a view to improve access to information, enhance public awareness of energy transition, boost social acceptance of related Actions, intensify interregional cooperation and share innovations in the energy-intensive industry and in energy governance.

## How this Action was implemented

The JTP Secretariat, together with the ECRN and the European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), launched a 'Call for evidence and expertise on the governance of the cross-border and interregional energy transition best practices' on EUSurvey in September 2023. It was distributed in different languages (Dutch, English, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish) to survey European Regional Development Fund/JTF Managing Authorities and later on a wider audience through the JTP newsletter. The survey is open-ended.<sup>2</sup> By 4 December 2023, there were 13 respondents.

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<sup>1</sup> See the JTF map for examples of cross-border JTF regions: [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funding/just-transition-fund/just-transition-platform\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund/just-transition-platform_en) (last accessed on December 5, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Interested persons can contribute to the survey here: [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Just\\_Transition\\_Platform\\_-\\_Call\\_for\\_evidence\\_and\\_expertise\\_on\\_the\\_governance\\_of\\_the\\_cross-border\\_and\\_interregional\\_energy\\_transition\\_best\\_practices](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Just_Transition_Platform_-_Call_for_evidence_and_expertise_on_the_governance_of_the_cross-border_and_interregional_energy_transition_best_practices) (last accessed on December 5, 2023).

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*Survey results*

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# 1. Findings from the survey

ECRN has collected examples from different EU regions on energy transition governance to create a compendium of good practices. The aim was to create an easy and ready-to-use tool for other regions working towards similar goals. Project examples can be studied or taken as blueprint for other regional initiatives. The original aim was to focus on cross-border and interregional contexts. The call for evidence did not only focus on JTF regions, but its scope expanded through the dissemination process.

The call was officially closed in December. The survey page remains active to allow the continuous gathering of projects for future reference and discussion.

The survey was elaborated in the framework of the chemical thematic area. This thematic area concerns the energy transition and a reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint that the chemical industry faces to correspond to global challenges as well as the opportunities it can provide to drive innovation in many other sectors where chemicals are used. Investments should be driven to low-carbon infrastructure, energy efficiency and lead markets to boost demand for the climate-neutral industry.

Such a systematic change cannot be achieved without the coordinated involvement of all relevant stakeholders and cross-border and interregional cooperation to speed up and scale up the energy transition of the EU regions and the European chemical industry. The huge benefits of sharing good practices and replicating existing solutions are undisputable. This approach reduces the time and costs of implementing innovative solutions.

The survey, composed of eight chapters, mixed open and multiple-choice questions. The questions were structured as it follows:

1. Identification of the survey participant;
2. Familiarity with the just transition process;
3. Your best practice of the cross-border and interregional collaboration on the energy transition;
4. Management;
5. Impact;
6. Financing;
7. Obstacles and need for support;
8. Remarks.

## 1.1 Identification of the survey participant

The survey results revealed that most respondents were local authorities or governments, with regional governments following closely behind. The public sector emerged as the main contributor to the call, with companies contributing in minor part. A surprising observation was the abundance of examples from Croatia, followed by Romania and Greece. Interestingly, none of these Member States currently have members in the ECRN, presenting an opportunity for exploring and understanding their contexts.

## 1.2 Familiarity with the just transition process

The findings also underscored a significant gap in JTF awareness and knowledge of the initiative. Most respondents were not directly involved in the preparation of the TJTP, and around 8 % explained that they did not experience or have knowledge of the JTF objectives.

### **1.3 Your best practice of the cross-border and interregional collaboration on the energy transition**

The majority of the TJTP referred to in the survey did not foresee cross-border or interregional energy transition initiatives. Most best practices focused on renewable energy and clean energy projects. A consistent part of the projects presented was currently in its implementation stage.

### **1.3 Management and impact**

Another valuable insight was offered by the stakeholders working on the projects: collaboration among NGOs, private sector, public sector, and academia revealed a widespread commitment to the JTF's objectives. Although this did not reflect entirely in the projects' goals and impact, as most projects aimed at developing new technologies, and in lesser part had impact on small and medium-sized enterprises and new green jobs.

### **1.4 Financing, obstacles and need for support**

Funding was also relevant: EU cohesion and national/regional funds were the main ones supporting the projects. The lack of financial support still represented one of the biggest issues. This was reflected in the survey in the expressed need for new and more accessible EU funds.

