



European
Commission

JTP Peers Exchanges

FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)
– SPRING 2024

*Regional and
Urban Policy*

JTPeers Exchanges

Frequently Asked Questions

File version: 31 January 2024

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| JTPeers Exchange | 3 |
| Eligibility of applicants to JTPeers Exchange..... | 3 |
| Content within the application form for JTPeers Exchange | 4 |
| Procedures for submitting the JTPeers Exchange application form | 6 |
| Next steps after JTPeers Exchange submissions..... | 7 |

Disclaimers

The information provided in the application form will be considered sensitive and confidential. Personal data will be processed in line with the applicable law on data protection in the European Union.

The JTPeers team reserves the right to adjust the timing of the delivery of support to selected beneficiaries to facilitate the workflow and the allocation of resources.

The JTPeers team reserves the right to follow-up with applicants to request specific clarifications on the application content.

Other support streams for JTF regions under the Just Transition Platform (JTP)

After entering the implementation phase of the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the JTP rolled out a number of support streams in 2023, including the [JTP Knowledge Hub](#), providing knowledge products and case studies on just transition, the [JTPeers Exchange](#) programme, the [JTPeers Experts](#) database, and [JTP Groundwork](#). The following support services are currently open for applications from the Just Transition Fund regions:

1. **JTP Groundwork – call for applications open until 1 March 23:00 CET.**
2. **JTPeers Exchange – call for applications open until 1 March 23:00 CET.** This document covers the frequently asked questions about JTPeers Exchange.
3. **JTP Working Groups – call for applications open until 1 March 23:00 CET.**

JTPeers Exchange

This FAQ document answers questions about the first stream of the JTPeers facility, the JTPeers Exchange programme.

Eligibility of applicants to JTPeers Exchange

1. *Is JTPeers Exchange **only applicable to JTF territories**?*

- Yes. Our peer-exchange programme is meant to focus on supporting stakeholders located within or directly working for those specific JTF territories that are identified in Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTP) already approved by the European Commission (through the adoption of the related JTF programmes). Exchange activities proposed by applicants must always align with TJTPs and the scope of JTPeers and can take place only in JTF territories. Although applicants from all eligible JTF beneficiaries are welcome to apply, JTPeers Exchange is also focused on supporting those territories that face particularly difficult challenges in implementing their TJTP and are most in need of receiving support through facilitated exchanges with peers and/or experts.

2. *Do JTPeers Exchange applicants need to be **located within those defined JTF territories**?*

- Applicants should generally be located within JTF territories. However, other considerations might be made in certain circumstances, for example if a relevant national public ministry or similar entity wishes to participate as well.

3. *Are there **restrictions on types of institutions or sectors** that may join JTPeers Exchange?*

- JTPeers Exchange is open to all types of applicants from public authorities to civil society to private sector to academia and beyond. Any stakeholders playing a crucial role in the implementation of the JTF through approved TJTP commitments and priorities are welcome to apply to the JTPeers Exchange programme.
- Nonetheless, key decision-making public authorities, civil society and socio-economic partners in the eligible territories are particularly encouraged to apply for JTPeers Exchanges.

4. *Are there **language** requirements to join JTPeers Exchange?*

- JTPeers Exchange applicants, including the proposed delegates, should be able to demonstrate a C1 level ¹ or higher of English knowledge to ensure full comprehension of exchange activities, foster longer-lasting relationships with experts and counterparts from other JTF territories and to communicate effectively with the JTPeers team.
- Other language abilities, including native language(s), can be an asset in certain circumstances. This can be determined on a case-by-case basis, until which point the C1-level English will be taken as the default minimum for all participants.
- Interpretation might be considered on a case-by-case basis but is not preferred by default.

5. *Which kinds of **formats** are foreseen for JTPeers Exchange?*

¹ This follows according to the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#).

