



Spolufinancováno  
Evropskou unií

Ministerstvo životního prostředí

# Just Transition Programme in Czechia

Department of Support for a Low-Carbon Economy Transition

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# TIMELINE OF COAL REGIONS SUPPORT



Operační program Spravedlivá transformace

# Coal regions' support history in Czechia since 2015

- In 2015 Czech government (via Government declaration) decided to specifically support transformation of Czech coal regions.
- In 2016, strategic framework created to define main transformation goals – **RE:START strategy**
  - <https://mmr.gov.cz/cs/microsites/restart-regionu/in-english>
- Since 2017 **annual action plans** prepared which included tasks to particular ministries in order to adequately support coal regions.
- National RE:START team established to coordinate discussion with ministries.
- The RE:START strategy did not have specific budget. Each measure had to be negotiated with responsible ministry.

# Chronology of coal regions support in Czechia since 2015

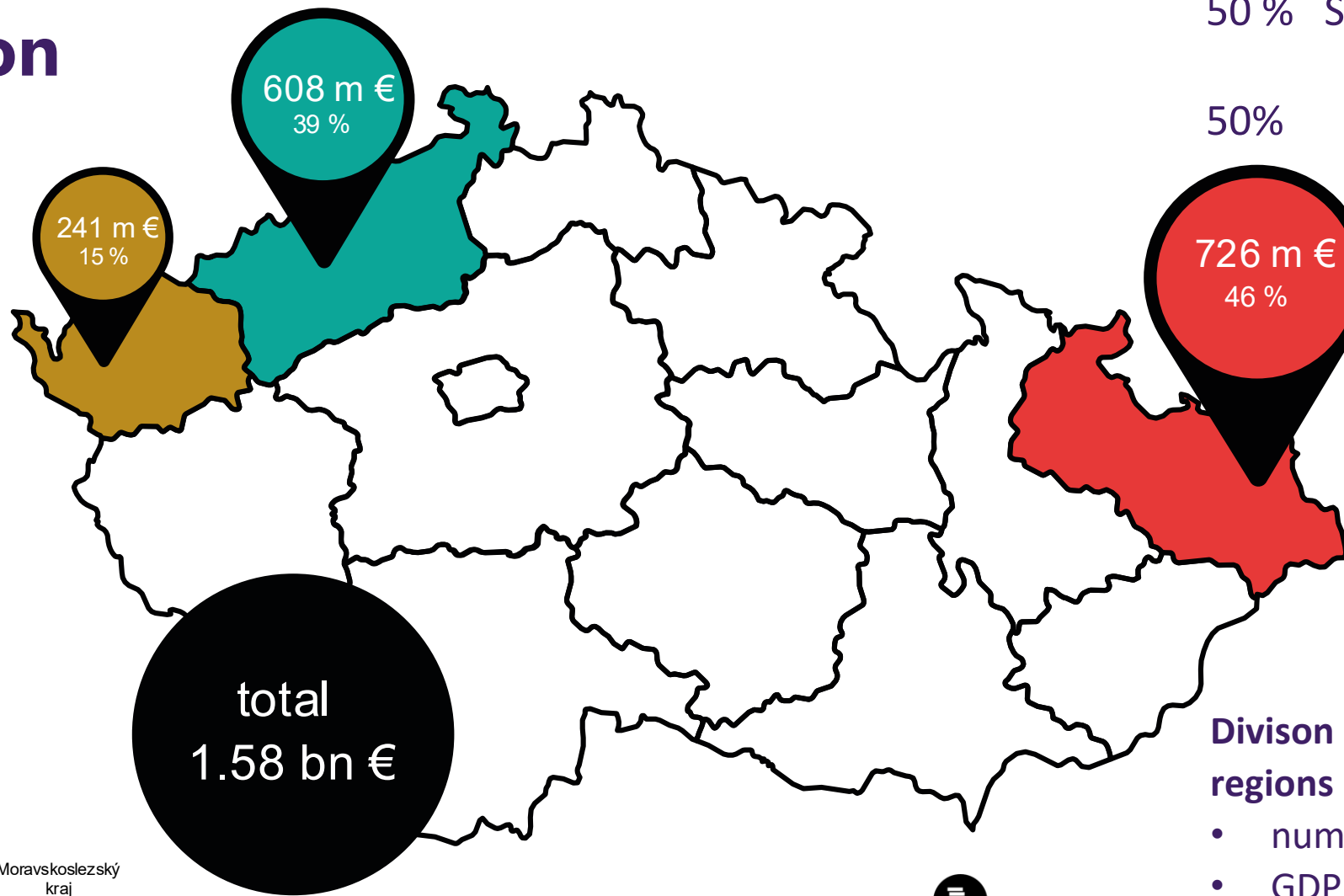


In 2015 **Czech government** (via Government declaration) decided to specifically support transformation of Czech coal regions.

In 2021 the plan based on the Czech strategy RE:START and regional strategic plans is prepared in cooperation with coal regions - the **bottom-up approach**.



# Allocation



50 % Strategic investment

50% Thematic calls  
Grant schemes  
Financial instruments

Karlovarský kraj



816 €  
per inhabitant

Ústecký kraj

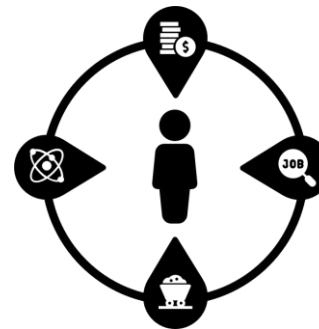


741 €  
per inhabitant

Moravskoslezský kraj



603 €  
per inhabitant



Division of allocation into regions is based on:

- number of inhabitants
- GDP
- unemployment
- surface affected by mining
- R&D employment

# Why these 3 regions? – basic information

- **Context:** EU Green Deal sets the goal to make Europe carbon-neutral until 2050 = transformation of economy necessary.
- **Main aim of the programme:** to mitigate the effects of the transformation process on the economy, population and environment.
  - But the process **will not have similar impact** on all Czech regions.
- The program therefore focuses only on **regions** that are or will be **most strongly affected** by the consequences of the **transformation process** due to their dependence on fossil fuels or industrial processes with high greenhouse gas emissions.

# Why these 3 (coal) regions? – regional specificities

- **Severozápad** (Ústí nad Labem region + Karlovy Vary region) is only Czech region **not converging** to EU average in GDP per capita.
- **Severozápad and Moravia-Silesia** as one of 3 Czech NUTS II regions which are losing population – especially young and educated.
- **Ústí nad Labem region and Moravia-Silesia** are regions with highest unemployment rate (specifially long-term).
- **Severozápad** is a region with the lowest R&D expenditure (0,3 % of GDP).
- In Czech **coal regions** 15 out 30 biggest Czech emittents of CO<sub>2</sub> are concentrated (Power plants, heating plants, ironworks, and refineries).

