

Open Call for Community Experiments

Do you have an idea to support the Just Transition process in your country? Do you have an idea to systematically address challenges that your community is facing? Do you need funding and support for your experiment?

The Community Lab 2022 is launching an Open Call to support community experiments that aim at overcoming existing barriers in Just Transition in Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania.

1. Introduction and background

The Community Lab 2022 is an initiative funded by EIT Climate-KIC that aims to address the complex challenges of the energy transition, contributing to making it just, community-driven and focused on positive visions of sustainable development. It aims to strengthen the ecosystem of organizations, experts and leaders (formal and informal) in Central and Eastern Europe working towards the transition of coal-dependent regions to a zero-carbon economy. Based on previous editions of the Community Lab and the Post-Coal Future Lab platform, the focus is on coal-based regions in: Poland (Greater Poland, Silesia), Czech Republic (Moravia-Silesia) and Romania (Jiu Valley). In this edition the Community Lab partners are: EIT Climate-KIC, Agirre Lehendakaria Center, Wise Europa, Climate Vertical and Impact Hub Innovation.

The Post-Coal Future Lab (PCF Lab)

The intention of the PCF Lab, co-created by EIT Climate-KIC and the Partners, is to leverage a set of distinct assets, capabilities, and resources in coal regions across Europe, creating an open safe space for dialogue, experimentation and learning to enable systemic transformation towards just transition.

2. Purpose of the Open call

Just Transition is not simply a matter of closing mines and thermal power plants, but of systemic transformation and development, building the necessary capacities within communities and accompanying them on this journey. For this reason, the open call for community experiments offers support to experiments that emerge from the community, promoting projects that aim to provide their own unique solution to support Just Transition processes in each country.

We are particularly interested in bottom-up experiments that aim to help build communities and trust, activities that involve economic, social and environmental dimensions, business ideas for economic empowerment and diversification, as well as sustainable development. Experiments that

support the acceleration of just transition but at the same time accompany the community in this process and strengthen partnerships.

Some of the possible ideas for the experiment could be around the following topics:

- New mechanisms for a meaningful community engagement
- Capacity building aiming to bridge the gap between labour market and skills development/ re-skilling, up-skilling/digitalization/ job-search assistance/ training of trainers
- Support to economic diversification, creation of green jobs and jobs in non-polluting sectors (eg. silver economy - care for elderly, white economy - healthcare, IT, BPO, others)
- Development of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial spirit
- Clean energy and energy savings
- Connectivity and mobility
- Reimagining the region with local resources development (natural, human, cultural) and competitive advantages
- Support in scaling up micro-trends supporting the decarbonization
- Mechanism for creation of multisectoral cohorts (public, private, NGOs, academy)

3. How do we select experiments

The selection of experiments will follow eligibility criteria and evaluation criteria.

Step 1 – Eligibility criteria

The experiments should be implemented in minimum one of the following coal regions:

Poland: **Greater Poland, Silesia, Zagłębie Bełchatowskie**

Czech Republic: **Moravia-Silesia**

Romania: **Jiu Valley**

Proposals considered not eligible will not proceed to Step 2. Additional eligibility criteria are listed under [Who can apply](#)

Step 2 – Evaluation criteria

For the selection of experiments, the following characteristics will be taken into consideration as additional points to the evaluation criteria:

- The call is open to proposals to be carried out in partnership with a multi-agent approach: i.e. partnerships formed by entities of different profile and/or different sectors, public and private, that can offer complementary solutions.
- The experiments with a systems approach, i.e. they should include different perspectives and have different fields of action.
- Presentation of experiments as a portfolio of projects, where multiple articulated and connected responses are found to address barriers in a systemic way, will be valued. If we consider the portfolio approach, this can be created from entirely new projects, pilots or small-scale projects that can be scaled up thanks to multi-sectoral partnerships.

Evaluation criteria (1-5 points per question):

EXPERIMENT	<p>Does the experiment address the relevant challenges of the just transition process in the region?</p> <p>Is the experiment innovative? Does it use new techniques, mechanisms, activities and technologies, or focus on a new problem?</p> <p>Does the experiment incorporate adequate knowledge of the local context?</p> <p>Does the experiment incorporate mechanisms to identify and respond to community dynamics operating in the ecosystem?</p>
IMPACT	<p>Will the experiment improve the Just Transition process? Is it going to improve community engagement?</p> <p>Does the experiment generate employment or seek to do so?</p> <p>Is it aiming to improve the relationships among key actors of the ecosystem and the community?</p> <p>Does the experiment aim to strengthen existing initiatives that reinforce the ecosystem?</p> <p>Does the experiment incorporate mechanisms to foster the learning capacity of the actors that are part of the ecosystem?</p>

	<p>Does the experiment incorporate mechanisms/tools to identify changes in the community as a result of project implementation?</p>
IMPLEMENTATION	<p>Are the activities (or interventions) adequately defined and articulated? Are the proposed activities (or interventions) consistent with the proposed objectives?</p> <p>Do the team members have the required experience? Have they identified any expertise gaps and how to fill those gaps?</p> <p>Does the experiment incorporate a citizen participation strategy?</p> <p>Does the experiment include creativity and co-creation dynamics and techniques?</p> <p>How relevant and adequate are the requested resources for the experiment proposal?</p> <p>Does the implementation of the experiment attract new and different types of investors/financiers?</p>

Step 3

As a part of capacity building, including preparation for experimentation, a set of events is being organized by the Community Lab consortium partners. Those include:

- MeetUp Moravia-Silesia on 8.11.2022
- Bootcamp Jiu Valley on 12.11.2022
- MeetUp Greater Poland on 21.11.2022
- MeetUp Silesia on 22.11.2022
- Online hackathon Jiu Valley on 24.11.2022
- MashUp Event Ostrava on 06.12.2022
- International webinar on alternative finance on 5.12.2022
- International webinar on success stories in overcoming barriers to transformation of coal and heavy-industry regions, on 01.12.2022
- **International conference on 15.12. 2022 when the winners of the call will be announced. The applicants will be invited to present their experiments.**

4. Available grant

One experiment from each country (Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania) will be selected. The experiments will be supported by accessing the funding **up to 10,000 Euros** for each experiment.

5. Who can apply

We are looking for applicants from civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, small and medium enterprises, research labs or incubators, educational institutions, groups of individuals/informal organizations from Czech Republic, Poland and Romania.

- **Legal entities as well as natural personas/individuals are eligible to apply for this call**
- **EIT Climate-KIC partners are not able to apply for this call**
- **Creation of cohorts and partnerships will be valued for the selection of the experiments.**
- **In case of cohorts and partnerships one organization is able to participate just in one application**

6. How to apply

Participants should complete the application form by **Wednesday, 7th December 2022 at 18:00 CET**. The form is to be emailed in DOC or PDF format to communityexperiments@gmail.com

Only complete applications **submitted by the deadline** will be considered.

All information provided **must be in English**.

Supporting documentation

- [Application form](#)

Timeline

- a. Call opens: 23rd November 2022
- b. Call closes: 7th December 2022
- c. Participation in international conference: 15th December 2022