## 2. Annex: Detailed survey results

Figure 1: Organisations of survey respondents

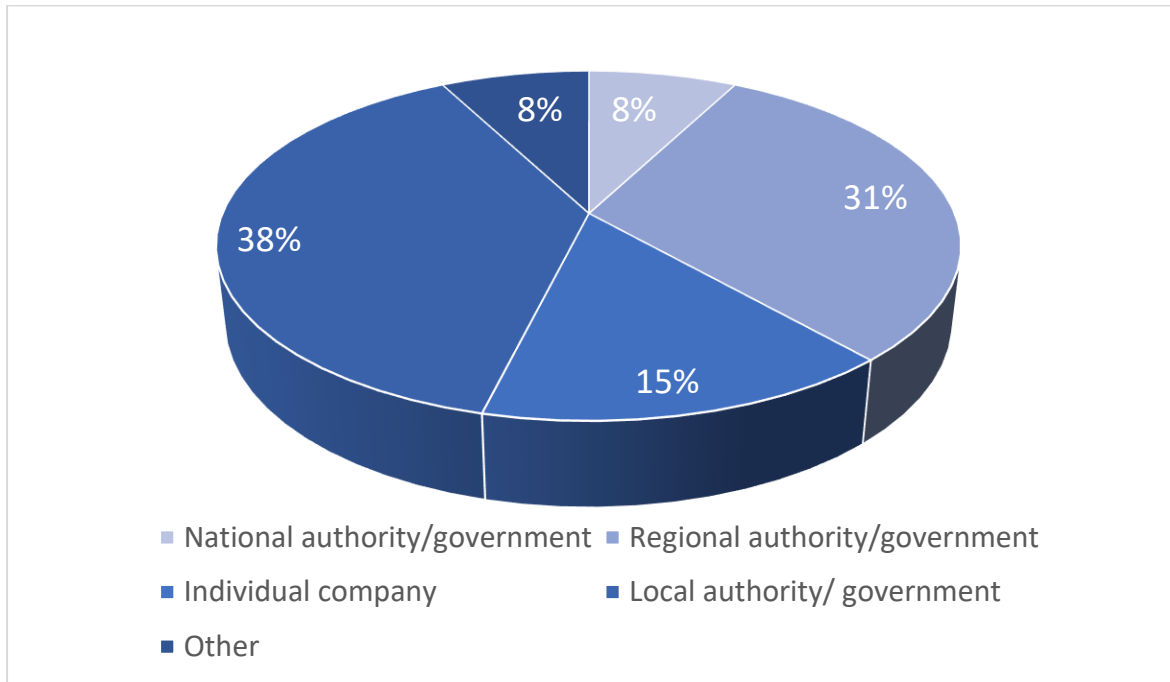


Figure 2: EU Member States of survey respondents

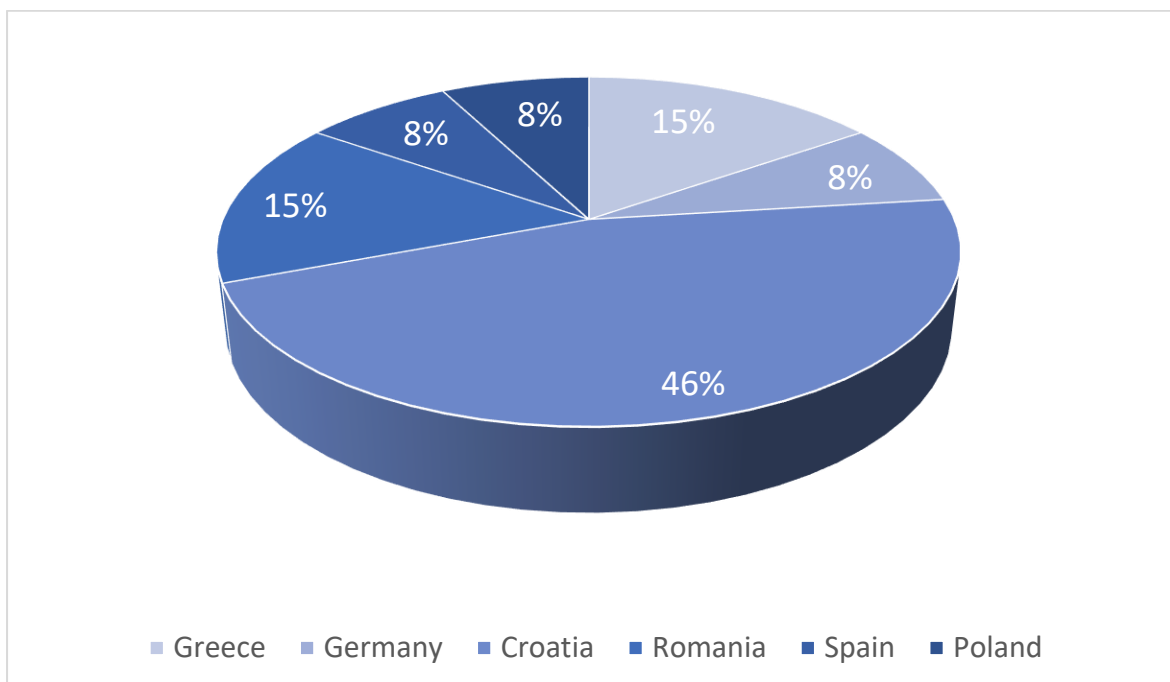




Figure 3: To what extent do you know the objectives of the Just Transition Platform initiative/Just Transition Fund/Just Transition Mechanism?

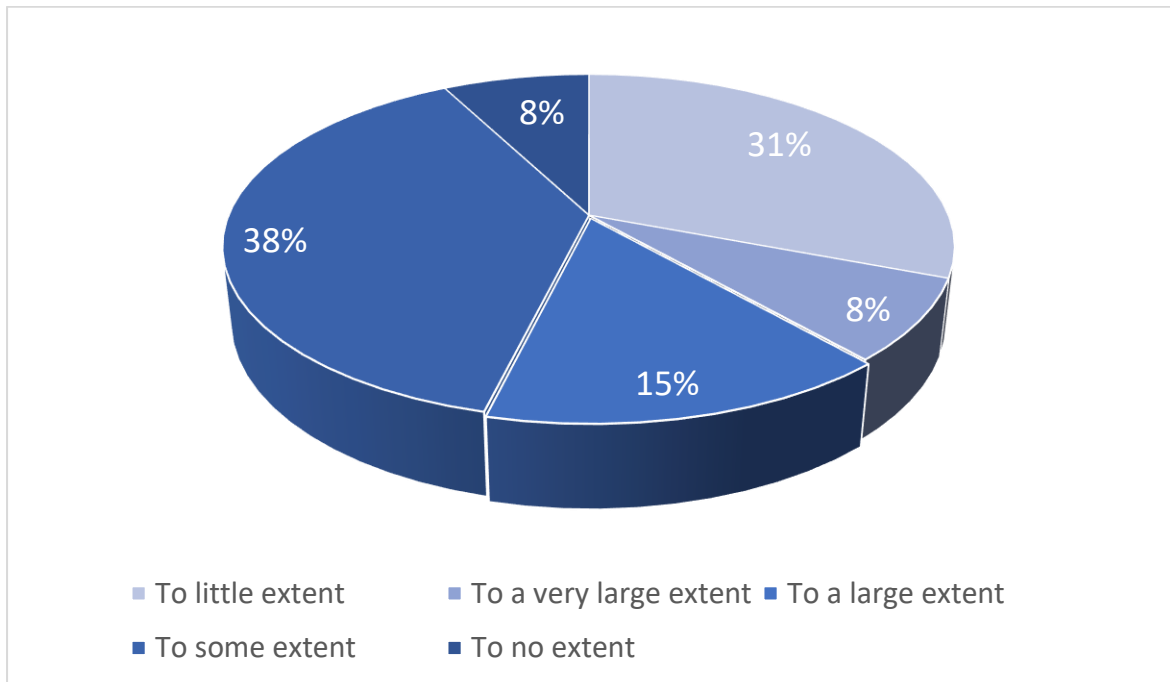


Figure 4: Are you involved in the preparation and exploitation of the Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP)?

