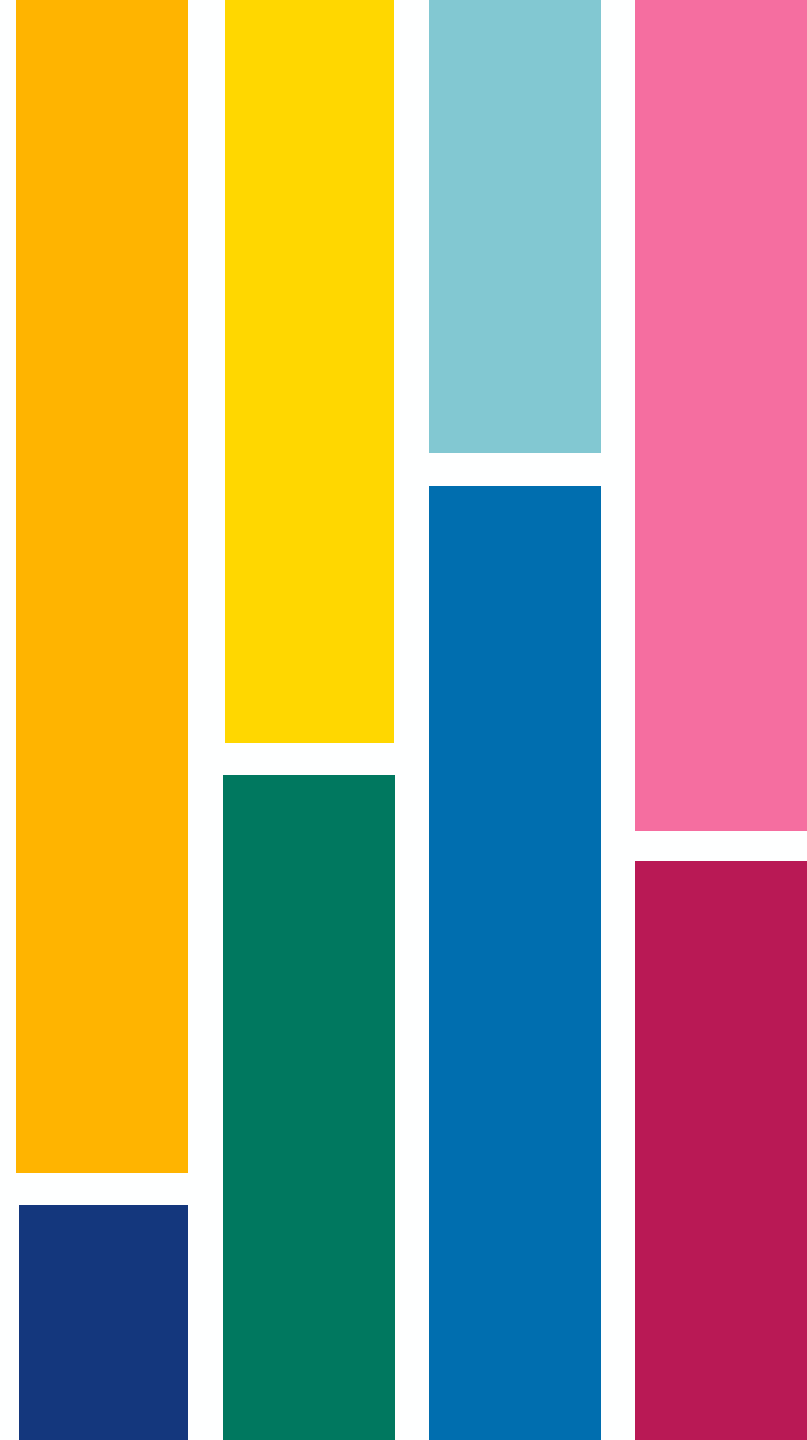


Dialogue with CPR partners -JTF implementation

5th meeting – 13 December 2023



Limited number of cities,
experiences in the early stages

JTF and cities

- ❑ **Just Transition Fund highly welcomed, but ...:** JTF is very strongly focused on small areas, whereas industrial cities and urban and metropolitan areas with a diversified economic base that is heavily dependent on fossil fuels have at least similar challenges but are not necessarily included in the TJTPs.
- ❑ **JTF selection criteria are highly political:** whereas the criteria to calculate the national envelopes would suggest a number of industrialized urban areas would be selected for support, the reality is often different.
- ❑ **ERDF+/ESF++ or different animal:** the limited focus (both in area and intervention possibilities) and per definition integrated funding are differing from regular programmes. But so is PO5 within the ERDF.
- ❑ **New setup vs linking up with existing structures:** early evidence seem to show a bit of a mixed bag. But even when existing bodies are being used new structures are needed, including programme management and monitoring committees.
- ❑ **Focus vs dispersal of funds:** the strength of cohesion policy is its long term development approach. Additional support during the Corona crisis seem to have been the start for a new set of additional programmes targeting more or less the same issues, partly due to the required focus on the twin transition. New topics are already pushed, such as development and skills traps, which could easily and probably even better fit within the long term cohesion policy approach [*similar to Objectives and Community Initiatives*]
- ❑ **Just Transition is also an urban phenomenon:** the transition will have stark consequences for all, not just the selected regions with a TJTP. So how can we learn from the JTF and ensure that not only a few targeted areas but also are cities and urban areas where the majority of the EU population resides can experience a transition that is just and fair.

A Dutch example

- ❑ Rotterdam region contributes for about 40% national JTF budget but receives less than 10%. For example: We receive € 40 per inhabitant € 1100 per industrial job or € 4700 per kton CO2. For the region with the highest contribution this are € 2350, € 33.700 and € 160.000. This could result in serious absorption capacity issues.
- ❑ National MA with regional IBs. ERDF MA Rotterdam is IB for 2 TJTPs in its region
- ❑ Additional structures whereas it could have just as easily work as an ITI within the ERDF programme
- ❑ The approaches are slightly different and due to the huge challenges and relatively small programmes, competition between the different programmes remains limited
- ❑ Eventhough the focus is on transition of industry and support for zero carbon industries, the workers concerned all live in the urban area. And the most vulnerable communities are also tackled with PO5 of ERDF and in general ESF+ support.
- ❑ In communication serious efforts are undertaken to make the differences between the various funds clear. And clearly there are differences in focus and possible types of intervention. However, for a final beneficiary the main issue is that his/her project is being supported by EU funding.