

Individual application form for the exchangeEU programme

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Before you complete the application form, please refer to all available information on the EU coal, lignite, peat and oil shale (coal+) regions exchange programme (“exchangeEU”) on its [website](#) and [FAQ](#) and reach out to exchangeEU@coalregions.eu in case of further questions.

exchangeEU is part of the EU initiative for coal regions in transition. Learn more about the initiative [here](#).

To apply for the exchangeEU programme, please complete the [application form in EU Survey](#) by **07 November 2022, 20:00 CET at the latest**.

Joint applications are encouraged. If there is a region with which you would like to apply as a pre-established pairing, please use the form for **joint applications** ([here](#) in EU Survey).

For your application to be processed, you must confirm that you have read the privacy statement and consent to the processing of personal data as described therein. The privacy statement is available in the EU Survey application form.

By checking this box, you confirm that you have read the privacy statement and that you consent to personal data provided in this application being processed as described in the privacy statement.

[exchangeEU Privacy Statement.pdf](#)

*Please answer the questions below. You are encouraged to provide answers in bullet points where suitable. Fields marked with * are mandatory.*

Part A – General regional profile

* A1. Member State

300 character(s) maximum

Czech Republic (Czechia)

* A2. Name your region

300 character(s) maximum

Ústí Region

* A3. What is the status of coal, oil shale and/or peat extraction in your region?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Ongoing extraction
- No longer extracting
- Never had any extraction

A4. If extraction is still ongoing, when is the planned phase-out date, if any? If already no longer extracting, when did operations cease?

300 character(s) maximum

The extraction is still ongoing, but it is being gradually reduced. The year 2033 is the planned phase-out date (at this moment).

* A5. Select all fossil fuels extracted in your region (even if no longer ongoing).

at most 9 choice(s)

- None
- Hard Coal (Anthracite)
- Black Coal (Bituminous)
- Brown Coal (Lignite)
- Oil Shale
- Peat
- Surface mining
- Deep mining
- Other

* A6. Mark below which of the following end-uses intensively exploit any of the above fossil fuels in your region, if any.

- None
- Electricity-only power plants
- CHP power plants also supplying (district) heating
- District heating from smaller power plants
- Individual heating systems in many buildings/private households
- Non-energetic industries relying on direct fossil-fuel use (e.g., steel, cement, chemicals)
- Other

Part B – Details about the main applicant

* B1. Type of applicant

Please note that applicants, which are not themselves public authorities, are strongly recommended to submit one or more letters of support from suitable public authorities under question B4. For questions about public authorities and letters of support, please refer to the [FAQ](#).

Regional public authority

* B2. Name of your applicant institution/ entity (in English and local language).

300 character(s) maximum

in English: Ústí Region

in Czech (local language): Ústecký kraj

B3. Primary contact person for this application meant to commit her/his capacities as the dedicated lead, if selected for an exchange.

	Please specify
Full name	Jiří Nehyba
Function/ job title	officer - project manager
Division/ department	Odbor podpory podnikání, inovací a transformace; Oddělení finančního řízení a kontroly Division of Business Support, Innovations and Transformation; Department of Financial Management and Control
email address	nehyba.j@kr-ustecky.cz
Phone number (with country code)	+420 475 657 859

B4. If you are not a public authority: To demonstrate regional commitment to this application, I have uploaded one or more letters of support from a regional or local public authority's leadership, supporting the submission of this application for my region.

- Yes
 No

B5. If applying on behalf of (other) public authorities in your region, please provide their relevant information.

- Name, in English, of each (other) public authority in your region involved in your application to this programme, clearly indicating at which level: municipal, city, metropolitan, regional or other
- Main contact person for this programme for each (other) public authority, including their: full name, function/ job title, division/ department, email address

1000 character(s) maximum

irrelevant

Part C – Applicants' proposed personnel roles, capacities and motivation

The exchangeEU programme encourages the participation of all actors relevant to the just energy transition of your region. If you prefer a group format for your exchange, we recommend convening a delegation of representatives from different sectors, and ideally with a meaningful balance of gender age groups, etc. Please note further details provided in the [FAQ](#).