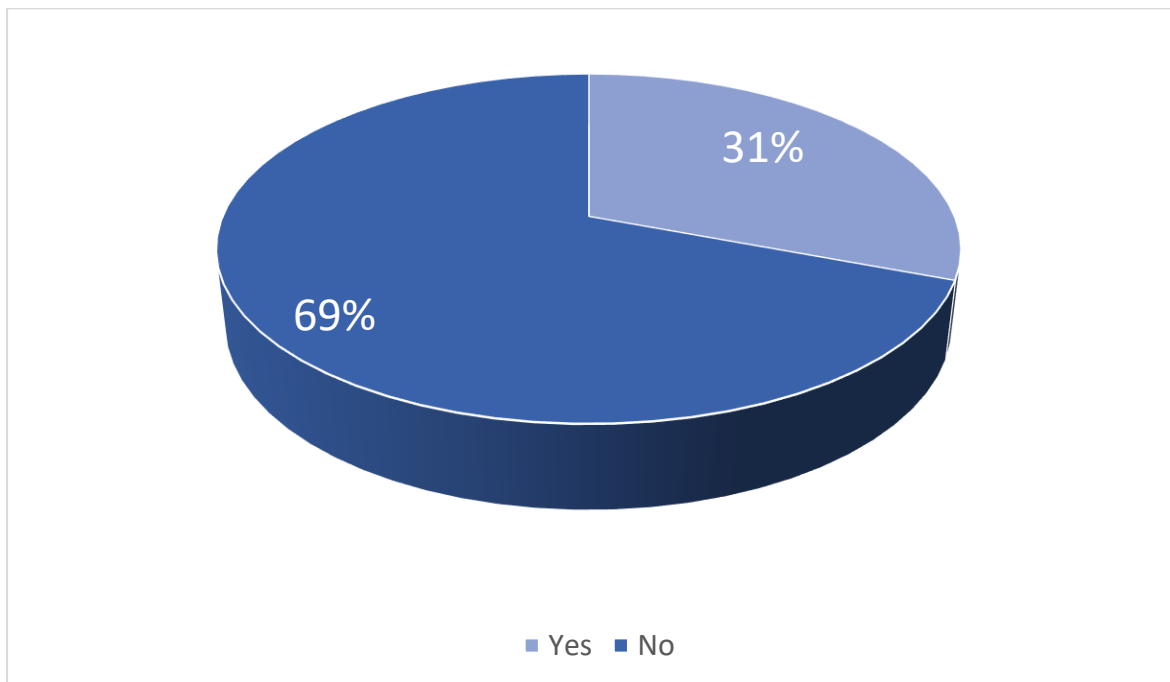


Figure 5: Does your TJTP foresee cross-border and/or interregional energy transition initiatives/projects?

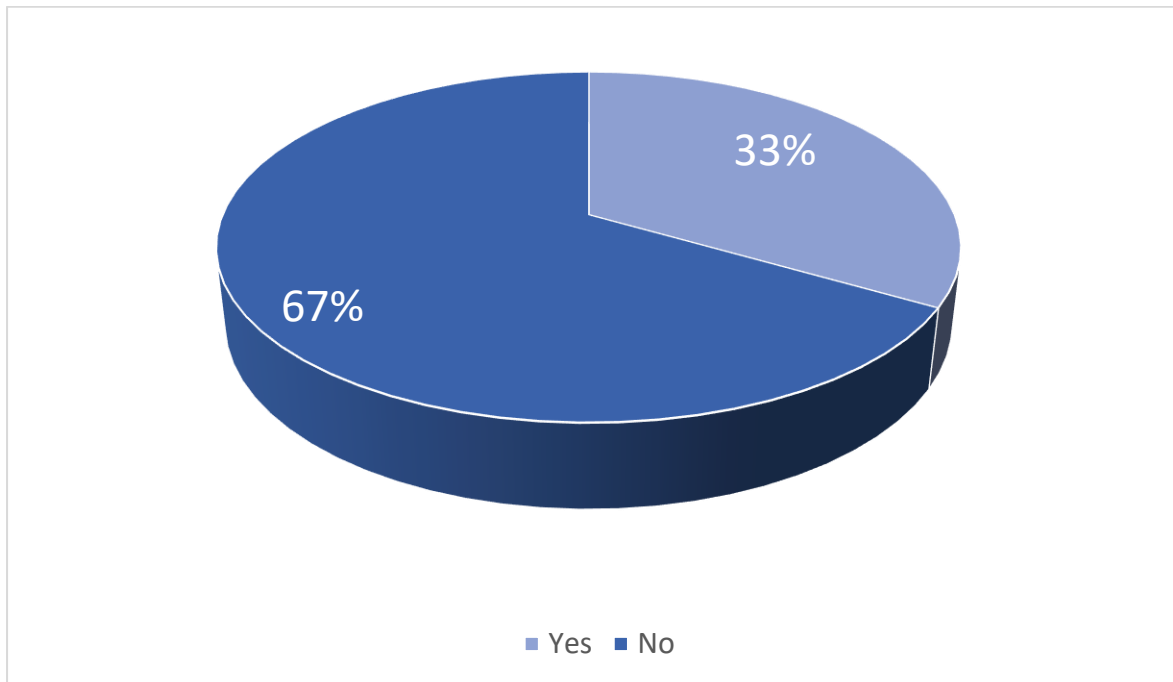


Figure 6: What is the scale of the best practice?

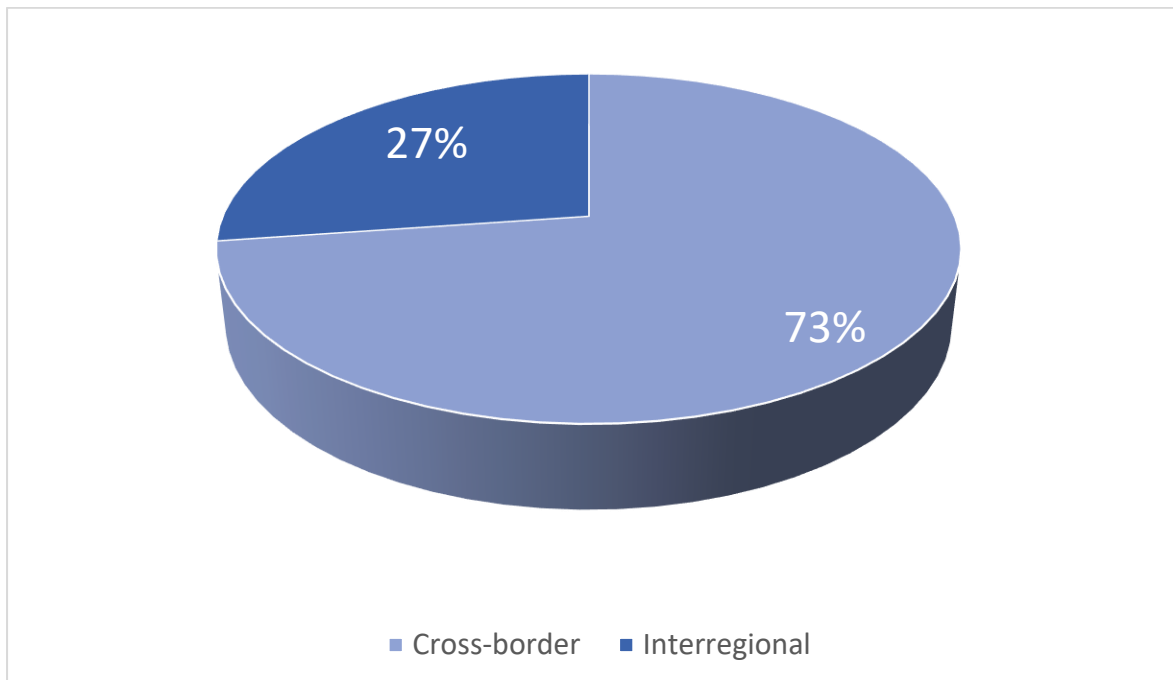


Figure 7: In which year was the best practice kicked off?

