

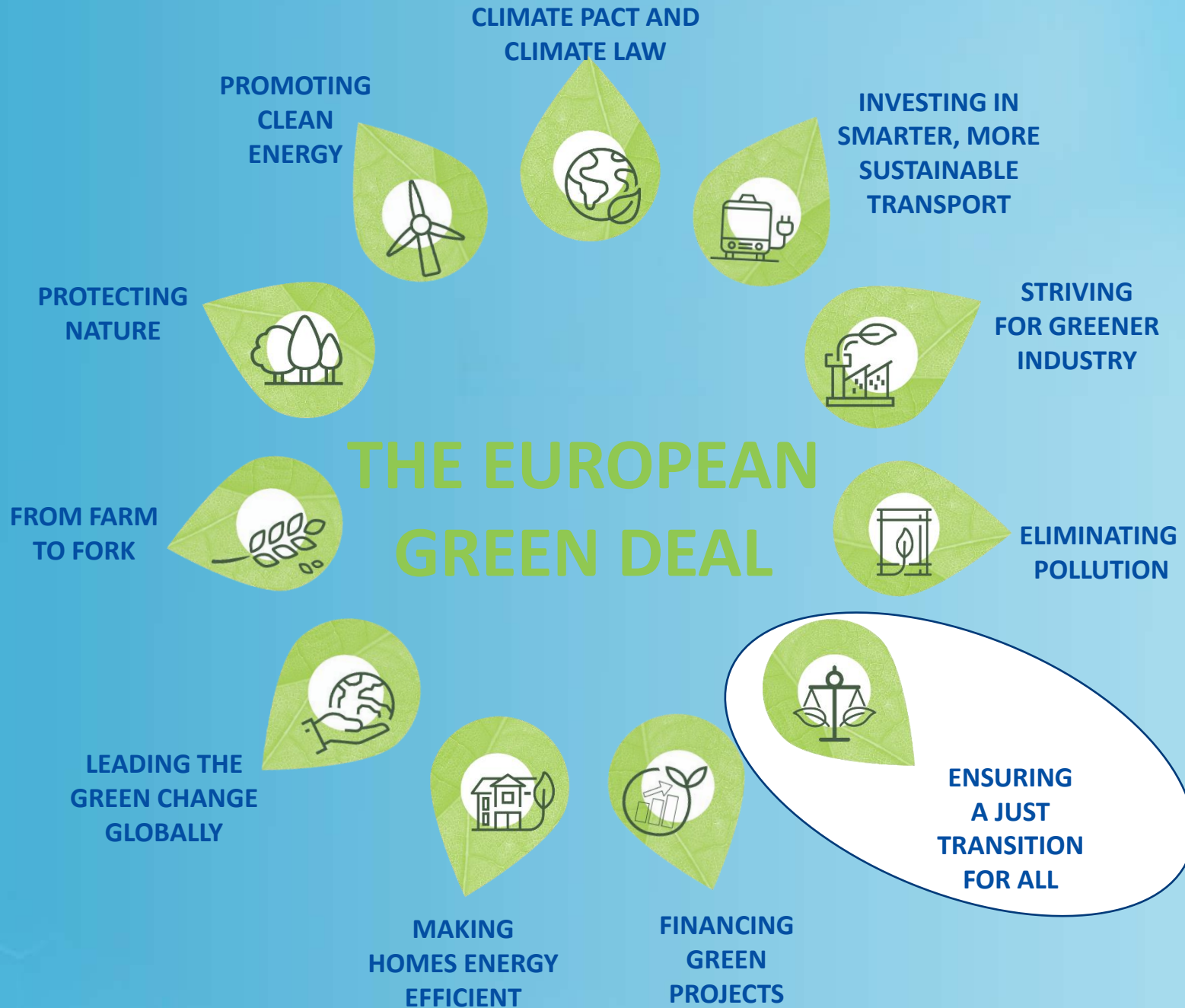


Just Transition Fund and programmes for EU regions

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Regional workshop IndustriAll, Prague, 23 November 2021







