



European
Commission

Agenda

IncITe the change: How the IT sector can transform the local economy

JTP Groundwork Technical Regional Forum

JTP Groundwork event in Novska, Croatia

[Novska, Sisak-Moslavina County, and Zagreb Croatia]

[27-28 November 2024]

Introduction

The event builds on previous activities launched by the European Commission's [Just Transition Platform](#) to engage and build capacity in Novska. The event is part of JTP Groundwork, a capacity building support helping the Just Transition Fund (JTF) regions to implement their Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTJs). In scope of this support, the Technical Regional Forum (TRF) gives an additional dimension, providing space for exchange, networking, and discussion on certain aspects of the transition that can be additionally fostered or emphasised as a possible way forward for some regions and help them reinvent local economies. The event spans two days with panel discussions, workshops, a site visit, and a hackathon.

The event aims to:

- I. Mainstream the regional and Croatian just transition vision*
- II. Inform about the role and funding opportunities for the IT sector through the Just Transition Fund*
- III. Showcase IT sector initiatives local to Novska and Sisak-Moslavina*
- IV. Discuss the role and approaches to IT sector development in other JTF regions (Karlovy Vary, CZ, Silesia, PL, and Jiu Valley, RO)*
- V. Explore educational opportunities for IT through universities and life-long learning providers*

Activities

The main cornerstones of the event are:

- Two interactive workshops to design project ideas for the IT sector and to design curriculums for supporting the scale up of JTF IT projects*
- Input presentations on best practices and success stories on IT approaches from abroad*
- Showcasing local IT sector initiatives*
- Policy hackathon*

Note that the working language of the event is English. Simultaneous translation from English to Croatian and Croatian to English will be available during the first day of the event.

Agenda

DAY 1		
Time	Agenda item	Speakers and moderator
Until 14:00	Arrival to Zagreb and the venue at The Westin Zagreb, Krsnjavoga 1, 10000, Zagreb, Croatia	
14:00 - 14:30	Welcome coffee reception	
14:30 - 14:40	Opening of the event Welcoming the participants by the European Commission and the Regional Coordinator. Moderator presents the programme of the day.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balbina Gluza-Cyzerka, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission • Andreja Šeperac, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina County Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirjana Matešić, Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development
14:40 - 16:00	Setting the scene - just transition in Croatia and the IT sector A mix of key notes and panel discussions focused on the JTF, JTF implementation in Croatia, the role of the IT sector and digital innovation in Croatia and the EU.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myriam Bovéda, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission • Ascanio Troiani, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission • TBD, Ministry of Regional Development • Ivan Celjak, Sisak-Moslavina county • Ivana Dragišić, Istria Regional Coordinator Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirjana Matešić, Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development
16:00 - 16:30	National and EU opportunities to support the Croatian IT sector development	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dijana Bezjak, Ministry of Regional Development

DAY 1

Time	Agenda item	Speakers and moderator
	<i>Presentation by the Ministry of Regional Development on published and planned JTF calls and by a representative from the European Commission on available EU funds.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iva Maric, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mirjana Matešić, Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development
16:30 – 17:30	Success stories from abroad Presentation of IT approaches, strategies, and success stories from the JTF regions Karlovy Vary (Czechia), Silesia (Poland), and Jiu Valley (Romania)	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vlastimil Veselý, Business Development Agency of the Karlovy Vary Region• Marcin Nowak, Vice President of the Digital Technology Gaming, KatoHub, Silesia• Ana Popesco, Robotics initiative of the Jiu Valley <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mirjana Matešić, Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development
17:30 – 17:45	Closing Day 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andreja Šeperac, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina County• Balbina Gluza-Cyzerska, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
17:45	Networking dinner	

DAY 2

Time	Agenda item	Speakers and moderator
08:30 – 09:30	Transfer to Novska	
09:30 – 10:30	City tour through Novska	<p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boženka Spahić, City of Novska

DAY 2

Time	Agenda item	Speakers and moderator
	Guided tour to present how EU funds and projects have changed the city landscape.	
11:00 – 17:00	<p>Hackathon</p> <p>University students are given two challenges related to potential role of the IT sector and are asked to design a solution in five hours. The hackathon takes place in parallel to the afternoon programme.</p>	<p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tatjana Puskaric, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina county • Tomislav Plesec, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina county
10:30 – 12:00	<p>Presentations of local IT initiatives</p> <p>Showcasing local IT sector initiatives, such as gaming in Novska, AI in Lipik, Drones in Petrinja, Applied Ceramics in Sisak.</p> <p><i>20 minutes presentations from the three initiatives, focused on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Challenges -Future plans <p>20 minutes – moderated panel discussion</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreja Šeperac, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina County • Karlo Dževerlija, City of Petrinja • Igor Buzov, Center for AI Lipik <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goran Momčilović, Ecorys Croatia
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 15:00	<p>Workshop I: Role of the IT sector for the just transition</p> <p>1. Input presentation: Success story from Croatian IT company and projects funded by EU funds, <i>10-15 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Set-up: Participants are divided in groups of approx. 10 people where they will discuss the role and potential and the challenges to the IT sector.</i></p> <p>1. Discussion of the role and potential of the IT sector</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Lipničan, SELK <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iris Pilipović, SIMORA (introducing the speaker) • Wiktorija Beckmann, JTP Groundwork

DAY 2

Time	Agenda item	Speakers and moderator
	<p>2. Discussion of five predefined challenges to the IT sector development</p> <p><i>Set-up: Two groups are working on the same challenge to find a solution to the given challenges trying to integrate the potential of the IT sector (potentially based on a template/input questions to guide the brainstorm)</i></p> <p>3. Elevator pitches presenting the outcomes of the group work, <i>3 minutes per group</i></p>	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Workshop II: Education and reskilling for supporting the scale up of JTF IT projects</p> <p>1. Input presentation: Success story (voucher programme), <i>10 minutes</i></p> <p>2. World café</p> <p>Set-up: Participants move along the different tables, discussing one topic per table and creating a mind map related to that topic. Each table has a moderator to introduce the topic and guide the discussion. <i>(5 tables, each table 5-7 minutes)</i></p> <p>Topics for the roundtables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills needed in the IT sector • Examples of interesting educational programmes, vouchers, upskilling programmes • Knowledge and R&D transfer • Support sources (e.g. Partners/organization, funding and financial support) • How to engage people for new skills opportunities? How to increase knowledge on 	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success story: Ivana Mehle, deputy director, and Ivana Drobac Kern, Head of the Department for Professional Guidance and Education, Croatian Employment Service <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreja Šeperac, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina county (introducing the speaker) • Emma Krause, JTP Groundwork

DAY 2

Time	Agenda item	Speakers and moderator
	educational opportunities? Who are the target groups? Discussion on the outcomes of each roundtable	
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Closing of the event: Presentation of Hackathon results and award ceremony</i>	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andreja Šeperac, Regional Coordinator of Sisak-Moslavina county• Wiktorija Beckmann, Representative from JTP Groundwork
17:30 – 18:30	<i>Transfer to Zagreb</i>	

