

Smart strategies for the transition in coal intensive regions

Project No: 836819

“Just Transition” - Ideas, projects and finance for life after coal in Jiu Valley

West Region (RO42)

- hybrid (both virtual and live physical) event -
Thursday, 22nd of October 2020 | Petroșani, ROMÂNIA

Event organisers



Academic partner



WHY TO ATTEND

- Organising this event in Jiu Valley will help enabling the energy transition process by merging investment / financing opportunities with potential project promoters / developers and individual projects / investments ideas;
- This event might be considered a first step in developing the ability, strength and sustainability of the local administration, businesses, academia and NGOs;
- Interactive session will be organised, allowing participants to ask questions and contribute to a constructive dialogue, thus motivating the local actors to action and empowering them to engage with the financial aspects and policies of the energy transition;
- The necessary background to implement Jiu Valley ITI (Integrated Territorial Investment) mechanism, including local and regional barriers, and needs will be identified;
- Good and proficient connections can be developed with experts/entities to assist local stakeholders' actions, plan and cultivate future strategic relationships.

CHALLENGES

The following **key topics** will be addressed:

- Ongoing projects/initiatives in Jiu Valley;
- Needs, barriers and opportunities in Jiu Valley in terms of sustainable energy technologies, safe & clean environment and labour market & social aspects;
- Policies and regulations in the field of energy (both electric and thermal) with emphasis on Jiu Valley resources potential and coal transition process. Supporting schemes;
- Financing opportunities - ongoing and future (2021-2027 programming period); Already secured funds;
- EU, national, and other international financing sources;
- Financial instruments / mechanisms (grants, loans, regional/local financial incentives etc.);
- Potential investments/investors – What need to be done, for Jiu Valley to be on the “InvestRomania¹” agenda?

in **fields of interest** as:

- *Sustainable/carbon neutral **economy***
 - **sustainable and efficient energy technologies and greener resources** (RES and alternative energies);
 - **attractive infrastructure** for potential investors (roads, utilities – water/n.g./electricity and heat, digitalisation, tourism);
 - **adequate agriculture** for the particularities of the area (e.g. animals breeding, growing berries shrubs and medicinal/aromatic plants);
- *Safe and clean **environment*** (former mining areas)
 - **land and buildings reclamation and use reconversion** (urban and rural regeneration oriented to leisure / industrial / cultural tourism, agriculture/vineyards, energy crops; solar energy on abandoned mining land/tailings);
- *Labour market and **social** issues*
 - **repopulating** the area by creating sustainable jobs and developing financial support tools for young people;
 - encouraging and supporting **entrepreneurship** and the small craftsman industry;
 - retraining former miners by merging **reskilling/apprenticeship programs** with new investments and dual education system;
 - regaining **citizens' livelihood** and stability.

¹InvestRomania is a Government body promoting and facilitating foreign investment in Romania <http://investromania.gov.ro/web/about-us/>

INVITED SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS. TARGET AUDIENCE

Speakers – Chairpersons

- Representatives of the EC and CRIT (Coal Regions in Transition Platform)
- Representatives of EBRD and EUREC
- Policy/decision makers and Regulatory Authorities: Ministry of European Funds, Ministry of Economy Energy and Business Environment, Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration; Environmental Fund Administration
- Horizon 2020, LIFE 2014-2020 National Contact Points
- NGOs representatives from GreenPeace Romania, Bankwatch Romania and Planeta Petrla
- Representatives of the local administration inside MoU for a Just Transition and public sectors organisations: ADR Vest (West Regional Development Agency) and Hunedoara County Council
- Representatives from PwC Romania – MFE consultant for “Strategy for the transition from coal of the Jiu Valley”
- Representatives of AISVJ and ISPE Proiectare și Consultanță, partners in TRACER project

Participants

Regional and local stakeholders, including:

- Policy-makers and various public sector organisations, National Agency for Mineral Resources;
- Business environment - associations, public entities, private businesses / SMEs and possibly individual businesses;
- Research and education institutions;
- Civil society organisations/trade unions and non-governmental organisations;
- Individuals / informal local leaders; and
- Media representatives.

