



European
Commission

JTP Peers Exchanges

FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

*Regional and
Urban Policy*

JTPeers Exchanges

Frequently Asked Questions

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Disclaimers

The information provided in the application form will be considered sensitive and confidential. Personal data will be processed in line with the applicable law on data protection in the European Union.

The JTPeers team reserves the right to adjust the timing of the delivery of support to selected beneficiaries to facilitate the workflow and the allocation of resources.

The JTPeers team reserves the right to follow-up with applicants to request specific clarifications on the application content.

JTPeers Exchange

This FAQ document answers questions about the first stream of the JTPeers facility, the JTPeers Exchange programme. Please scroll down for information about the JTPeers Experts database which will launch later this spring.

Eligibility of applicants to JTPeers Exchange

1. *Is JTPeers Exchange programme **only applicable to JTF territories**?*

- Yes. Our peer-exchange programme is meant to focus on supporting stakeholders located within or directly working for those specific JTF territories that are identified in Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTP) already approved by the European Commission (through the adoption of the related JTF programmes), or due to be approved in the near future.
Exchange activities proposed by applicants must always align with TJTPs and the scope of JTPeers and can take place only in JTF territories.
Furthermore, although applicants from all eligible JTF beneficiaries are welcome to apply, JTPeers Exchange is also focused on supporting those territories that face particularly difficult challenges in implementing their TJTP and are most in need of receiving support through facilitated exchanges with peers and/or experts.

2. *Do JTPeers Exchange applicants need to be **located within those defined JTF territories**?*

- Applicants should generally be located within JTF territories. However, other considerations might be made in certain circumstances, for example if a relevant national public ministry or similar entity wishes to participate as well.

3. *Are there **restrictions on types of institutions or sectors** that may join JTPeers Exchange?*

- JTPeers Exchange is open to all types of applicants from public authorities to civil society to private sector to academia and beyond. Any stakeholders playing a crucial role in the implementation of the JTF through approved TJTP commitments and priorities are welcome to apply to the JTPeers Exchange programme.
- Nonetheless, key decision-making public authorities, civil society and socio-economic partners in the eligible territories are particularly encouraged to apply for JTPeers Exchanges.

4. *Are there **language requirements** to join JTPeers Exchange?*

- JTPeers Exchange applicants, including the proposed delegates, should be able to demonstrate a C1 level ¹ or higher of English knowledge to ensure full comprehension of exchange activities, foster longer-lasting relationships with experts and counterparts from other JTF territories and to communicate effectively with the JTPeers team.
- Other language abilities, including native language(s), can be an asset in certain circumstances. This can be determined on a case-by-case basis, until which point the C1-level English will be taken as the default minimum for all participants.

¹ This follows according to the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#).

- Interpretation might be considered on a case-by-case basis but is not preferred by default.

Content within the application form for JTPeers Exchange

5. Which skillsets are seen as most valuable for JTPeers Exchange?

- The JTF only supports activities that are directly linked to its specific objective of ‘enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement’.
- Expertise in the following fields is prioritised, both in terms of skills to be shared with others and skills to be gained (via exchanges) :
 - Project identification and development (e.g., support on project pipelines, selection procedures, attracting private investors, state-aid issues)
 - Capacity building for regional and local administrations and other key stakeholders, including technical staff and/or policy-makers
 - Awareness-raising campaigns and enhanced communication about JTF in the territories
 - Mobilisation of specific stakeholder groups (leading to project development or strengthened implementation and building community at local level)
 - Support to the establishment of a transparent, inclusive, and efficient governance mechanism for TJTP implementation
 - Support to engage in cross-border cooperation with other JTF territories (when needed to improve project development or TJTP implementation)
 - Development or refinement of strategic documents in support of specific just transition processes

6. Which kinds of **topic expertise** are seen as valuable assets for JTPeers Exchange?

- Certain thematic challenges are also of high importance to provide a structure for better framing and putting the above skills into practice in JTF regions.
- Therefore, JTPeers Exchange applicants are expected to share topic-oriented expertise and (positive or negative) experiences in any of the following fields, or even something else relevant which is not listed here:
 - Upskilling and reskilling of workers and jobseekers, vocational training, lifelong learning and formal education
 - Green economic diversification and the creation of new jobs/firms, including enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, developing more sustainable revenue streams, supporting start-ups and establishing business incubators
 - Job-search assistance and active inclusion of jobseekers
 - Circular economy, including waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling

- Clean and affordable energy, including the transfer and deployment of advanced technologies and infrastructures for greenhouse gas emission reduction, renewables, energy efficiency, energy storage, (district) heating & cooling, smart energy solutions and energy poverty reduction
- Decarbonisation of industry, including smart and sustainable mobility, decarbonising transport, emission reductions and ETS activities
- Regeneration and decontamination of brownfields, land restoration, nature-based solutions and site repurposing for new (sustainable) socio-economic activities
- Research and innovation
- Digitalisation, digital innovation and digital connectivity
- Social inclusion, public participation and policies aimed at alleviating the transition process for communities, including the gender dimension

7. Do JTPeers Exchange applicants get to **define their own proposals** (e.g., own delegates, activities and needs) themselves?

