



Just Transition Fund

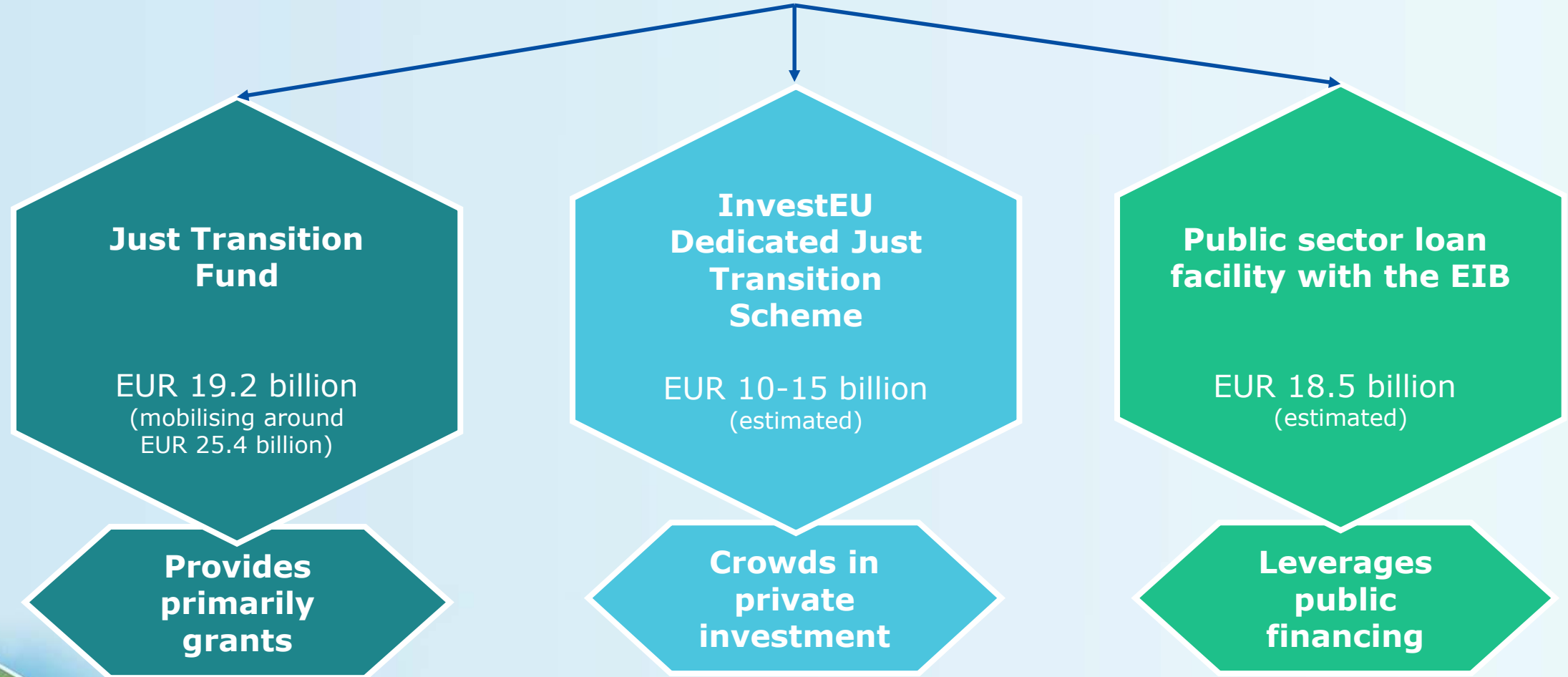
Territorial just transition plans and youth empowerment

Sander Happaerts and Sylwia Borkowska
European Commission, DG REGIO

Social dialogue on policies in the transition to carbon neutrality,
Stara Zagora, 30 September 2022

Just Transition Mechanism (JTM)

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



Territorial just transition plans (TJTPs) give access to all 3 pillars

JTF intervention logic

- **Transition process at national level:**
 - including timeline with key transition steps towards EU 2030 and 2050 targets
- Evidence of the **impact at the level of the concerned territory** (by 2030 or before):
 - **social** impacts (e.g. unemployment, need for reskilling)
 - **economic** impacts (e.g. closure of sites)
 - **demographic, environmental** or **health** impacts
- **Investments that contribute to alleviate these impacts:**
 - in particular **(re)skilling** of people and **economic diversification**
 - but also renewable energy, sustainable local mobility, digitalisation, soil regeneration, circular economy, social infrastructure, etc.