FINAL AGENDA

Timing (EEST)	Sessions - Topics	Speakers – Chairpersons
09.30-10.00	<i>Participants registration</i>	
<i>Chairpersons Morning Sessions</i>	<i>Marian Dobrin, ISPE Proiectare și Consultanță Greg Arrowsmith, EUREC</i>	
10.00-10.10	Official opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sorin Radu, University of Petroșani ▪ Ioan Dan Gheorghiu, ISPE Proiectare și Consultanță
10.10-10.30	The challenge <i>“Top 10 needs, barriers and opportunities in Jiu Valley in terms of sustainable energy technologies, environment, social transformation and labour market”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximising former mining buildings post-coal value – current status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tiberiu Iacob Ridzi, Mayor of Petrosani, Signatory member of the MoU “Jiu Valley partnership for a Just Transition” ▪ Mihai Danciu, Planeta Petrla Association
10.30-11.35	Working Session I <i>“Overview of the ongoing projects/initiatives in Jiu Valley and RIS3 for NUTS2 West Region”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jiu Valley Strategy for the transition from coal, developed with the support of the EC-SRSS ▪ Assistance for all 6 Mayoralties in Jiu Valley, EC-START 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dinu Bumbăcea, PwC Romania ▪ Paul Baker, Ecorys

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smart Strategies for the Transition in Coal Intensive Regions - TRACER project, EC-H2020 ▪ Fields of Smart Specialisation in the West Region (RO42) ▪ Alternative development scenarios for Jiu Valley in life after coal ▪ RES projects in coal regions - Romania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marian Dobrin, ISPE Proiectare și Consultanță ▪ Sorin Maxim, ADR Vest ▪ Alexandru Mustață, Bankwatch Romania ▪ Vlad Cătuna, GreenPeace Romania
11.35-12.10	<p>Working Session II <i>“Policies and support in the field of energy and environment appropriate for Jiu Valley coal transition process”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorsed strategies and action plans ▪ Supporting schemes (EE, RES, cogeneration) ▪ National funds – current and future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nicolae Havrileț, Ministry of Economy Energy and Business Environment ▪ Iulia Camelia Corporan, Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration ▪ Ion Vasile, Environmental Fund Administration
12.10-12.30	Q&A	
12.30-13.00	<i>Brief snack break</i>	
Chairpersons Afternoon Sessions	Sabina Irimie, AISVJ Paul Baker, Ecorys	
13.00-14.15	<p>Working Session III <i>“Ongoing and future financing opportunities”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU 2021-2027 programming period; ESIF and Integrated Territorial Investment mechanism for Jiu valley <p>Other funds and financial instruments as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just Transition Fund ▪ Modernisation Fund and Invest EU ▪ EBRD support and financing approach for coal regions in transition ▪ EU funds for R&I (e.g. Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, LIFE Program) ▪ Norwegian and EEA grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adrian-Marius Mariciuc, Ministry of European Funds ▪ Ctibor Kocman, EC – DG REGIO ▪ Nikolaos Koukouzas, EC – DG ENER, CRIT ▪ Greg Arrowsmith, EUREC ▪ Sumeet Manchanda, EBRD UK ▪ Iulia Mihail, H2020 NCP ▪ Marisanda Pîrîianu, Life 2014-2020 NCP
14.15-14.50	<p>Working Session IV <i>“How to become attractive for investments?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Success stories in attracting EU funds and investors by local administrations ▪ Future interests at county and regional level for Jiu Valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dan Lungu, Mayoralty of Ciugud Commune, Alba County ▪ Sorin Maxim, ADR Vest ▪ Mircea Bobora, Hunedoara County Council
14.50-15.10	Q&A	
15.10-15.30	<p>Event closing remarks <i>Key findings and follow-ups</i></p>	<p>ISPE Proiectare și Consultanță AISVJ – Asociația Institutul Social Valea Jiului</p>

