



# JUST TRANSITION PLATFORM MEETING

COAL REGIONS  
IN TRANSITION  
VIRTUAL WEEK

CARBON-INTENSIVE  
REGIONS SEMINARS

15 - 17 NOVEMBER 2021



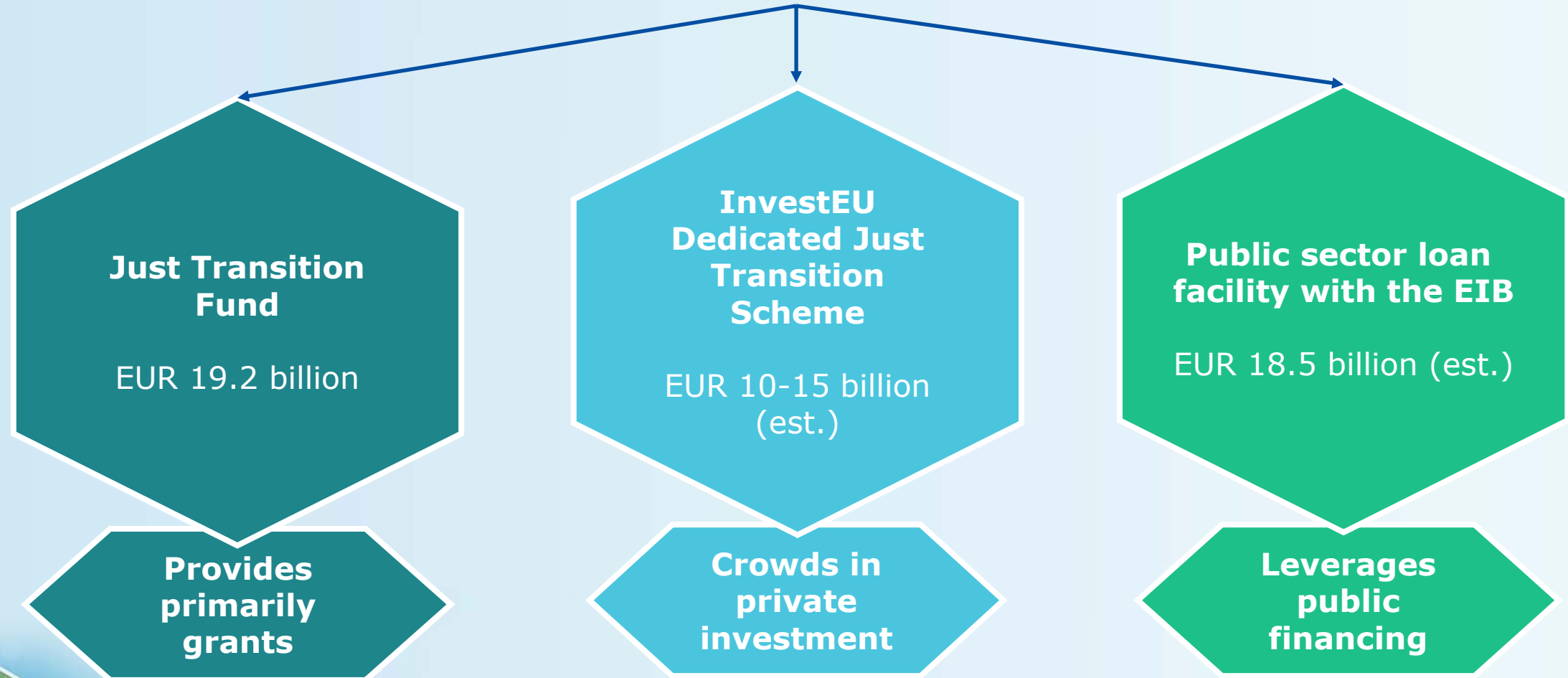
Update:  
**Preparation of territorial just transition plans**

**Dr Sander Happaerts**  
DG REGIO, Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit

4<sup>th</sup> Just Transition Platform meeting, 16 November 2021

# Just Transition Mechanism

to support regions most affected by the climate transition in all Member States



Territorial just transition plans give access to all 3 pillars

# Programming overview

- Around 70 TJTPs expected in total (linked to 40+ programmes)
  - Self-standing or multi-fund programmes
  - National or regional programmes
  - One or several TJTPs per programme
- **4 TJTPs formally submitted** and under assessment, from 2 MS (October 2021)
- Most TJTPs expected Q1-Q2 2022
- Overall delay in cohesion policy programming



# Lessons learnt from ongoing dialogue

## Strengths

- Impressive investment by local actors and public administrations
- Ambitious visions for climate-neutral future of affected regions
- Transition pathways for carbon-intensive regions