- * C1. Please indicate your preference, if you would like to be hosting, visiting or have no preference. Please be aware that the exchangeEU programme covers a single visit to one region. We encourage applicants to show willingness to host, because hosting offers several benefits including publicity and exposure, including to the European Commission (see further details provided in the [FAQ](#)). Willingness to host also may reflect favourably in the evaluation of your application.

Visiting

- * C2. Please list names, entities and roles of the persons to be potentially engaged in your exchange delegation. Please note further details on delegations and the financing limits by the programme provided in the [FAQ](#).

1000 character(s) maximum

Ing. Iva Tomešová - head of Division of Business Support, Innovations and Transformation; Regional Authority of the Ústí Region

Ing. Jana Nedrdová - head of Department of Transformation of the Region; Division of Business Support, Innovations and Transformation; Regional Authority of the Ústí Region

Ing. Zdeněk Hušek - RIS3 manager of the Ústí Region

Mgr. Iva Dvořáková, LL.M. - councilor of the Ústí Region for the strategy of the preparation and implementation of the projects

- * C3. List the languages in which your delegation is comfortable cooperating, including your own. Please note that there is not necessarily a language prerequisite, but our experience demonstrates that selecting English-speaking delegates from your region usually allows for a more fruitful exchange and lays a stronger foundation for long-term connections to be maintained.

300 character(s) maximum

Czech language (český jazyk) - native, English

- * C4. Explain – in as specific terms as possible – which kinds of contributions (e.g., interpretation, local transport, venues, catering, travel expenses for delegates or other services) you'd be willing to commit to the exchange.

1000 character(s) maximum

As a visiting region, we are first of all prepared to offer people with certain expertise. It means people, who are involved in the transition processes at the regional level. Depending on the topics, we could also provide more experts (besides the delegation members mentioned in the part C2, if possible in that time of course) and cover the costs associated with their participation in the exchange.

- * C5. Why are you interested/motivated in joining this programme?

1000 character(s) maximum

In our opinion, the participation in this programme is a very good opportunity based on a great idea. We also already have a positive experience from the first round of the exchanges. We see a great advantage of this programme in the possibility of sharing useful information even outside the main topics (if the exchange can take place in person). For the second (last) round, we have a little more specific expectations. To inspire another region (like we managed to do in the first round) is also not bad at all.

Part D – Priority challenges, transition opportunities and proposed actions

D1. Please rank the following thematic clusters, ranking each cluster one time only, from 1st to 6th (or 7th if including an additional topic under “Other”), which you would like to address in your exchange, with 1 being the top priority for your region and each number being applied once. Please note that these rankings are primarily used for matchmaking purposes and may evolve during the implementation of the exchange (see [E AQ](#)).

Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or [accept the initial order](#).



Clean energy transition (examples: renewable energies, energy efficiency, energy storage, centralised vs. decentralised energy systems, energy communities, green hydrogen, natural gas, etc.)

⋮ **Transition governance and strategy** (examples: effective institutional set-ups, optimising administrative capacities, improving participatory processes and intra-regional cooperation, alignment with local to national strategies, operationalising Territorial Just Transition Plans, etc.)

⋮ **Effects on social fabric and community** (examples: energy poverty, community cohesion, heritage, individual/ community identity challenges, deterritorialisation, social challenges, gender dimensions, effects on families and un-shifted workers, etc.)

⋮ **Infrastructure and site sustainability** (examples: closing/ repurposing mines or power plants, environmental rehabilitation, commercial spaces and sites, transport infrastructure, etc.)

⋮ **Economic diversification and regional development** (examples: fostering entrepreneurship, supporting innovative start-ups and research parks, smart specialisation, opportunities for digitalisation, green and clean energy economy/ jobs, decarbonisation of industry, re-skilling/ upskilling workers, long-term improvement of the educational and innovation system, etc.)

⋮ **Project implementation and finance** (examples: project planning/ prioritisation, feasibility/ assessments, innovative finance options, blending funding sources, etc.)

⋮ **Other** (If 'Other' is included in your ranking, please specify in the text box below the table)

In case you selected 'Other', please specify here.

