

# ANNEX: JUST TRANSITION BENCHMARKING CHECKLIST

## Pillar 1. Stakeholder Involvement

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<b>Adequacy of objective</b>		Mostly a legal requirement; while gathering local knowledge and seeking legitimacy are seen secondary;		At national level – only a legal requirement;  At local level – a broader spectrum of objectives was covered (Seeking knowledge and information from local experts with significant experience in the region);		Low (mostly a legal requirement; while gathering local knowledge and seeking legitimacy are seen secondary);
<b>Identification of inclusiveness</b>		Medium; youth groups have been identified as a major target groups. On the other hand, SMEs have not been a specific target group;		At national level – low.  At local level – between “medium” and “high”; youth groups have been identified as a major target groups. A broad range of civil society actors, industry players, investors, local communities have been identified as relevant stakeholders and involved in the local discussions. Marginalised groups and women have not been identified as particular target groups locally;		Low;  Vulnerable groups have been mostly excluded; no specific focus on marginalised groups, energy poor groups, women and youth; SMEs weakly represented;

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Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<b>Balance of stakeholder influence</b>	No	To a certain extent; the consultations have been strongly dominated by the energy incumbents and their initiative “Brown to Green” that requested to be joined to the Southwest coal region; less involvement of SMEs and vulnerable groups;	Yes	To a great extent; there was a good balance between different civil society organisations, industry producers, trade unions, youth representatives and potential green entrepreneurs. This was reflected in the variety of specific proposals and project ideas developed at local that however have not been incorporated yet in the TJTP in the programming stage;	No	Strongly dominated by the incumbents, private lobby groups and the labour unions resisting any transformation towards low-carbon development;
<b>Engagement methods</b>						
<i>Information about the process</i>	Yes	Limited; one-way communication;	Yes	At national level – one-way and limited;  At local level – two-ways information and comprehensive information and awareness raising campaigns and policies by the municipalities and local civil society actors;	Yes	Limited; one-way communication;

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Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<i>Communication</i>	Yes	Limited and delayed; dominated by the “Brown to Green” communication campaigns; WWF Bulgaria’s targeted communication and awareness raising activities, including a stakeholder consultation table (however after the end of the public consultation of 3 weeks);	Yes	Fragmented, sporadic and very limited communication between national and local authorities;  Frequent two-ways communication between actors at local level; roundtables, discussions, information campaigns, youth initiatives as the main communication channels;	Yes	Mostly steered by SZEDA; very limited involvement of public authorities;
<i>Consultation</i>	Yes, but only during the first stage by the consultant PwC	Led by PwC; lack of a more regional approach;	Yes	The first stage of the consultation was led by PwC;  A more bottom-up, inclusive and open approach was applied at local level by the municipality and civil society actors that enabled an interactive exchange of ideas and the development of concrete proposals;	Yes, but only during the first stage by the consultant PwC	Led by PwC, perceived as very distant from the local stakeholders, local discourses and needs of the stakeholders; lack of a more regional approach;

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<i>Involvement</i>	Yes	Very limited and the use of few engagement channels; youths engaged by NGOs but lacking representation;	Yes	The use of a broad spectrum of engagement tools in complementarity with other parallel initiatives; good synergy between the different projects and initiatives; proactive engagement of the youth groups in particular (especially through the Municipality's Consultative Council on Youth Policies;	Yes	Very limited and the use of few engagement channels; youths engaged by NGOs but lacking representation;
<i>Negotiation</i>	No		Yes	To a certain extent	No	
<i>Legitimacy</i>	Yes	To a limited extent	Yes	To a great extent	No	
<b>Depth and proper timing of engagement methods</b>		Shallow		Medium depth; appropriate timing of the locally applied engagement methods;		Shallow
<b>Comprehensiveness of the engagement strategy</b>		Low		Medium		Low
<b>Potential depth of the engagement methods</b>		Shallow		Medium		Shallow