Cohesion policy in the European Green Deal



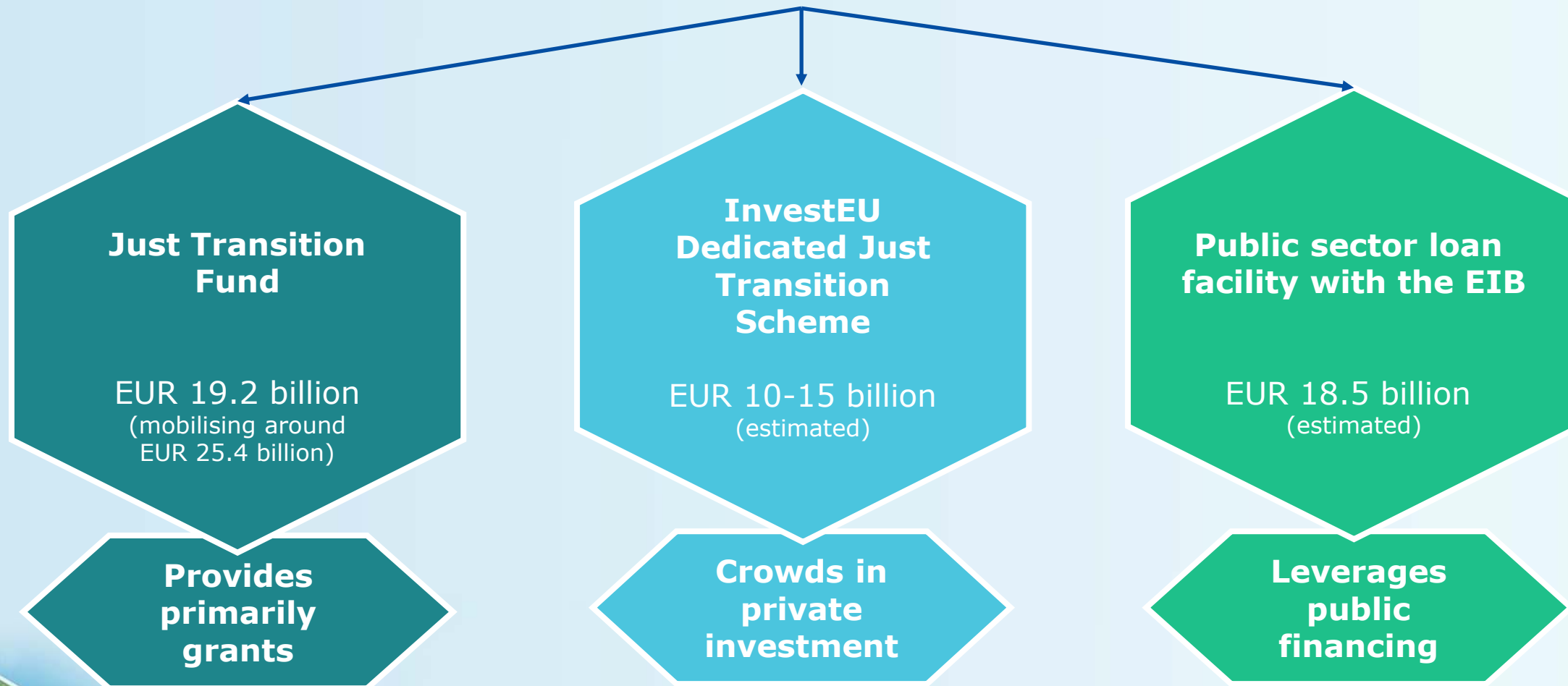
*'Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world. In this transition, **we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point.** We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there.'*

EUR 392 billion in 2021-2027 (ERDF, CF, JTF, ESF+) to:

-  Invest in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation
-  Deploy technological and social innovation on a large scale
-  Facilitate phase-out of unsustainable practices
-  Ensure a just transition for all regions

