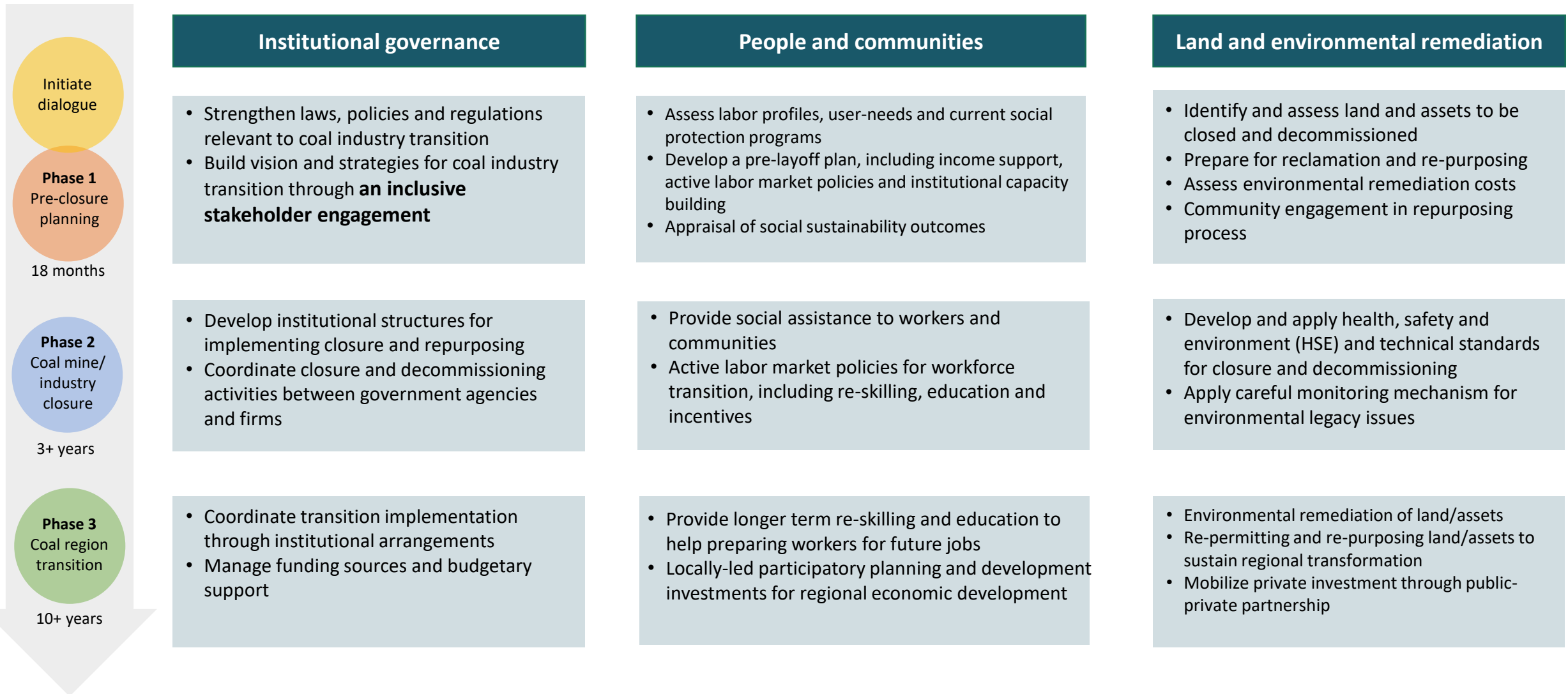




# WESTERN BALKANS COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS SURVEY: HEADLINE FINDINGS

# WORLD BANK'S APPROACH TO A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL



# THE PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS SURVEY

- The World Bank's Energy & Extractives Global Practice, together with the Energy Community Secretariat, commissioned the **Western Balkans Coal Regions in Transition Public Perceptions Survey** across Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- Designed with CSOs active in the region
- Conducted by IPSOS under the umbrella of the **Platform Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine**
- **Objective of the survey:** understand awareness, perspectives and expectations of citizens living in coal regions related to the concept of Just Transition
- Results can play an integral role in informing **stakeholder consultation and citizen engagement strategies for a Just Transition**



# METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

## Methodology:

- **Main sample** = 3,600 respondents from coal regions
- **Control group** = 808 respondents from non-coal regions
- **Quotas** were applied for age and gender
- Respondent households were selected via **random sample**
- **Qualitative data** was also collected through 15 in-depth interviews with CSOs, trade unions, etc.