## Pillar 2. Decarbonisation Ambition

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator	Yes/No	Performance indicator	Yes/No	Performance indicator
<b>Decarbonisation targets</b>						
<i>GHG emissions reduction (at national level and of industrial facilities)</i>	At national level – yes  At regional level – no target	Lower than 45%	At national level – yes  At regional level – no target	Lower than 45%	Yes	Lower than 45%
<i>Coal phase out</i>	Yes	After 2035	Yes	After 2035	Yes	After 2035
<i>Other fossil fuels phase out</i>	No		No		No	
<i>RES targets</i>	No %	installation of 2 847 000 MWh/per year of total produced energy from renewable energy sources (including electricity and heat);	No %	installation of 2 190 000 MWh/per year of total produced energy from renewable energy sources (including electricity and heat);	No %	installation of 15,330,000 MWh/year of total produced energy from renewable sources (including electricity and heat);
<i>EE targets</i>	No		No		No	
<b>Comprehensiveness of decarbonisation targets</b>		Low		Low		Low to moderate
<b>Ambition of decarbonisation targets</b>		Low		Cannot be fully measured; RES target high but lacking clarity about its fulfilment;		Low to moderate
<b>Composite supportiveness of existing and additional policies for renewable energy sources</b>		Low		At national level – low;  At local level – medium;		Low to moderate

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator	Yes/No	Performance indicator	Yes/No	Performance indicator
<b>Performance indicators</b>						
<i>Storage (either for total capacity installed or as a share of RES capacity)</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<i>RES-based heating (either for total capacity installed or as a share of total heating capacity in the region)</i>	No specific target for the heating sector;		No specific target for the heating sector;		No specific target for the heating sector;	
<i>Sustainable transport (for the deployment of EV infrastructure, or other sustainable transport modes such as railway connections, bike lanes, etc.)</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<i>Fuel mix replacement in industrial processes (for the deployment of sustainable fuels in industry, such as the increased use of synthetic or biofuels, or electrification)</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<b>Comprehensiveness of the performance indicators</b>		Low		Low		Low
<b>Ambition of the performance indicators</b>		Low		Low		Low to moderate
<b>Technological roadmap</b>	No		No		No	
<b>Comprehensiveness of the technological roadmap</b>						
<b>Ambition of the roadmap</b>						
<b>Comprehensiveness of the sustainability criteria</b>		Low		Low		Low

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator	Yes/No	Performance indicator	Yes/No	Performance indicator
<b>Impact of the sustainability criteria</b>						
<i>Exclusion list of significantly harmful activities or such that would lead to unsustainable use of natural resources, harm the local ecosystems or have a negative impact on biodiversity in the region</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Fulfilling the average lifecycle emissions' intensity threshold of 100g CO<sub>2</sub>e /kWh, leading to a reduction of the threshold every 5 years and declining to 0g CO<sub>2</sub>e / kWh by 2050</i>	No		No		No	
<b>Inclusion of performance indicators with regard to:</b>						
<i>GHG emissions</i>	Yes		Yes		Yes	
<i>Energy savings</i>	No		No		No	
<i>RES integration</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Waste reduction</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Transport efficiency</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Reducing air pollution</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Circular economy efficiency</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Integration of sustainability criteria in the tendering process (Green procurement included in the plan)</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Environmental impact assessment, including the impact of the supported technologies on water resources, air pollution, green space, the local ecosystems and biodiversity</i>	No		No		No	