300 character(s) maximum

irrelevant

D2. Elaborate on the top 2 priorities which you marked above in question D1, providing further insights regarding, e.g., which more specific sub-topics (maximum 2 each) you wish to (co-)learn about as the core of your exchange – it may help if you to structure your response here if you also outline a few concrete framework questions (e.g., “How to decarbonise our district heating with solar?” or “How to ensure our transition also brings justice to women?”) that you would your exchange experiences to answer for you. It should also be emphasized that it will reflect favourably on your application if you manage to demonstrate here adequate detail, clarity and precision in exactly what it is you wish to achieve and how it should benefit your region.

* Priority 1

1000 character(s) maximum

Hydrogen and hydrogen economy:

The Ústí Region offers an opportunity to create a complex regional hydrogen economy using local renewable resources for the production of so-called green hydrogen. Concrete steps and pilot projects have already been taken. The region has been active for a long time in relation to the development of the potential of the hydrogen economy on its territory. For example the "Hydrogen Platform" of the Ústí Region was established. The aim of the platform is to prepare and implement activities supporting the meaningful use of hydrogen.

We would like to learn something about the legislation in different regions (countries) for example, because in our country there are some barriers at the moment.

* Priority 2

1000 character(s) maximum

The second thematic cluster, which is interesting for us, is „Transition governance and strategy“.

Our region still has a lot to do in terms of the transition, as the process in the Ústí Region is far from over. It would be great to find out, how things can work at the same level in different countries. We will definitely welcome any examples of good practice, because we want to be as successful as possible to move our region forward. We, as a regional public authority, can also share some experience with the process (mainly with the coordination and communication of the transition).

A common and very current topic (at least for us) could be, for example, the use of funds from the Just Transition Fund.

* D3. Has your region already started plan-development, processes, pilot projects and/ or concrete measures to facilitate a just energy transition?

- Yes
 No

* If yes, please explain your key existing/past planning, processes, pilot projects and/ or measures, as well how advanced they are, providing project references or similar as you see fit.

1000 character(s) maximum

In October 2019, the Ústí Region Council established a working group called "Coal Platform of the Ústí Region". The task of this platform is to deal with the issue of cessation of coal mining and the associated needs and activities, that should mitigate any negative impacts on the economic, social and environmental situation of the Ústí Region. The platform deals mainly with energy resources (coal substitutes, clean energy sources), conceptual land use after mining, innovative projects, socio-economic issues and employment.

We can probably also mention here, that the Ústí Region already has its own Just Transition Plan.

* D4. Which experiences (positive and/ or negative) so far from your region's own planning, processes, projects and measures might be most interesting to share with your eventual pair, if selected?

1000 character(s) maximum

It's really hard to say at this moment, what could be „the most interesting“, because we don't know our pair yet. We are ready to share both (positive and negative experiences), but it depends very much on the situation. In the first round, our colleagues from Poland were, for example, very interested in our Hydrogen Platform, which we presented as a good practice during our visit to the hosting region.

* D5. Choose the type of cooperation you believe would be most suitable for your needs and the topic(s) you outlined above as top-2 priorities. Elaborate on the intentions and possible elements or specific actions to explore in the exchange (e.g., site visits, outreach to specific stakeholder groups) in the text box below. Please refer to the [FAQ](#) for more information on the possible formats.

- Group workshop
- Peer-to-peer learning (e.g., job shadowing or mentoring)
- Others (please specify)

D6. Please explain how you plan to engage different actors in your region beyond those entities in your proposed delegation, including after the exchange activities with our programme have completed

1000 character(s) maximum

Different actors in our region are engaged through "Regionální stálá konference" (in Czech language), see part E3. Some of them are also members of the proposed delegation, so the lessons learned can be spread.

D7. Do you plan to foster social inclusion (e.g., energy poverty, gender dimensions or other societal elements) through your actions proposed above?

- Yes
- No

* D8. Please clarify how your proposed ideas for this exchange complement well or build upon existing/past experiences, and/ or bring distinct added value to your region.

1000 character(s) maximum

Well, we (Division of Business Support, Innovations and Transformation) have several years of experience with international projects (both in the position of a lead partner or just a partner). In general, we believe, that any international cooperation brings various benefits, which is why we regularly engage in it. Each of our participations reacts to current topics or current needs (like transition and hydrogen in this particular case). Our experience is, that active participation in international projects or international cooperations similar to this one can be a real added value for the region.