# REGIONAL PROFILES



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# Karlovy Vary Region (KVK)

- Karlovy Vary Region is the smallest NUTS III region in Czechia.
- The regions borders with German regions of Saxony and Bavaria.



- **Population (1.1.2024):** 295 077
- **GDP per capita (2022):** 54 % of EU-27 average
- **Innovation index (2023):** Emerging Innovator

# Ústí nad Labem region (ULK)

- Ústí nad Labem regions is located in the north-western part of the historical land of Bohemia.
- The regions borders German region of Saxony to the north.



- **Population (1.1.2024):** 811 169
- **GDP per capita (2022):** 63 % of EU-27 average
- **Innovation index (2023):** Emerging Innovator

# Moravian-Silesian Region (MSK)

- The region is located in the north-eastern part of Czechia.
- Moravia-Silesia borders two other countries – Poland (Opole and Silesian Voivodeships) to the north and Slovakia (Žilina Region) to the east.

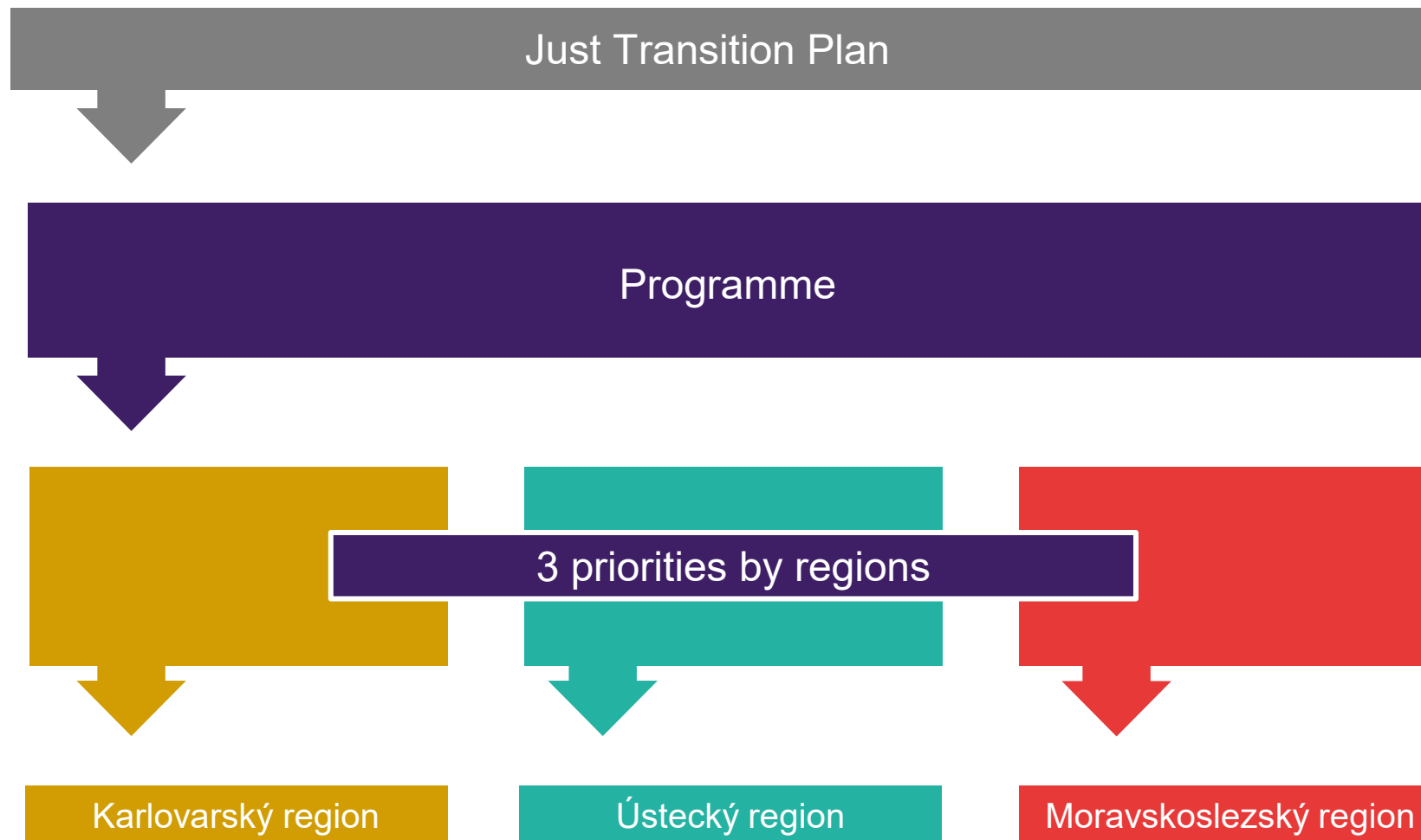


- **Population (1.1.2024):** 1 189 204
- **GDP per capita (2022):** 71 % of EU-27 average
- **Innovation index (2023):** Moderate Innovator

# IMPLEMENTATION OF JUST TRANSITION PROGRAMME



Operační program Spravedlivá transformace



# Organisation of JTP in the Czech Republic

- **The managing authority** = the Ministry of the Environment
- **One intermediary body** = the State Environmental Fund + IB for financial instruments
- **3 regions** = Moravian-Silesian, Karlovy Vary, Ústecký
- **Other ministries**
  - are involved as experts in setting the selection support for our programme
- **Thematic working groups**
- **Regional Standing Conferences, CzechInvest, RESTART team in the regions**