- Yes, JTPeers Exchange is first and foremost a needs-based facility seeking to provide a service for the JTF territories most in need.
- JTPeers can support only those stakeholders, activities and needs that are within the scope of the JTP itself, but otherwise it is primarily up to each applicant to define more precisely their own proposed delegation in line with their own proposed exchange activities and their own needs (for particular just transition skillsets and/or topics) to support TJTP implementation.
- Furthermore, it is recommended that all applicants keep in mind the JTP's definite preference for meaningful gender-balanced delegations (e.g., both decision-makers and technical staff), as well as consider practical aspects (e.g., our limited budget for in-person exchanges), before submitting an application.

8. Is it allowed to **apply jointly on behalf of several territories** within a single application form for JTPeers Exchange?

- No, any application should focus on a single JTF territory only.
- However, if an applicant already has in mind a specific JTF territory or in another EU Member State, then at least this should be explained (in question C7).
- In such cases, we strongly encourage that each territory contacts each other to pre-align content, roles, etc. Our experience shows that such pre-coordinated pairings can often lead to more effective exchanges and longer-lasting relationships.
- Nonetheless, it is very important to emphasise that ultimately the main applicant from each territory must submit their own application separately.
- Please note that it is not possible to guarantee that your matchmaking preferences will necessarily be fulfilled within JTPeers.

9. Which kinds of **formats** are foreseen for JTPeers Exchange?

- During 2023, JTPeers Exchange intends to implement up to 4 online peer exchanges and 4 in-person exchanges, each of which will be facilitated by members of the JTPeers team.

- The type (i.e., virtual vs. physical) ultimately chosen for each selected exchange is dependent on both the needs from the proposed exchanges, but also limited by the budgetary constraints of the JTPeers facility. Preferences from applicants will be taken into consideration but cannot be guaranteed.
- The 4 online exchanges will be conducted as either a series of smaller virtual activities spread out over a period or can be focused more on the preparation for, and implementation of, a longer one-off session (e.g., an online conference).
- The 4 in-person exchanges will be prepared in online meetings and preparatory work building up to the implementation of interactive activities on the ground. The scope of in-person activities is subject to budgetary constraints from JTPeers itself and any financial and/or in-kind contributions from the participating beneficiaries. It is also highly recommended to confirm within the application form your willingness to act as the host to peers – doing so brings numerous advantages worth considering (e.g., higher visibility, likely more control of the ultimate agenda and being easier for more, and more diverse, local participants to benefit directly).
- No matter if virtual or in-person, the format for each exchange remains up to the applicants to propose, even beyond these examples:
 - Peer-to-peer review: several stakeholders interact to provide targeted feedback on rather distinct processes, projects and/or documents;
 - Job-shadowing/mentoring: a stakeholder from one territory benefits from intimate knowledge of operational work done by another counterpart;
 - Inter-regional workshops: stakeholders interact to discuss common challenges and brainstorm potential (mutually-)applicable solutions
 - Expert missions: international expert(s) engaged to provide insights and rather tailored advice to several stakeholders on a certain key topic.

10. Which kinds of **expenses are covered** by JTPeers Exchange?

- Up to 4 online and 4 in-person exchanges are foreseen.
- For online exchanges:
 - The only major cost that might occur is online interpretation, which is covered by the programme. Though as stated earlier in this document, the aim is to avoid any need for interpretation to enable more effective interactions.
 - For the expert, expenses for the service a lump sum can be covered depending on the scope and duration of service provided.
- For in-person exchanges:
 - The budget has been defined for a maximum of 3 visiting individuals – depending on exchange content and concrete costs for particular destinations at the time of implementation, it may be that fewer visitors can be funded. Applicants may include more visiting delegates if funded by themselves. Visitors' travel expenses (e.g., 2nd class/economy tickets for trains or flights, per diems (expenses for the service), and accommodation up to 2 nights) can be paid upon prior confirmation by JTPeers, though it cannot pay for salary costs, visa fees or similar.

- From the perspective of costs within the host territory, JTPeers has limited budget for interpretation, meals, local transport, venue, etc., though all applicants are encouraged to commit to contributing to these if able.
- All applicants (both as visitors or hosts) are strongly encouraged to state within the application form's final question in Part D any types of financial and/or in-kind commitments they would be willing and able to make as a way of further enhancing the effectiveness of in-person exchanges. Nonetheless, this is just optional and will not be perceived as a disadvantage if an applicant is unable to make such commitments.