### Pillar 3. Green Transformation Potential

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<b>Socio-economic aspects</b>						
<i>Ex ante evaluation of the job replacement potential of the region and for its scope for raising the skills profile of laidoff workers</i>	Yes	Only general estimation without in-depth socio-economic assessment;	Yes	Only general estimation without in-depth socio-economic assessment;	Yes	Only general estimation without in-depth socio-economic assessment;
<i>Training programs for marginalised social groups and women</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Identification of concrete sectors and targets, as well as funding streams and timeschedule for the reskilling programmes</i>	Yes	To a certain extent	Yes	To a certain extent	Yes	To a certain extent
<i>Assessment of the number of jobs in low-carbon industries that will be created</i>	Yes	Only general estimation without in-depth socio-economic assessment;	Yes	Only general estimation without in-depth socio-economic assessment;	Yes	Only general estimation without in-depth socio-economic assessment;
<b>Comprehensiveness of the reskilling and new job placement strategy</b>		Low		Low		Low
<b>Adequacy of the reskilling and new job placement measures</b>		Low		Low		Low
<b>Comprehensiveness of the economic transformation strategy</b>		Low		Low		Low
<i>Quantitative and qualitative sectoral assessment of the most vulnerable sectors to the transition process and the impact on investments/jobs/tax revenues</i>	No		No		No	



TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<i>Identification of the fastest growing economic areas in the region</i>	Yes	To a certain extent	Yes	To a certain extent (mostly during local discussion forums and meetings);	Yes	To a certain extent
<i>Inclusion of specific plans, projects and initiatives for supporting value-added job creation in economic areas with high potential</i>	Yes	To a limited extent	Yes	To a certain extent (mostly during local discussion forums and meetings);	Yes	To a limited extent
<b>Comprehensiveness of the smart specialisation support</b>	Low		Low to medium		Low	
<i>Identification of growth potential in new economic areas</i>	No		No		No	
<i>A common vision for sectoral development</i>	No		Yes	This is not sufficiently reflected in the TJTP but in the overall approach of the municipality towards green economic diversification and smart specialisation of the region;	No	
<i>Improvement of the business environment for innovative companies</i>	No		Yes	To a certain extent; This is not sufficiently reflected in the TJTP but in the emerging industrial revival/ industrial digitalisation initiatives in the region supported by the municipality;	No	

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<b>Composite supportiveness of smart specialisation measures</b>	Low		Low		Low	
<b>Comprehensiveness of the SME development strategy</b>						
<i>SMEs cooperating with research institutions</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<i>SMEs investing in skills development</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<i>SMEs introducing product or process innovation</i>	Yes	9 SMEs by 2029	Yes	9 SMEs by 2030	Yes	30 SMEs by 2029
<i>SMEs introducing marketing or organizational innovation</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<i>SMEs investing in green energy or the circular economy</i>	No target		No target		No target	
<b>Composite supportiveness of smart SME development support measures</b>						
<b>Sustainability of the SME development strategy</b>						
<i>Existence of the polluter pays principle</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Environmental Impact Assessments, biodiversity and nonenergy effect assessments</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Identification of private funding sources for projects</i>	No		Yes	To a certain extent	No	

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
Share of the total funding budget allocated to innovation projects in low-carbon businesses and circular economy	No target		No target		No target	
Share of projects outside the ETS related to innovation in low-carbon businesses and circular economy that are included in the support programs	No target		No target		No target	
Comprehensiveness of the innovation creation strategy						
<i>Tax incentives and regulatory changes at national and regional level to incentivize green innovations</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Specific targeted measures for supporting innovative and environmentally-oriented SMEs</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Specialized financial instruments for the support of innovation projects, including projects by startups and SMEs</i>	No		No		No	
<i>A target indicator for the funding of public research organisations (universities &amp; PRIs)</i>	No		No		No	

TJTP	Kyustendil		Pernik		Stara Zagora	
Indicators	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment	Yes/No	Performance indicator assessment
<i>Additional support measures for the enabling of technology transfer from universities and research institutes</i>	No		Yes	The training of technicians and engineers in its university and professional schools, in particular in the ore development sector and the steel sector;	No	
<i>Support for the creation of regional innovation centres</i>	No		No		No	
<i>Expansion of the regional administrative capacity for the implementation of innovation policies</i>	No		Yes	Not in the TJTP itself but through other complementary project initiatives, such as the enhancing of regional capacity for the building of renewable energy communities and smart grids in certain neighbourhoods;	No	
<b>Supportiveness of innovation creation measures</b>		Low		Low to medium		Low