Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

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JUST ENERGY TRANSITION FOR CENTRAL EUROPE

Work Package 1 - Transnational cooperation to develop tools and enhance capacities for Just Energy Transition

Version 3

03 2025

Contents

Introduction

The transition to greener energy systems must be just and inclusive, ensuring that no region or demographic group is left behind. The Interreg Central Europe JETforCE project addresses this challenge by harnessing digitalisation to co-design and co-implement energy transition strategies. The project improves local and regional energy planning, equipping public authorities and stakeholders with the necessary tools to make informed decisions that consider not only technological feasibility but also socio-economic and environmental justice. By actively engaging citizens—including vulnerable groups—and assessing energy technologies through a **socio-economic lens**, JETforCE creates a fairer and more effective transition process.

At the core of the project are two innovative digital solutions that enhance transparency, citizen participation, and decision-making in energy transition planning. The **JETforCE Challenge Mapping tool** is a youth-led, digital tool that allows citizens to identify and report local climate challenges, ensuring that energy transition initiatives account for the needs of vulnerable communities. The **JETforCE Technology Evaluation tool** is a software platform that supports decision-makers in assessing the cost-benefit and social impact of different renewable energy technologies, offering a structured framework for evaluating their real-world effectiveness.

The **JETforCE Capacity Building Toolkit** provides structured guidance on how to use these tools effectively. It includes training materials and guidelines for engaging Digital Ambassadors—community members who play a key role in bridging digital inclusion gaps. The toolkit also ensures that stakeholders are equipped to analyse, interpret, and act upon data collected through the JETforCE tools.

Capacity building activities within JETforCE extend beyond project partners to reach a broad audience, ensuring widespread adoption and long-term impact. Training sessions—including transnational workshops, online seminars, and local engagement events—provide hands-on experience with JETforCE's digital tools. Supporting materials are available online, making resources accessible and scalable across different territorial contexts.

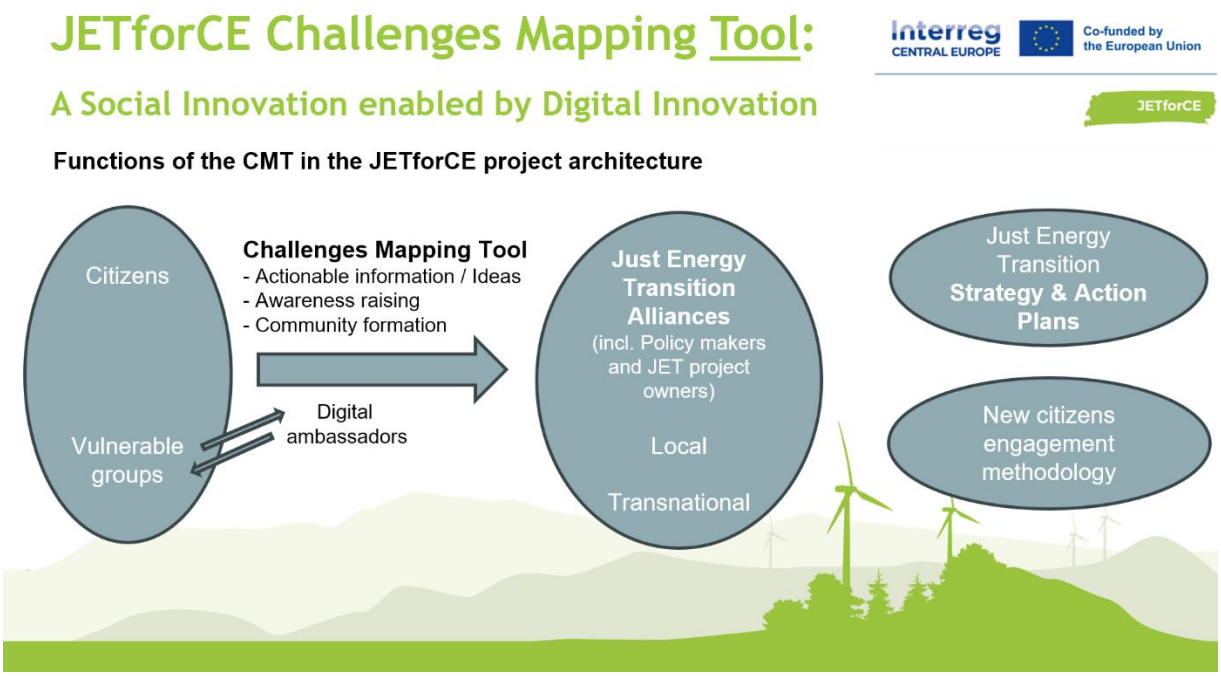
Ultimately, this toolkit serves as a practical resource for driving fairer policies, improving digital skills, and fostering behavioural change. By equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to navigate the Just Energy Transition, JETforCE strengthens regional and local energy planning efforts and ensures that the benefits of digitalisation and renewable energy reach all citizens – especially marginalised communities.

1. JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool

1.1 Background

The JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool (CMT) is a participatory digital solution designed to give citizens an active role in shaping the Just Energy Transition in Central Europe. By leveraging a web-based application and geographic information systems (Google Maps), this tool allows users to report and assess challenges related to energy transition initiatives in their communities. Its primary goal is to identify potential negative socio-economic impacts on vulnerable groups and ensure that the transition to renewable energy is equitable and inclusive.

The JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool can be regarded as a social innovation, enabled by digital innovation. With the CMT citizens, and especially vulnerable groups have an easy-to-handle communication channel to Just Energy Transition Alliances of various JET stakeholders, through which they can identify, localize and specify challenges and action potentials in relation to regional JET programs, with digital ambassadors serving as an important additional communication channel to those who might not be reached though the digital tool alone (see infographic below).



Originally the Challenge Mapping Tool has been developed by IAAI GloCha as a youth engagement tool in the context of the UNFCCC action for climate empowerment programme (ACE). Within JETforCE, IAAI in close collaboration with JETforCE partners adapted and expanded the tool for all citizens,

enabling bottom-up engagement with the energy transition process. The tool serves as a collaborative platform where individuals and communities can voice their concerns, ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to greener energy systems.

The beta version of the JETforCE Digital Challenge Mapping Tool was launched in September 2023 and has since been piloted in all nine partner countries across Central Europe. Initial testing involved project partners and members of the Transnational Just Energy Transition Alliance (T-JETA), confirming the tool's potential to transform citizen engagement and on-the-ground knowledge into inclusive and just energy transition programs and governance on regional level. By integrating direct feedback from communities into decision-making processes, the tool strengthens the link between local voices and policymakers, ensuring that energy transition plans address real-world needs.

