European Green Deal & Just Transition Fund - overview

JTF sub-committee meetings

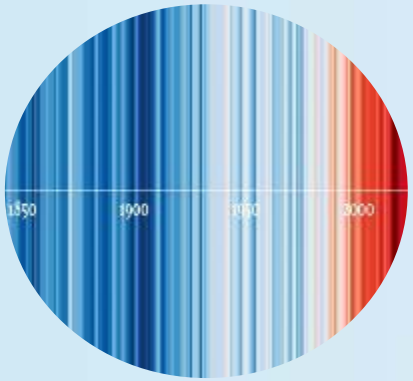
November 2024, Stara Zagora, Kyustendil, Pernik

DG REGIO unit E3

European Commission

Challenges we are facing

Climate change



Drought, heat and wildfires



Pollution



Growing societal concern



93% of Europeans see **climate change** as a serious problem.

Environmental Degradation biodiversity loss



Floods



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THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

CLIMATE PACT AND CLIMATE LAW

PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY

INVESTING IN SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

PROTECTING NATURE

STRIVING FOR GREENER INDUSTRY

FROM FARM TO FORK

ELIMINATING POLLUTION

LEADING THE GREEN CHANGE GLOBALLY

ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL

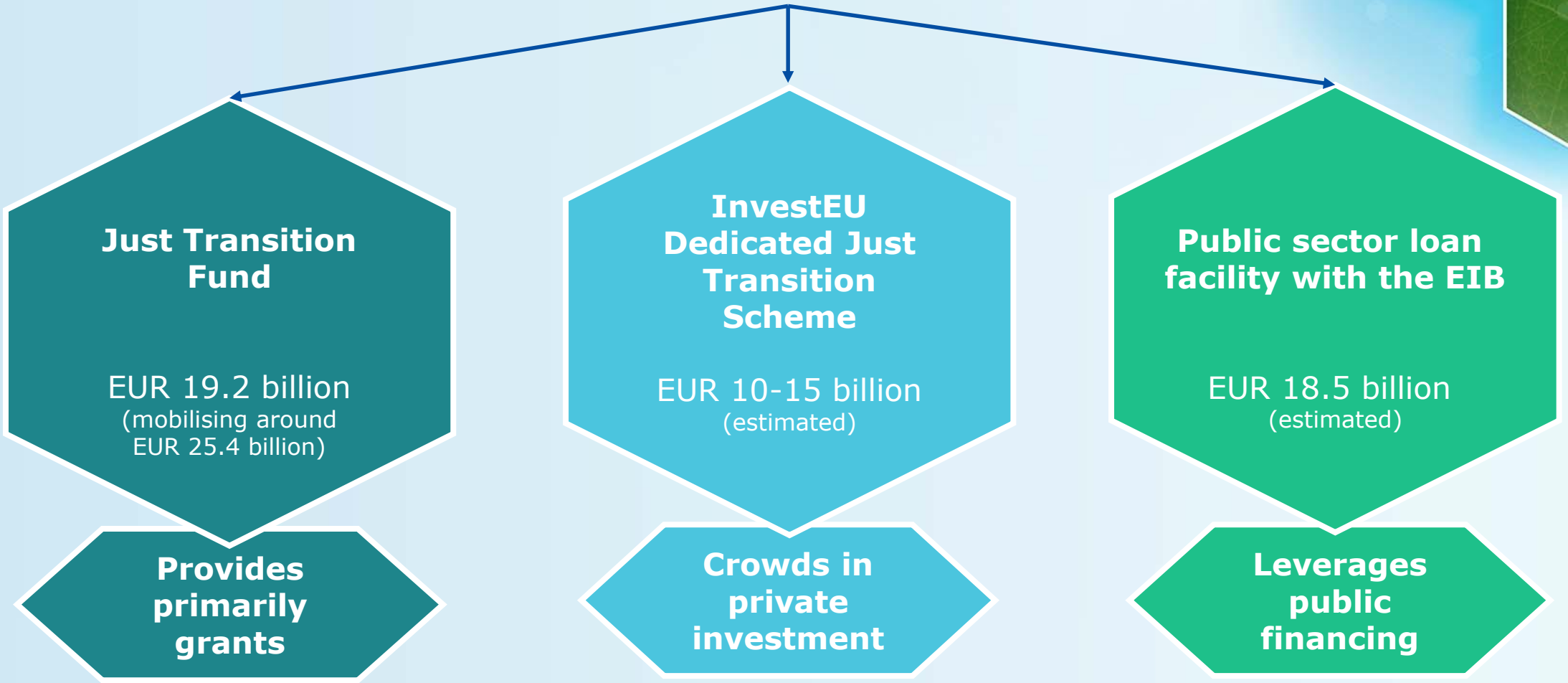
MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT