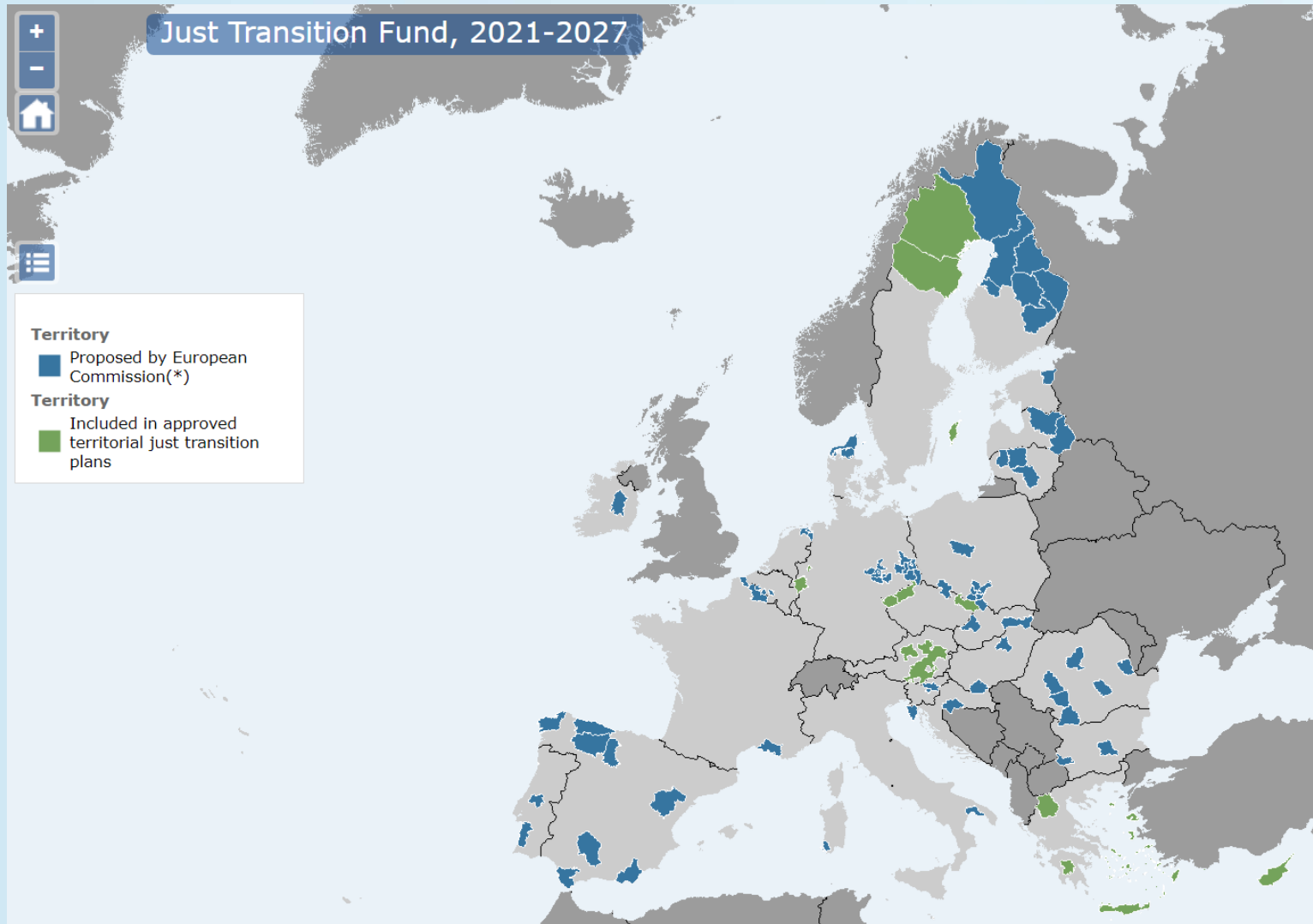
Coal regions: phase-out plans should be clear



- TJTPs 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)

- TJTPs should demonstrate evidence of a transition process and its **impact at the level of the concerned territory** in the near future (by 2030 or before)