Country	N
<b>Total control group</b>	<b>808</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	176
Montenegro	152
North Macedonia	165
Serbia	152
Kosovo	163

Country	Coal region	N
<b>Total main sample</b>		<b>3.679</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Planned Ash landfill Sički Brod	150
	Mine Kreka Šikulje	151
	RMU Breza	153
	TPP Kakanj	148
	RiTE Gacko	150
	RiTE Ugljevik	150
	EFT – Stanari	146
	RMU Zenica	135
	RMU Kamengrad	150
	RMU Đurđevik	146
RMU Banovići	146	
Montenegro	TPP Pljevlja	152
North Macedonia	REK Bitola	170
	TEP Oslomej Kičevo	199
	TEP Negotino	150
Serbia	Kolubara lignite basin	451
	Kostolac coal basin	316
	TPP Nikola Tesla Obrenovac	150
	Mine Resavica Despotovac	151
Kosovo	Mine Kovin	152
	Obiliq thermal plants	163

# METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

**The survey questionnaire consists of 26 questions across four thematic areas.**

**The survey instrument was developed through a collaboration** between practice groups within the World Bank Group (social sustainability & inclusion, energy & extractives, jobs), CSOs active in the region and the Energy Community Secretariat.



## **Four Thematic Areas:**

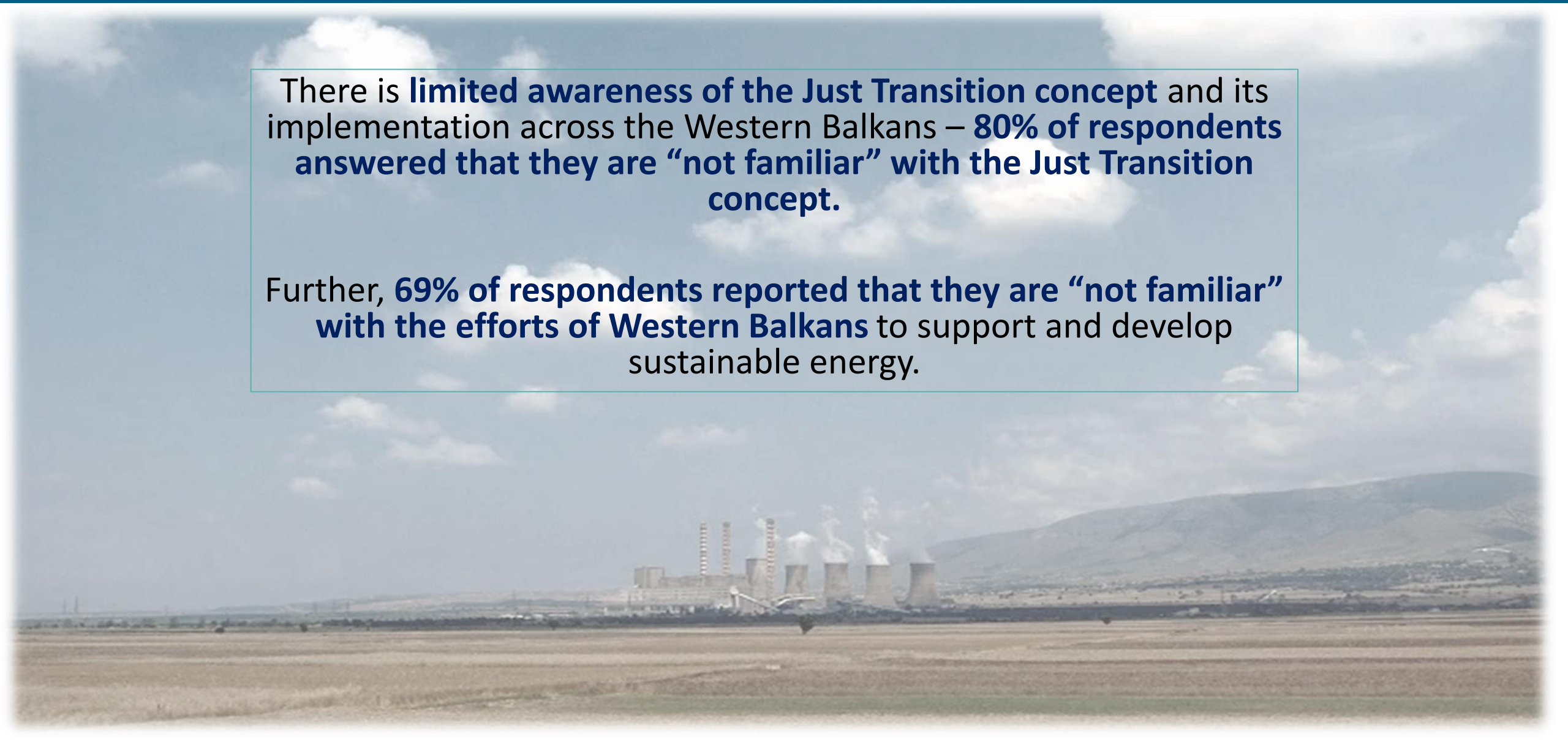
1. Basic **knowledge and awareness** on the Just Transition
2. **Perceptions** of energy transition process
3. **Conditions and expectations** on the applicability of the Just Transition concept
4. **Citizen engagement** and stakeholder consultations



## HEADLINE FINDINGS: AWARENESS

There is **limited awareness of the Just Transition concept** and its implementation across the Western Balkans – **80% of respondents answered that they are “not familiar” with the Just Transition concept.**

Further, **69% of respondents reported that they are “not familiar” with the efforts of Western Balkans** to support and develop sustainable energy.