Beyond its function as a data collection tool, the Challenge Mapping framework serves as a means to foster behavioural change. By actively participating in the mapping process, citizens gain a deeper understanding of the just energy transition, climate policies, and the role of renewable energy in shaping their futures. Public authorities, NGOs, and policymakers can leverage these insights to design more responsive and fairer policies, addressing social and economic concerns before they become significant barriers to implementation.

As JETforCE progresses, the Challenge Mapping Tool will continue to evolve, integrating more sophisticated data analytics and expanding citizen engagement strategies. By harnessing the power of digital participation and decentralised data collection, this tool stands as a model for how technology can empower communities and ensure just energy transition policies are informed by those most affected.

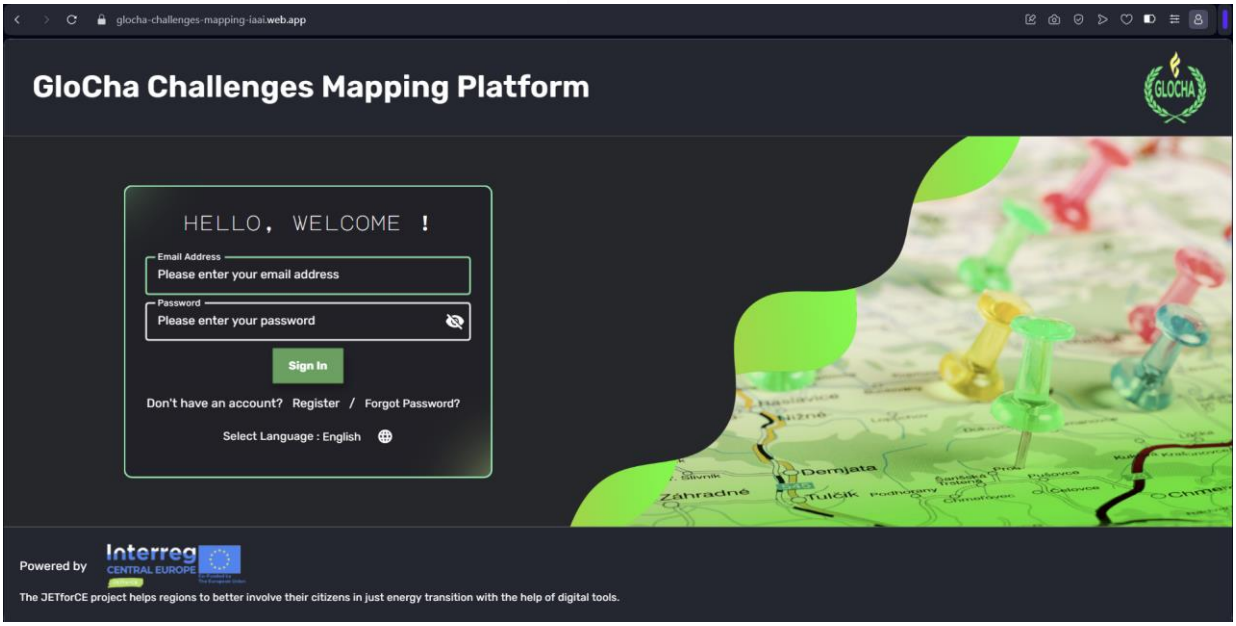
1.2 Challenge Mapping Tool – User Manual

JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool – User Manual – Empowering Citizens for a Just Energy Transition

Access the Tool: https://glocha-challenges-mapping-iaai.web.app

1.2.1 What is the JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool?

The JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool (CMT) is a citizen engagement platform that empowers individuals and communities to identify, localize, and report challenges related to the Just Energy Transition (JET) in their regions. Developed within the INTERREG Central Europe JETforCE project, the tool enables transparent, inclusive communication between citizens and decision-makers, with a focus on vulnerable groups.



1.2.2 Who Can Use the Tool?

The JETforCE CMT is geared towards:

- Citizens and local communities
- Public authorities and energy agencies
- NGOs, youth groups, and schools
- Digital Ambassadors and community facilitators
- et al.

1.2.3 How to Use the Tool

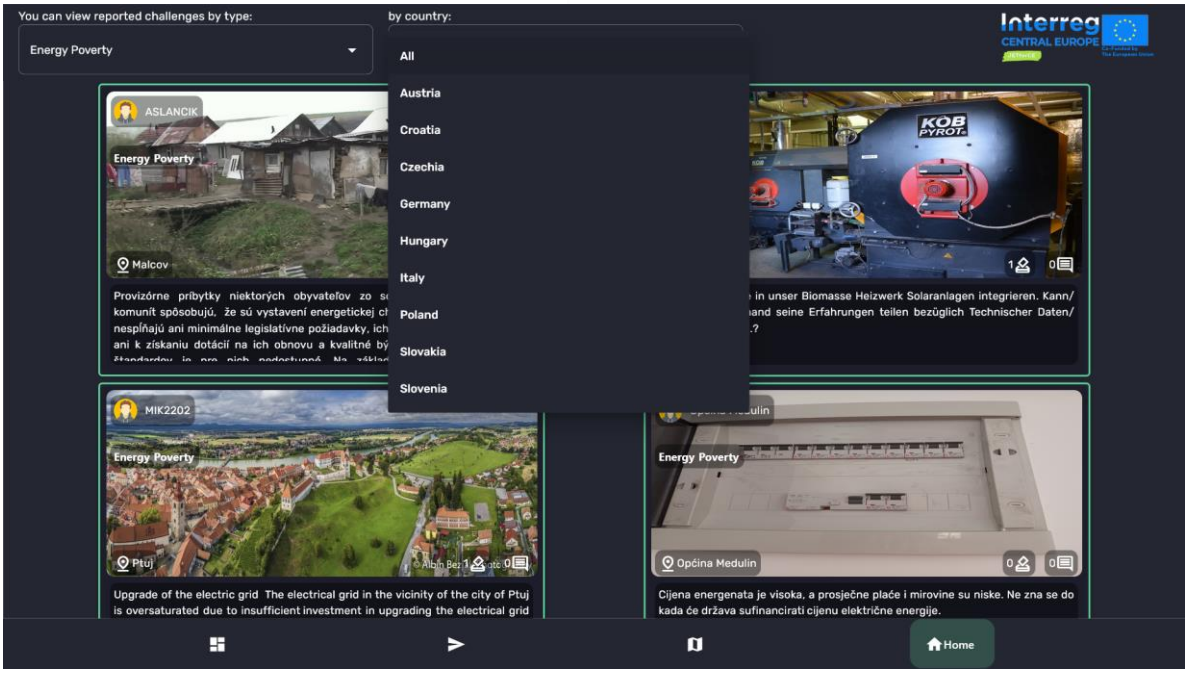
STEP 1: Register and Log In

STEP 2: Create your user profile via the login page. A simple registration process allows secure access to the tool.

