

JTP Groundwork

Call text for the website

Just transition and the European Green Deal

Climate change and environmental degradation are key challenges facing Europe and the world, which are further accentuated in the past few years by other international crises (such as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine). The [European Green Deal](#) sets an ambitious long-term objective of transforming the European Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2050, and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It seeks a just transition, where no person or place is left behind.

As part of the European Green Deal, the EU set up the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) as a key tool that aims to mobilise around EUR 55 billion over the period 2021-2027 with the aim of ensuring that the transition towards climate-neutrality is implemented in a just manner, leaving no region behind. The [JTM](#) provides targeted support through three pillars: the [Just Transition Fund](#) (JTF) (EUR 19.3 billion in current prices), [InvestEU Just Transition scheme](#), and a [Public Sector Loan Facility](#).

To unlock funding from the JTF, EU Member States have prepared specific programmes and Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTJs) which define how the JTF resources will be utilised in specific EU regions and territories. The identification of [eligible JTF territories](#) was done jointly with the European Commission.

Just Transition Platform supports JTF regions

The Commission launched the [Just Transition Platform](#) (JTP) in 2020. It provides a single access point to support and knowledge on Europe's transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral economy. It is managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

After entering the implementation phase of the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the JTP rolled out a number of support streams in 2023, including the [JTP Knowledge Hub](#), providing knowledge products and case studies on just transition, the [JTPeers Exchange](#) programme, the [JTPeers Experts](#) database, and [JTP Groundwork](#). These support streams will be continued and expanded between 2024 and 2026.

JTP Groundwork is a comprehensive technical assistance facility, delivering tailored and needs-oriented capacity building and advisory support to JTF regions with the aim to support regions in implementing their own Territorial Just Transition Plans' (TJTJs) commitments and priorities.

Who can apply?

Applicants for the JTP Groundwork should be from [eligible JTF territories](#) (with a TJTJ already approved by the Commission). Applications are welcome from all actors with a relevant role in the implementation of the TJTJs – especially Managing Authorities, regional authorities, municipalities, and socio-economic partners – actively contributing to the just transition process at national, regional, local, or community levels.

What types of support services are provided?

The JTP Groundwork provides support to selected JTF regions in the implementation of their TJTPs. This support may help to address any lack of local capacity to develop projects on the ground or it may focus on specific advice related to the just transition process, for example:

- Project identification and development (e.g. selection procedures, attracting private investors, state aid issues)
- Capacity building for regional and local administrations and other key stakeholders
- Support to the establishment of a transparent, inclusive, and efficient governance mechanism for TJTP implementation
- Awareness-raising campaigns, communication about JTF in the regions
- Mobilisation of specific stakeholder groups (leading to project development or strengthened implementation and building community at local level)
- Support to engage in cooperation across borders with other JTF regions (when needed to improve project development or TJTP implementation)

This list is not exhaustive and gives only examples of some potential services that can be provided. Please refer to the [JTP website](#) and the [lessons learned report](#) to learn more about the Technical Assistance support provided to six beneficiaries by JTP Groundwork in 2023.

How will technical assistance be provided?

After selection of the beneficiaries, JTP Groundwork, the Commission and the beneficiaries will jointly define the scope, duration and type of support needed in a tailor-made manner. In the period between 2024 and 2026, the European Commission will support 36 beneficiaries.

Technical assistance support will be delivered using a mix of face-to-face and online delivery mechanisms, including an in-person capacity building workshop, regular online meetings with experts, and other activity formats (e.g. desk research) selected. The modalities of assistance will be tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries to ensure flexible and efficient implementation. A core principle of JTP Groundwork support is the co-creation of the solutions with recipients to increase ownership and develop long-term capacity. Therefore, it is vital that recipients ensure that they can make adequate resources and time available to enable effective joint work.

The advisory support will also include the organisation of one capacity-building workshop per selected applicant to give forum to local stakeholders to exchange knowledge and good practices on JTF implementation.

How will the regions be selected?

The Commission will select up to 20 JTF regions that will receive technical assistance from JTP Groundwork in 2024. The duration of support will be decided on case-by-case basis according to the needs assessment conducted with the beneficiary (between 4-12 months).

The Commission will assess the applications based on how they will contribute to a better implementation of the TJTP in the relevant territory, having regard to the various types of regions that benefit from the JTF. Your application should therefore demonstrate a clear need for support or capacity and show how they will lead to concrete results within a realistic timeframe. In addition, it is recommended that applicants demonstrate their strong commitment to the ambitions set in the TJTP(s), their ability to deliver the results and their plans for applying a partnership approach.

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.

How to apply to JTP Groundwork?

The only valid way to apply is via this [EU-Survey questionnaire](#) by the deadline of submission: 1 March 2024 at 23:00 CET.

Other support streams 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 [JTP Knowledge Hub](#), providing knowledge products and case studies on just transition, the [JTPeers Exchange](#) programme, the [JTPeers Experts](#) database, and [JTP Groundwork](#).

Open calls for applications:

- 1. JTPeers Exchange** – Are you looking to engage in **up to three days of in-person workshops and site visits** with other **JTF regions** and learn from each other? Or are you rather **seeking expert advice on a specific topic**? JTPeers Exchange is the peer-to-peer exchange programme of the JTP facilitating region-to-region and expert-to-region exchanges, both in-person and online. Apply [here](#) until **1 March 2024**.
- 2. JTP 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 (cross-sectorial) and equal opportunities and will develop practical solutions and tools to tackle local challenges** and mitigate the adverse effects of the transition process. Apply to become a core member [here](#) until **1 March 2024**.

More information

For more information about the JTP Groundwork application process, please refer to the FAQ and the application form itself (either via the EU-Survey questionnaire used for formal submissions, or this PDF file version of the form meant to act as a convenient reference to help you prepare your own content). You may also contact us directly: jtpgroundwork@justtransitionplatform.eu.