- JTPeers exchange offers the option for expert-to-region and region-to-region exchanges:
 - Region-region exchanges take place between two or three JTF regions. They are intended for regions to exchange experiences on up to three topics and are based on a co-learning approach, meaning that each participating region acts as mentor, as well as mentee. This type of exchange typically takes place in-person.
 - Expert-region exchanges take place between one just transition expert and one JTF region. They are intended for regions seeking advice on one specific topic or question. Based on the topical focus indicated in this application, regions can suggest an expert or the JTPeers team will select a suitable expert from the [JTPeers Expert Database](#). Exchanges can take place online or in-person.
 - The type of exchange (i.e., virtual vs. physical) ultimately chosen is dependent on the needs from the proposed exchanges. Preferences from applicants will be taken into consideration but cannot be guaranteed.
 - Online exchanges will be conducted as either a series of smaller virtual activities spread out over a certain period or can be focused more on the preparation for, and implementation of, a longer one-off session (e.g., an online conference).
 - In-person exchanges will be prepared in online meetings and preparatory work building up to the implementation of interactive activities on the ground.
 - No matter if virtual or in-person, the format for each exchange remains up to the applicants to propose, even beyond these examples:
 - Peer-to-peer review: several stakeholders interact to provide targeted feedback on rather distinct processes, projects and/or documents;
 - Job-shadowing/mentoring: a stakeholder from one territory benefits from intimate knowledge of operational work done by another counterpart;
 - Inter-regional workshops: stakeholders interact to discuss common challenges and brainstorm potential (mutually-)applicable solutions
 - Expert missions: an international expert engaged to provide insights and rather tailored advice to several stakeholders on a certain key topic.
6. *Can former beneficiaries of JTPeers Exchange apply to later editions of the programme?*
- Former participation or application to JTPeers Exchange is not disqualifying neither the region nor the benefitting institution from potential selection for subsequent editions of JTPeers Exchange.
 - In case of the same region or institution applying we advise choosing a different challenge than in any previous round.

Content within the application form for JTPeers Exchange

7. *Which kinds of **topic expertise** are seen as valuable assets for JTPeers Exchange?*
- Certain thematic challenges are of high importance to provide a structure for better framing. Therefore, JTPeers Exchange applicants are expected to share topic-oriented expertise and (positive or negative) experiences in any of the following fields, or even something else relevant which is not listed here:

- Upskilling and reskilling of workers and jobseekers, vocational training, lifelong learning and formal education
- Green economic diversification and the creation of new jobs/firms, including enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, developing more sustainable revenue streams, supporting start-ups and establishing business incubators
- Job-search assistance and active inclusion of jobseekers
- Circular economy, including waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling
- Clean and affordable energy, including the transfer and deployment of advanced technologies and infrastructures for greenhouse gas emission reduction, renewables, energy efficiency, energy storage, (district) heating & cooling, smart energy solutions and energy poverty reduction
- Decarbonisation of industry, including smart and sustainable mobility, decarbonising transport, emission reductions and ETS activities
- Regeneration and decontamination of brownfields, land restoration, nature-based solutions and site repurposing for new (sustainable) socio-economic activities
- Research and innovation
- Digitalisation, digital innovation and digital connectivity
- Social inclusion, public participation and policies aimed at alleviating the transition process for communities, including the gender dimension

8. *Do JTPeers Exchange applicants get to **define their own proposals** (e.g., own delegates, activities and needs) themselves?*

- Yes, JTPeers Exchange is first and foremost a needs-based facility seeking to provide a service for the JTF territories most in need.
- JTPeers can support only those stakeholders, activities and needs that are within the scope of the JTP itself, but otherwise it is up to each applicant to define their proposed delegation in line with their proposed exchange activities and their needs to support TJTP implementation.
- Furthermore, it is recommended that all applicants keep in mind the JTP's definite preference for meaningful gender-balanced delegations (e.g., both decision-makers and technical staff) before submitting an application.