## Weaknesses

- Planning of transition process is incomplete in some cases
- 'ERDF+' rather than focus on most negative impacts of the transition
- Needs for (re)skilling are underdeveloped
- Lack of justification to support investment in large enterprises or ETS activities
- Complementarities with JTM pillars 2 and 3 are missing
- All relevant stakeholders are not always involved

# Eligibility of JTF territories

- Focus on the territories facing the **biggest challenges** at MS level in the transition to climate neutrality
- NUTS3 regions (or parts thereof)
- Territories have to justify:
  - **Dependence** on fossil fuels and/or on carbon-intensive industrial activities
  - **Negative effect** based on the economic and social impacts resulting from the transition

*'[The transition] will be particularly demanding for those Member States that rely, or which until recently have relied, heavily on fossil fuels or greenhouse gas intensive industrial activities which need to be phased out or which need to adapt'*  
(Recital 8 JTF)

# Transition process

- TJTP should describe transition process at **national level**:
  - **Timeline** for key transition steps towards the 2030 and 2050 targets
  - Consistent with national energy and climate plans (NECP) and National Long-Term Strategies
  - National **commitment to climate neutrality** (EU Climate Law)
- TJTP should demonstrate clear evidence of a transition process and its **impact at the level of the concerned territory** in the near future (by 2030 or before)

***‘The JTF support should be conditional on the effective implementation of a transition process in a specific territory’  
(Recital 18 JTF)***

# Impacts of the transition

- **Social** impacts:
  - Unemployment, need for (re)skilling
- **Economic** impacts:
  - Closure of sites, aligning economic competitiveness with climate transition
- **Demographic** impacts:
  - No future for youth, occupational diseases
- **Environmental** impacts:
  - Derelict land, contamination of soil and water, health risks





# Operations to be supported

Priority: **reskilling** and **economic diversification**

**Other eligible activities** (renewable energy, sustainable local mobility, digitalisation, soil regeneration, circular economy, social infrastructure, etc.) if they contribute to mitigating the impacts of the transition

+ **technical assistance**

All activities must be linked to the JTF Specific Objective, contribute to the implementation of the TJTP and benefit the TJTP territories

*'actions supported by the JTF should directly contribute to alleviating the impact of the transition by mitigating the negative repercussions on employment and by financing the diversification and modernisation of the local economy'*  
(Recital 5 JTF)

# Complementarities

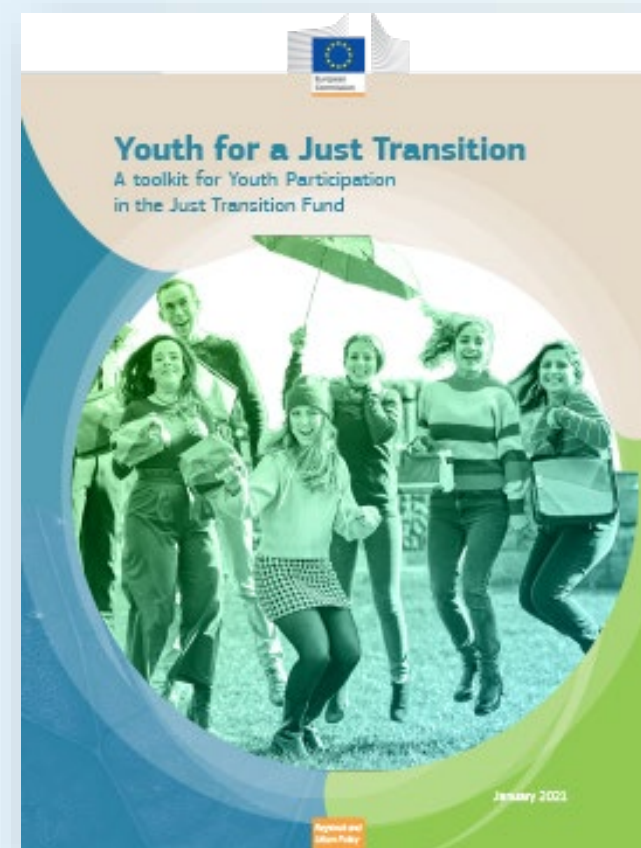
- **JTM Pillar 2:** dedicated Just Transition Scheme under InvestEU to crowd in private investment
- **JTM Pillar 3:** Public Sector Loan Facility to leverage additional public funding
- Other EU funds:
  - **ERDF, Cohesion Fund**, e.g. for technology deployment and infrastructure
  - **ESF+**, e.g. for green skills and green jobs
  - **Recovery and Resilience Facility** to support the recovery from COVID-19
  - Other, e.g. Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE programme, Horizon Europe, Digital Europe Programme, Research Fund for Coal and Steel, EU ETS Innovation Fund, Modernisation Fund



# Partnership

The **involvement and commitment of the public** is crucial to the success of the JTF:

- **Partnership principle** of cohesion policy
- Regional and local authorities, economic and social partners, civil society and research institutions and universities should be involved
- Important role of **youth**
- **Gender equality** should be promoted and vulnerable groups considered



# Staff Working Document on the territorial just transition plans

SWD(2021) 275 final, 23 September 2021, [europa.eu/!3dXj7h](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/pages/press-room-item-13227-2021-09-23-1.aspx)

The SWD aims to clarify key issues for the preparation of the TJTPs and the programming of the JTF, in particular:

- Strategic context at EU level
- Eligibility of territories
- Transition process and challenges to be addressed
- Types of operations to be supported
- Programming
- Partnership
- Complementarities

Translations are available!