STEP 3: Explore the Interface

The app has four main sections:

- **Home Page:** View all reported challenges chronologically.
- **Map View:** See challenges geolocated by region and category.
- **Report Page:** Submit new challenges with photos, categories, and locations.
- **Dashboard:** Track your activity – challenges reported, commented, or supported.



STEP 4: Reporting a Challenge

You can report a challenge under one of **five categories**:

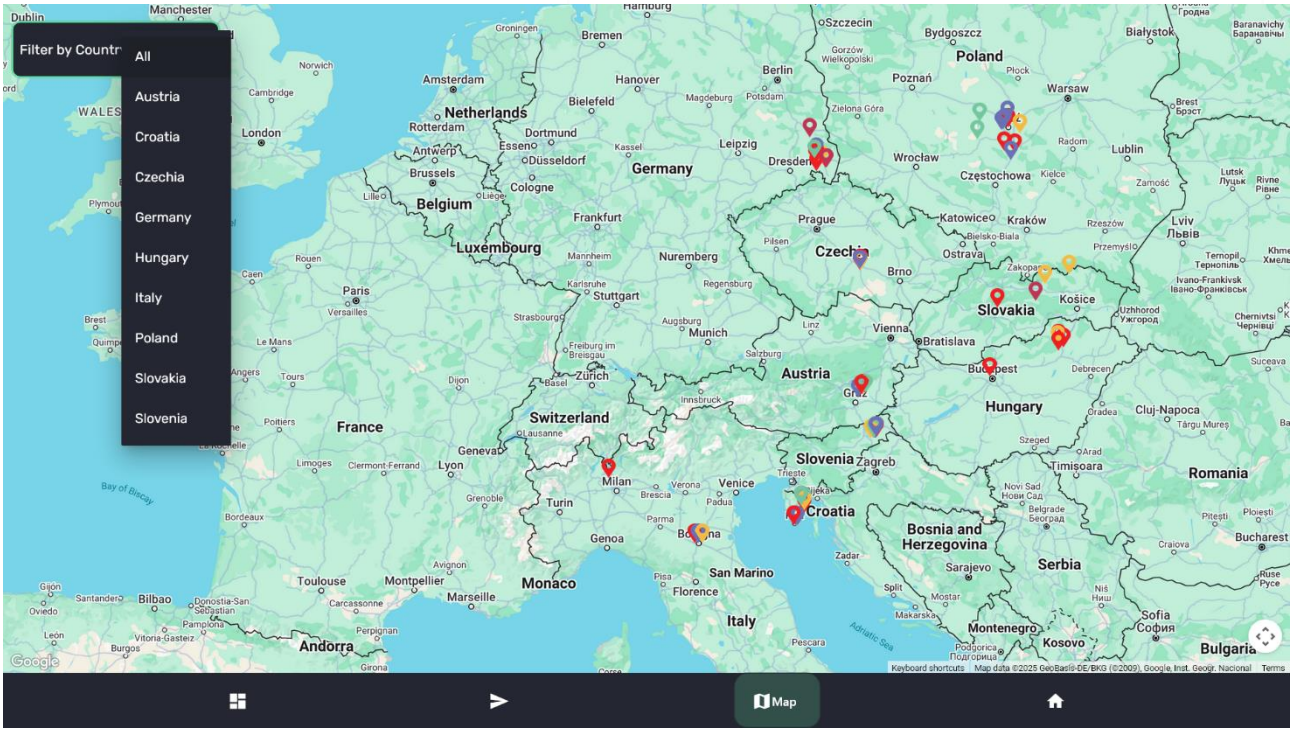
1. **Energy Services**: Issues with access, cost, or reliability of electricity, gas, heating, etc.
2. **Energy Poverty**: Difficulties faced by vulnerable groups in affording or accessing energy.
3. **Citizen Engagement**: Lack of involvement in decision-making or planning processes.
4. **Cross-Institutional Cooperation**: Challenges needing multi-agency coordination.
5. **Justice/Inequality**: Transparency, fairness, or unequal impacts of energy policies.

📍 Mark the location on the map and upload at least one photo.

💬 Add a short description and proposed solutions.

1.2.4 Key Features

- Multi-language support
  Voting & commenting on challenges
- Visual mapping of local priorities
- Profile dashboard for engagement tracking
- Designed for low digital literacy and inclusive access



1.2.5 Tips for Stakeholders

- **Authorities**: Use citizen-reported data to adapt local energy policies and energy transition programs.
- **Educators**: Integrate into school programmes for innovative climate action learning.
- **Digital Ambassadors**: Offer in-person support and workshops for marginalized users.
- **NGOs**: Mobilise communities and raise awareness on opportunities and local/regional challenges of the Just Energy Transition through CMT use.

1.2.6 Contact

For technical issues and for information about future iterations of the CMT and partnership opportunities:

International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges IAAI GloCha

polzer@glocha.info | +43 664 4203648

Let's shape a **fairer, greener future—together.**

Your voice. Your map. Our transition.

2. JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool

2.1 Background

The **JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool** is a decision-support software that enables **policymakers, energy planners, and other stakeholders** to evaluate the socio-economic and technical feasibility of various energy transition technologies. Designed as a web-based application, the tool provides a **structured framework for assessing the costs, benefits, and impact of renewable energy technologies,** guiding users towards informed and just investment decisions.

Unlike traditional cost-benefit analysis tools, the innovative JETforCE digital tool takes socio-economic and environmental indicators into consideration, ensuring that decisions are not solely based on financial metrics but also address equity, accessibility, and potential unintended consequences for vulnerable communities.
The evaluation process follows a structured questionnaire, where users input information about the technology they wish to assess. The tool then evaluates the selected technology based on key **indicators**, including:

- **Energy efficiency** – measuring the effectiveness of the technology in reducing energy consumption.
- **Economic viability** – considering upfront costs, maintenance, and long-term financial benefits.
- **Social impact** – analysing how the technology affects communities, including job creation, affordability, and accessibility.
- **Environmental benefits** – evaluating carbon footprint reductions and overall sustainability.
- **Equity and inclusion** – assessing how well the technology serves all citizens, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.

The tool processes these inputs through a weighted scoring system, providing an objective assessment that helps stakeholders compare real-world implementation scenarios with ideal models. This approach ensures that investments in renewable energy are not only technically feasible but also socially responsible.

The finalised version of the JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool is available, having undergone extensive pilot testing by the partnership and its stakeholders. By collaborating with local and regional stakeholders, JETforCE continues to refine the software, ensuring that it remains user-friendly, scalable, and adaptable across different regional contexts. The tool's long-term goal is to become a

standardised resource for public authorities, businesses, and organisations involved in shaping the energy future of Central Europe.