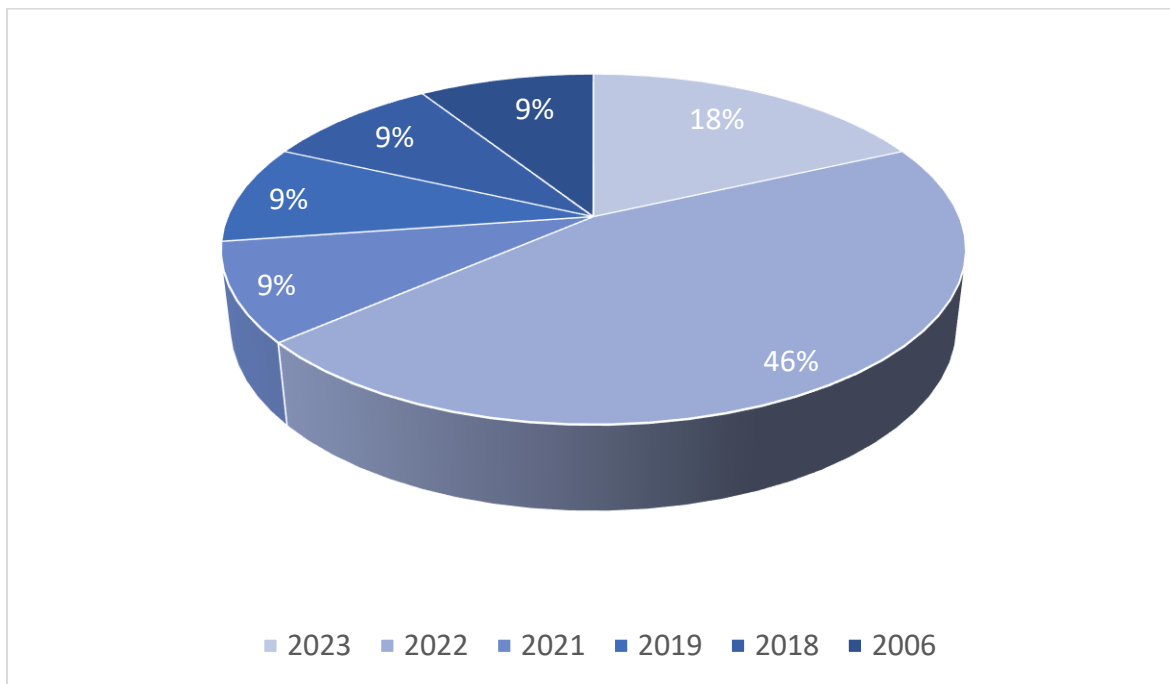


Figure 8: Which phase is the best practice currently in?

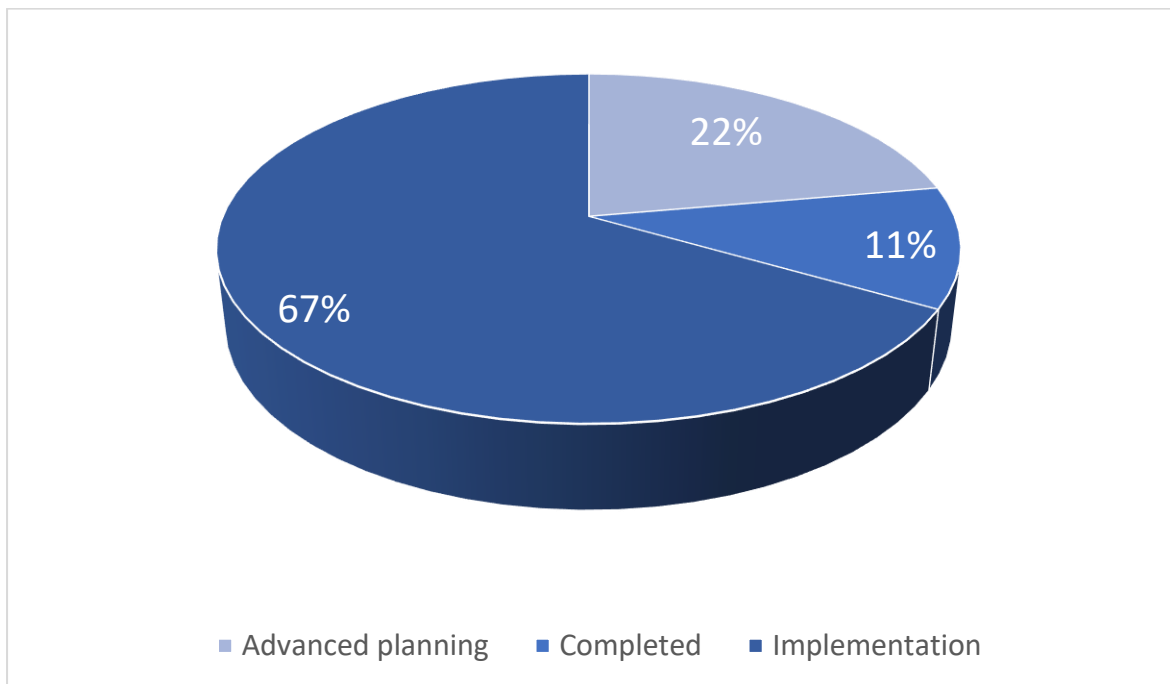


Figure 9: Within your organisation, who is in charge of coordinating the exchanges with the partner organisation(s), when it comes to the energy transition project(s)?

