

Request for Proposals

Short term advisory services: understanding the economic potential and needs for transition away from coal in Silesia

1. Background

Climate Strategies in partnership with Wise Europa are currently developing the conceptual framework for a Post Coal Futures Lab (PCFL) platform for coal regions in RIS countries¹. The project is funded by a portion of the annual aggregate grant of EIT Climate-KIC (of which both Climate Strategies and WiseEuropa are partners) from the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT).

To develop a conceptual framework for a PCFL that will attract relevant stakeholders and is effective, it is essential to understand the systemic blockages to successful coal transitions within these regions, and strategic intervention points. Consequently, we are currently undertaking a scoping exercise, analysing and engaging with various sectors. One of the sectors we have prioritised is the corporate sector, as any successful coal transition without active participation of businesses is untenable.

One of the regions we are focusing on is Silesia in Poland. Silesia is the largest coal mining region in the European Union, and the regional economy is highly dependent on the coal industry. We therefore would like to deep dive into the transformation potential of companies in Silesia and understand the current blockages to transformation within the region.

2. Requirements

To realise the objectives the successful applicant will be required to analyse and determine the following:

- a) The level and form of support businesses need to receive from the state to mitigate the negative consequences of a coal transition and what do they consider the most essential?
- b) How businesses currently supplying goods and services to the coal sector could begin supplying other industries/sectors? And what support would they need to make this possible?
- c) What incentives and support would be needed for businesses to reduce investments in coal related activities, and instead channel them to other viable opportunities in the region?

This will need to be captured and delivered in the form of a report in English which will also include a methodology section (capable of being applied to the other regions), a list of sources, and recommendations specifically for Silesia.

3. Timeline

The timeline will be 2 November 2021 - 11 December 2021.

4. Profile

¹ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.

The contracted individual/organisation will have an extensive and in-depth understanding of the economy and business activities within Silesia, particularly those linked to the coal sector. This should be informed by experience working within the region, and a broad network of contacts. Furthermore, the successful applicant will need to have access to data, members of the business community, and decision makers, while also having the capacity to analyse this data, and from it ascertain the required information.

5. Financial proposal

Proposals will be reviewed with respect to the approach to delivering Best Value against the requirements. A budget has been agreed between 3,500 – 4,500 euros (inclusive of any VAT). The submitted proposal must include a financial offer that covers all costs incurred by the advisers.

The payment for this contract will be paid 30 days after receipt of a suitable invoice and the final funding payment being delivered to Climate Strategies.

6. Documents to submit

Interested parties must submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) by 23:00 (British Summer Time) on 29 October 2021. It must address, at the best extent possible and in maximum two (2) pages, the delivery of requirements and a financial offer. Also include short biographies of key staff expected to be involved as an annex to the Eoi.

Please submit your proposal to Patrick Lehmann-Grube at patrick.lg@climatestrategies.org.

7. Proposal assessment criteria

The proposals will be assessed based on following criteria:

Criteria	Weighted importance
Research capacity (informed by existing network, experience and access to data)	35%
Understanding of the business community and broader economy in Silesia	35%
Financial offer	30%

8. Selection process

Selection of the most suitable candidate will be carried out on the 1 November 2021, and the winning proposal will be announced on the 2 November 2021, so that the work can commence with immediate effect.