

## Supporting the implementation of the Just Transition Fund in the Czech Republic

Based on the application of Ministry of Regional Development (CZ), its unit of Territories and Regions at Risk (formerly RE:START unit), the European Commission (EC) has launched a **technical assistance project to support the transition process of coal mining regions in the Czech Republic**. The Ministry of Regional Development applied its project and used so called **Technical Support Instrument** (a dedicated instrument provided by European Commission). The project is linked to the Green Deal for Europe (the EU's long-term strategy), which aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. These targets have a significant impact on the socio-economic development of regions whose internal economic structure is dominated by energy-intensive heavy industry and coal-fired power generation in general. In addition, a new **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** has been created for these regions, which currently complements the mainstream European Structural Funds and supports specific issues that should facilitate the so-called "just transition" process in the Moravian-Silesian, Ústí and Karlovy Vary regions. In previous years, the **national RE:START strategy** has been implemented in the above-mentioned "coal" regions and will be continued, but in a more coordinated way in relation to the available funding sources. In the light of the experience gained in the coal regions, the RE:START Executive Team has also coordinated the preparation of the **Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP)**. The JTF represents a completely new and unique opportunity to capitalise on existing experience by targeting the necessary transformation investments financially. In the Czech Republic, the JTF is represented by the Operational Programme for Just Transition (OPJT), managed by the Ministry of the Environment.

**The aim of the project** is to strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity to implement the JTF, including the regional and local levels. Particular emphasis is placed on empirical survey and analysis activities that will lead to an assessment of the initial absorption capacity of coal regions, especially in the small project segment. The project provided training and "training of trainers" to stimulate project preparation, especially for applicants with limited capacity (such as municipalities, NGOs and SMEs). Special attention was given to the dissemination and transfer of good practices in priority areas for just transition.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

**Project title:** Support to the Implementation of the Just Transition in the Czech Republic. RFS ID: REFORM/SC2022/116; Framework Contract Procedure: REFORM/2021/OP/0006 Lot 1

**Contractor:** Frankfurt School of Finance & Management (as part of the AARC Consortium). In the Czech Republic, the project partners are the Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Technical University of Technology and BeePartner.

**Project duration:** 11/2022 - 07/2024

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