Procedures for submitting the JTPeers Exchange application form

11. When is the **deadline for submitting** an eligible application form to JTPeers Exchange?

- All application for the JTPeers Exchange programme must be submitted by 15 June 2023 at 12:00pm (noon) CEST via the EU survey form [JTPeers Exchange EU survey form](#)
- It is highly recommended to submit your application form well ahead of the deadline to ensure no technical problems arise in the process.
- A PDF version is available for download [here](#) but are only meant to serve as a convenient offline document to facilitate your application process, and it are not valid as official applications.
- For any technical difficulties, please contact us directly and in a timely manner: JTPeers@justtransitionplatform.eu.

12. Is it possible to **save my work in progress** within EU-Survey?

- Yes, there should be a button on the right side of the screen that saves your indicated answers up to that point. Instructions then follow about how to re-access your provided content. [Download PDF version](#)
- Nonetheless, it is still highly recommended to save your own text answers within a separate file of your own as a precaution in case you cannot access your draft.
- Please note that using EU-Survey's "Save as Draft" feature is not the same as submitting it. An application which is only saved will neither be automatically transferred to our servers, nor be considered an eligible application, until it has been properly submitted.

Save as Draft

13. Are **letters of support** required as part of the JTPeers Exchange application process?

- No, though you may choose to indicate any political support or commitment behind your application in the form (e.g., question A6 asks about your proposed delegation).

14. Can a particular applicant **submit more than one application** to JTPeers Exchange?

- No. We can only accept a single submitted application from each applicant for JTPeers Exchange. If we have multiple submissions in our system, we will not evaluate them.
- However, a stakeholder is allowed to be proposed as a delegate or an expert within another applicant's submission. But we strongly encourage that interested

stakeholders within any given JTF territory instead first coordinate internally and then apply together in one joint application for that territory.

Next steps after JTPeers Exchange submissions

15. What are the **next steps after submitting** an application for JTPeers Exchange?

- Once the final deadline has passed, all submissions will be pre-assessed for eligibility and quality by the JTPeers team. In relevant cases, applicants might be contacted to clarify items.
- Final evaluations will be conducted by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.
- If your region is successfully matched for an exchange, you will each need to confirm your willingness to exchange with peers paired with you, and then will be introduced to an exchange facilitator. The facilitator will guide the exchanging stakeholders through the entire exchange preparation and implementation process, including support on logistics and relevant expenses.

16. Which **criteria** are used to evaluate JTPeers Exchange applicants?

- Evaluation criteria will be applied to ensure comparable assessments of the applications.
- Evaluations will be done to find the most suitable applicants for implementing up to 4 online peer exchanges and 4 in-person exchanges with the strongest potential for positive interactions and impacts on the ground. In addition, applicants for peer exchanges should express clear needs and/or urgency for participation, strong proposed content for the exchange, meaning to answer well, in a suitably logical and clear manner: what, why, how and who. You should also point towards meaningful activities, outputs and impacts resulting from the exchange within a realistic timeframe.
- The Commission will assess all JTPeers Exchange applications based on how they aim to contribute to a better implementation of TJTPs in the relevant JTF territories and having regard to the various types of stakeholders that benefit from the JTF. In all cases, an applicant's demonstration of relevant skills and replicable experience is considered a valuable asset.

17. Is it possible to **withdraw** my application from JTPeers Exchange?

- Yes, you may withdraw your JTPeers Exchange submission at any time.
- For any further questions about withdrawing from either JTPeers Exchange, please contact us via email: JTPeers@justtransitionplatform.eu

18. Which advice do you have for **answering questions** of the JTPeers Exchange form?

- All answers should be clear, demonstrate a strong logic and provide us (only) those details that are needed to understand your context as concisely as possible.
- Please indicate "not applicable" if there is not valid response in your case.

Information about JTPeers Experts

Applications for the JTPeers Experts database will open later this spring and you will be informed about all application details in due time. The launch of the database is foreseen for summer 2023.

19. Is it **possible to apply to both** JTPeers Experts and JTPeers Exchange?

- Yes, applications for both streams of the JTPeers facility are possible. The JTPeers Exchange programme is aimed at those regional actors that wish to gain knowledge from peers and/or experts. The JTPeers Experts database is oriented towards individuals wishing to offer their own knowledge to others. However, we recognise that certain stakeholders may have an interest in both aspects, and therefore allow both.
- In such cases, you should apply separately via their distinct application forms: [JTPeers Exchange](#) programme is open for applications from May 2 – June 15. JTPeers Experts will be available later this spring.

