

# 19<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

11 - 14 OCT  
2021

*Together for Recovery*

*Reflections of  
circular procurement*



#EURegionsWeek





## Cohesion policy

Cohesion Policy targets **all regions and cities** in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens' quality of life.

In order to reach these goals and address the diverse development needs in all EU regions, **€ 392 billion** – almost **a third of the total EU budget** has been set aside for Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027.

Cohesion policy is implemented via **shared management** (*i.e. investment decisions to fund projects are taken by MS*)



### Policy context

#### **European Green Deal COM(2019) 640**

*"Public authorities, incl. the **EU institutions**, should lead by example and ensure that their procurement is green. The Commission will **propose further legislation and guidance on green public purchasing.**"*

#### **Circular Economy Action Plan COM(2020) 98**

*"The Commission will consider the introduction of mandatory requirements to increase the sustainability not only of goods, but also of services."*

*"[...] the Commission will propose minimum **mandatory green public procurement (GPP) criteria and targets** in sectoral legislation and **phase in compulsory reporting to monitor** the uptake of Green Public Procurement (GPP) without creating unjustified administrative burden for public buyers. Furthermore, the Commission will continue to support capacity building with guidance, training and dissemination of good practices and encouraging public buyers to take part in a "Public Buyers for Climate and Environment" initiative [...]"*



*Rationale – why should we?*

- Commission priorities - **maximize the impact**
- **Better value for money** for Cohesion Policy investments
- Strategic use of market power **to support policy objectives and post-COVID 19 recovery efforts**
- Level playing field and **fair competition** for EU companies
- Response to PP issues noted in Country reports, CSRs and Annex D



*What do we want to achieve (in practice)?*

**One step forward** to more strategic approach in the Member States:

- Consider quality and shift away from “lowest price”
- Consider social, innovative and environmental aspects to support Cohesion policy goals
- Strengthen professionalization and administrative capacity



### *How we are doing it?*

- During programme **negotiations** for 2021-2027
  - We ask for MS commitment to promote strategic use of PP
- **Building** necessary **capacity**, raising the awareness and piloting some concrete cases
  - [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/public-procurement/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/public-procurement/)