By equipping decision-makers with reliable, structured, and justice-oriented evaluations, the JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool contributes to fairer and more effective energy policies. It empowers stakeholders to make informed choices about energy investments, ensuring that the benefits of the Just Energy Transition are shared by all, without leaving vulnerable populations behind.

2.2 Technology Evaluation Tool – User Manual

The following subsection provides step-by-step instructions on how to use the JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool effectively. It explains how to navigate the assessment process, interpret results, and apply insights to support informed decision-making. The tool guides users through a structured set of questions covering key indicators, including socio-procedural justice, energy performance, and financial viability. The responses are weighted to provide a well-rounded decision-support framework, helping stakeholders evaluate the potential benefits and trade-offs of different energy investments.

By following the instructions in this guide, users can effectively leverage the JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool to make well-informed, socially just, and sustainable investment decisions.

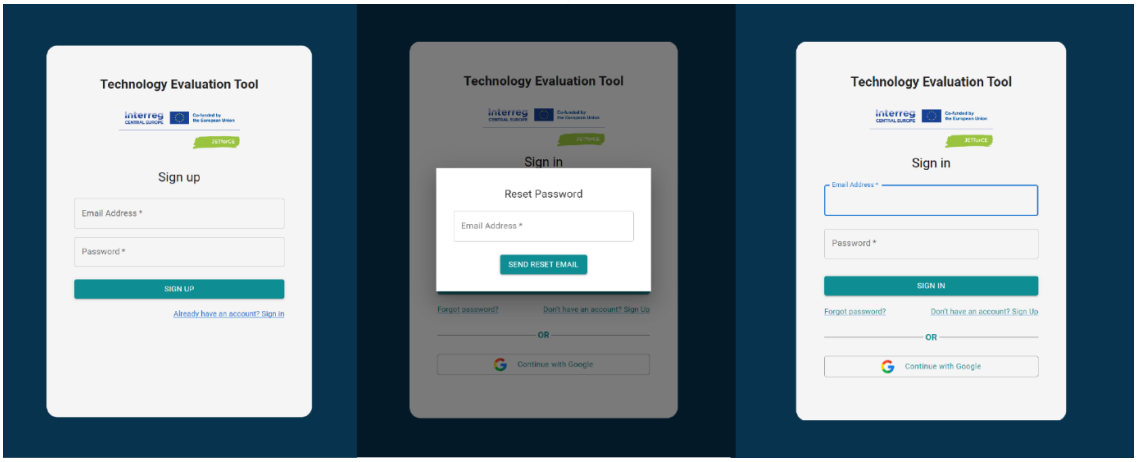
2.2.1 Technology Evaluation Tool – Step-by-step User Manual

JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool – User Manual – Supporting Policymakers in Implementing Just Sustainable Solutions

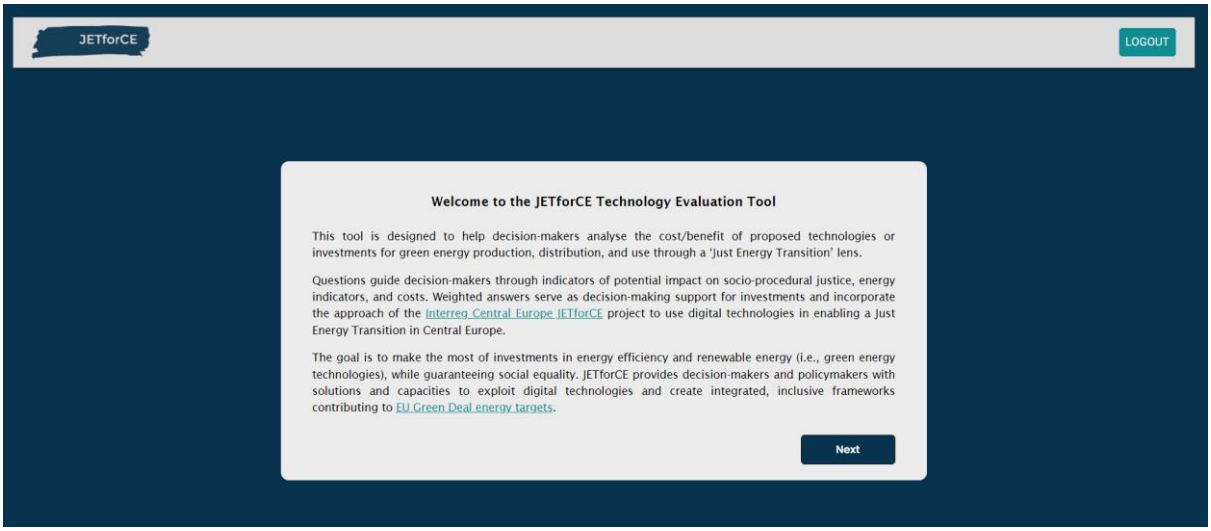
Access the Tool: https://jetforce-1d009.web.app/

STEP 1: Initially, the user must create an account to access the application. Once the account is created, they can sign in and enter the application. A secure sign-in option via Google is available if the user has a Gmail account.

If the user forgets their password, a reset link is sent to their email, allowing them to create a new password.



STEP 2: Upon entering the application, the user is greeted with a welcome message explaining what the "Technology Evaluation Tool" is, along with a reference to its funding.