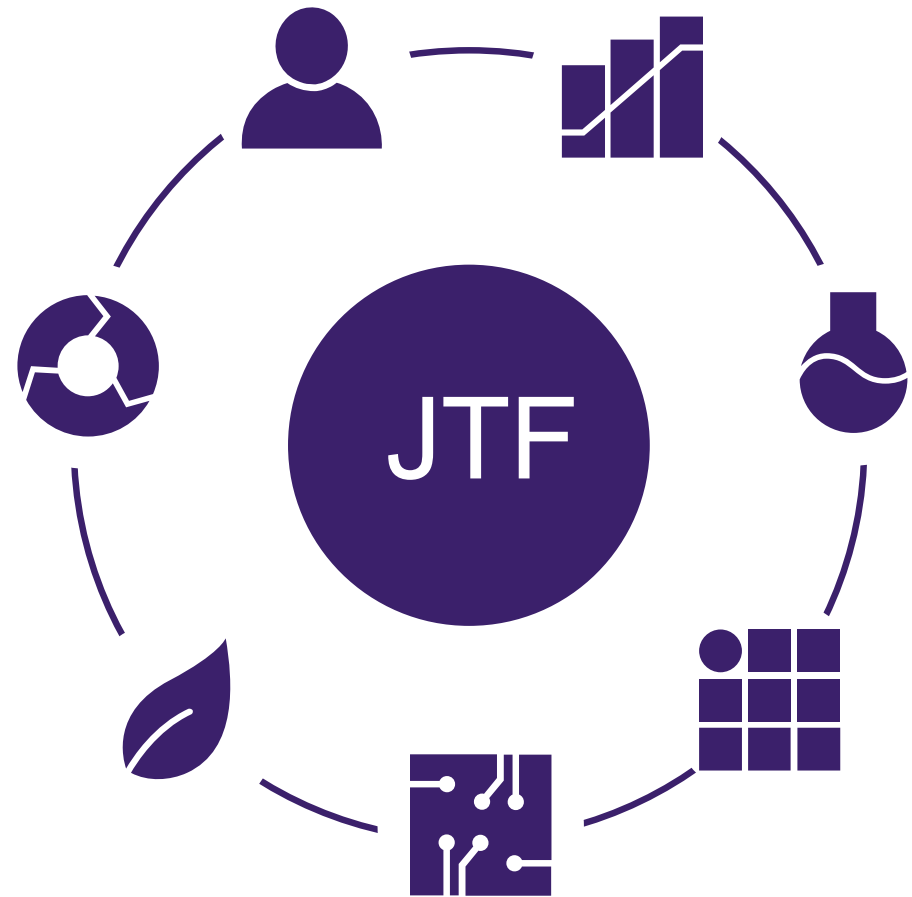
# Thematic working groups

- PS Business
- PS Research and innovation
- PS Digitization
- PS Clean energy
- PS Circular economy
- PS Renewal of territory
- PS Labor market
- PS Education
- PS Strategic projects

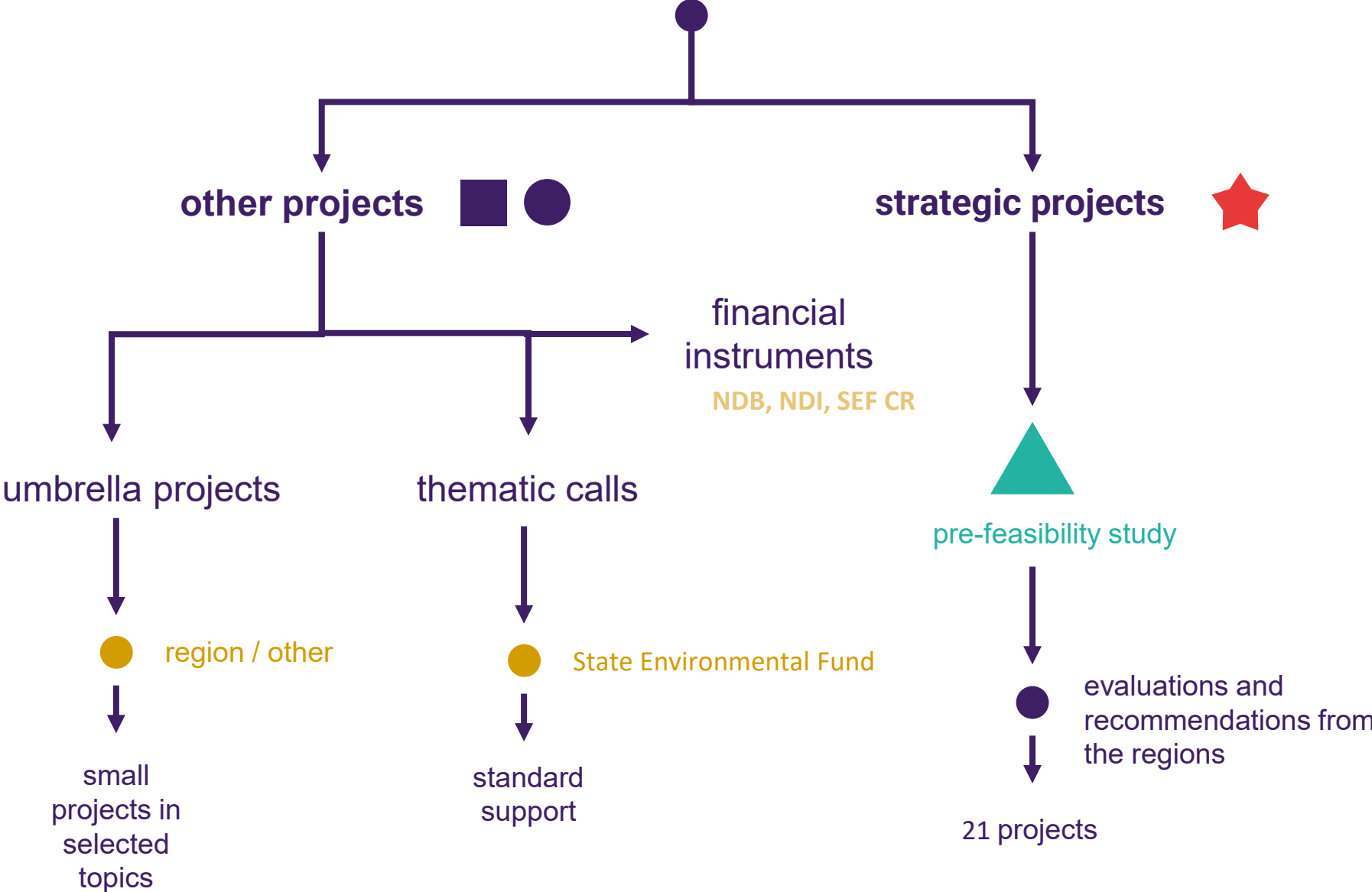
# Supported topics

- business
- research and development
- clean energy
- digital innovation
- land restoration
- circular economy
- people and skills

Programme Just Transition will not support everything, programme should complement other programs, not replace them.