**Contact:**

Sander Happaerts, policy analyst sustainable growth

Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

[Sander.HAPPAERTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sander.HAPPAERTS@ec.europa.eu)

**Visit the Just Transition Platform:** [ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/finance-and-green-deal/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-platform\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/finance-and-green-deal/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-platform_en)

**Read the Staff Working Document on TJTPs:**

[ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/thefunds/jtf/swd\\_territ\\_just\\_trans\\_plan\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/thefunds/jtf/swd_territ_just_trans_plan_en.pdf)



# Lessons from technical support on the Territorial Just Transition Plans

Just Transition Platform, 16 November 2021

*Kaspar Richter*

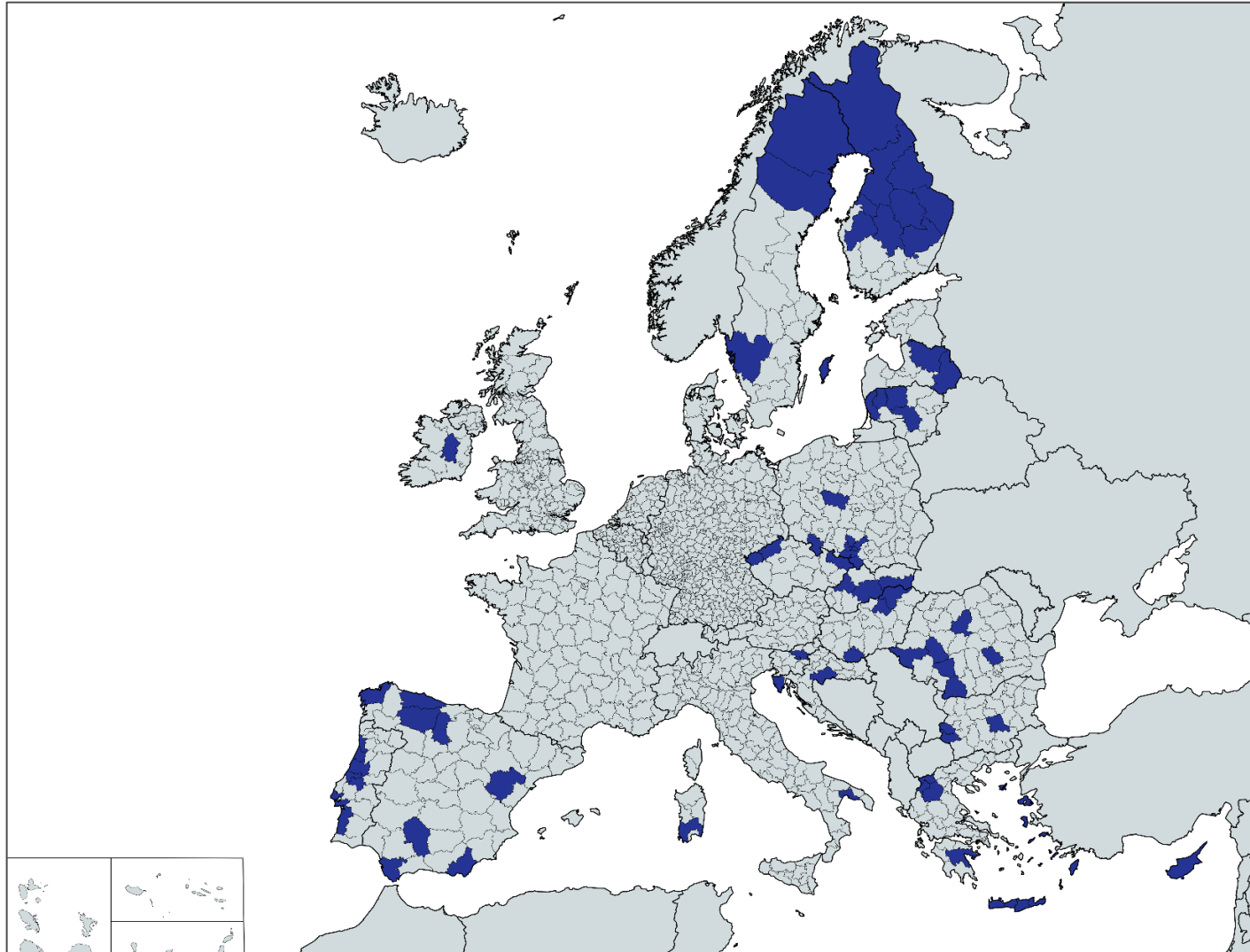
*DG REFORM, Head of Unit "Sustainable Growth and Business Environment"*

