



## **Translating Just Transition from plans into investments: Combining grants, financing and advisory support**

*Workshop organised by the European Investment Bank and the European Commission in the European Committee of the Regions as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities*

**Tuesday, 8 October 2024 | 16:30 – 17:30 CET | JDE 51**

### **Background note**

All EU Member States and regions will need to transform in the coming decades to reach the EU's climate goals. However, not all regions in Europe have the same starting point. The regions relying on fossil fuels and carbon-intensive industries will have to undergo major socio-economic changes and to diversify their regional economy in view of ensuring a just transition in their region.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission have joined forces to support cities, regions and territories most affected by decarbonisation to deliver impactful projects to address social and economic effects of the just transition process. As partners in implementing the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), the EIB and the Commission work together to provide support under all three pillars of JTM through EU funding, EIB financing and advisory support.

The Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF) is a novel approach introduced in the 2021-2027 programming period as third Pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism with the aim of combining EU grants with EIB financing for projects in line with the territorial just transition plans, addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges arising from the transition. Support covers a broad range of public sector investments such as energy and transport infrastructure, social infrastructure including affordable housing, district heating networks and building renovation. After the first two years of the Facility's implementation, it is a good opportunity to draw lessons from the experiences of PSLF operations. Examples of projects that obtained EU grants and EIB loans under this blended Facility are the socio-economic transformation in Western Macedonia in Greece, affordable housing in Skeftea (Sweden), sustainable transport in Nantes, green interventions in Czechia and Poland, as well as the development of cultural infrastructure in Ostrava (Czechia). Some regions, like Stara Zagora in Bulgaria, are receiving comprehensive advisory support under the InvestEU Advisory Hub .

As the Facility is still in early phases of implementation, the full potential of PSLF is yet to be reached. There are still funding opportunities available for public authorities at regional and local level to apply to use PSLF grants in combination with EIB loans and advisory support to drive just transition projects.

2024 and 2025 are critical years for turbo charging investments for just transition and PSLF will be a vital tool to help public authorities in this direction. Just transition investment packages that crowd in both private sector and public sector investment are crucial to solve local just transition challenges. This approach enables aggregating small public-sector projects into one operation of critical scale.

## Objectives

The EIB and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy are co-organising this workshop to share the current state of play of the support available from the Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF) to fund and finance just transition projects in cities and regions.

The session will present the opportunities to combine PSLF grants with EIB financing to help public sector entities, including cities and regions, to address multiple transition challenges and opportunities arising from the decarbonisation, across a wide spectrum of sectors, promoting economic diversification and all directed towards smart and sustainable growth.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and learn from concrete experiences of cities and regions that have obtained support from the Facility. The availability of advisory support from the InvestEU Advisory Hub will also be highlighted. **The aim is to give the opportunity to other EU cities and regions to learn from PSLF beneficiaries in order to apply and use the support available in PSLF.**

Join this workshop to:

- Discover the support available for public authorities to combine EU grants from the Public Sector Loan Facility with EIB financing and advisory for just transition
- Learn from cities and regions that successfully obtained support from the Facility
- Find out how to apply for Public Sector Loan Facility (Pillar III of the Just Transition Mechanism)

## Speakers

- **Krasimir Nenov**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy of Bulgaria
- **Emma Toledano Laredo**, Director, DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Pascal Lamanda**, Director General on finance, Nantes metropole
- **Christoph Kuhn**, Deputy Director General, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank

## Participants

This event is a workshop for all stakeholders engaged in delivering on the territorial just transition plans in their respective regions in the EU. Managing authorities, local and regional public authorities, and practitioners are all welcome to join and participate in the discussions both in person and online.

## AGENDA

16:30 Welcome and introductory video

16:35 Presentation of the Public Sector Loan Facility: combining EU grants with EIB financing

- **Christoph Kuhn**, Deputy Director General, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank

16:45 Panel discussion on experiences and lessons from the Public Sector Loan Facility

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- **Krasimir Nenov**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy of Bulgaria
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- **Pascal Lamanda**, Director General on finance, Nantes metropole
- **Christoph Kuhn**, Deputy Director General, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank

Moderator:

- **Bianca Faragau**, European Investment Bank

17:15 Q&A and open discussion

17:30 End of session