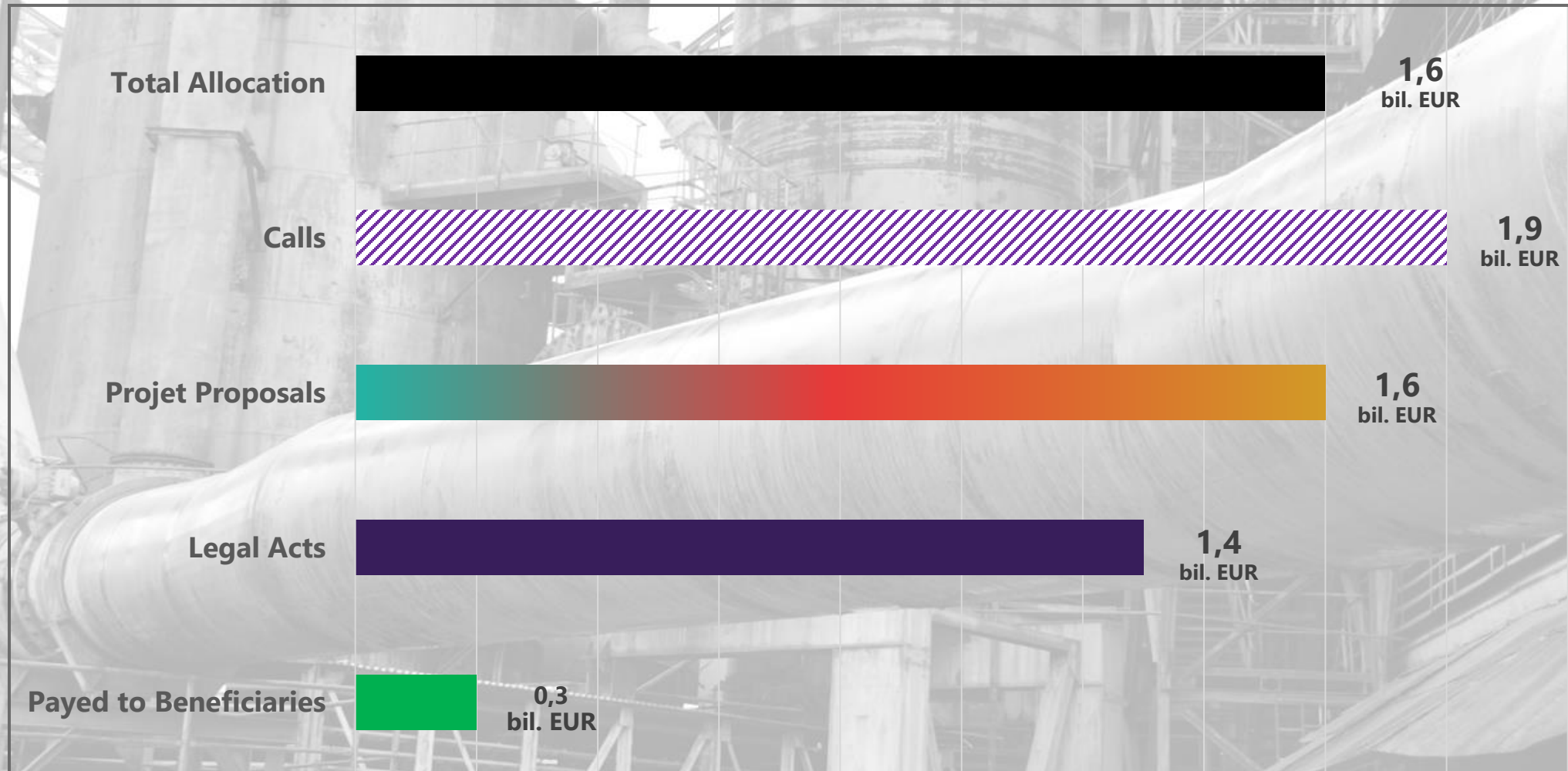
# Structure of the JT Programme



# Financial instruments in Just Transition Programme

- Just Transition Programme **was first of EU-funded programmes** in Czechia to implement financial instrument in 2021-2027.
- Financial instruments implemented via **National Development Bank**.
- At least **15-20 % of Just Transition Programme** will be implemented through financial instruments.
- **Transformation Loan**
  - Loans with zero interest rate to support investment activities of small and medium enterprises in coal regions.
- **Brownfield Fund**
  - Mezzanine financing in order to finance revitalisation of old industrial areas and transformation of old coal-mining sites.
- **Transformation guarantee**
- **Brownfield financial instrument – combination of subsidy and loan – SEF CR**
- **Affordable housing**

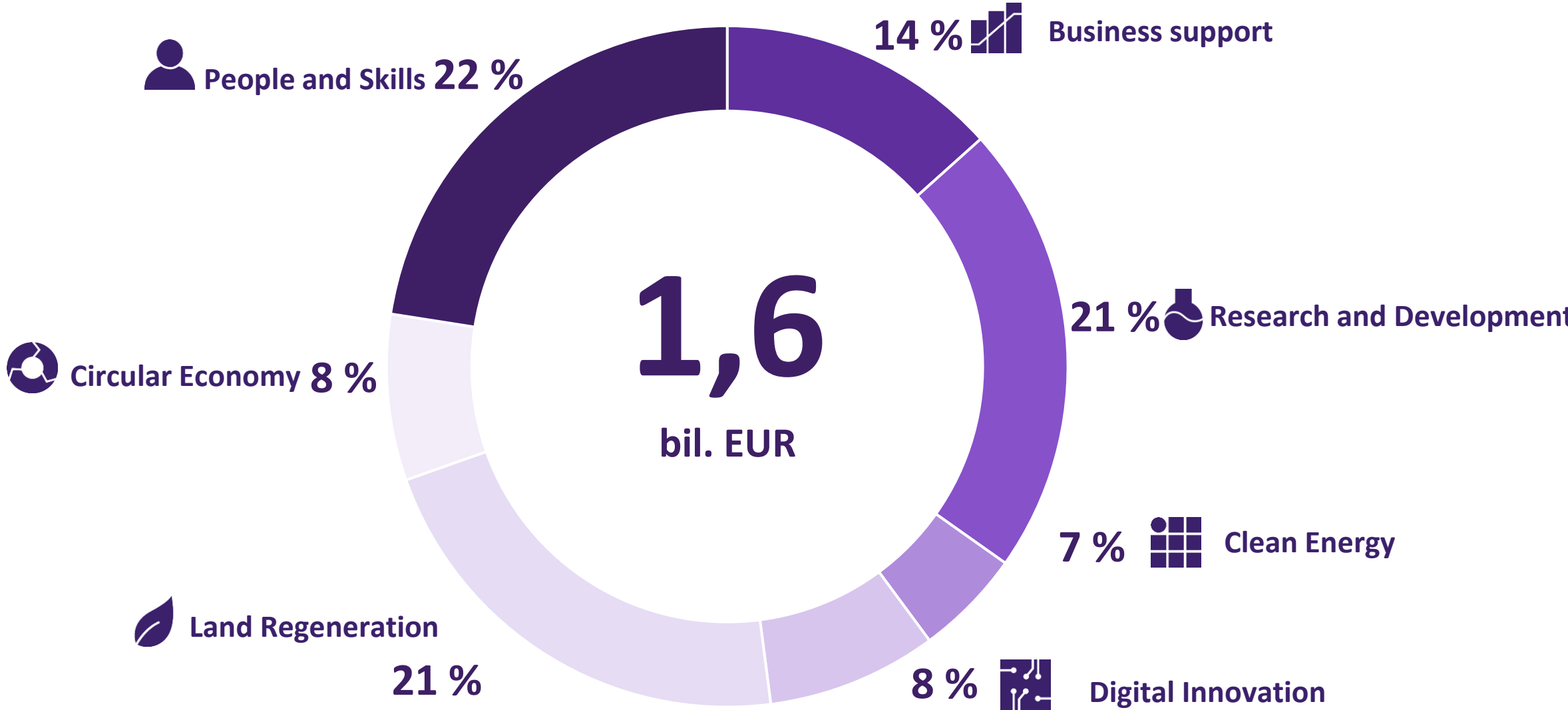
# Implementation of JTF in Czechia – 13th March 2026