# The Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

- **Tailor-made technical expertise** to EU Member States to **design and implement reforms**
- **Demand driven support, no co-financing** from Member States
- **€ 864 million** for the period 2021-2027<sup>1</sup>
- **More than 1000 projects in 27 Member States**
- **Wide range of reform areas** covered by the technical support
- **Any reform phase**, from design to implementation and evaluation



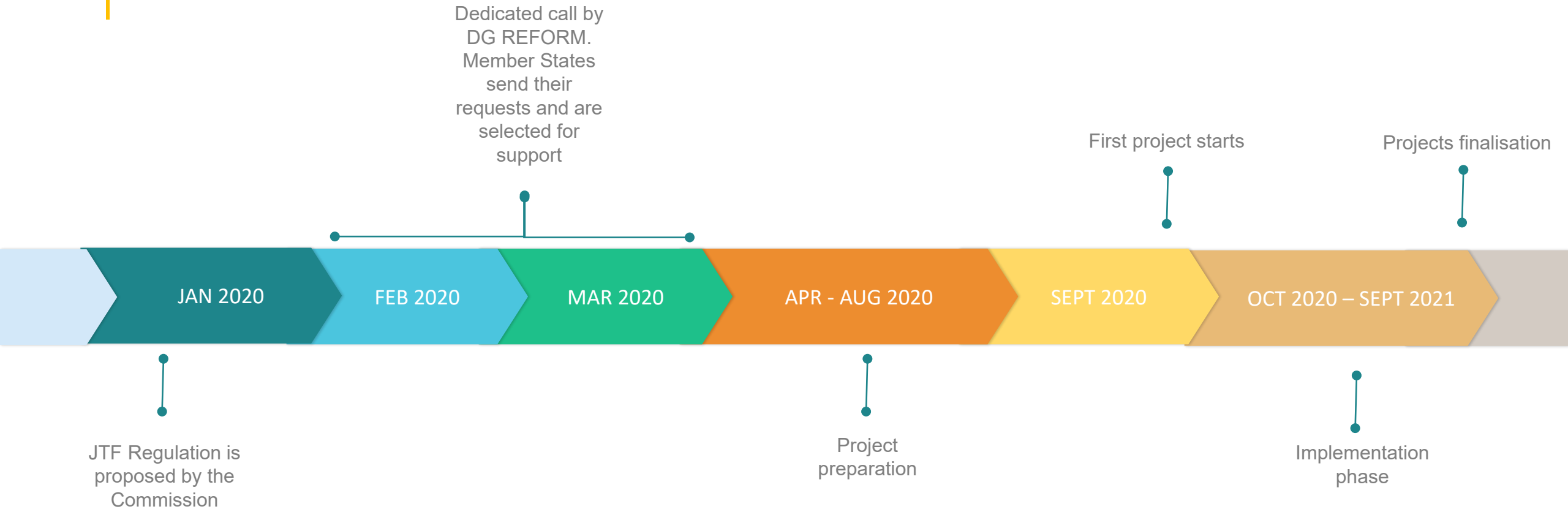
# Technical support for the preparation of TJTPs