THE BACKGROUND

In December 2019 the European Commission launched the **European Green Deal**², Europe's new growth strategy – COM (2019) 640 final. To this aim, according to the Roadmap³, as Annex to the COM (2019) 640 final, in January 2020 the EC will propose a “Just Transition Mechanism”, which includes a “**Just Transition Fund**”. In the factsheet it is underlined that “The Just Transition Mechanism⁴ will focus on the regions and sectors that are most affected by the transition because they depend on fossil fuels or carbon-intensive processes”. There are still debates, at the EC level, related to the programs that will supply the necessary budget for this new Mechanism. It is to be decided if additional contributions will be requested from Member States or the EC will create the Fund using the headings and amounts that the European Council took into consideration during December's meetings in Bruxelles. In addition, decision must be made by the EC under which programmes' umbrella, relevant to the transition, must this new fund be? ERDF, ESF or CF? The financial-instruments-component to the Just Transition Mechanism will be supplied by the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan – SEIP, which is the successor to Juncker's European Fund for Strategic Investments. The total amount of private-sector investment that the SEIP wants to underwrite is 1 trn €, of which 10% for Just Transition projects.

Additionally, according to COM (2019) 640 final “The Commission proposal for a **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument** proposes to allocate a target of 25% of its budget to climate-related objectives”. Also, “The EU will put emphasis on supporting its immediate neighbours. The ecological transition for Europe can only be fully effective if the EU's immediate neighbourhood also takes effective action. Work is underway on a green agenda for the Western Balkans. The Commission and the High Representative are also envisaging a number of strong environment, energy and climate partnerships with the Southern Neighbourhood and within the Eastern Partnership.”

The **Modernisation Fund**⁵ set up under the revised ETS Directive will be more than double compared to the size initially envisaged (applicable to 10 Member States, including Romania). In November 2019, the EC announced that it now stands at 660 M EUAs (emissions allowances). At 25 € / EUA, that equates to 17 bn EUR for the period 2021-2030, we can roughly estimate that Romania will get around 3-4 bn EUR. Romania⁶ will launch the call for proposals in 2021.

The EC has also proposed a funding programme worth billion for the period 2021-2030 (with some amount possibly made available before 2021) called **ETS Innovation Fund**⁷. It will be built on the NER300 programme, which saw 2.1 bn EUR awarded to 38 innovative renewable energy and one CCS project, and will additionally include measures to decarbonise industrial production.

In Romania, for the next programming period **2021-2027**, it is envisaged to implement the financing programs at regional level, with emphasis on the territorial approach. Particularly for Jiu Valley micro-region, the **ITI (Integrated Territorial Investment)** and CLLD (Community Led Local Development) financial mechanisms will be used, based on the local / regional integrated development strategies.

Regarding the **strategic reference documents and initiatives** targeting Jiu Valley coal micro-region in transition, which are under development and will be synchronised for their complementarity, thus avoiding overlaps, we underline the followings:

- “Strategy for the transition from coal of the Jiu Valley” for the period 2021-2027, developed with the financial and technical support of the EC, through SRSS (Structural Reform Support Service within the European Commission) under the Ministry of European Funds (MFE) coordination⁸;
- EC assistance services accessed in 2019 by all 6 Jiu Valley's Mayors through START (Secretariat's Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition);
- “Jiu Valley Research and Innovation (R&I) Strategy and Roadmap” for a smart transition to a sustainable energy future on a medium- and long-term 2030/2050, prepared within TRACER project funded by H2020.

²The European Green Deal, COM (2019) 640 final https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

³Roadmap to the European Green Deal https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication-annex-roadmap_en.pdf#page=4

⁴Just Transition Mechanism https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_19_6716

⁵Modernisation Fund https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/five-beneficiary-member-states-opt-transfer-additional-allowances-modernisation-fund_en

⁶https://energypost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/28_June_PGE_event_MF.pdf#page=6

⁷<http://ner400.com/>

⁸<http://mfe.gov.ro/mfe-a-gazduit-astazi-conferinta-de-lansare-a-proiectului-strategie-pentru-tranzitia-de-la-carbune-in-valea-jiului-privind-perioada-2021-2027/>



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