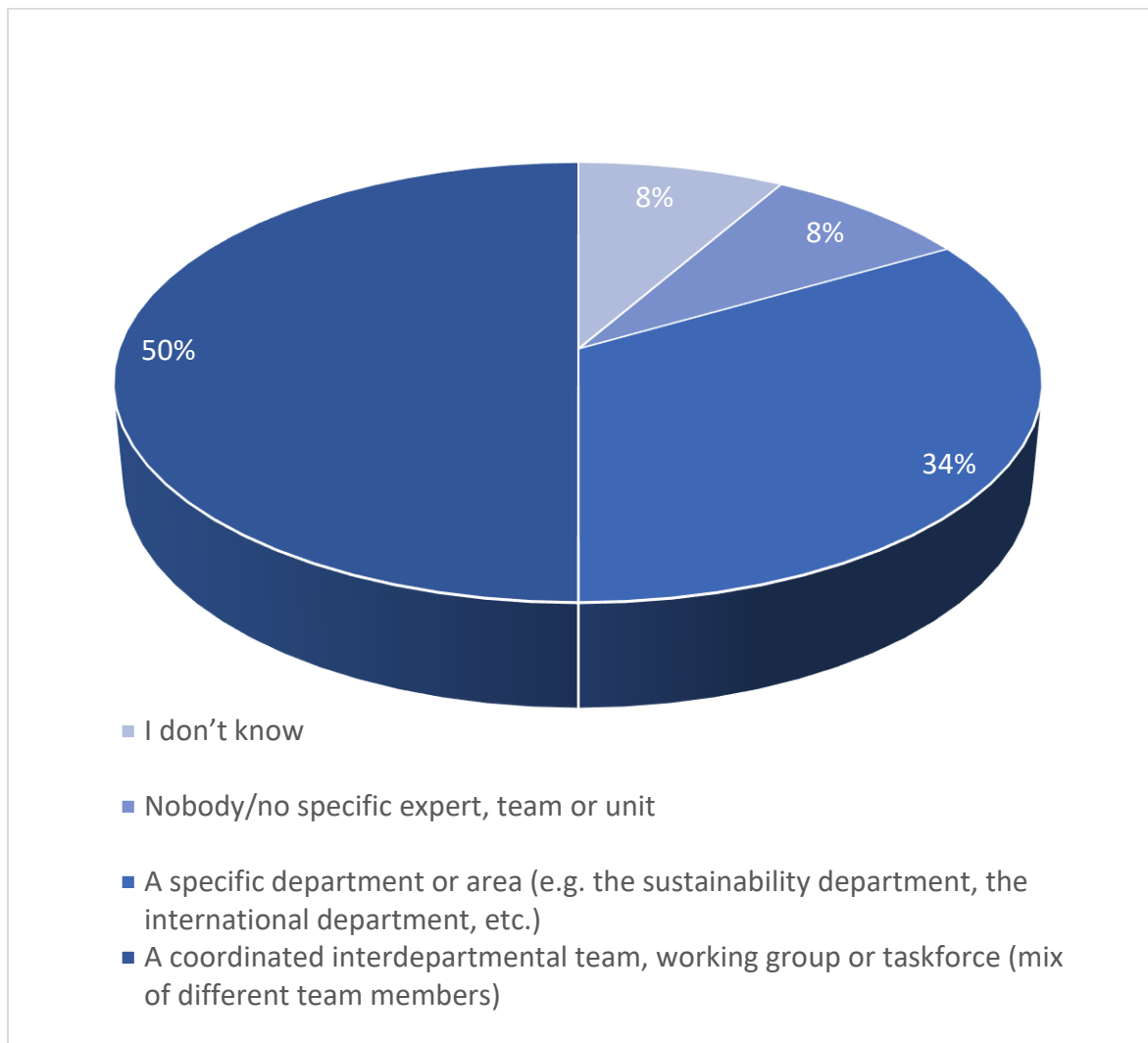


Figure 10: Which stakeholders from your region are involved in the energy transition project(s)?

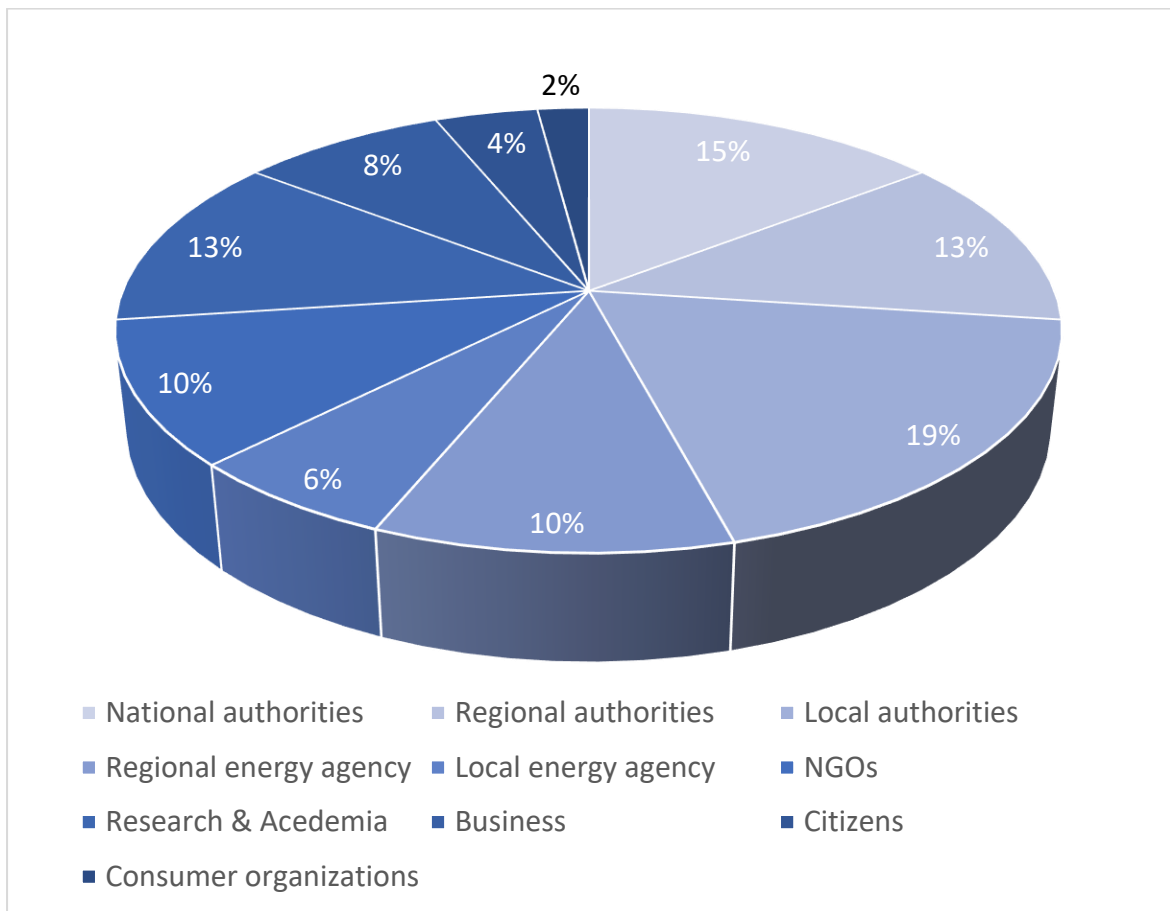


Figure 11: What was the best way to involve relevant stakeholders?