FINANCING GREEN PROJECTS



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

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Overall JTF intervention logic

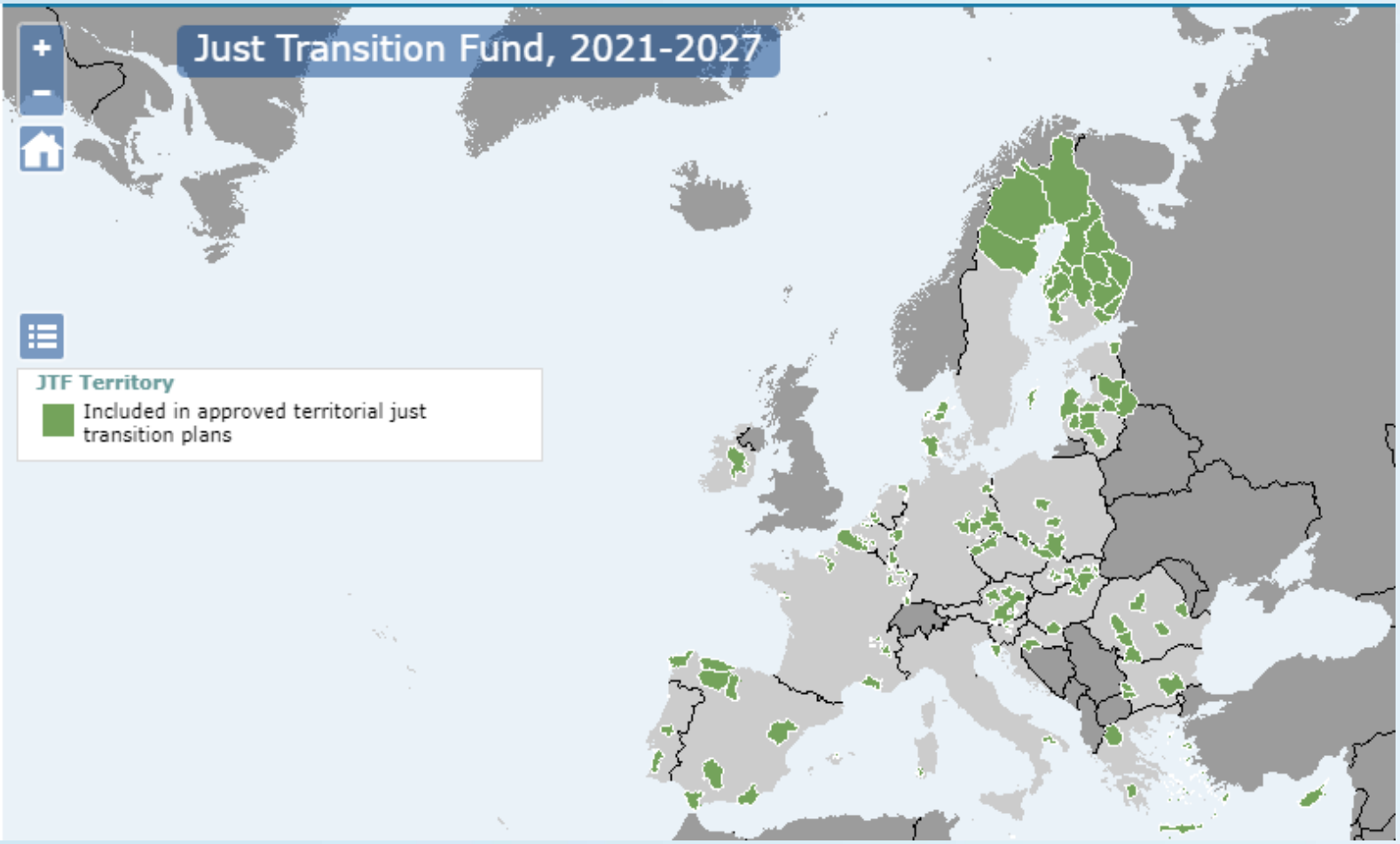
- **Transition process at national level**:
  - including timeline with key transition steps towards EU 2030 and 2050 targets
- Evidence of the **impact at the level of the concerned territory** (by 2030 or before):
  - **social** impacts (e.g. unemployment, need for reskilling)
  - **economic** impacts (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.
  - productive investments in large enterprises can be supported in very specific cases