* D9. Please describe your intentions for ensuring that any cooperation/ partnership you develop in an exchange with the other region(s) could be sustained to last even beyond the exchangeEU programme.

1000 character(s) maximum

In connection with part D8, we're open to cooperate with other region(s) on topics, which are interesting for both sides even after the end of this exchange programme. To do so, we can for example join together in a project via Interreg Europe (like we often do). We can also invite those regions to some events, that we organize.

* D10. In case you have expressed your preference for a fully in-person exchange format, please confirm your commitment to participate in the exchange in case it is implemented (partially) virtually.

- Yes
 No

Part E – Previous experiences

* E1. Does your entity have existing ties (e.g., previous/ ongoing exchanges or projects) with other regions, within the EU or otherwise, in fields related to the just energy transition and/ or those you have mentioned above?

- Yes
 No

* If yes, please briefly outline these activities, the partners involved and specify if connected to any EU programmes.

1000 character(s) maximum

The Ústí Region was for example the first region in the Czech Republic to join the European partnership called "Hydrogen Valleys", which supports the development of innovative hydrogen ecosystems. The main goal of this partnership is to contribute to tackling global warming and mitigate its impact on society and ecosystems by promoting the clean hydrogen production through renewable energy sources. By joining the partnership, the Ústí Region declared its interest in cooperating in building a climate-neutral Europe.

One of the last activities was the participation in this exchange programme. In the first round of exchanges the Ústí Region was matched together with Aragón (Spain) and Małopolska (Poland).

E2. Explain your experience liaising with (other) public authorities in your country, including at different levels, especially related to just energy transition.

1000 character(s) maximum

As a regional public authority we play an important role in the regional just transition efforts. Personally, I would say, that my institution serves as a link between the state and local level (municipalities). We should for example also manage the funds from the Just Transition Fund to a certain extent.

E3. What successful experiences do you have cooperating with others in civil society (NGOs, community groups and/ or citizens), the industry/ business sector, the research/ academic community and/ or others on just energy transition?

1000 character(s) maximum

In this part, we could mention the cooperation within "Regionální stálá konference", which has been running since 2015 and is composed of experts representing key institutions and important representatives of regional policy in the field of competitiveness and regional development. The members of "Regionální stálá konference" for example helped to select strategic projects, that will be financed from the Just Transition Fund.

* E4. Mark below any of the following medium-/ long-term strategies in place for your region (even at national or local levels), which are relevant for just energy transition issues and/ or serve as a basis for inspiring your proposed actions.

- Coal+ Transition
- Energy and climate (e.g. renewables, efficiency, adaptation, SEAP, SECAP...)
- Environmental (e.g. air quality, biodiversity, land-use, LEAP, GCAP...)
- Transport and mobility (e.g. SUMP)
- Digitalisation or Smart Cities
- Business, economic, investment, innovation or regional development (e.g. Smart Specialisation)
- Social (e.g. health, poverty, inclusion, gender, cohesion, culture, education...)
- Other
- None so far

Part F – Other

F1. If there is any specific region in the EU with which you would prefer to work on an exchange, please describe your suggestions (up to 3) and explain why you find them appropriately matched to your region. Please note that it is not possible to guarantee that your preferences will be fulfilled. Furthermore, if there is

a region with which you would like to apply as a pre-established pairing, please use the form for, or at least contact them and encourage them to apply to our programme (see [FAQ](#)).

1000 character(s) maximum

We have one wish (rather than a preference), we would be very pleased, if we could be paired with a region, with whom we could discuss the topic, which we are most interested in and that's the hydrogen. If not, we would still like to participate in this programme (to be clear).

We could name some regions from Normandy (France) or North Netherlands (Netherlands) for example („hydrogen regions“, which are more advanced compared to us), but it depends on their participation.

F2. If you already have existing connections to the region(s) you propose to work with, please justify your perceived need for inclusion into the exchangeEU programme by explaining why these activities could not happen otherwise – answering this question may be particularly important for applicant regions which had already participated in exchangeEU's previous call for expressions of interest.

1000 character(s) maximum

No specific suggestions in the part F1.

F3. Please provide other relevant information or comments, if any, that you consider useful for your application.

1000 character(s) maximum

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Contact

[Contact Form](#)