JTF programming: state of play

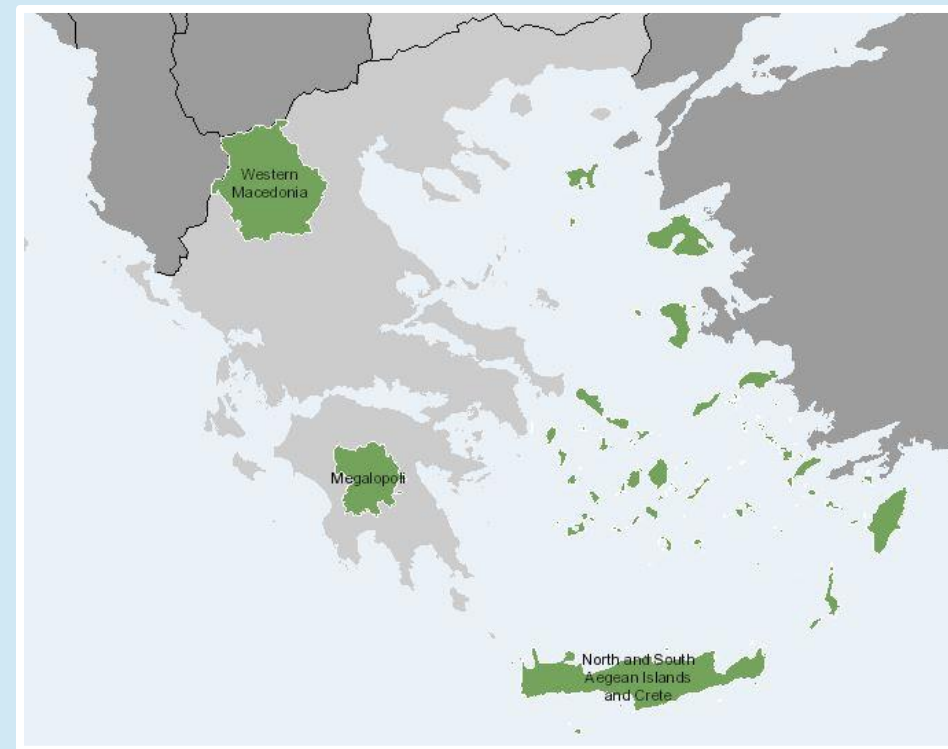


See JTP website

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/jtf/just-transition-platform

JTF Programme: Greece

- Became first EU Member State to adopt **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** Programme in **June 2022**
- **€1.38 billion** from JTF to mobilise up to **€1.63 billion** investments
- Majority (87%) of Greek JTF funding to go to **Western Macedonia & Megalopoli**: phase-out of lignite (brown coal)
- **Islands**: closure of diesel power plants and connection to continental grid
- JTF to cushion **impact of mine/plant closures** and transition to **new industries and energy sources**
- JTF Programme and TJTPs available here: www.sdam.gr/node/431



*Alongside its Programme, Greece has adopted three Territorial Just Transition Plans covering **Western Macedonia, Megalopoli, and the North and South Aegean Islands and Crete***

The Just Transition Platform (JTP)

- Assist all stakeholders in accessing JTM support
- High-level **JTP conferences**
 - Next one: 24-26 October (in Brussels and online)
 - Agenda and registration: bit.ly/3BypCwV
- **Working groups** for carbon-intensive regions
- Webpage with helpdesk (+ in the future: database of projects and experts)
- Link to Coal Regions in Transition initiative (dedicated work stream for coal, peat, oil shale regions)





Youth empowerment for a Just Transition: Who can do what?

Sylwia Borkowska,
Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

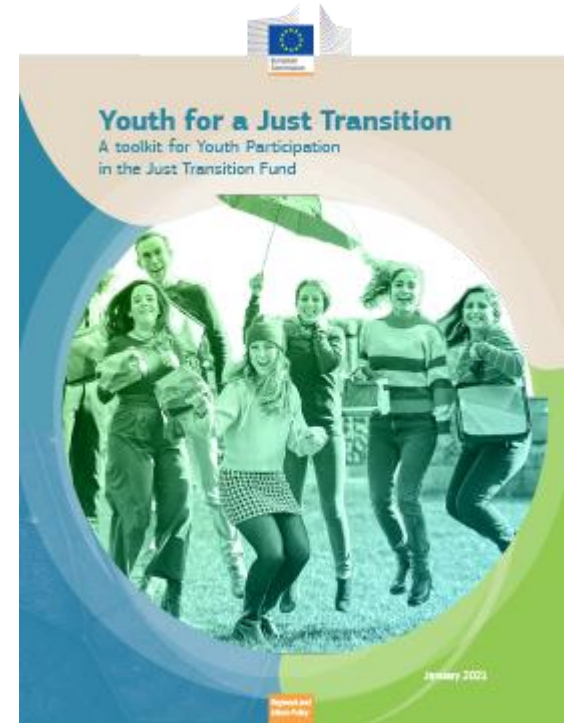
What can TJTPs do to attract and retain young people in just transition regions?

Implementation

- Encourage project applicants to consult and co-create **content of projects** with youth
- Set aside a **budget for small-scale financing** (e.g. mini grants) for youth's ideas
- Involve **youth representatives** in the working groups
- Reimburse the costs incurred by youth representatives
- Connect **policy-makers** involved in JTF with young people

Monitoring & evaluation

- Ensure two youth representatives in the monitoring committee
- Prepare a publically available online data platform
- Involve youth representatives in preparing the evaluation reports
- Organise public debates regarding JTF with young people (e.g. in schools)



More info:

[Toolkit](#)

[Good practices](#)



Youth Councils



Datathons, hackathons



Participatory budgeting

So many ways to get involved!