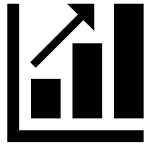
# OP Just Transition – Implementation status (EUR million)

Category	Karlovy Vary Region	%	Ústí nad Labem Region	%	Moravian-Silesian Region	%	Total OP ST	%
<b>Total Allocation</b>	241.05	<b>100%</b>	608.27	<b>100%</b>	726.42	<b>100%</b>	1,641.92	<b><u>100%</u></b>
<b>Calls Announced</b>	298.27	<b>123.7%</b>	798.77	<b>131.3%</b>	759.59	<b>104.5%</b>	1,918.63	<b><u>116.9%</u></b>
<b>Applications Submitted</b>	256.52	<b>106.4%</b>	588.63	<b>96.8%</b>	740.36	<b>101.9%</b>	1,631.91	<b><u>99.4%</u></b>
<b>Legally Committed</b>	226.02	<b>93.7%</b>	503.37	<b>82.8%</b>	667.99	<b>92.0%</b>	1,441.38	<b><u>87.9%</u></b>
<b>Certified Expenditure (Payment Claims)</b>	34.97	<b>14.5%</b>	82.73	<b>13.6%</b>	161.25	<b>22.2%</b>	307.95	<b><u>18.8%</u></b>

# Complexity of Just Transition Program – November 2025



# Key Indicators – Target Values



**1 700 supported firms**



**61 hectares of regenerated land**



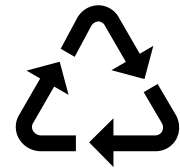
**7 086 participants who gained a qualification**



