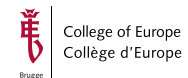


# Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

**Iryna Novak**

Communications expert, Secretariat of the initiative

Regional workshop on Just Transition, Trade union involvement, Collective Bargaining and Social Dialogue in Western Balkan Countries  
22 March 2022, Bucharest



# The Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

- Launched in December 2020
- Delivers support to coal regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

## Objectives

- Create an **open platform** for stakeholders to communicate, exchange and cooperate
- Building ties between EU coal regions and their counterparts in the WB and UA through **region-to-region exchanges**
- Building capacity through the **Coal Regions Learning Academy**
- Technical assistance to pilot regions to develop transition roadmaps
- Helping coal regions accessing financing for transition projects and programmes

More: <https://ec.europa.eu/coal-regions-western-balkans-ukraine>

\* The designation of Kosovo is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

# The Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Led and managed by the European Commission and 6 collaborating international partners:

- World Bank
- Energy Community Secretariat
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Poland's National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management (NFOSiGW)
- College of Europe in Natolin



# The Secretariat of the initiative

- Launched in February 2021
- Main contact point for regions and other relevant stakeholders via [webpages](#)
- Dedicated e-mailbox [secretariatWBUA@coalregions.eu](mailto:secretariatWBUA@coalregions.eu)
- Consortium of different organisations



**Elodie Salle**  
Project  
Coordinator



**Carlo Della Libera**  
EU CRIT  
Connection



**Veronika Müller**  
Support  
Coordinator



**Toma Pavlov**  
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**Damir Miljevic**  
Energy Transition  
Expert



**Iryna Novak**  
Communications  
Expert



**Victoria Huisa**  
Events  
Expert



**Carsten Rothballer**  
Coal Region  
Exchange  
Programme



**George Stiff**  
Exchange  
Expert

# Objectives of the secretariat

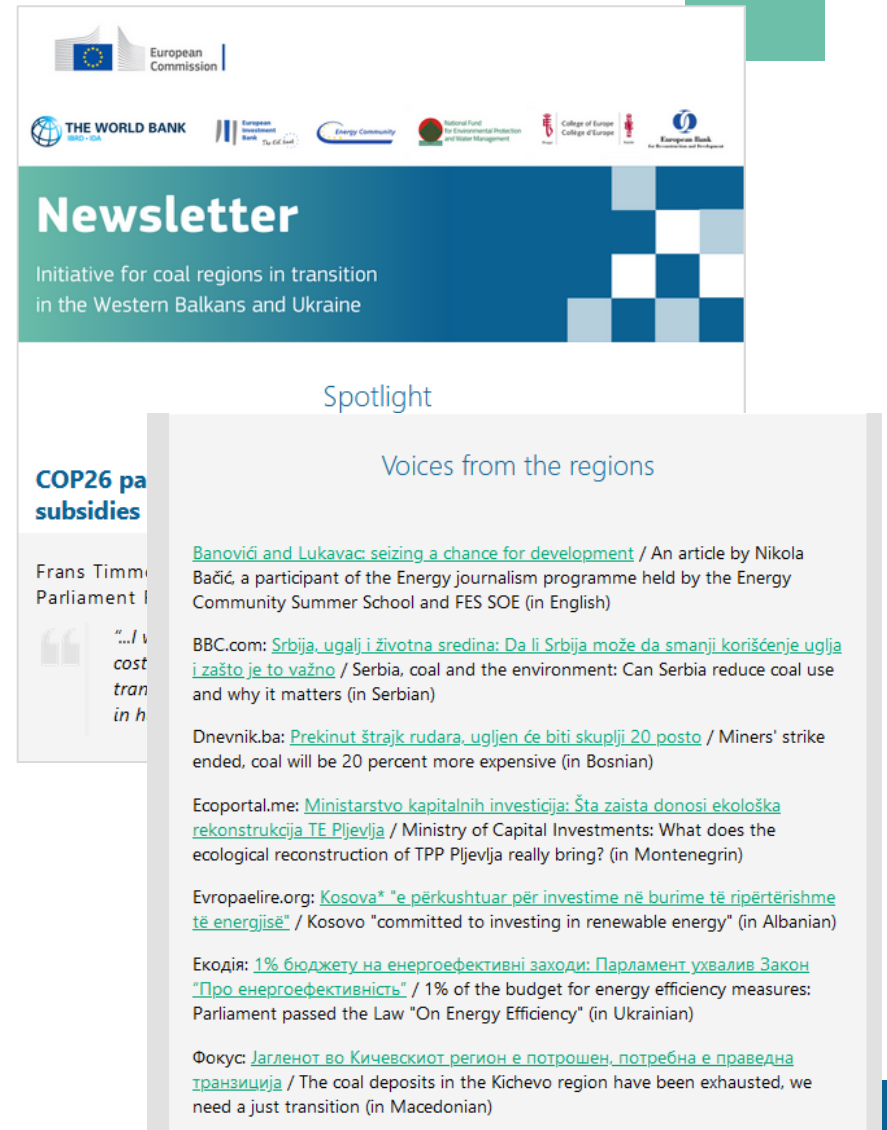
- **Enable multi-stakeholder dialogue** on policy framework, practices and financing for successful energy transition
- **Promote political dialogue**, visibility and momentum around the transition agenda
- **Facilitate the development of strategies and projects** in coal regions through peer learning, knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices
- **Act as a focal point** for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine



<https://twitter.com/Energy4Europe/status/1477946336720814080>

# Stakeholder engagement

- Building a comprehensive database of stakeholders:
  - State, regional and local authorities
  - Coal and coal-related private sector institutions
  - Civil society organisations, including focus on youth
  - Trade unions/Social partners
  - Academic institutions, and more.
- Engage in the dialogue via communications activities: webpages, social media, press releases, videos, regular newsletters and webinars
- Local thematic and communication experts to reach all stakeholders



# Promote the dialogue via events

- Annual Initiative meetings, one per year
- Up to 6 country meetings in 2022-2023
- Interpretation into local languages
- Support to the Coal Regions Learning Academy activities

Academy's survey:  
[europa.eu/!fy48dy](https://europa.eu/!fy48dy)



Inicijativa za regione uglja  
u tranziciji na Zapadnom  
Balkanu i u Ukrajini

Godišnji sastanak  
23. i 24. juna od 14.00 do 17.00

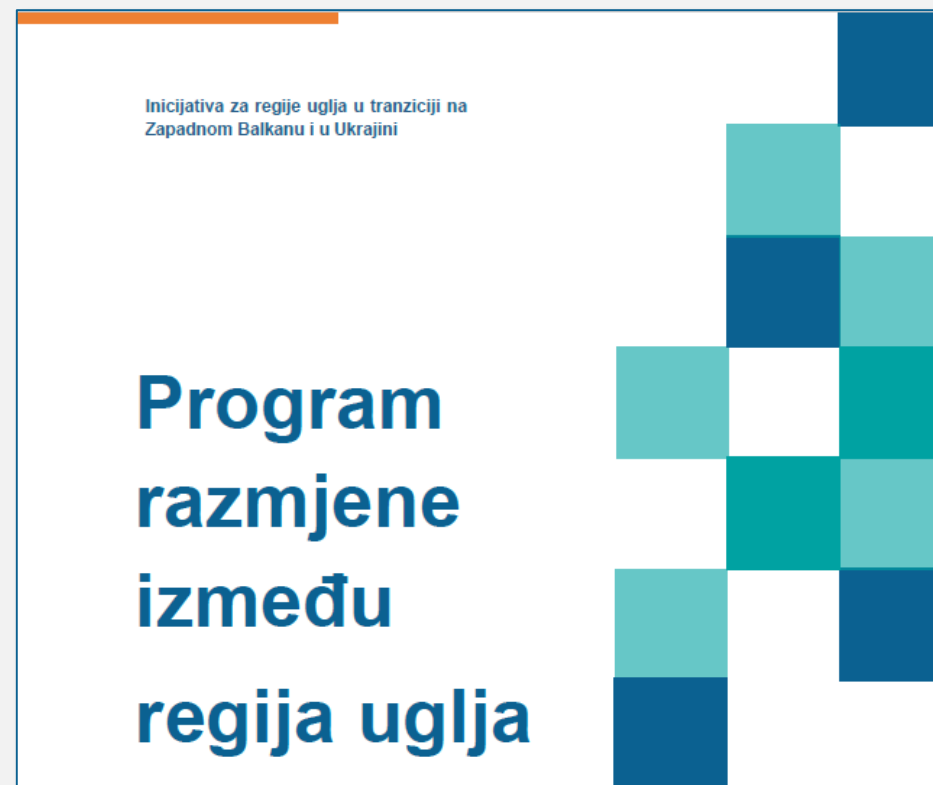
Logos at the bottom: European Commission, THE WORLD BANK (IBRD - IDA), European Investment Bank, Energy Community, National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, College of Europe, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## Annual meeting 2021:

