

A large, stylized graphic of the letters 'BR' in a light blue-grey color. The letters are semi-transparent, revealing a background image of a mining site with terraced earth and industrial structures. The 'B' is on the left and the 'R' is on the right, both with rounded, modern shapes.

The need for a Just Transition Fund for the Western Balkans

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29 March 2022

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A Just Transition Fund for the Western Balkan countries

Why the urgent need?

- **Commitments**

The Western Balkan 6 embraced the 2050 decarbonisation goal (Sofia Declaration)

- **Economic reality of coal**

CBAM and/or CO₂ pricing will come, cause reduction of coal production.

Some plants will close sooner than thought.

- **Financial weakness of the region**
- **High dependency on coal – big social impacts**



How? Sources for a dedicated JT Fund

- **Known, but not earmarked for JT**

EC's Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (9 billion Euros)*

- **Available, but unclear in size and types of projects**

Loans from the World Bank, EBRD, EIB, other IPA funds

- **Potential, but will take a while**

Carbon pricing (ETS, CO2 tax) and/or EU budget equivalent to revenues from CBAM

Economic and Investment Plan Flagship areas

1. Connecting east to west (transport)
2. Connecting north to south (transport)
3. Connecting the coastal regions (transport)
4. Renewable energy
5. Transition from coal (gas and electricity transmission)
6. Renovation Wave (energy efficiency)
7. Waste and water management
8. Digital infrastructure
9. Investing in the competitiveness of the private sector
10. Youth Guarantee

Read more [here](#)

Why a **dedicated** fund for WB6?

- Clear governance & accountability & transparency
- Equal opportunities for all countries/ regions to apply for funding
- Signals to national/ local decision makers the commitment to fund JT specifically
- Requires rigorous participatory planning
- Encourages competitiveness and early planning



Principles of funding the transition

- must be based on participatory and transparent local development plans, created bottom-up.
- the projects supported must have a regional positive impact within the coal regions (e.g. encourage inter-municipal cooperation on joint projects).
- must exclude support to any kind of fossil fuel investments (not only coal, but also oil or gas), as well as to other investments likely to hinder the achievement of EU policy objectives.
- the **allocation** of funds to coal regions **must be fair**, i.e. it should reflect the magnitude of the transition challenge

Thank you!



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