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Excluded investments

- The JTF Regulation includes an exhaustive list of eligible investments. It also explicitly excludes:
  - The decommissioning or the construction of **nuclear power stations**;
  - The manufacturing, processing and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products;
  - Undertakings in difficulty, unless authorised under temporary State Aid rules established to address exceptional circumstances or under de *minimis* aid to support investments reducing energy costs in the context of the energy transition process;
  - Investment related to the production, processing, transport, distribution, storage or combustion of **fossil fuels**;
- Fossil fuel exclusion also limits potential investments in fossil fuel-based hydrogen and some ETS activities
- Support for investments in district heating is limited, and investments in fossil fuel-based heat production or waste-to-energy are excluded

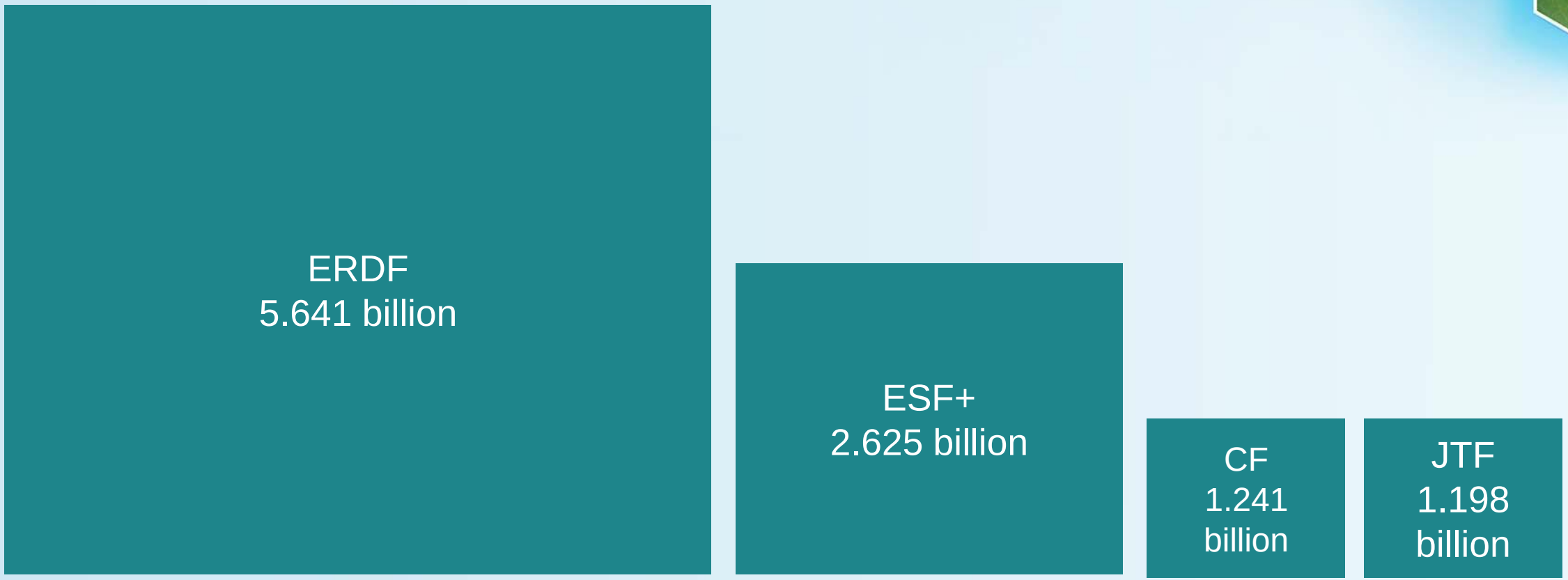
Just Transition Fund (JTF) programming concluded at the end of 2023



- JTF programmes adopted for all **27 MS**
- **70 Territorial Just Transition Plans** (TJTPs) **for 96 territories**
- Coal/peat/oil shale regions + regions with carbon-intensive industries
- **EUR 25.4 billion** (incl. co-funding)
- Discover the territories and plans: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/jtf/just-transition-platform
- Read the full story: https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/28yb-762c