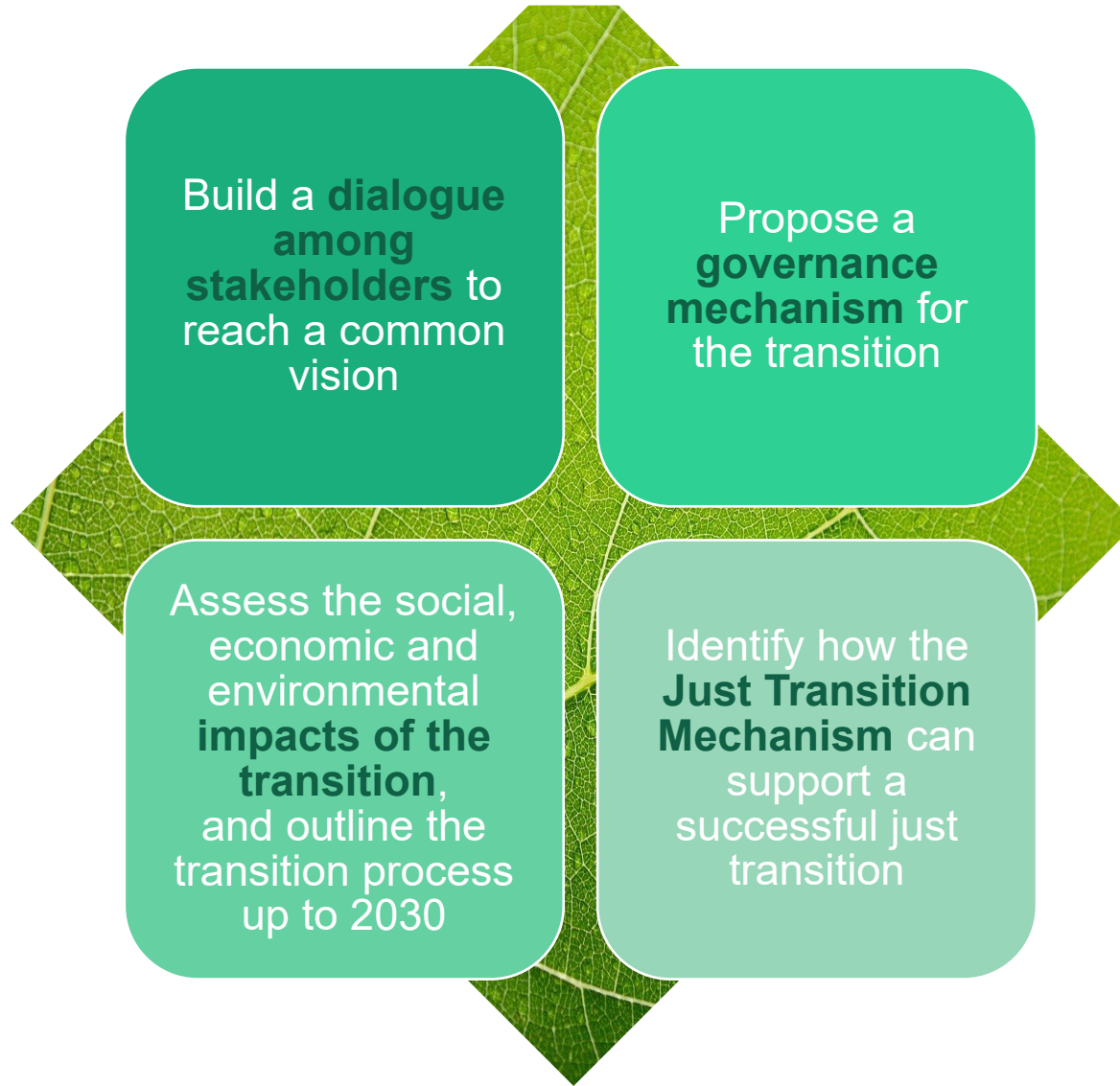
■ Territories covered by DG REFORM's technical support