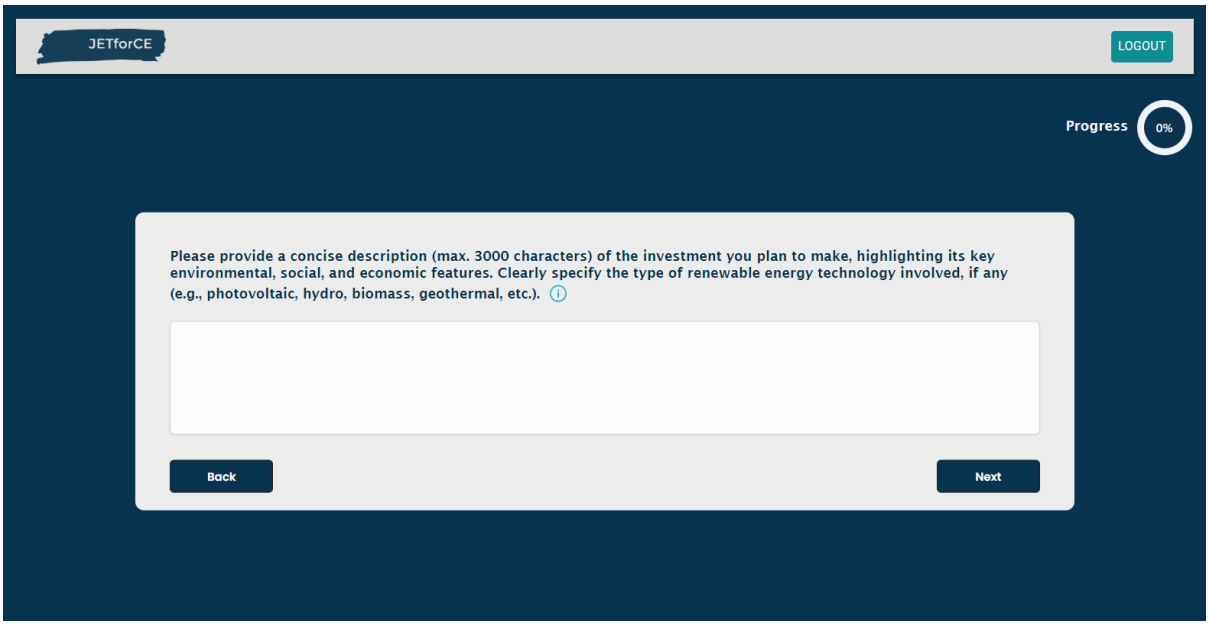


STEP 3: Next, the user sees a map of the European Union on their screen. Through this map, they can select a country and view specific data related to it. This data is sourced from the Eurostat database, which is continuously updated.

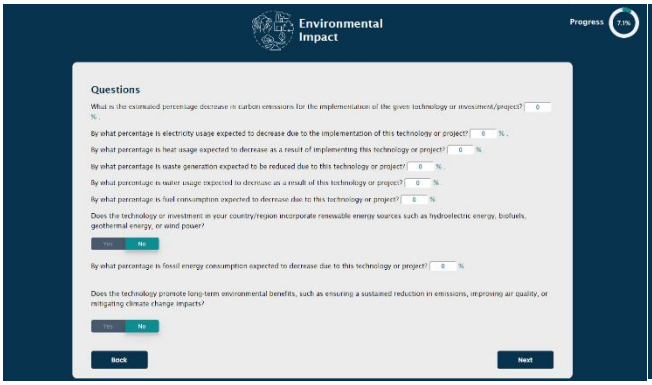
If the user has more up-to-date data for their country, they can edit the respective fields.

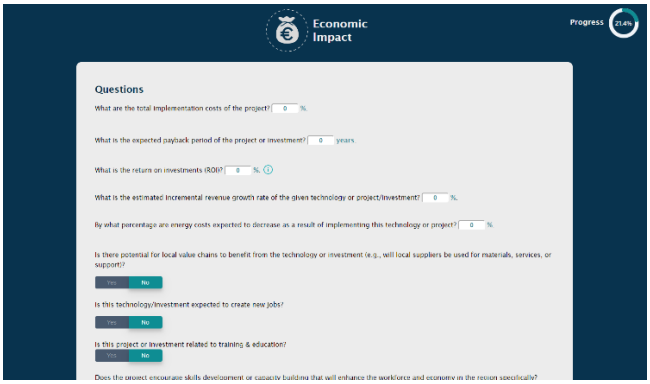
STEP 4: In the next step, the user is required to provide a "description of investment," marking the beginning of the evaluation process for their responses.

At the top right, a progress bar is visible, allowing the user to track their progress throughout the process until all questions are completed and the final score is displayed on the screen.



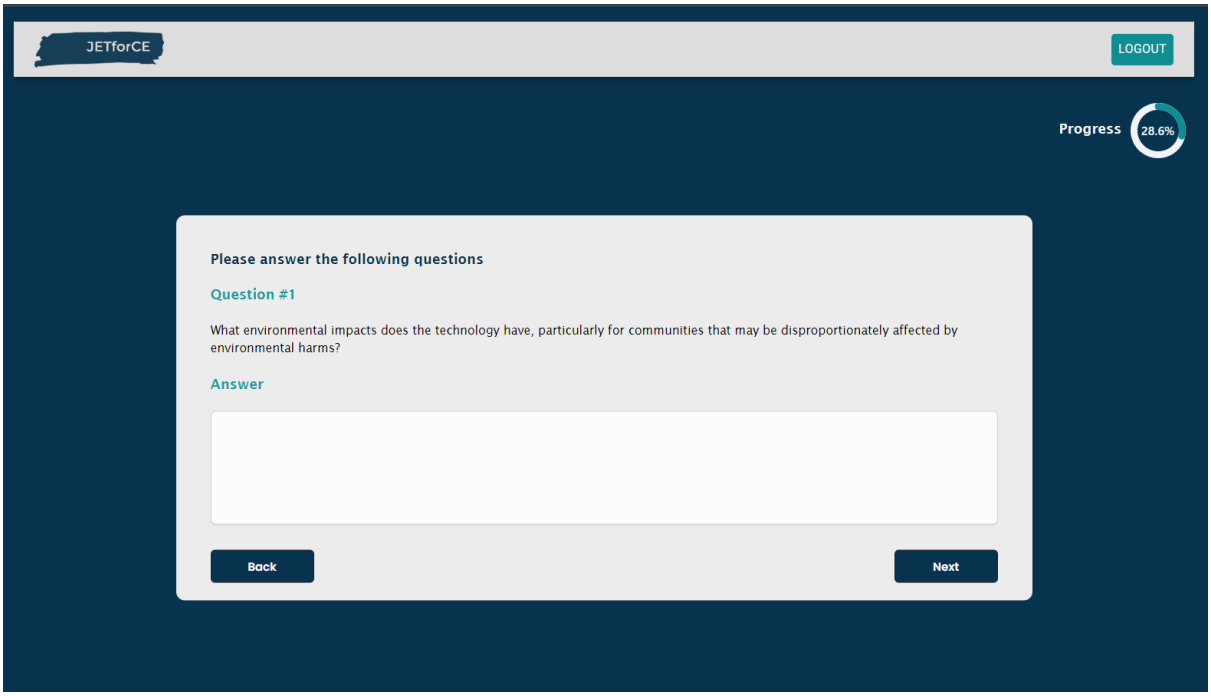
STEP 5: In the following stage, the user answers questions related to the environmental, social, and economic impact of their investment. Weight indicators are applied to the user's responses. Each answer is assigned a specific scoring coefficient based on the importance of the question being answered.