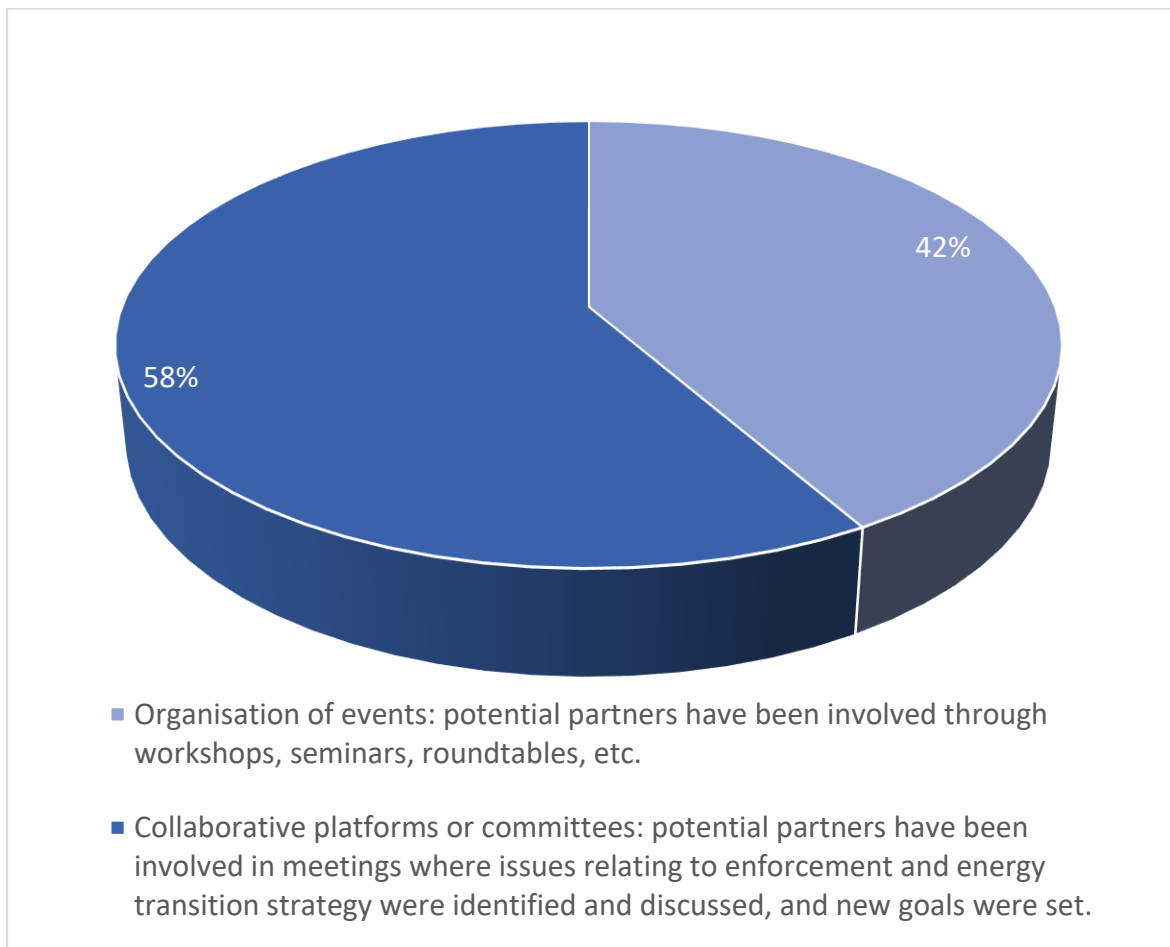


Figure 12: What organisations from other regions do you cooperate with regarding the energy transition project(s)?

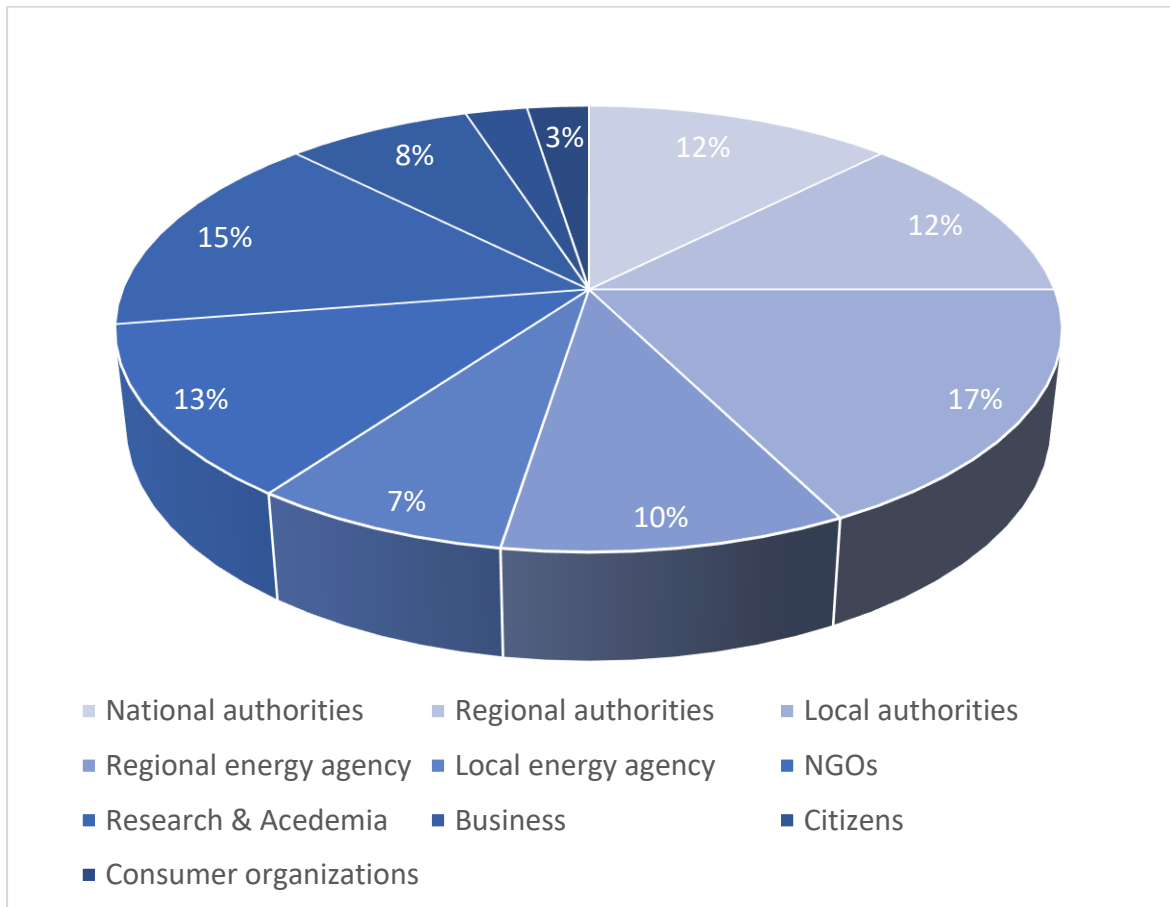


Figure 13: What are the impact(s) of the project on energy transition?