**39 141 seats in new or modernised education facilities**



**216 research jobs created**



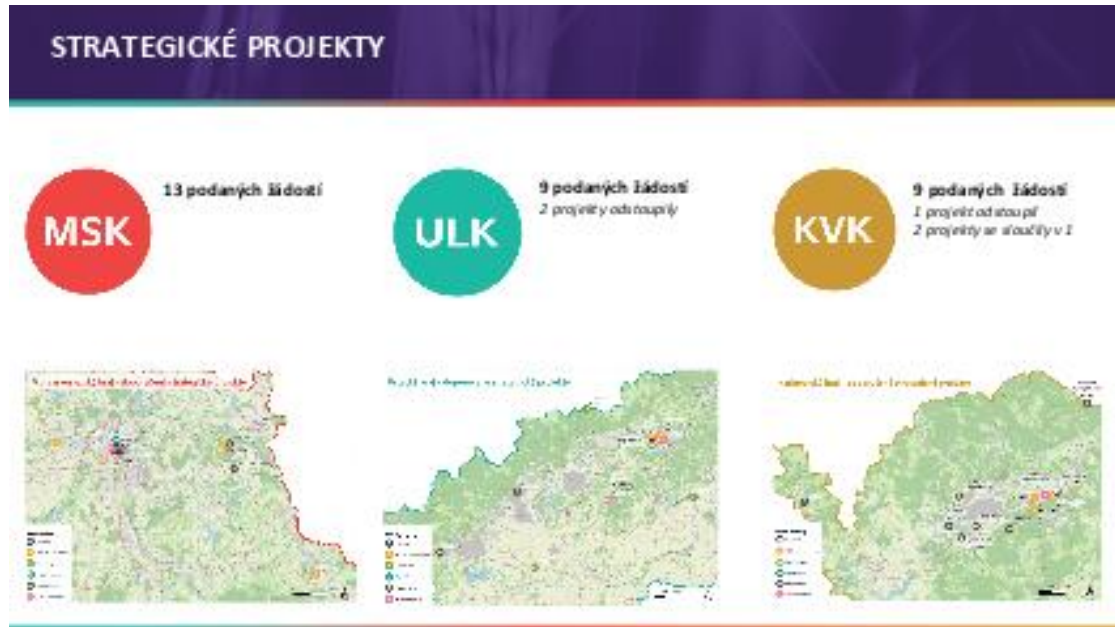
**29 062 tons of recycled waste**

# STRATEGIC PROJECTS



Operační program Spravedlivá transformace

# Strategic projects

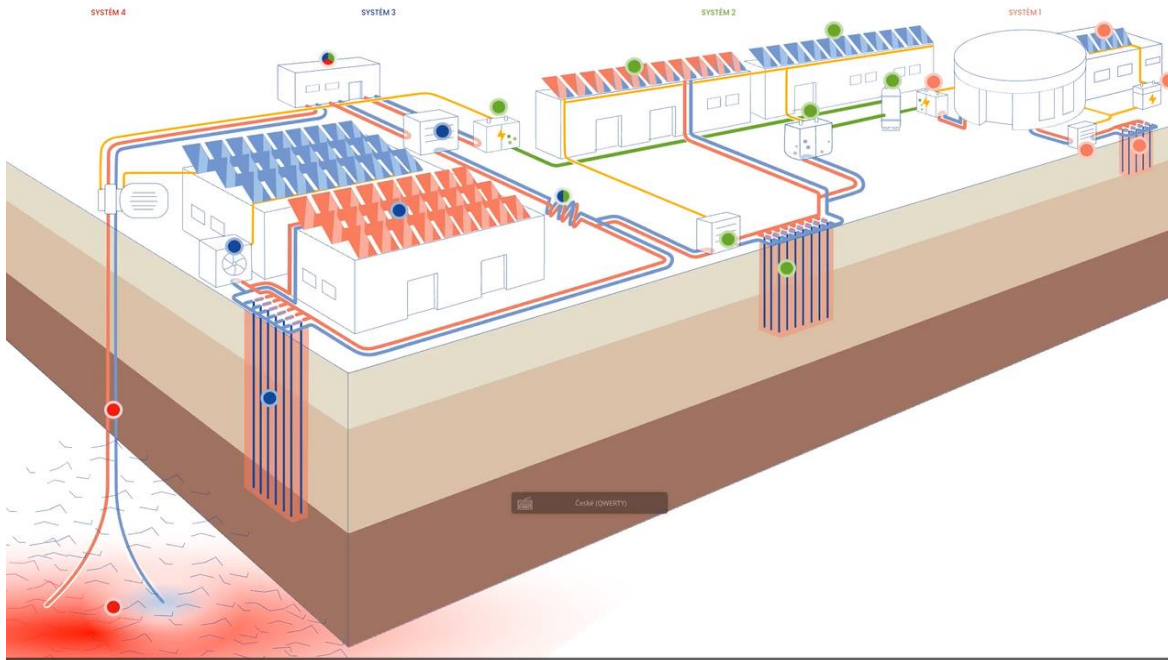


Complex projects with significant transformational impact selected on the basis of recommendations from individual regions.

# Strategic investment in the coal regions and the challenges

## Synergys

*testing centre for geothermal energy*



## Former coal mine Medard

*Sustainable revitalization and resocialization*



# Strategic investment in the coal regions and the challenges

## CirkArena

*Circular Economy R&D Centre on the former brownfield site*



## The Centre for Spa Research

*R&D Centre for balneology, natural and social sciences*



# Strategic investment in the coal regions and the challenges



## Fresh news

- The license for the control of robotic welding has been purchased by ABB, a global leader in industrial automation.
- The technology uses intelligent sensors to continuously monitor the welding process and can identify weld defects in real time through advanced welding current and voltage analysis. ABB plans to integrate this technology into its production of robotic welding cells

Indicators	Goal	Current state
Excellent scientist	10	41
Contract with companies	18 mil. EUR	11 mil. EUR
New jobs (FTE)	106	82
Patents	15	6

# Strategic investment in the coal regions and the challenges



**Energy sector**



**Steel and Metal Manufacturing**



**Automotive sector, vehicle manufacturing**

## TRAUTOM AND COLLABORATION WITH COMPANIES



**5,6**  
mil. €



**80**  
companies



**1600**  
contacts



**3886**  
people involved



**5000<sup>+</sup>**  
people will be  
upskilled or  
reskilled



**750**  
courses

# Education in companies – call

## Comprehensive solutions for companies



Reskilling/Upskilling - Small investments - Debt relief assistance



### Benefits:

- Time-saving
- Cost-saving
- Administrative benefits

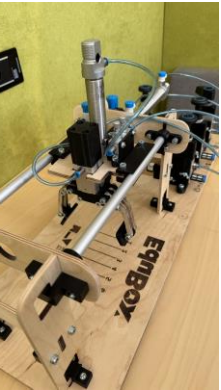
The support is intended for **companies undergoing restructuring or transformation** as a result of efforts to meet **climate goals**:

- A shift away from their original economic activities
- Retraining for new sectors

# Strategic investment in the coal regions and the challenges



**TPA** – Innovation Center for Educational Transformation



Innovation in Industry



School 1



School 2



School 3

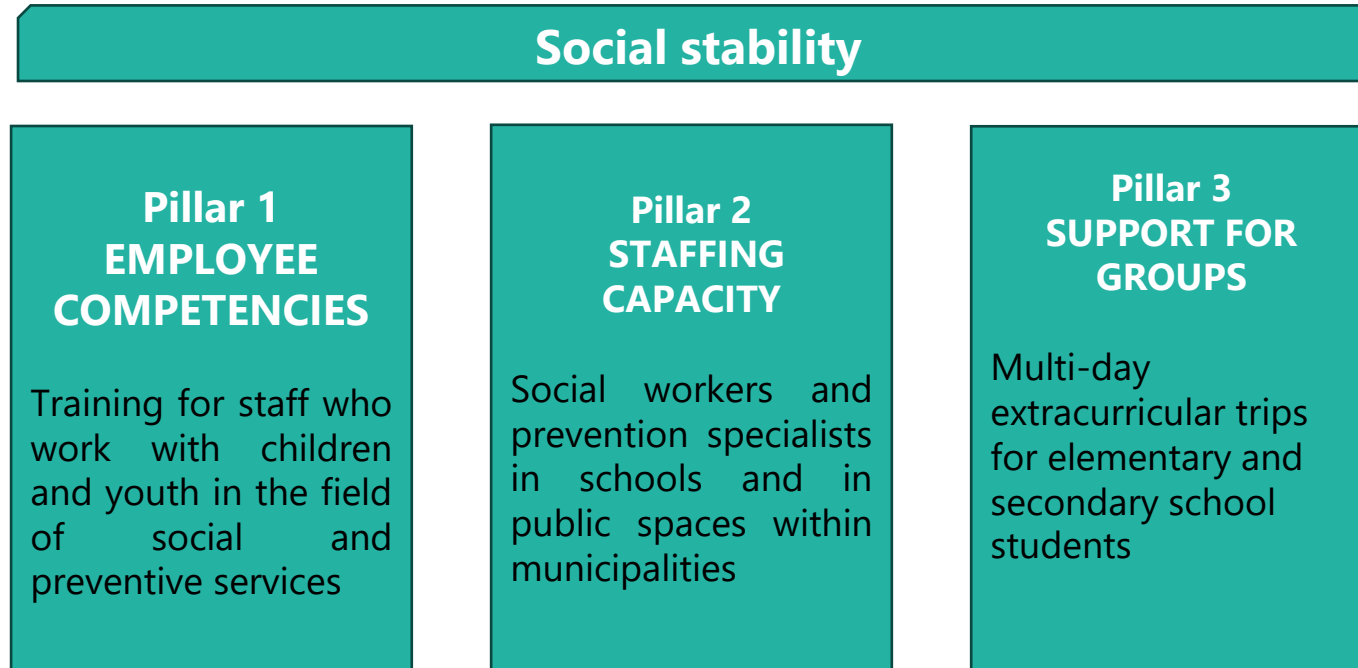


Innovation through collaboration with MTA



Innovation potential

# Social stability - calls



- The individual pillars are interconnected and form a **single thematic whole**.
- The support is primarily aimed at **groups of children and youth** in the most vulnerable areas.
- The support is intended for municipalities with a **social exclusion index ranging from 10 to 30**.
- The goal is to **reduce early school leaving** and **youth unemployment**.