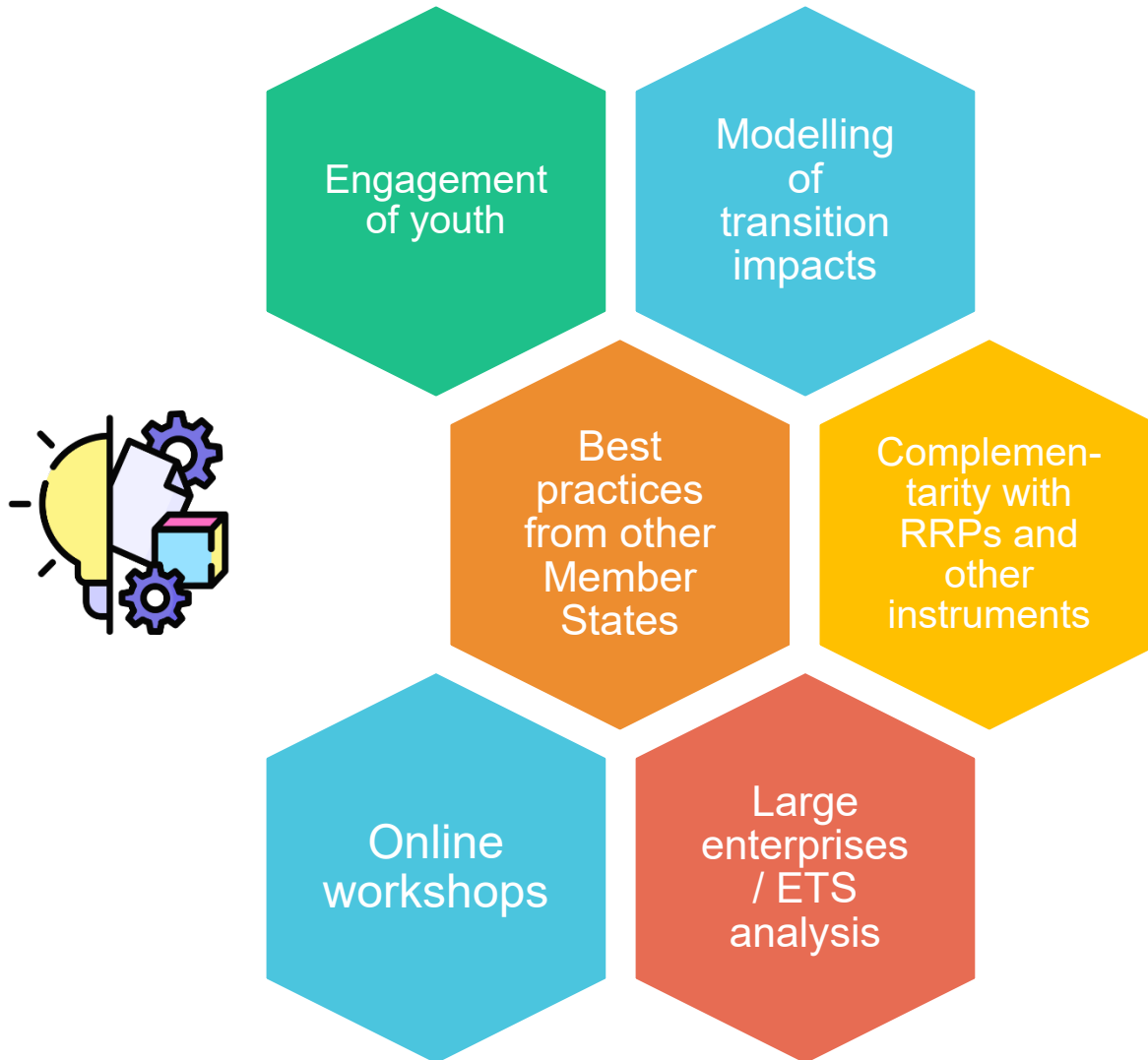
# Timeline of the technical support



# Content of the technical support



# A tailor-made approach



# A support built on previous experience

- Action Plan for the transition from coal of Upper Nitra
- Rehabilitation of mining land and assets