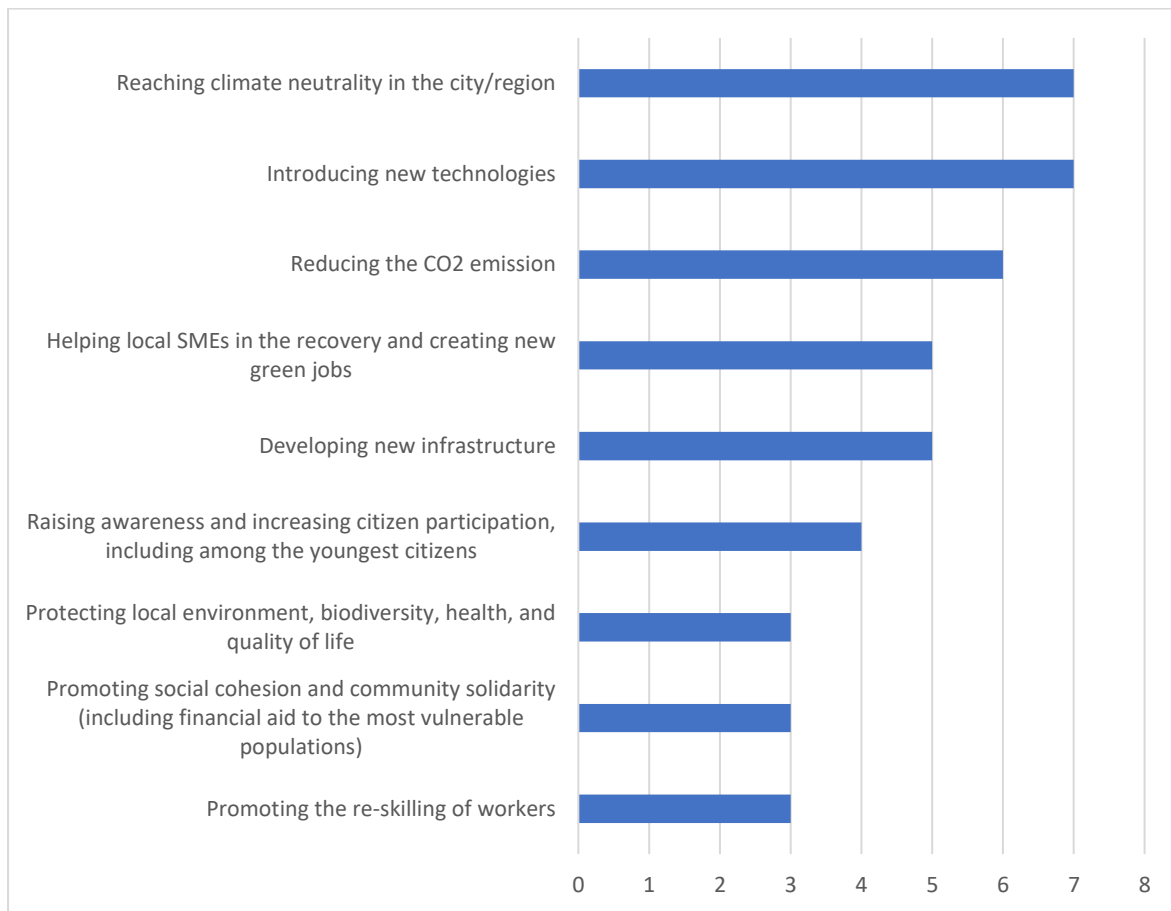




Figure 14: How did you finance your best practice?

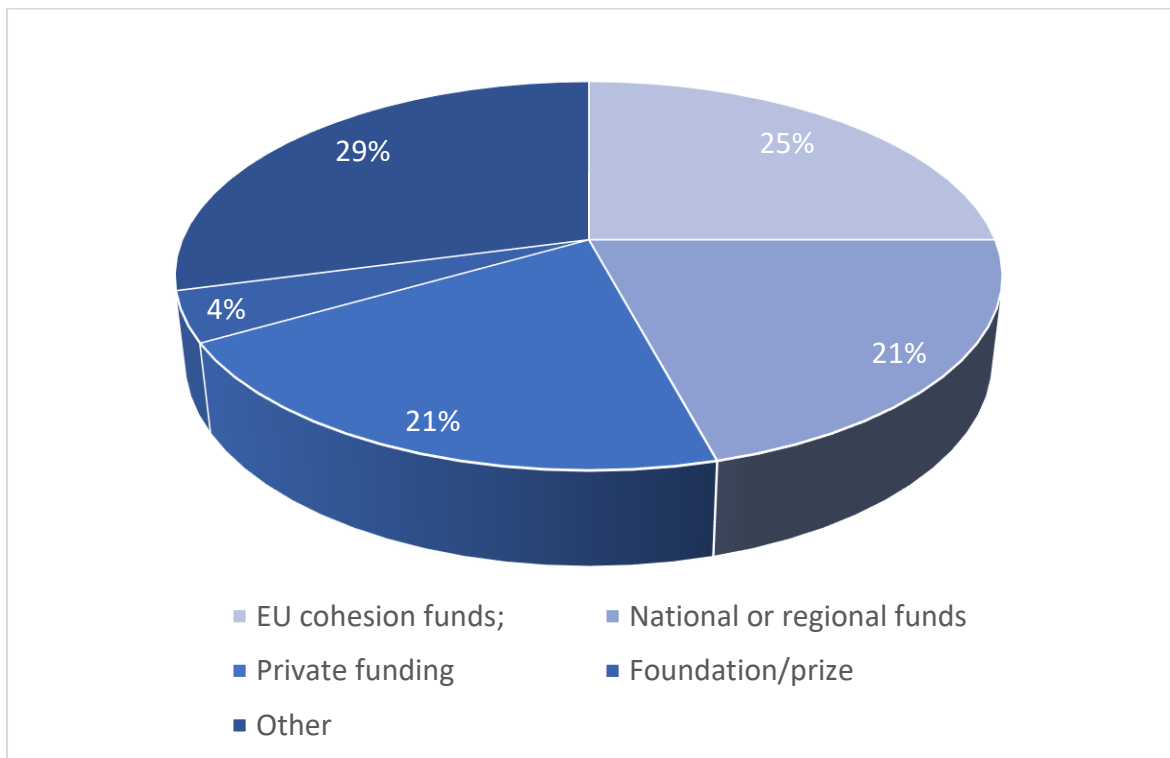


Figure 15: Please specify the overall investment needed for the best practice.