Youth-led design



Youth Fund, calls for projects/ideas



Civic monitoring



Youth Ambassadors, Citizen researchers



Structured dialogue, Co-creating workshops



Participatory arts

How does the Commission support young people's initiatives and ideas on just transition?

EUTeens4Green

- € 700,000 for grants (up to € 10.000)
- Call open till **3 November**
- Youth initiatives
- 15-24 years old
- Up to 12 months
- [More info](#)
[Applications](#)

New European Bauhaus Prizes

- Strand B 'Rising Stars' for young people's ideas (under 30 years old)
- Prize: EUR 15,000
- 4 categories
- Call to be announced in December 2022
- [More info](#)

European Climate Pact

- Youth strategy
- Climate Pact Ambassadors
- Climate pledges
- [More info](#)



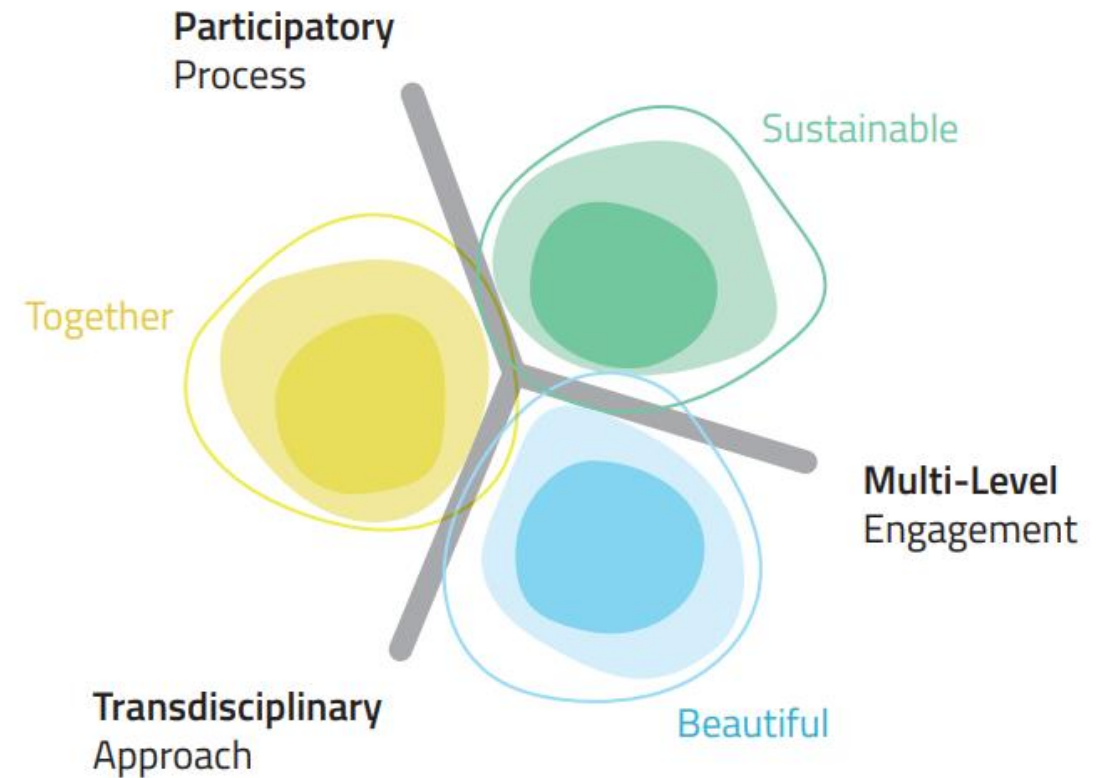
New European Bauhaus (NEB)

These ideas are reflected in **3 core values**, shared by NEB projects and initiatives:

- 1) Sustainability
- 2) Quality of experience (aesthetics, cultural and emotional benefits)
- 3) Inclusion

And **3 working principles** in the conception of NEB projects and initiatives:

- 1) Participatory process
- 2) Transdisciplinary approach
- 3) Multi-level engagement



Video: https://youtu.be/_jClMKlrnho

The NEB Prizes

- The 2021 and 2022 editions provide **inspirational examples** of NEB projects and ideas.



<http://prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/application/rivers-sofia>

**‘The Rivers of Sofia’:
Connecting Rivers and the City**

 Sofia,
Bulgaria

Key messages



- The transition will affect young people's future.
- They are more **likely to stay in their region**, if aware of and participate in the changes.
- **Their voice and action matters** for the development of the region!
- **Both managing authorities and young people themselves can do a lot** to support and improve the just transition in your region!

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Visit the **Just Transition Platform**: <https://europa.eu/!PCGFJK>

Sign up for the **JTP newsletter**: <https://europa.eu/!TuwyNU>

Read the **Staff Working Document** on TJTPs: <https://europa.eu/!nMwNU9>