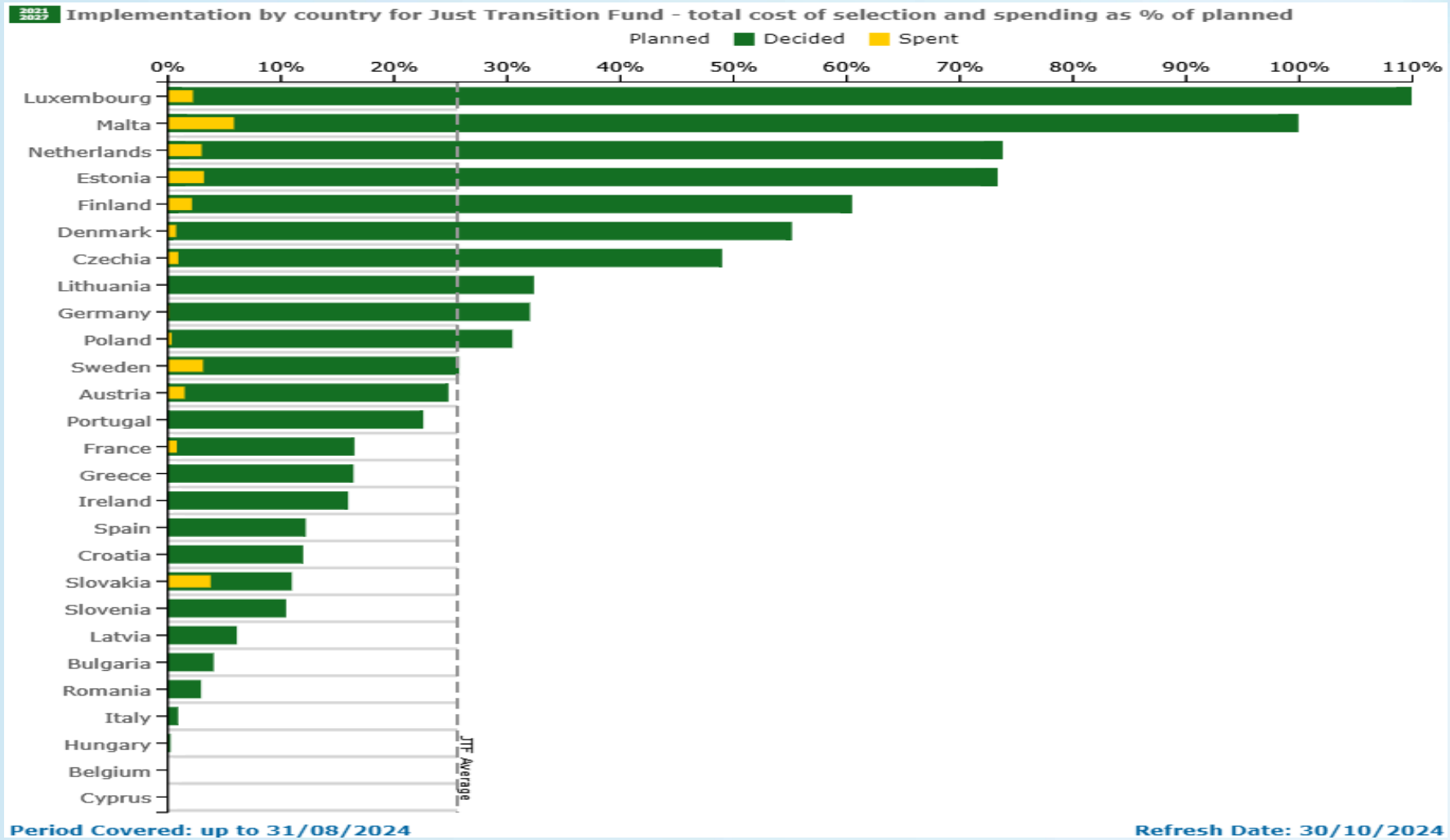
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2021 – 2027 cohesion policy funding in Bulgaria – distribution per fund



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Just Transition Fund – state of play



Source: [Open Data Platform]

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EC technical assistance sources