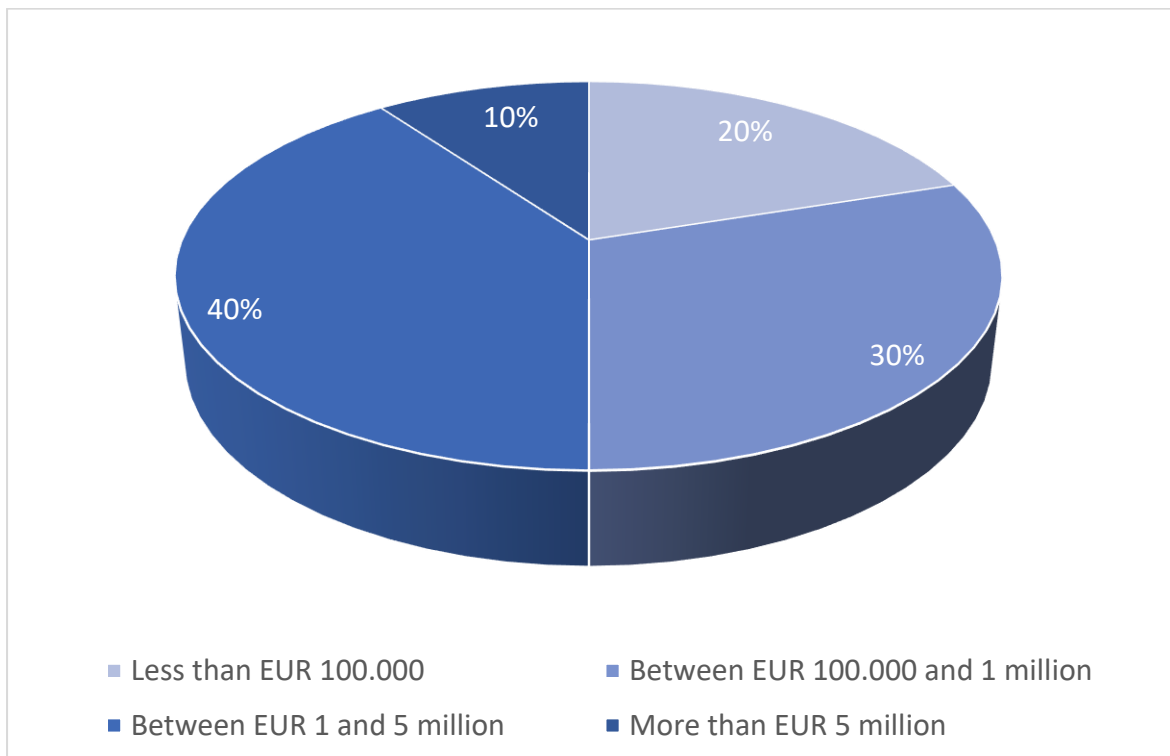


Figure 16: What are the three biggest obstacles the best practice has faced?

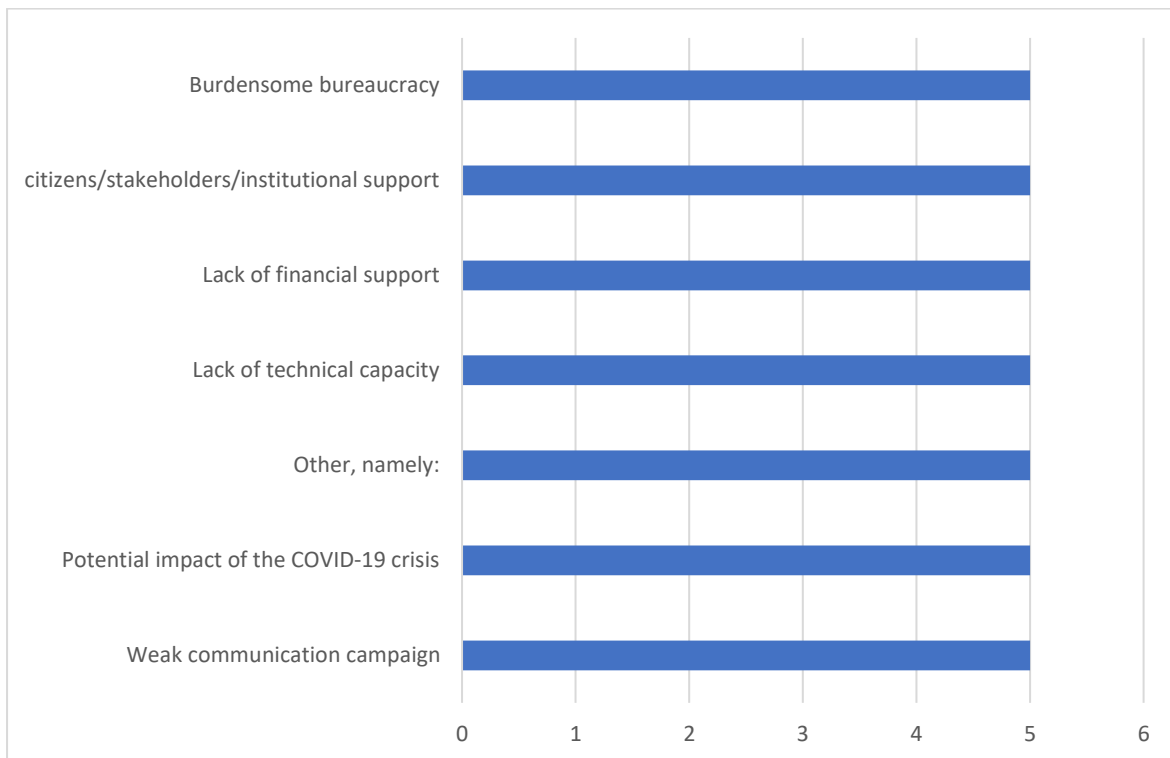


Figure 17: How do you expect the JTP to support the development and replication of your best practice?

