

JTPeers Exchange

CALL TEXT SPRING 2024

JTPeers Exchange – A call for peer-to-peer -exchanges as part of the Just Transition Platform (JTP)

The European Commission is providing additional support for JTF territories through the JTPeers Exchange programme. After successfully implementing seven exchanges in 2023, the peer-to-peer programme continues to facilitate two types of interactions between JTF regional stakeholders and <u>JTPeers Experts</u>:

- Region-to-region exchange. Region-region exchanges take place between two
 or three JTF regions. They are intended for regions to exchange experiences on up
 to three topics and are based on a co-learning approach, meaning that each
 participating region acts as mentor, as well as mentee. This type of exchange
 typically takes place in-person.
- **Expert-to-region exchange.** Expert-region exchanges take place between one just transition expert and up to three JTF regions. They are intended for regions seeking advice on one specific topic or question. Based on the topical focus indicated in this application, applicants can name a suitable expert from the <u>JTPeers Experts Database</u> or have the JTPeers team select an expert from the database. Exchanges can take place online or in person.

During these exchanges (some fully virtual, others in-person), the selected beneficiaries jointly explore shared challenges and draw upon their lessons learned to collectively identify potential solutions and pathways forward.

JTPeers Exchange is available to JTF regions from all 27 EU Member States. Relevant public and private stakeholders playing a crucial role in implementing TJTP commitments and priorities are all encouraged to apply:

- Local, regional, or national public authorities
- Civil society, NGOs, CSOs, trade unions or similar associations
- Development, innovation, energy, or similar agencies
- Research organisations or universities
- Businesses, SMEs, or related associations
- Other key socio-economic actors

Interested parties can apply <u>individually</u> or <u>jointly</u> with up to three JTF regions for the JTPeers Exchange programme from **1 February 2024 to 1 March 2024 at 23:00 CET**.

Co-learning and cooperation for the just transition

JTPeers Exchange follows a needs-based based approach, focusing on responding to JTF practitioners' priorities by facilitating co-learning opportunities (online and offline) and is designed to benefit institutions and organisations from a wide range of sectors contributing to the just transition of their respective JTF territories. Through developing robust relationships, regional actors and individual experts can offer opinions and expertise to support the implementation of TJTPs, explore common challenges and co-create possible solutions.

In line with the JTF's thematic objectives, JTPeers Exchange is intended to shine a spotlight on challenges faced by JTF beneficiaries through cross-cutting topics such as the following:

- Upskilling and reskilling of workers and jobseekers, vocational training, lifelong learning, and formal education
- Green economic diversification and job creation (incl. SMEs, start-ups, business incubators, etc.)
- Job-search assistance and active inclusion of jobseekers
- Circular economy (incl. waste prevention, resource efficiency, repair, etc.)
- Clean and affordable energy (incl. renewables, efficiency, storage, heating & cooling, energy poverty, etc.)
- Decarbonisation of industry (incl. mobility/transport, emission reductions, ETS activities, etc.)
- Regeneration and decontamination of brownfields, land restoration, nature-based solutions, and site repurposing
- Research and innovation
- Digitalisation and digital connectivity
- Social inclusion and policies aimed at alleviating the transition process for communities, incl. the gender dimension.

How does the JTPeers Exchange application process work?

The deadline for application for the JTPeers Exchange Programme is **1 March 2024 at 23:00 CET**. Interested regions can apply individually or jointly with up to three JTF regions. If applying individually, applicants will be matched with a suitable counterpart from the pool of applicants. A joint application is intended to leverage existing cooperation between JTF regions and suitable in cases where regions already have preferences on who they would like to exchange with on a given topic. Apply by answering the appropriate EU Survey questionnaires:

- o Individual application form, or
- o <u>Joint application form</u>, if applying together with up to three JTF regions.

After the European Commission reviews your application, proposals from selected candidates will be compared to find suitable matches. If your application is successfully matched, you will be introduced to your exchange partners and an exchange facilitator. The facilitator will guide you through the entire exchange preparation and implementation process, including support on logistics.

You can withdraw your application at any time. For any questions about JTPeers Exchange, please refer to the FAQ or contact us via email: <u>JTPeers@justtransitionplatform.eu</u>.

Is support available in preparing the application?

As novelty this year, the JTP team offers an application advisory facility, called **JTP Lab for Open Calls**, to support applicants during the application process. It is free of charge. This support entails **two dedicated training sessions**, providing guidance on identifying the needs for the applying for open calls and submitting a high-quality application, as well as **two blocks of office hours**, to enable the interaction of interested regions with Technical Assistance experts, exchange facilitators, and Working Group facilitators.

Dates for the training sessions:

- **1. 8 February 2024, 14:30-16:00 (Zoom link):** Identifying your concrete needs for JTP Groundwork short introduction to JTP Groundwork and the type of support provided; expert input on how to identify a concrete need where Technical Assistance can add value. The training session includes up to 1 hour of Q&A with breakout-rooms and will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the additional active calls for JTPeers Exchange and Working Groups.
- **2. 27 February 2024, 14:30-16:00 (**Zoom link): Submitting a thorough application expert input on finalising applications, address aspects such as ensuring political buy-in, involving stakeholders, specifying added value. The training session includes up to 1 hour of Q&A with breakout-rooms and will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the additional active calls for JTPeers Exchange and Working Groups.

Dates for the office hours:

- 1. 15 February 2024, 14:00-16:00 (Zoom link)
- 2. 22 February 2024, 14:00-16:00 (Zoom link)

Opportunity for interested applicants to ask specific questions on the application and JTP Groundwork. The call will include breakout-room sessions with dedicated Technical Assistance experts and provide an opportunity to ask questions about the additional active calls for JTPeers Exchange and Working Groups.

More support for JTF regions under the Just Transition Platform

After entering the implementation phase of the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the JTP rolled out a number of support streams in 2023, including the <u>JTP Knowledge Hub</u>, providing knowledge products and case studies on just transition, the <u>JTPeers Exchange</u> programme, the <u>JTPeers Experts</u> database, and <u>JTP Groundwork</u>.

Upcoming calls for application:

- 1. JTP Groundwork if you are looking for hands-on support on a specific challenge related to the implementation of your region's TJTP that would span over a few months or targeted capacity building on a specific implementation-related challenge, consider applying to JTP Groundwork. Apply here until **1 March 2024.**
- 2. Working Groups The new Just Transition Platform Working Groups will bring together stakeholders from across Europe with a common concern for the people and places affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy The Working Groups will continue to provide a forum for strategic exchange on challenges shared by stakeholders involved in the transition process in carbon-intensive

regions, focusing, among others, on stakeholder engagement and equal opportunities and will develop practical solutions and tools to tackle local challenges and mitigate the adverse effects of the transition process. Apply here until **1 March 2024.**