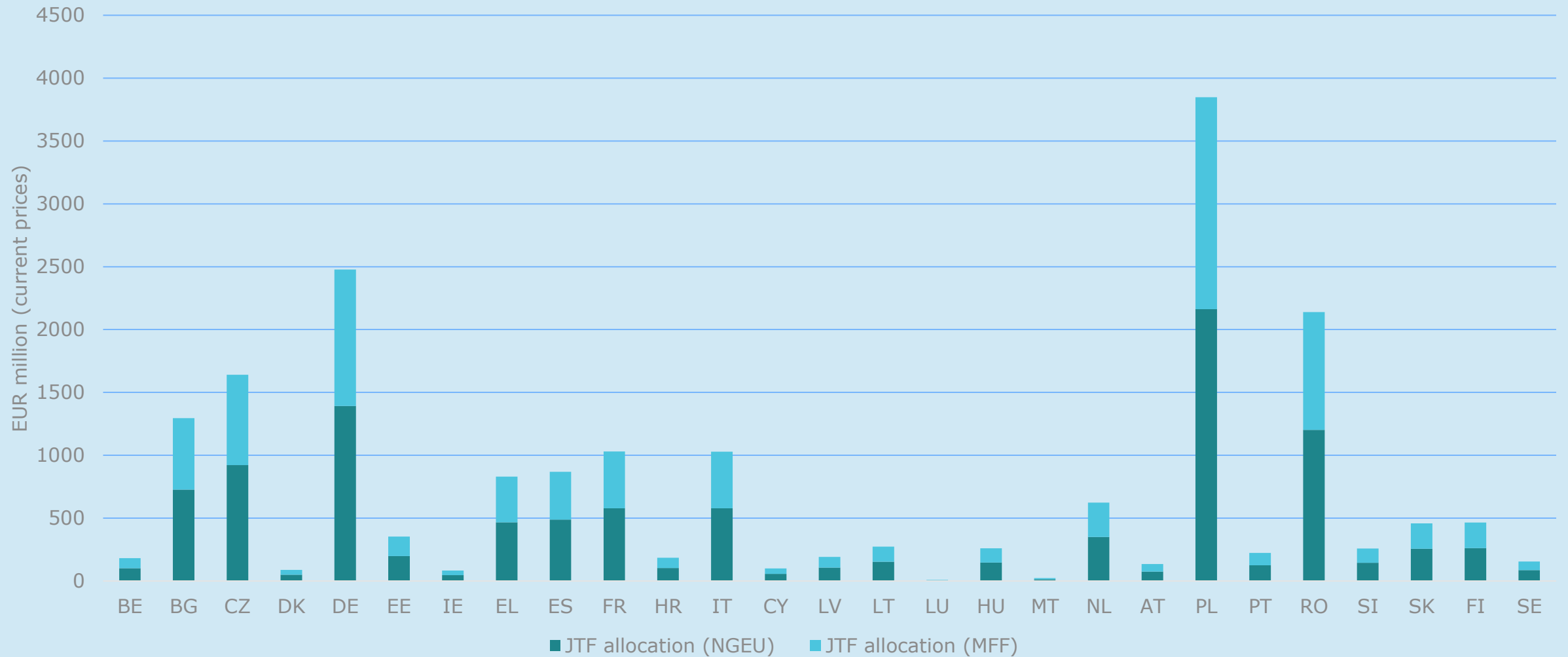
Just Transition Mechanism (JTM)