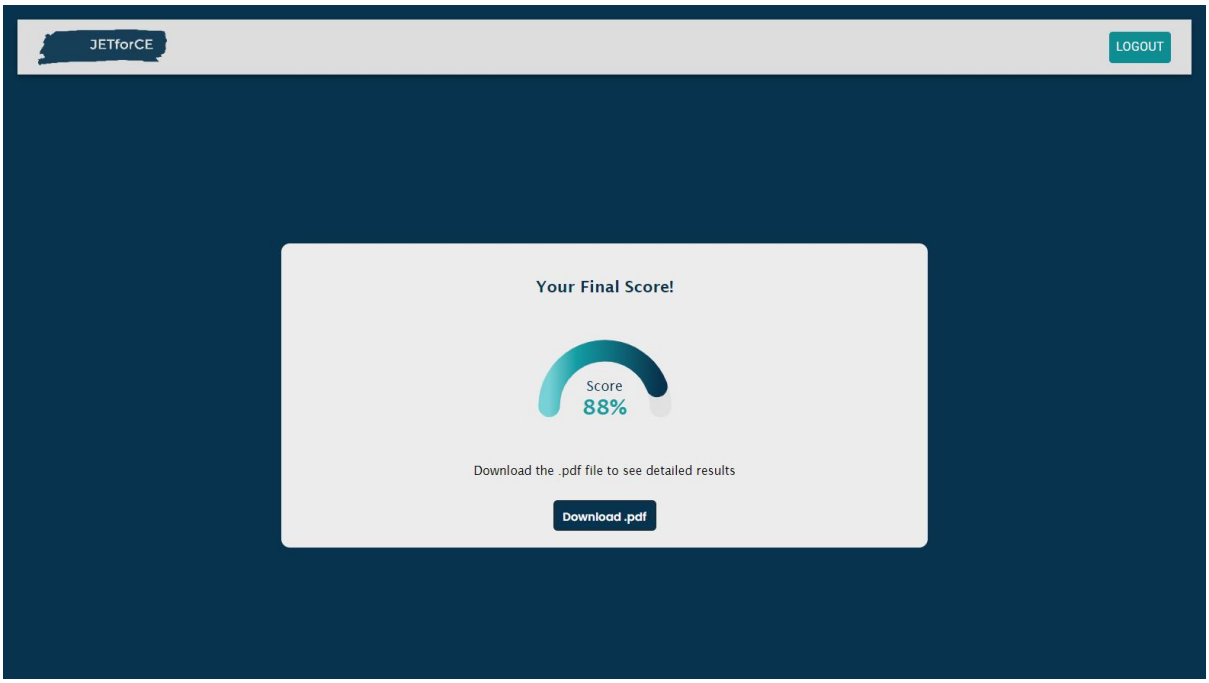




STEP 6: Next, the user must answer a series of 10 questions. The responses at this stage are evaluated and scored by an AI model.

All data from the application is stored in a database to facilitate further development and improvement of the application, as well as to enhance the scoring algorithm based on the results.





STEP 7: Once the user has answered all 10 questions, the final score is displayed on their screen. The user also has the option to download a **.pdf** file containing the questions asked, their responses, and the score assigned by the AI evaluation model.

Technology Evaluation Tool

Total Score: 79%

Question #1
What strategies can your organization implement to mitigate and reverse the environmental impacts caused by coal mining and burning in the region?

Answer
LEAG can mitigate the environmental effects of coal mining and burning in Lusatia by accelerating its transition to renewable energy, supported by large-scale battery storage systems. By investing in advanced battery technologies, LEAG can enhance the reliability of renewable sources like solar and wind, ensuring consistent energy supply even during periods of low generation. This shift will reduce reliance on coal-fired power plants, cutting carbon emissions and improving air quality. Moreover, integrating battery storage will help stabilize the regional grid, balancing supply and demand fluctuations and preventing blackouts, thus fostering a more resilient energy system.

Additionally, LEAG can leverage battery storage to repurpose former mining sites for renewable energy projects, creating "energy hubs" that combine solar farms and wind turbines with storage facilities. This will not only support the decarbonization of the energy sector but also stimulate local economic growth through job creation and investment in clean technology.

Based on the criteria given, the answer would receive a score of 80%. The response is relevant to the question, specific to the region of Lusatia, and demonstrates expertise in renewable energy and battery storage technologies. The proposed strategies can effectively mitigate and reverse the environmental impacts of coal mining and burning, offering value by promoting clean energy and economic development. The suggestion of repurposing mining sites for renewable projects shows innovation and commitment to sustainable solutions. The answer is clear, professional, and expedient in addressing the issue at hand.

Question #2
What are the most effective methods for developing sustainable production and supply of heat in the region?

Enviromental Impact

Question	Answer
What is the estimated percentage decrease in carbon emissions?	5%
By what percentage is electricity usage expected to decrease?	12%
By what percentage is heat usage expected to decrease?	13%
By what percentage is waste generation expected to be reduced?	13%
By what percentage is water usage expected to decrease?	13%
By what percentage is fuel consumption expected to decrease?	3%
Does the technology incorporate renewable energy sources?	Yes
By what percentage is fossil energy consumption expected to decrease?	13%
Does the technology promote long-term environmental benefits?	Yes

Social Impact

Question	Answer
Are there specific measures to ensure equal benefits distribution?	Yes
Does the technology contribute to increased community engagement?	No
Does the technology contribute to increased public consultations?	Yes
Does the technology increase accessibility for marginalized groups?	Yes
Will there be increased education of stakeholders?	Yes
Does the investment support transport solutions in rural areas?	No applicable
Does the technology contribute to strategic partnerships?	Yes
Will the technology reduce pollution or prevent environmental injustices?	Yes

Economic Impact

Question	Answer
What are the total implementation costs of the project?	13%
What is the expected payback period of the project or investment?	3 years

2.2.2 Tips for Stakeholders

- **Public Authorities**: Use structured evaluations to guide sustainable energy policies and investments.
- **Businesses & Investors**: Assess the long-term feasibility of renewable energy projects before committing resources.
- **NGOs & Advocacy Groups**: Leverage the tool's social impact scoring to push for equitable energy solutions.
- **Researchers**: Utilise the database to analyse trends and improve technology assessments.

2.2.3 Contact

For technical support and partnership opportunities: **European Institute for Innovation - Technology e.V.**

m.langlois@eifi-tech.eu

Let's drive an equitable energy transition together.

Smart decisions. Just solutions. A sustainable future.

2.3 Technology Evaluation Tool - Capacity Building Workshops

The successful development and implementation of the JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool has been supported by a series of capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening partners' expertise in technology evaluation. These activities have ensured that stakeholders can effectively apply the tool in decision-making processes for green energy investments through a Just Energy Transition lens.