# Land restoration – Nature and landscape

## Bird Park Střimická výsypka

- Creation of a bird park near the city of Most.
- An **area previously covered with overburden from the newly opened Most-Ležáky mine**, which has undergone land restoration.
- The aim is to gradually **restore nature and create a species-rich environment**.
- Activities include the removal of non-native species, grassing, establishment of an orchard, introduction of grazing by large herbivores, creation of ponds, and development of **visitor infrastructure**.



# Employee training

## Transformation of ISOS Automation Ltd.

- **Main activities:** automation and robotics, design office, metal fabrication, 3D printing
- The company is a **key supplier of equipment and components in the "automotive" sector**, which is undergoing significant restructuring as a result of meeting climate targets.
- The OPST support will be used to provide **further training for employees** in order to increase and deepen their skills, especially in technical and construction professions.
- **New software tools, systems and other equipment** will also be acquired.



# Achievements

## JTP Champions Awards – Winner of Implementation Excellence



# COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION



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# Communication activity

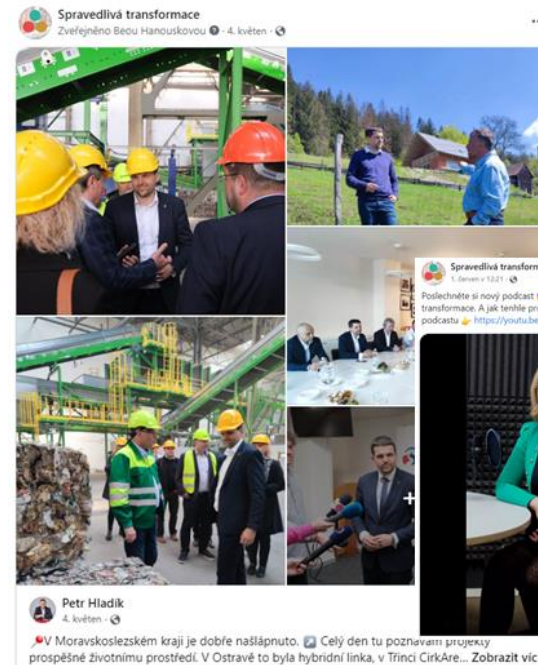
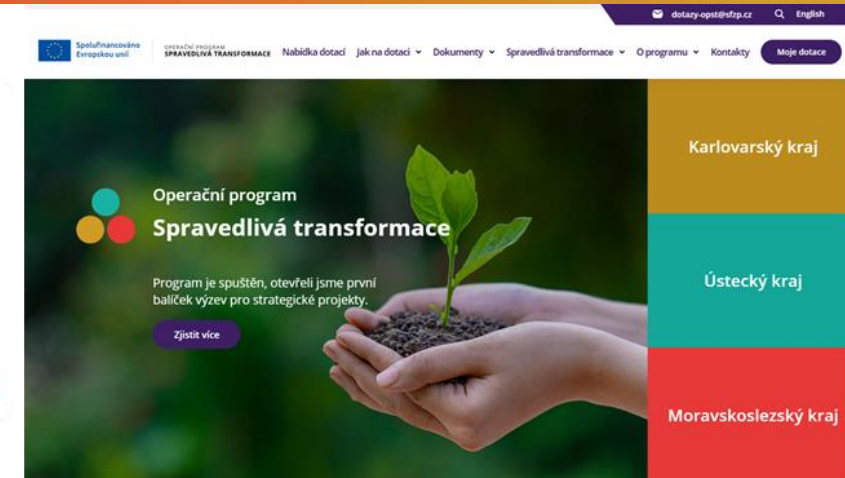
- **Webpage OPST**

- News
- Calls
- Important documents
- Traffic: 9ths /month

- **Social networks**



- Invitations
- Podcasts (dotaceEU.cz)
- Webinars recordings
- FB traffic: 3 ths /month



**www.opst.cz**



# Participation in Just Transition in Czech coal regions

- **Multi-dimensional approach** based mainly on the **using umbrella structure** due to larger number of stakeholders.
- **Transformation Platform**
- Online and present **meetings** informing about the process with room for questions and comments -> done by national and regional public institutions
- **Dedicated meetings** with particular stakeholders (NGOs, youth, work platforms)
- Dissemination of information by participating in the events done by NGOs or other partners.
- **Dedicated working groups** on specific issues and close communication with representatives of regional governments.
- **Newsletter** and transparent and updated website



