



JASPERS Networking Platform

Webinar on

State aid for JTF Projects in the 2021-2027 Period

Date: **11th July 2023, from 9:30 to 13:00 CET**

Location: **Virtual meeting - WebEx Events**

The JASPERS Networking Platform was created to complement JASPERS project advisory operations by implementing knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, as well as fostering dissemination of good practices and exchange of experiences among all EU member states, pre-accession countries and other JASPERS Stakeholders.

More information is available at <https://jaspers.eib.org/knowledge/index>

Description of the Webinar

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a new instrument of the Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, as the first pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism in the context of the European Green Deal aiming at achieving the EU climate-neutrality by 2050.

The JTF supports the territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality to avoid regional inequalities growing, in line with EU cohesion policy's aim to reduce regional disparities and to address structural changes in the EU.

The JTF will bring wide-ranging benefits, including job and re-skilling opportunities and economic diversification. Focusing on economic diversification and reskilling, the Fund aims to support regions facing serious socio-economic challenges due to the transition process. Regions that are heavily reliant on fossil fuels or greenhouse gas-intensive industrial activities will need to phase out certain activities and restructure their industries, while also protecting the environment and providing job and re-skilling opportunities to workers and their families.

State aid rules are essential to help avoid distortions of competition when Member states intervening in support of certain undertakings. Strengthening State aid mechanisms is key to further improve the functioning of the Single market and must go hand in hand with a strong focus on stimulus and growth.

JT funds are considered State resources and the use of those can give the recipient an advantage on a selective basis, for example to specific companies or industry sectors, or to companies located in specific regions, as a result, competition may be distorted and the intervention is likely to affect trade between Member States. In this context JTF projects are subject to State aid assessment.

Understanding the available tools in State aid assessment of JTF projects is crucial for the timely implementation of the projects.

In the framework of the 2021-27 mandate with DG REGIO and DG MOVE, JASPERS provides advisory and capacity building support to Member States on the preparation of programmes and projects financed by Cohesion Policy, including JTF. JASPERS assistance also covers horizontal subjects relevant to project preparation, such as State aid, climate and environmental consideration and methodologies for project prioritisation and appraisal.



This webinar aims at bringing together stakeholders involved in the preparation and State aid assessment of JTF projects to present experiences, difficulties and good practices among Member States, identify the tools/procedures that can be used in State aid assessment for JTF projects, and discuss needs for possible further support.

The webinar is organized in cooperation with DG COMP and DG REGIO.

It will be held in English and participants will have the chance to join Q&A sessions and discuss needs for further advisory and capacity building support in this specific knowledge area.

There will be room to pose questions and raise specific State aid issues but this shall happen respecting the fact that replies to State aid questions need a thoughtful analysis of each particular case and eventually they should be sought in a later moment or in an upcoming webinar.

Participants are encouraged to indicate their questions on the topics when filling the pre-event questionnaire included in the online registration form, as a proposal for debate during the Q&A sessions and final round table.

AGENDA

09:30 – 09:35	Welcome and introduction Massimo Marra, Principal Advisor, Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB/JASPERS
09:35 – 09:45	Opening remarks Sander Happaerts, Unit G1, DG REGIO
09:45 – 09:55	EIB - JASPERS support to Just Transition Mechanism Luis Hebrero, Head of Division, EIB/JASPERS
09:55 – 10:25	Applying State aid rules for JTF Hubert De Broca, Head of Unit, DG COMP
10:25 – 10:40	JASPERS experience and observations on applying State aid rules in JTF projects Christos Peolidis, State aid Expert, EIB/JASPERS
10:40 – 10:50	Q&A session
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:15	Testimonials from Member States: <ol style="list-style-type: none">11:00 - 11:15 Experience of the Czech Republic with the implementation of investments of strategic importance in the framework of JTF (in terms of State aid rules) Mr. Ivo Marcin, Director of Department of the State Fund strategy and International cooperation, State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic11:15 – 11:45 Issues of State Aid for Upskilling & Reskilling Actions in the context of JTF Mrs. Dominic Zaralidou, Special Service for State Aid & Financial Instruments, Greece11:45 – 12:00 Observations and experiences from Poland in applying State aid rules in JTF Mr. Mikolaj Stasiak, Consultant, member of JASPERS State aid team



4. 12:00 – 12:15 Challenges in the line with urban multisectoral projects supported by JTF in the context of the New Bauhaus initiative in Saxony Anhalt, Germany, Mr. Carsten Buhmann. Responsible for State aid law, Investment bank Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

12:15 – 12:45 **Final Q&A and discussion with the audience on further methodological and capacity building support needs**

12:45 – 13:00 **Closing remarks and next steps**
Massimo Marra, Principal Advisor, Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB/JASPERS