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

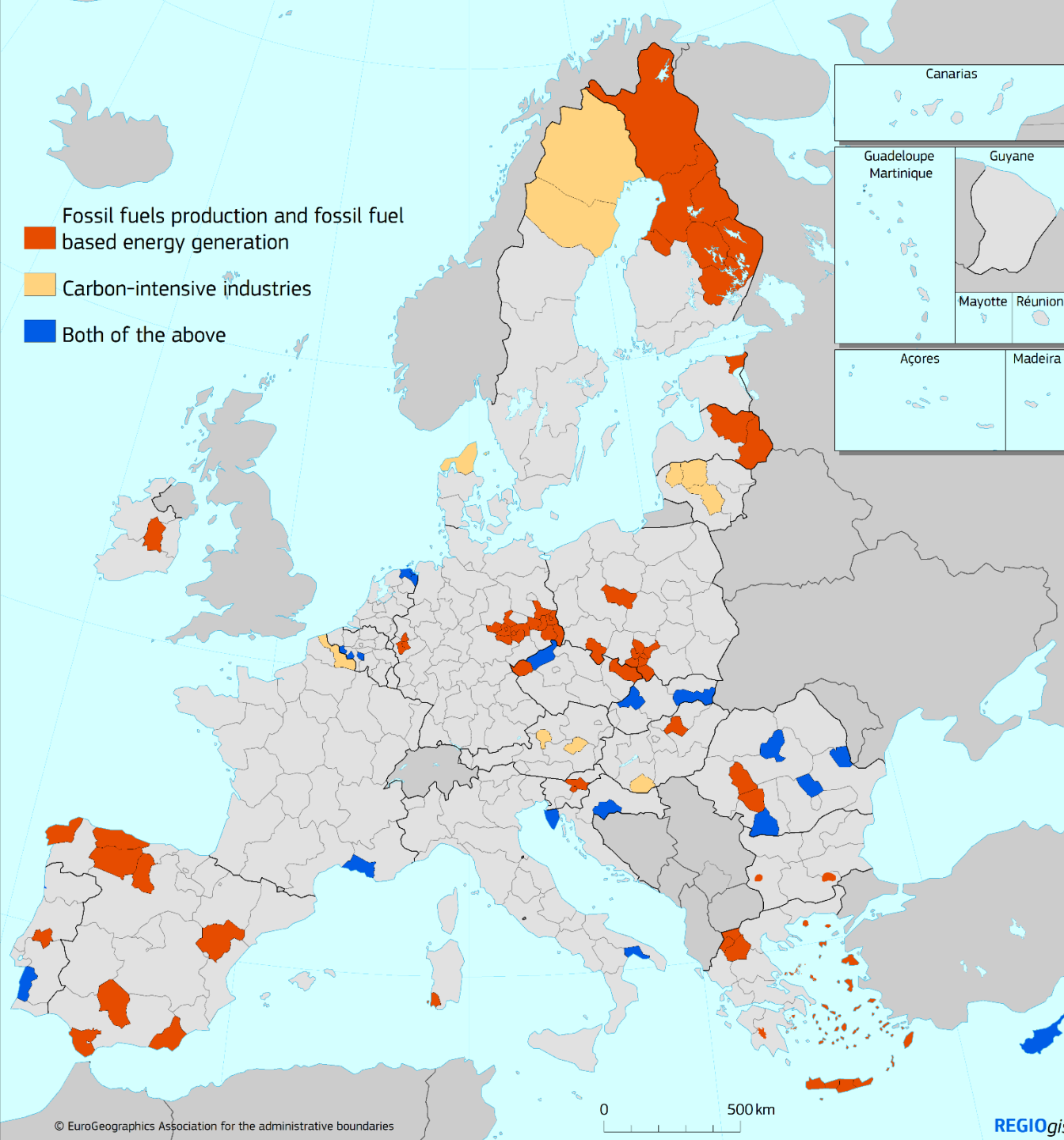


Territorial just transition plans (TJTPs) give access to all 3 pillars

Just Transition Fund (JTF) allocations



Eligible regions



- Focus on the regions hardest hit by the transition, because they are heavily dependent on:
 - economic activities based on the **production of fossil fuels**, which are expected to face an irreversible decline, or
 - **industries with high carbon-intensity** (e.g. steel, cement, chemicals), which will need to undergo transformation
- ... and face negative socio-economic impacts resulting from the transition

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.

Programming overview

- Around 70 TJTPs expected in total (linked to 40+ programmes)
 - Self-standing or multi-fund programmes
 - National or regional programmes
 - One or several TJTPs per programme
- **4 TJTPs formally submitted** and under assessment, from 2 MS (October 2021)
- Most TJTPs expected Q1-Q2 2022
- Overall delay in cohesion policy programming



Lessons learnt from ongoing dialogue

Strengths

- Impressive investment by local actors and public administrations
- Ambitious visions for climate-neutral future of affected regions
- Transition pathways for carbon-intensive regions

Weaknesses

- Planning of transition process is incomplete in some cases
- 'ERDF+' rather than focus on most negative impacts of the transition
- Needs for (re)skilling are underdeveloped
- Lack of justification to support investment in large enterprises or ETS activities
- Complementarities with JTM pillars 2 and 3 are missing
- All relevant stakeholders are not always involved

Partnership

Involvement of the public and of all stakeholders is crucial to the success of the JTF:

- Partnership principle of cohesion policy
- Regional and local authorities, economic and social partners, civil society and research institutions and universities should be involved
- **Trade unions** in particular should be mobilised in the debate on the future of their territories
- Important role of **youth**
- **Gender equality** should be promoted and vulnerable groups considered



The Just Transition Platform (JTP)

- **Assist all stakeholders** in accessing JTM support
- High-level **JTP events** help to:
 - share knowledge and good practices
 - support capacity-building and exchanges across sectors
 - provide advice on just transition to authorities and stakeholders involved in JTM-related activities
- **Dedicated webpage** with helpdesk and database of projects and experts
- **Working groups** for carbon intensive-regions
- Link to Coal Regions in Transition initiative (dedicated work stream for coal, peat, oil shale regions)



Complementarities with other funds

- **JTM Pillar 2:** dedicated Just Transition Scheme under InvestEU to crowd in private investment
- **JTM Pillar 3:** Public Sector Loan Facility to leverage additional public funding
- Other EU funds:
 - **ERDF, Cohesion Fund**, e.g. for technology deployment and infrastructure
 - **ESF+**, e.g. for green skills and green jobs
 - **Recovery and Resilience Facility** to support the recovery from COVID-19
 - Other, e.g. Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE programme, Horizon Europe, Digital Europe Programme, Research Fund for Coal and Steel, EU ETS Innovation Fund, Modernisation Fund



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Visit the Just Transition Platform: ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/finance-and-green-deal/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-platform_en

Read the Staff Working Document on TJTPs:

ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/theswdocs/jtf/swd_territ_just_trans_plan_en.pdf