9. *Are **joint applications** possible?*

- Yes, joint application between two or three JTF regions are possible and suitable in cases where regions already have preferences on who they would like to exchange with on a given topic.
- For these cases, applicants must fill out the dedicated [joint application form](#) and coordinate their application.
- As in the previous edition, individual applications are also still possible through the [individual application form](#). If applying individually, applicants will be matched with a suitable counterpart from the pool of applicants.

10. Which kinds of **expenses are covered** by JTPeers Exchange?

- For online exchanges, interpretation and expert fees will be covered by JTPeers Exchange, within pre-defined limits and based on approval by the exchange facilitator.
- For in-person exchanges:
 - The budget has been defined for a maximum of two to three visiting individuals for up to three days of exchange activities. Applicants may include more visiting delegates if funded by themselves. Visitors' travel expenses (e.g., 2nd class/economy tickets for trains or flights, and accommodation up to 2 nights) can be paid upon prior confirmation by JTPeers.
 - Based on approval by the exchange facilitator and within pre-defined limits, costs for interpretation, meals, local transport, and venue will be covered by JTPeers Exchange.
- Experts supporting the regional authorities in the expert-region exchanges receive a fee. The fee is subject to approval by the exchange facilitator and cannot surpass pre-defined limits.

Procedures for submitting the JTPeers Exchange application form

11. How do I **submit an eligible application form** to JTPeers Exchange?

- All application for the JTPeers Exchange programme must be submitted by 1 March 2024 at 23:00 CET via the EU survey forms [JTPeers Exchange individual application form](#) and [JTPeers Exchange joint application form](#), applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered as acceptable.
- It is highly recommended to submit your application form well ahead of the deadline to ensure no technical problems arise in the process.
- For any technical difficulties, please contact us directly and in a timely manner: JTPeers@justtransitionplatform.eu.

12. Is it possible to **save my work in progress** within EU-Survey?

- Yes, there is relevant button.
- Please save your draft regularly.
- "Save as Draft" button does not submit application. In order to submit the application, please click "Submit".

[Download PDF version](#)

Save as Draft

13. Are letters of support required as part of the JTPeers Exchange application process?

- No, though you may choose to indicate any political support or commitment behind your application in the form (e.g., question A6 asks about your proposed delegation).

14. Can a particular applicant **submit more than one application** to JTPeers Exchange?

- No. We can only accept a single submitted application from each applicant for JTPeers Exchange. If we have multiple submissions in our system, we will not evaluate them.

Next steps after JTPeers Exchange submissions

15. What are the **next steps after submitting** an application for JTPeers Exchange?

- Once the final deadline has passed, all submissions will be pre-assessed for eligibility and quality by the JTPeers team. In relevant cases, applicants might be contacted to clarify items.
- Final evaluations will be conducted by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.
- If your region is successfully matched for an exchange, you will be introduced to an exchange facilitator. The facilitator will guide the exchanging stakeholders through the entire exchange preparation and implementation process, including support on logistics and relevant expenses.

16. Which **criteria** are used to evaluate JTPeers Exchange applicants?

- Evaluation criteria will be applied to ensure comparable assessments of the applications.
- Evaluations will be done to find the most suitable applicants with the strongest potential for positive interactions and impacts on the ground. In addition, applicants for peer exchanges should express clear needs and/or urgency for participation, strong proposed content for the exchange, meaning to answer well, in a suitably logical and clear manner: what, why, how and who. You should also point towards meaningful activities, outputs and impacts resulting from the exchange within a realistic timeframe.
- The Commission will assess all JTPeers Exchange applications based on how they aim to contribute to a better implementation of TJTPs in the relevant JTF territories and having regard to the various types of stakeholders that benefit from the JTF. In all cases, an applicant's demonstration of relevant skills and replicable experience is considered a valuable asset.

17. Is it possible to **withdraw** my application from JTPeers Exchange?

- Yes, you may withdraw your JTPeers Exchange submission at any time.
- For any further questions about withdrawing from either JTPeers Exchange, please contact us via email: JTPeers@justtransitionplatform.eu.