<https://opst.cz/about-the-programme>





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# RE:START

Department of Vulnerable Areas and Regions

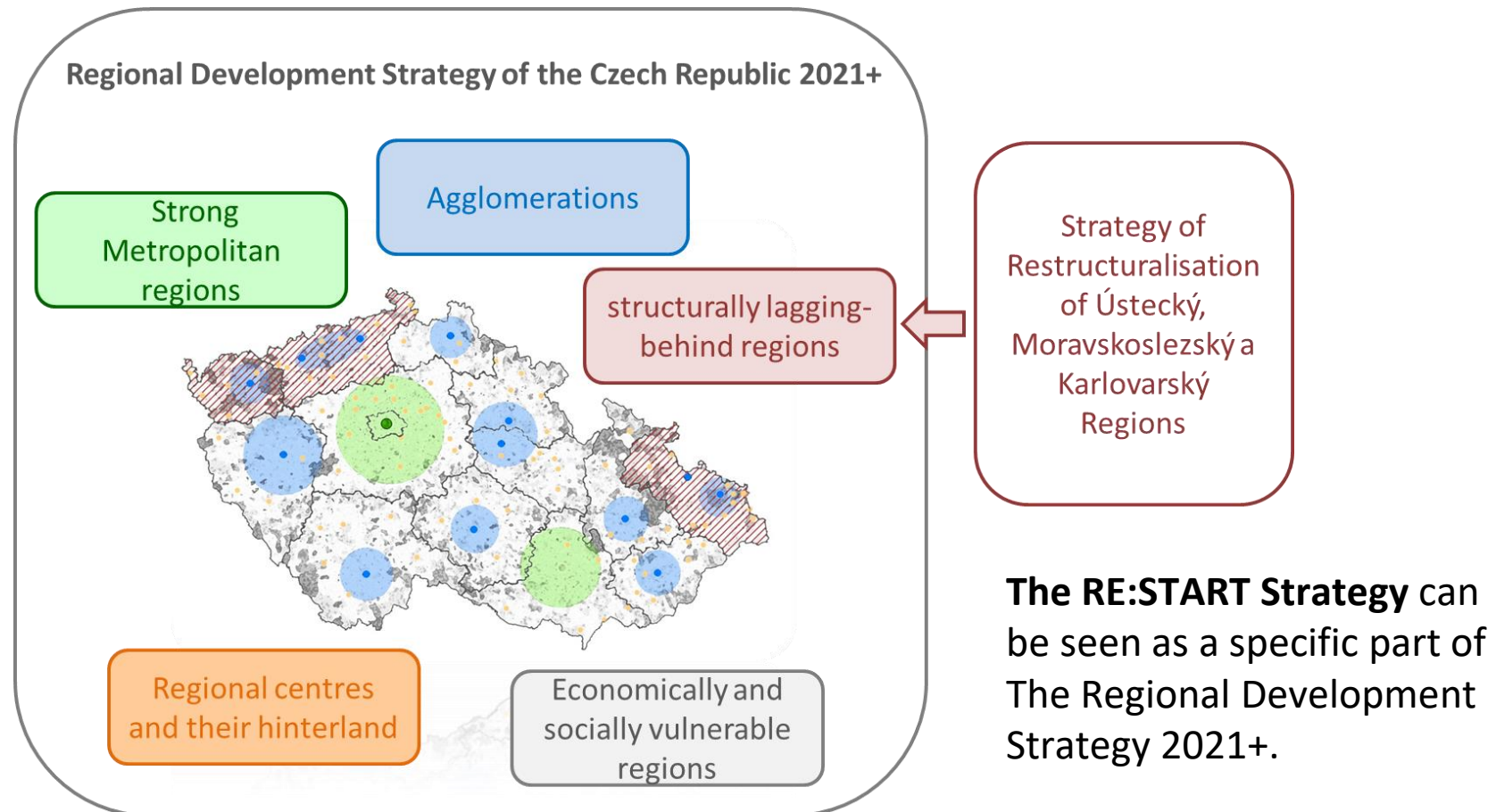
Trilateral JTF event  
Tomáš Burdych

December 1–2, 2025; Dresden, Lusatian mining region

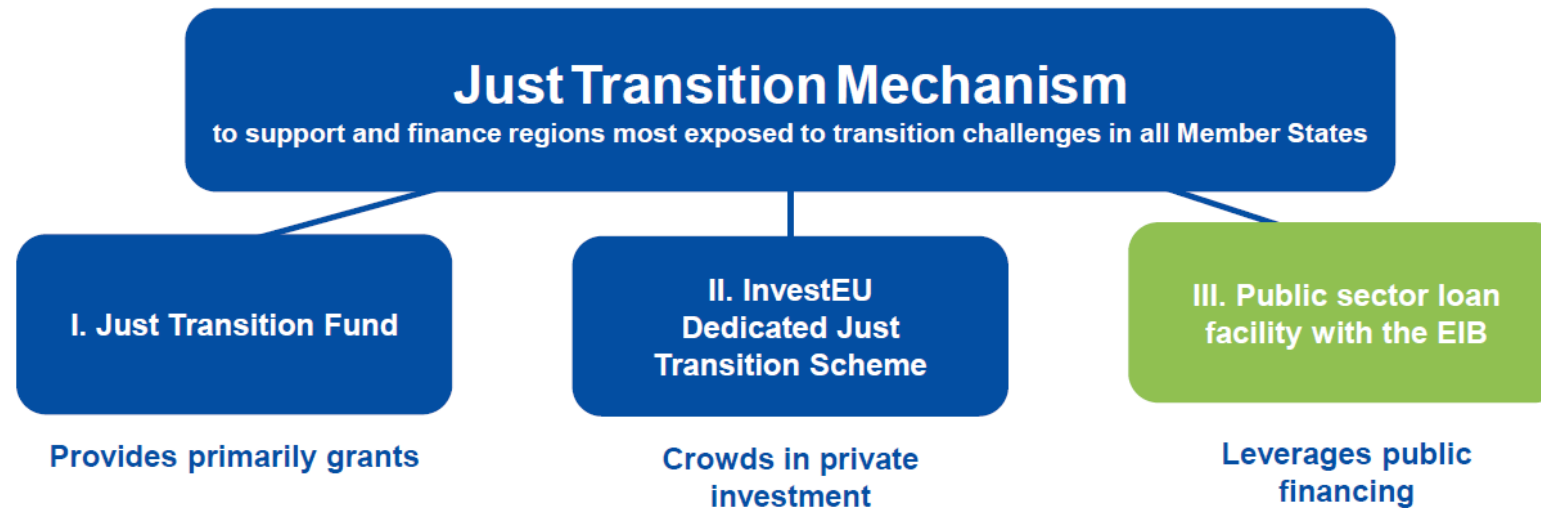


# Strategy of Economic Restructuring of Ústí, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovy Vary Regions

## RE:START Strategy – a complementary strategy to Programme Just Transition and its TJTP



# JUST TRANSITION MECHANISM



Source: European Commission

- **Public sector loan facility (PSLF) = III. Pillar of JTM** -> the Czech Republic is going to spend its national allocation by 2025 (**EUR 115 M**, 4th largest in EU)
- Involvement of **National Development Bank as an intermediary institution** in smaller size projects (EUR 2-25 M) – EIB is not able to deal with this size of projects unless they are grouped in so called Framework Loan.
- Advantage of **broad scope of eligible projects** in the Czech TJTP **and support** of the instrument (Technical Assistance, a dedicated [handbook](#), [website](#), workshops...)

## III. Pillar of Just Transition Mechanism (PSLF)

### Sample of approved projects for PSLF

- **Sustainable mobility:**
- Modernisation of railway infrastructure (EUR 11,2 M) – 8 railway stations and other projects from Správa železnic.
- **Infrastructure for education:**
- A new dormitory and 2 sports halls (EUR 2,5 M in total)
  
- **Urban renewal:**
- Construction of a concert hall in Ostrava (EUR 21 M) and modernisation of Postoloprty's historical town centre with respect to sustainability (EUR 0,5 M)
- **Energy efficiency:**
- building efficiency upgrades in Děčín (EUR 0,4 M) and lighting renewal in Ustí (EUR 0,4 M)