**Slovakia**



- Roadmap for the transition from coal of Western Macedonia

**Greece**



- Strategy and action plan for the transition from coal of the Jiu Valley

**Romania**

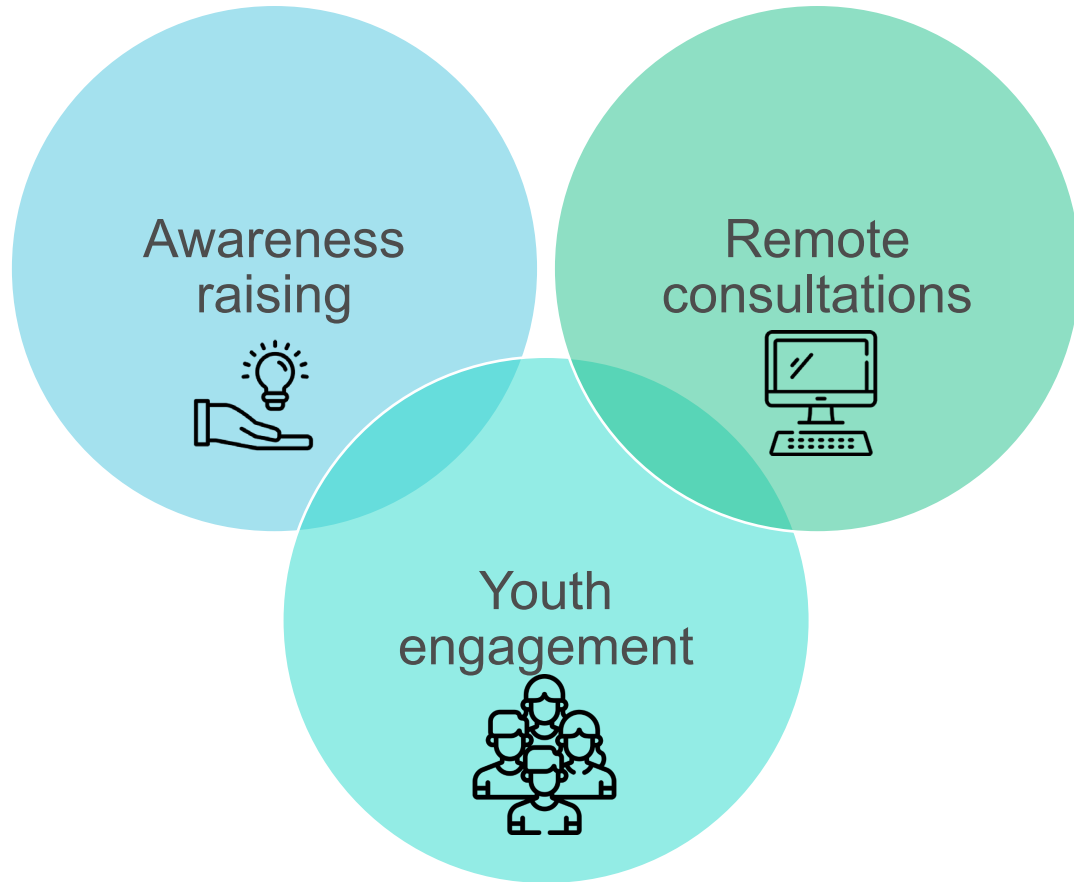


- Transition from coal of Asturias

**Spain**



# Lessons learned – stakeholders engagement



# Lessons learned – preparing for a just transition



A clear transition pathway



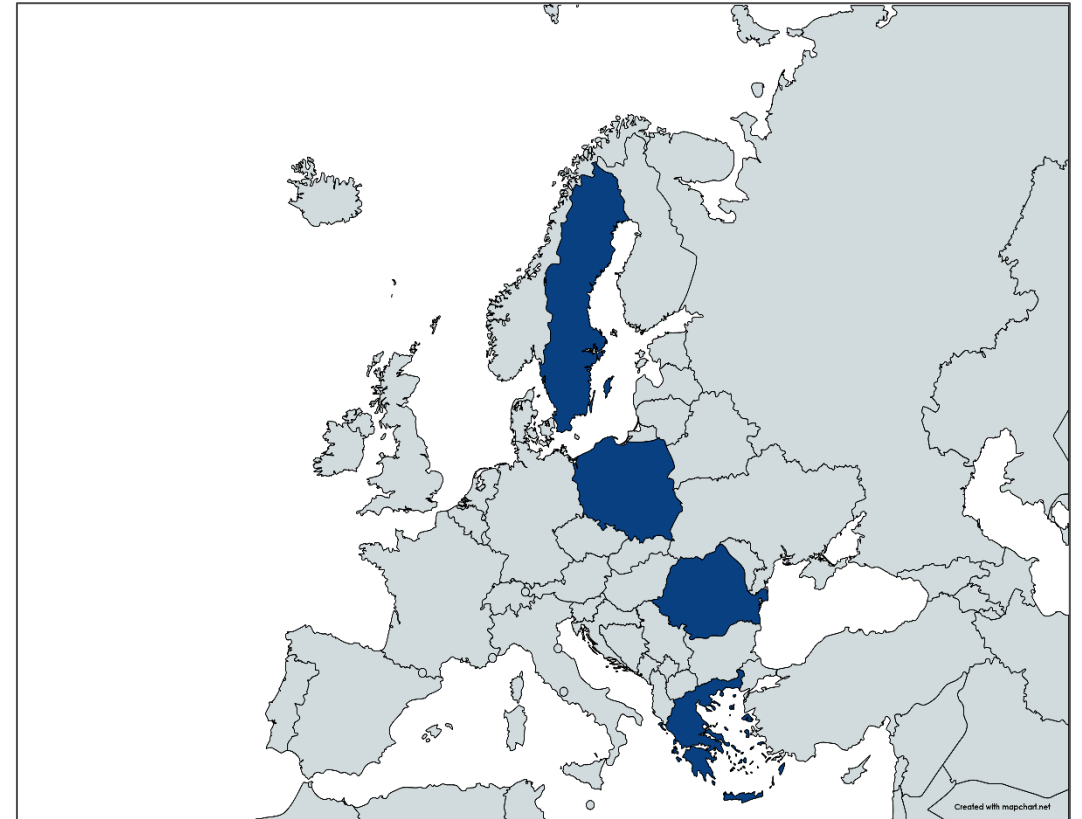
Strong cooperation between levels of government



Logic of intervention



Managing implementation risks



# Conclusion

- The technical support provided the **evidence base for the preparation of the TJTPs**
- **Finalisation and submission of the TJTPs** is now up to the Member States
- Technical support for the **implementation of the Just Transition: Flagship for TSI 2022**
  - Support to National Promotional Banks for Pillar 2 under the JTM
  - Other specific needs on the implementation of the JTM
  - Just transition in regions and sectors not covered by the JTM

**Support to the implementation of the Just Transition**

**The flagship technical support request**

This flagship technical support is targeted at Member States wishing to address gaps in the implementation of the Just Transition in their regions. The implementation of the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) on the ground will be key to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind. To this end, the flagship offers activity packages to help Member States address specific challenges in the regions and sectors affected by the transition.

**Just Transition benefits at a glance**

People	Economy	Regions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-skilling opportunities</li><li>• Fighting energy poverty</li><li>• Access to clean, affordable and secure energy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic diversification</li><li>• Attractive conditions for public and private investors</li><li>• Creation of new firms, SMEs and start-ups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New jobs in the green economy</li><li>• Affordable loans to local public authorities</li><li>• Improving district heating and transportation networks</li></ul>

The Just Transition Mechanism is a key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way.

