



Coal Regions in Transition Initiative

The Coal Regions in Transition Platform is one of the key accompanying actions announced as part of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package, with the objective of boosting the clean energy transition by fostering new skills, structural transformation and financing for the real economy.¹

The Platform aims to bring together stakeholders with an interest in the successful economic diversification and technological transformation of coal and carbon intensive regions, such as national and regional public authorities, business representatives, social partners and civil society.²

Our goals

Strategies and Projects

The Platform will facilitate the development of projects and long-term strategies in coal and carbon intensive regions, with the aim of kick-starting the transition process and responding to environmental challenges such as air quality improvement. It will cover areas such as structural transformation, including the deployment of renewable energy technologies, eco-innovation and advanced coal technologies.

Political dialogue

The Platform will also enable multi-stakeholder dialogue on policy frameworks and financing for the successful transformation and economic diversification of coal and carbon intensive regions.

¹ Communication on Clean Energy for All Europeans, Annex 2: Action to boost the clean energy transition

² The Platform focuses on coal regions in the first instance, with the aim of extending to carbon-intensive regions in the future.

Our approach

An Annual High-Level Political Dialogue on the Future of Coal and Carbon intensive Regions will bring together stakeholders and decision-makers from regional, national, and European authorities to take stock of progress made and to recommend future actions.

The substantive part of the work will be carried out by Platform Working Groups which will in a first phase:

(1) facilitate dialogue on good practices, project ideas and regional strategies
(2) hold project-focused labs to discuss concrete projects with the participation of Commission and external experts³ who will provide information on relevant EU policy frameworks, funds, programmes and financing tools.

- The Working Group on Post Coal Economy and Structural Transformation will cover projects and strategies focusing on the economic diversification of coal regions.
- The Working Group on Eco-Innovation and Advanced Coal Technologies will cover projects and strategies focusing on the improvement of air quality and technologies which are compatible with the long-term vision of the decarbonisation of the European economy.

In parallel, the Commission is working on a pilot basis with a small number of regions in Member States on planning and accelerating the process of economic diversification and technological transition through technical assistance, information exchange and tailored bilateral dialogue on relevant EU funds, programmes and financing tools. Based on requests by these Member States, pilot country teams for Slovakia, Poland and Greece were established in the second half of 2017 to assist the regions of Trencin, Silesia and Western Macedonia based on their specific needs. As the work of these teams progresses, their experiences will be shared with the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition.

Next steps

The first Working Groups' meetings will take place on 26 and 27 February in Brussels.

Stakeholders interested in participating in the Platform Working Groups, either in an observer capacity, or to present projects, project ideas or good practices are invited to contact ENER-COAL-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu.

³ The following DGs will be involved in the Working Group meetings: Directorate-General for Energy, Directorate-General for Regional Policy, Directorate-General for Research, Science and Innovation, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Directorate-General for Climate Action, Directorate-General for Environment, Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Structural Reform Support Service, Directorate-General for Competition.

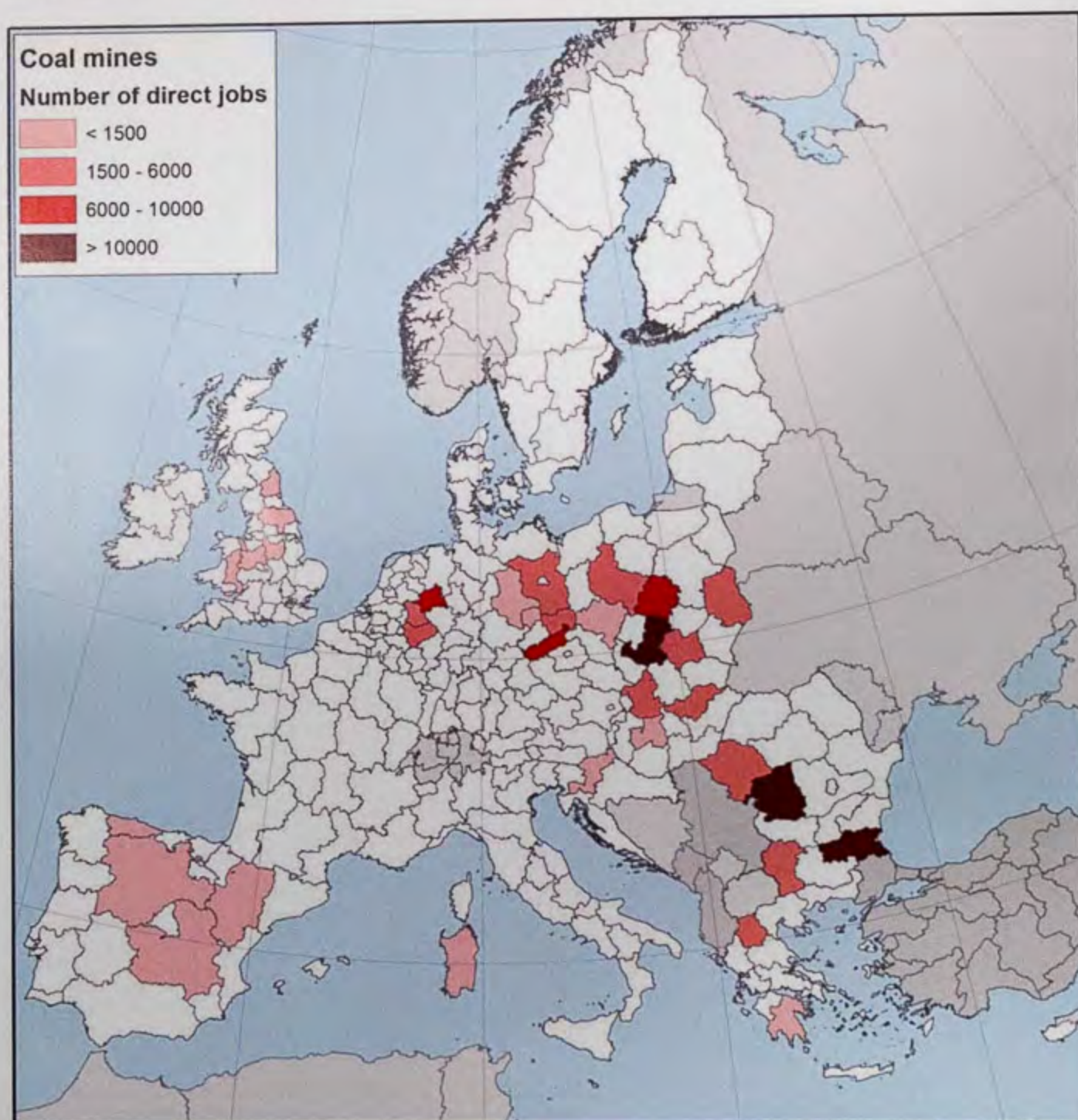
Challenges ahead of the EU Coal Regions

Today 41 regions in 12 Member States are actively mining coal.

Coal mining provides direct employment to about 185,000 people across the EU, with additional indirect jobs relying on coal production.

However, over the past few decades the production and consumption of coal in the EU has been in steady decline. Planned and ongoing closures of coal mines across the EU, and the commitment by a number of Member States to phase out coal use for power generation are expected to accelerate this downward trend.

The Platform for Coal Regions in Transition is designed to assist Member States and regions in tackling the challenge of maintaining growth and jobs in the affected communities.



Source: Number of jobs in coal mines in regions (Source: DG JRC, European Commission, 2017)

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Working together to accompany the transformation of coal mining regions across the EU.