Capacity-building efforts began in February 2024 with a hybrid capacity building session led by EIfI-Tech, marking the release of the tool's beta version. This was followed by in-person training sessions with project partners and a series of four virtual workshops, where interactive Miro board maps were developed to document insights and feedback from both online and hybrid training sessions. All sessions were recorded, providing a valuable resource for future reference. In parallel, communication activities have played a key role in making training materials and recorded sessions accessible. By ensuring that knowledge and resources are available beyond the immediate project consortium, these efforts help broaden the tool's impact and usability.

More information and resources can be found in the JETforCE Online Capacity Enhancing Kit, which includes local campaign materials developed by project partners during the first pilot testing phase of the project in order to promote the JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool.

3. Just Energy Transition Capacity Building

3.1 Inclusive Capacity Building – Guidelines

A Just Energy Transition must ensure that no community or individual is left behind. Many vulnerable groups—including low-income households, elderly citizens, individuals with disabilities, rural populations, and digitally excluded individuals — face barriers to participation in energy transition initiatives. These barriers may be economic, educational, technological, or social. The JETforCE Capacity Building Programme is designed to actively engage, empower, and support these communities in adopting and benefiting from new energy solutions.

These guidelines provide a structured approach for public authorities, project partners (PP), associated partners (AP), Digital Ambassadors, and external stakeholders to engage marginalised communities through inclusive, accessible, and meaningful capacity-building activities.

3.1.1 Build Trust and Accountability and Show that Input leads to Visible Outcomes

- Include CMT Insights in Policy Feedback Loops
- Ensure that **challenges reported by vulnerable citizens** are **systematically analyzed and presented** in policy forums.
- Invite community reps or Digital Ambassadors to **co-present CMT data** during local energy planning sessions.

3.1.2 Ensure Accessibility

- Ensure that **training materials, workshops, and digital tools** are available in **plain language** and **local languages**, avoiding technical jargon.
- Provide **alternative formats**, such as **audio descriptions, large-print documents, and sign language interpretation**, where necessary.
- Use **in-person, hybrid, and offline engagement methods** to reach those with **limited digital access** (e.g., printed guides, phone-based outreach).

3.1.3 Community Engagement - Build on Existing Trust Networks and Cultural Competencies and Align Digital Participation with Traditional Decision-Making Forums

- Collaborate with **NGOs, community leaders, and Digital Ambassadors, cultural associations, housing cooperatives**, and **faith-based groups** already working with vulnerable populations.

- Let these organizations **co-host events** or campaigns promoting the use of the CMT.
- Organise **community Q&A ("questions & answers") or info sessions** before capacity-building activities to understand specific concerns and tailor approaches accordingly.
- **Use storytelling and real-life examples** from similar communities to illustrate the impact of Just Energy Transition efforts.
- **Embed Challenge Mapping into Local Events and Consultations**
- Include CMT demonstrations and live input sessions during **town hall meetings**, **policy consultations**, or **public hearings**.
- Create a **"challenge wall"** (physical or digital) for community feedback that gets transferred to the tool.

3.1.4 Build Intergenerational Bridges and Engage Youth

- Involve **schools and youth clubs**, especially those working with minority youth or marginalized communities.
- Let young people help elders report challenges using the CMT, creating **intergenerational learning opportunities**, thus empowering youth to lead on connecting the digital-savvy with digitally excluded citizens.

3.1.5 Bring the CMT directly to those most affected

- Target Social Housing and Low-Income Areas and Conduct **"door-to-door awareness campaigns"** or **block-level CMT workshops** in energy-poor neighborhoods and social housing projects as digital outreach may not reach them.
- Engage residents as **co-researchers** and co-designers of JET planning solutions.

3.1.6 Reduce Digital and Logistical Barriers, Increase Digital Inclusion and Provide Skills Training

- Offer **basic digital literacy training** alongside energy transition education, ensuring that marginalised groups can access and use digital tools.
- Deploy **Digital Ambassadors**—trained individuals from the community—to act as liaisons, explaining digital tools and supporting local users.
- Provide **public access points** (e.g., community centres, libraries) where participants can engage with the Challenge Mapping Tool and Technology Evaluation Tool.
- Hold **in-person workshops** in neighborhoods with high energy poverty or ethnic diversity.
- Provide **childcare, food, or transport** incentives to remove participation barriers.

3.1.7 Tailored Communication for Key Target Groups

To ensure the successful implementation of the JETforCE tools across diverse communities, it is essential to adopt tailored engagement approaches that cater to different skill levels, knowledge backgrounds, and needs. The following activities/strategies focus on making citizen engagement inclusive, effective, and responsive to participant feedback, depending upon which target group the end users belong to:

Activity Type	Target Group	Implementation Approach	Expected Benefit
Community Workshops	Elderly citizens, rural populations, low-income households	In-person, local-language sessions with simplified materials	Improved understanding of the Just Energy Transition and its local impact
Digital Skills Training	Digitally excluded citizens, low-income youth	One-on-one support via Digital Ambassadors, access to shared community devices	Increased confidence and ability to use JETforCE tools
Policy Roundtables	Public authorities, community organisations	Structured discussions incorporating insights from Challenge Mapping	Better alignment of policy with community realities
On-Site Demonstrations	SMEs, local businesses, cooperatives	Visits to renewable energy sites, interactive Q&A sessions	Practical knowledge of renewable energy applications and financial benefits
Hybrid Learning Sessions	People with disabilities, working individuals	Online and recorded sessions with captioning, sign language, and flexible access	Ensuring inclusive participation regardless of mobility or work constraints

3.1.8 Ensure Participation from People without Smartphones or Internet Access.

- Offer Offline, Phone-Based and Paper-Based Alternatives
- Offer "**assisted reporting stations**" at community hubs (e.g., libraries, local councils) where facilitators help citizens input challenges into the tool.
- Distribute **printable challenge-reporting forms** that can be digitized later by Digital Ambassadors or project staff.

3.1.9 Create Multilingual & Culturally Relevant Content

- Translate the tool and outreach materials into **minority and migrant languages**.
- Use **culturally appropriate examples** in training, visuals, and messaging to connect with specific lived experiences of different groups.

These approaches are particularly focused on engaging citizens with varying levels of digital literacy and knowledge. The strategies are structured to foster interactive learning, encourage active involvement, and continually refine materials based on participant feedback, ensuring that engagement efforts are both responsive and meaningful to all involved.

3.2 Digital Ambassadors

3.2.1 What are Digital Ambassadors?

Digital Ambassadors (DAs) play a critical role in bridging the digital divide and ensuring that all citizens, including the most vulnerable, can actively participate in the Just Energy Transition. Within the JETforCE project, they act as trusted intermediaries between the technological tools developed and the communities that may struggle with digital access or literacy. Their primary function is to empower individuals with the skills, confidence, and knowledge necessary to engage with the JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool and Technology Evaluation Tool. By facilitating digital inclusion, they enable broader participation in decision-making processes, ensuring that community voices—especially from marginalised groups—are heard and integrated into the energy transition.