*"The **Just Transition Platform** puts people and communities at the centre of the transformation, by listening to their aspirations and giving them the tools to realise their ideas."*
ELISA FERREIRA, COMMISSIONER FOR COHESION AND REFORMS

- **JTP conferences** (last one: **October 2024**)
- **JTP Working groups** for carbon-intensive regions (steel, cement, chemicals and stakeholder involvement); outputs: practical solutions and tools, as well as recommendations, to tackle local challenges;
- **JTP Groundwork**: assistance to JTF regions on the ground
- **JTP Knowledge Hub:** case studies, toolkits, and catalogues on just transition good practices
- **JTPeers:** access to specialised knowledge, ebst practices and lessons learned
- **JTP Exchange**: Region-to-region exchange and Expert-to-region exchange
- Database of projects and experts

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JTF projects database - Kohesio

Addressing immediate challenges

Employment

Poland: Jobs after coal – re-skilling and up-skilling of 2,200 individuals, primarily former employees of mines and power plants affected by phasing out from lignite energy production in the Konin subregion

Brownfields

Czechia: POHO park – revitalising the area of a former mine into a post-mining centre / campus, offering the necessary facilities to visitors and potential investors

Supporting economic diversification

RDI, skills and entrepreneurship

Sweden: H2-Labs, Norrbotten – developing a test bed that will explore solutions for the production of renewable hydrogen

Netherlands: Greenwise Campus, Groningen – creating a regional knowledge and innovation hub as a joint effort of relevant stakeholders

Productive investments

Estonia: Magnet factory in Narva – construction of a factory producing rare earth magnets, including an R&D centre for new materials and applications for magnets, creating 1000 jobs

Supporting the energy transition

Renewables

Belgium: Hydrogen production unit in Frameries – setting up the production of renewable hydrogen (electrolysis of water using local renewable electricity from two wind turbines)

Slovakia: The use of geothermal energy in the Košice valley – increasing share of renewable energy sources in a district heating system in by tapping into the geothermal potential of the region

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Additional technical assistance sources

- **Technical Support Instrument**: strategy for the development of entrepreneurship, innovation and digitisation in Stara Zagora and a roadmap for its implementation (Stara Zagora Municipality)
  - ✓ Bulgaria benefitted from **one of the longest technical assistance projects under DG Reform's Technical Support Instrument**, which provided support for drafting the TJTPs.
  - ✓ Municipality of Stara-Zagora benefitting from an on-going TSI action

- **JASPERS (EIB) technical support**: on going assignment with the Managing Authority for the implementation of the Territorial Just Transition Plans in BG. Its main objective is to **provide support to building a mature project pipeline**.

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More technical assistance

- **Coal regions in transition initiative** share knowledge and experience between EU regions facing similar issues – on decarbonisation and economic diversification;
  - **TARGET (Technical Assistance for regions undergoing a Green Energy Transition):** aims to accelerate the transition by providing support to EU coal, peat and oil shale regions to roll out clean energy and energy efficiency solutions; provided by EIB;
  - **START technical assistance**: tailored short-term needs-based advice, assistance, and capacity-building to enhance capabilities and expertise to design, plan, govern, implement, and finance transition-related activities that are aligned with the EU's energy and climate targets and objectives.
- **European Local Energy Assistance** (ELENA): technical assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments targeting buildings and innovative urban transport
- **Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) groundwork**: a community-based platform that aim to support EU Member States and regions to make a better use of EU funds for sustainability transitions.

Other Funding opportunities

- Horizon Europe
- Funding for climate action
- LIFE Programme
- Innovation Fund
- Modernisation Fund
- Connecting Europe Facility
- The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

As of 2026, the new **Social Climate Fund** will dedicate €65 billion from the EU budget, and over €86 billion in total to support the most vulnerable citizens and small businesses with the green transition

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Contact: REGIO-E3-BG-HU-SI@ec.europa.eu

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

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

Track JTF **open data**: cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/funds/jtf/21-27

Read the **JTF data story**: cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/28yb-762c

Apply to the **Public Sector Loan Facility**: europa.eu/!VxYc8M

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

Check **TARGET**: https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions/target-technical-assistance_en

Check **"coal+ regions":** https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions/initiative-coal-regions-transition_en

Apply for **TSI:** https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en

Check out **JASPERS**: https://jaspers.eib.org/

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Thank you for your attention!
Благодаря за вниманието!



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