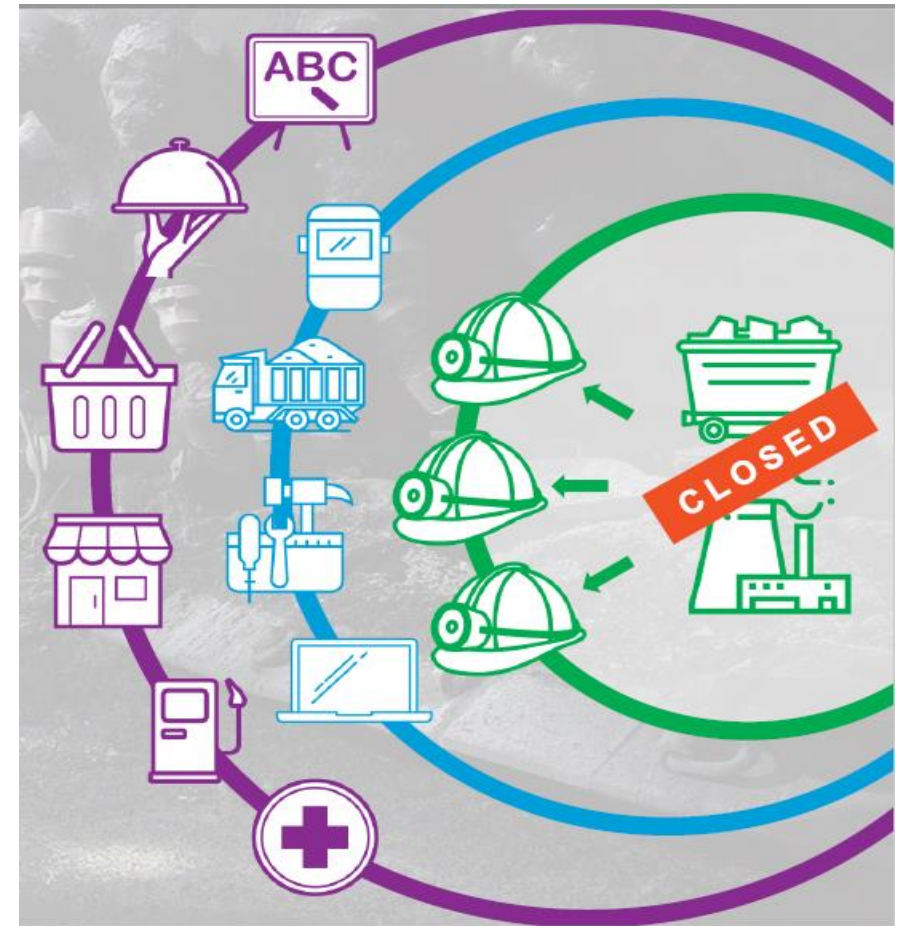
# HEADLINE FINDINGS: PERCEPTIONS & EXPECTATIONS

Almost 50% of respondents in coal regions **expect negative consequences** for themselves or their household due to the energy transition.

The **top two main concerns** of respondents in both coal and non-coal regions are: **job losses and rising unemployment (57%)** and **increased electricity and heating prices (53%)**.

On the positive side, 33% of respondents believes that **improvement of local environmental conditions is the most important outcome of the Just Transition**.

Another 33% believes that **improvement of *global* environmental conditions** will be the most important outcome.



# HEADLINE FINDINGS: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



The majority (73%) of respondents in all five countries believe that **citizens should be involved in the energy transition process.**

67% of those in coal regions chose **‘specially organized bodies in the local community’** as their preferred mechanism for involving citizens in the process.

**Just under half of respondents (44%) expect the Just Transition to succeed.** Financial support and political pressure from the EU and the Energy Community emerged as key conditions for success.

**Televised reports and expert discussions on TV are ranked as the two most effective channels** for communicating and informing citizens about the Just Transition and its impacts.





# KEY MESSAGES FOR MOVING FORWARD



**A common framework / approach could be developed**, focusing on informing the public and stakeholders about the basic goals and process of the energy transition and the Just Transition concept.



**General platforms and mechanisms for informing and engaging the public should be developed at regional level** – these can then be further adapted to the specific needs of states / local communities during the operationalization phase.



Citizen engagement and public outreach efforts **should be tailored to target and involve socially vulnerable groups, youth and those potentially most impacted** by the transition (i.e. – those employed in the energy sector, businesses, those in coal regions).



**Engagement of youth may be strengthened by including concepts of the Just Transition** in school curricula and at academic level where appropriate (i.e. – linked to technical subject areas such as engineering, energy, social sciences, economics, etc.)



**Energy institutions, multilateral banks and IFIs should continue advocating** for and (financially) supporting the clean energy transition in the Western Balkans.

THANK YOU

