



EIB Advisory/JASPERS and Energy Community Secretariat Webinar on

Decarbonization of District Heating Systems in the 2021-2027 Period

Date: 7 May 2025, from 13:00 to 16:00 CET

Location: Virtual meeting - WebEx Events

The [EIB Advisory/JASPERS Networking Platform](#) was created to complement project advisory operations by implementing knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, as well as fostering dissemination of good practices and exchange of experiences among all EU member states, pre-accession countries (including Moldova and Ukraine), Eastern neighbourhood countries and other EIB Advisory JASPERS Stakeholders.

Description of the Webinar

District heating systems are valuable assets, since – if upgraded to technical state-of-the-art levels and correctly maintained – they can outperform individual boiler systems and help achieve environmental and climate mitigation objectives.

The current district heating market context is not favourable to systems that have thus far used fossil fuels. EU emission standards are being tightened and the potential introduction of carbon pricing in the Energy Community Contracting Parties can negatively affect the competitiveness and affordability of fossil fuel-based district heating systems. Also, security of supply may be at risk when the system rely on imported fossil fuels.

Substantial investments are required to transform existing networks into efficient district heating systems, reduce their carbon intensity and secure their environmental and financial sustainability, while contributing to energy policy objectives. EU public financing for investments in decarbonising district heating systems is available for example under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) III and the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP).

The challenge for district heating decarbonisation projects is frequently the allegedly complex project preparation to benefit from EU funding. To address this challenge, JASPERS drew up a guide on Decarbonisation of DH systems with a view promoting a systematic approach to the preparation of district heating decarbonisation projects.

The webinar aims at further disseminating the findings/content of the recently published [JASPERS Guide on decarbonisation of DH systems](#) as well as the experience collected over the years by JASPERS in support of preparation of DH decarbonization projects.

The webinar targets relevant Ministries and project beneficiaries in the Energy Community Contracting Parties, as well as competent authorities, municipalities and district heating companies planning to undertake district heating decarbonisation projects.

The webinar will be held in English and participants will have the chance to intervene in Q&A sessions and discuss needs for further advisory and capacity building support in this specific knowledge area.

Participants are encouraged to register and indicate their questions on the topics when filling the pre-event questionnaire included in the online registration form, as a proposal for debate during the Q&A sessions and final round table.



TENTATIVE AGENDA

13:00 – 13:10 (10 min)	Welcome and introduction Massimo Marra, Lead Advisor, Advisory Service Coordination Division, Projects Directorate, EIB/JASPERS Adam Cwetsch, Head of European Green Deal Unit, Energy Community Secretariat
13:10 – 13:25 (15 min)	Opening remarks and EU funding sources Ekaterina Bakalova, European Commission, DG ENEST
13:25 – 13:40 (15 min)	EIB support to District Heating (lending criteria and advisory opportunities) Ralf Goldmann, Head of Energy Advisory, Projects Directorate, EIB
13:40 – 14:00 (20 min)	District Heating – Policy framework Margot Pinault, Madis Laaniste, European Commission, DG ENER Mariam Darchia, Energy Community Secretariat
14:00 – 14:40 (40 min)	EIB Advisory/JASPERS approach to decarbonisation of District Heating systems EIB Energy Advisory/JASPERS team Marcin Idczak, Francesco Angelini, Sarunas Bruzge
14:40 – 14:50 (10 min)	Q & A
14:50 – 15:00 (10 min)	Coffee Break
15:00 – 15:15 (15 min)	Applying EU State aid rules to decarbonisation of DH systems Christos Peolidis, State aid Expert, Advisory Service Coordination Division, Projects Directorate, EIB/JASPERS.
15:15 – 15:30 (15 min)	Case Study Stanislav Voskár, City of Prievidza
15:30 – 15:45 (10 min)	Final Q&A and discussion with the audience
15:45 – 16:00 (15 min)	Closing remarks EIB/JASPERS and Energy Community Secretariat