- Presentations and recordings [here](https://ec.europa.eu/coal-regions-western-balkans-ukraine)  
(<https://ec.europa.eu/coal-regions-western-balkans-ukraine>  
-> Get involved)
- 34 speakers, 10 sessions
- 400 registrations
- Average of 230 participants attending on both days

# Coal Regions Exchange Programme

- Objective: foster the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices between coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine and EU coal regions
- Delegations: public authorities, development agencies, energy companies, industry, trade unions, academia, and civil society representatives
- 32 applications were received
- 14 applicants will participate in 6 exchanges, which have been confirmed by now. They are starting to prepare their cooperation
- Participants from: BA, Kosovo, ME, MK, RS
- EU counterparts: coal regions in BG, CZ, EL, PL, RO, SI



## More details will be available:

[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-western-balkans-and-ukraine/coal-regions-exchange-programme\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-western-balkans-and-ukraine/coal-regions-exchange-programme_en)

Or: [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu) > Energy > Topics > Oil, gas and coal > Coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine > Coal regions exchange programme



# Get involved in the initiative

## Visit

<https://ec.europa.eu/coal-regions-western-balkans-ukraine>

### Coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

#### Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Building bridges for a just transition by helping coal regions to move towards a carbon-neutral economy

#### Get involved

Events, support and benefits for implementing a just energy transition in coal regions.

#### Newsletters and news

News related to the coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

#### Coal regions exchange programme

Allowing regions in the Western Balkans, Ukraine and the EU to share knowledge on coal phase out and clean energy transition.


#### Coal Regions Learning Academy

Capacity building for designing and implementing clean energy transition strategies

All stakeholders are welcome to join!

## Subscribe

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/ener/use-r-subscriptions/2330/create>



18/08/2021

European Commission

THE WORLD BANK

Newsletters

Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Spotlight

Coal regions exchange programme

Coal regions in the Western Balkans, Ukraine and the EU are invited to join an exchange programme to accelerate just local energy transitions. The programme is an opportunity for regions to start direct, one-to-one dialogues, connect with different stakeholders, learn from each other, and transfer knowledge on moving away from coal. Deadline for applications: 15 September 2021.

more

### Multilateral Development Banks' support for a just transition

On 29 October 2021, several Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) released a joint statement outlining their commitment to five High-Level Principles for a just transition. The principles aim to help guide MDB support for a just transition, and to ensure consistency, credibility, and transparency in their efforts.

more

### 2022 Erasmus+ is open to NEAR countries

North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey will be fully associated with the 2022 Erasmus+ programme, while other NEAR countries can participate in parts of the programme that are open to international cooperation through a dedicated allocation from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) or the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

more

### Coal regions participated in EU's side event at COP26

Watch the recording of the session "Voices from the regions: sharing first-hand experiences of coal phase-out in Europe and beyond", where Rinora Gojani spoke about challenges of regional transitions in the Western Balkans, and how they could be addressed.

more

# Thank you!

Contact us: [secretariatWBUA@coalregions.eu](mailto:secretariatWBUA@coalregions.eu)

Learn more: <https://europa.eu/!Kg68GN>

Twitter: [@Energy4Europe](https://twitter.com/Energy4Europe) #CoalRegionsWBUA

[DG Energy's YouTube channel](#)