Pillar 1: A Just Transition Fund to support territories most affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy	Pillar 2: The InvestEU 'Just Transition' scheme to mobilise private sector investments	Pillar 3: A new Public Sector Loan Facility to mobilise public investment
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**Opportunity addressed with this flagship:** The Just Transition process has important economic, social and environmental benefits, thus promoting fairness, cohesion and sustainability while benefitting the economy and the society at large.

**IMPACT OBJECTIVES:**

- ✓ Improve the implementation of the Just Transition Mechanism, with specific support in particular on Pillar 2
- ✓ Support regions and sectors in transition not covered by the Just Transition Mechanism, regardless of where they are located
- ✓ Contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal, with a climate transition delivered in a just and inclusive way

European Commission

# Thank you

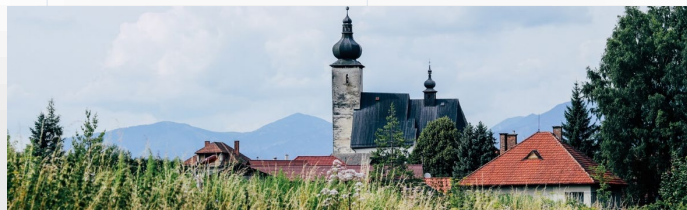




MINISTERSTVO  
INVESTÍCIÍ, REGIONÁLNEHO ROZVOJA  
A INFORMATIZÁCIE  
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



# JUST TRANSITION SLOVAKIA



November 14, 2021

**PETER BALIK, Director-General**

*Innovation, Strategic Investments and Analysis (HUB)*

*Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic*

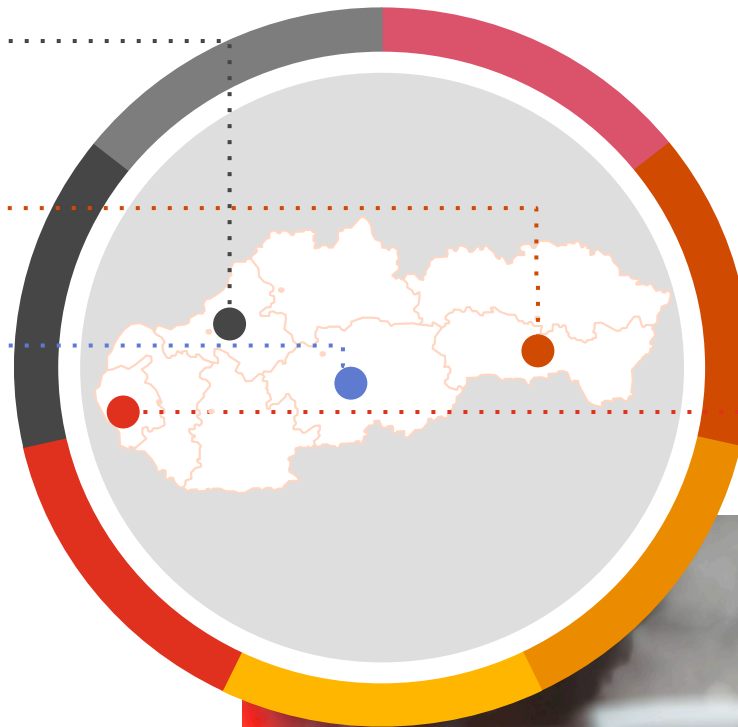
# TERRITORIAL COVERAGE – JTF SLOVAKIA

✓ Upper Nitra region - *eligible*

✓ Košice region - *eligible*

! Banská Bystrica region - *pending approval*

✗ Bratislava region - *not eligible*



## 459 milion €

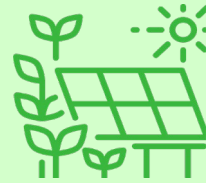


# PILLAR STRUCTURE OF JTF SUPPORT IN SLOVAKIA



## I. Economic diversification

- SMEs
- Digitalization
- RDI
- innovative jobs



## II. Sustainable environment:

- Renewable energy
- Hydrogen
- Energy efficiency
- Circular economy



## III. Quality of life and social infrastructure:

- Upskilling and reskilling
- Social care
- Young talents
- Improving health



# PARTICIPATORY PROCESS - ACTORS



# INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH INTO PREPARATION OF TJTP

- The aim is to actively **involve the young generation**, which is the future of these regions, in the **proposal of priorities and needs**. In addition, it is the young people who will bear the greatest impact of the consequences of the transformation and the negative effects of climate change.
- **Continuous process of work with youth** in the preparation and later in the implementation of specific measures and projects (workshops, information seminars, etc.).
- **Support for specific projects for young people**, for example by providing small grants for young people to support social projects in their local community to improve attractiveness of the region.



Contact details:  
[peter.balik@mirri.gov.sk](mailto:peter.balik@mirri.gov.sk)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