3.2.2 Selecting Digital Ambassadors

To be effective, Digital Ambassadors must be selected from within the communities they serve, as familiarity and trust are essential for engagement. They can be drawn from local organisations, NGOs, youth groups, educational institutions, or even active community members who already have an interest in energy transition and digital skills. Their training should include not only a deep understanding of the JETforCE tools but also skills in communication, accessibility facilitation, and community outreach. By equipping them with knowledge of how digital technologies contribute to the Just Energy Transition, they become catalysts for change, supporting individuals who might otherwise be excluded from the process.

3.2.3 Engaging Digital Ambassadors

Engaging citizens through Digital Ambassadors requires a multi-faceted approach. First, outreach efforts should be localised, with Ambassadors hosting informal sessions in familiar, community-driven spaces such as libraries, schools, cultural centres, or local cafes. This ensures accessibility for those

who might not feel comfortable in institutional or government settings. One-on-one support should also be available, allowing individuals to learn at their own pace without fear of judgment. Additionally, Digital Ambassadors should leverage existing networks, collaborating with social workers, local leaders, and public service providers to identify those most in need of support.

For sustained engagement, Digital Ambassadors should maintain ongoing interactions with the citizens they assist. This means not only introducing them to digital tools but also following up to ensure continued participation and problem-solving where needed. They can serve as facilitators for community discussions, encouraging individuals to report local challenges through the Challenge Mapping Tool and helping them interpret the results of the Technology Evaluation Tool. Furthermore, Digital Ambassadors can act as liaisons between the public and policymakers, conveying community concerns and insights gathered through their outreach.

Ultimately, the success of Digital Ambassadors lies in their ability to build confidence and trust in digital engagement. By making technology more accessible and demystifying its role in the Just Energy Transition, they empower communities to take an active role in shaping a fairer and more sustainable future.

3.2.4 Tips for Engaging Digital Ambassadors

- ✓ **Leverage Digital Ambassadors as Local Connectors:** Recruit from within vulnerable communities (e.g., minority youth groups, community workers, trusted local leaders) to ensure trust and familiarity with local issues.

- ✓ Encourage **peer-to-peer learning** in safe and familiar environments (e.g., community centers, schools, mosques, churches), as familiarity and trust are critical for overcoming skepticism and barriers to participation.

- ✓ Provide comprehensive training on JETforCE tools, digital literacy, communication strategies, and accessibility facilitation to ensure Ambassadors can effectively support diverse groups.

- ✓ **Reward Participation:** Offer incentives and recognition such as certificates, stipends, public acknowledgment, or networking opportunities to motivate and retain Digital Ambassadors.

- ✓ Use a peer-to-peer approach, where Ambassadors work with small groups or individuals, creating a supportive and comfortable learning environment.

- ✓ Host training sessions in accessible locations like libraries, schools, community centres, and informal gathering spaces to make participation easier for marginalised citizens.

- ✓ Leverage existing community networks by collaborating with local leaders, social workers, and public service providers to identify individuals who need the most support.

- ✓ Explore micro-grants or reward schemes in future phases for the most active community reporters.

- ✓ Encourage continuous engagement by scheduling regular check-ins and follow-up sessions to ensure citizens remain active participants in digital tools and decision-making processes.

- ✓ Make support available in multiple formats, including in-person workshops, online guidance, printed materials, and phone-based assistance to cater to different accessibility needs.

- ✓ Empower Digital Ambassadors to act as liaisons between citizens and policymakers, ensuring that feedback from the community reaches decision-makers and informs energy transition strategies.

- ✓ Foster a sense of community and shared purpose by organising networking events and knowledge-sharing opportunities where Digital Ambassadors can exchange experiences and best practices.

3.3 Online Capacity Enhancing Kit (D.1.5.1)

The JETforCE Online Capacity Enhancing Kit is an online resource designed to support stakeholders in effectively applying the JETforCE tools across Central Europe. It provides comprehensive materials to facilitate the launch of the **JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool**, engage citizens in the Just Energy Transition process, and empower decision-makers with digital solutions such as the JETforCE Technology Evaluation Tool. The toolkit is structured to ensure accessibility and ease of use, with particular attention given to vulnerable citizens to ensure inclusive participation.

The content of the online toolkit includes local campaign materials developed by project partners during the first pilot testing phase of the project in order to promote the JETforCE Challenge Mapping Tool. These resources are tailored to each region's specific needs and include communication strategies, outreach templates, and engagement guides. The kit also provides detailed guidance on implementing the Digital Ambassadors initiative, equipping community leaders and facilitators with best practices for engaging citizens with limited digital literacy.

The online toolkit is easily accessible on the project website, allowing stakeholders to download and utilise the materials. The intermediate version, released in September 2024, provides initial guidance and materials, while the final version, available from March 2025, includes refinements based on user feedback and pilot experiences.

By offering structured, accessible, and practical guidance, the JETforCE Online Capacity Enhancing Kit plays a crucial role in equipping stakeholders with the tools and knowledge necessary for a fair and inclusive energy transition.

4. Conclusion

The JETforCE Capacity Building Toolkit serves as a vital resource for empowering stakeholders, public authorities, and communities to actively engage in the Just Energy Transition. By providing structured training, digital tools, and inclusive strategies, the toolkit strengthens the ability of organisations and individuals to contribute to a fair and sustainable energy transition across Central Europe. With a particular focus on engaging vulnerable and marginalised groups, the toolkit ensures that no community is left behind in the shift towards greener energy solutions.

Through the integration of the Challenge Mapping Tool and the Technology Evaluation Tool, participants gain hands-on experience in assessing local energy challenges and making informed decisions about renewable energy technologies. The role of Digital Ambassadors further enhances accessibility, ensuring that even those with limited digital skills can participate meaningfully in the energy transition process. These efforts collectively foster digital inclusion, enhance community engagement, and promote fairer energy policies.

The capacity-building activities outlined in this toolkit do more than just transfer knowledge; they create a culture of collaboration and empowerment. By equipping stakeholders with the necessary tools and skills, the JETforCE project strengthens regional and local energy planning, supports evidence-based decision-making, and drives long-term social and economic benefits. The lessons learned and best practices developed through this initiative will continue to guide policy actions and community engagement beyond the project's lifetime.

As we move forward, it is crucial to maintain momentum and ensure that the skills and knowledge gained are actively applied and expanded upon. Collaboration among public authorities, energy experts, community organisations, and citizens remains essential in shaping an inclusive and just energy transition. The success of JETforCE lies in its ability to inspire and empower individuals to take ownership of the transition process, making sustainable energy solutions a reality for all.