

Green Public Procurement Driving Circular Economy in the Adriatic–Ionian Region


19 May 2026 - EUSAIR Annual Forum | 14:00-15:30 (CEST)


The thematic session, hosted within the EUSAIR Annual Forum 2026, explores **Green Public Procurement (GPP)** as a strategic driver for the transition towards a circular economy in the Adriatic–Ionian region.


Building on recent EU policy developments and the experience gained through the [GPP2ADRION project](#), the session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of translating policy frameworks into practical action across diverse national contexts, including both EU Member States and enlargement countries.

Bringing together representatives from EUSAIR governance, European programmes and project partners, the discussion will aim to identify concrete pathways to strengthen implementation, enhance capacity, and foster a more coordinated macro-regional approach to circular economy and sustainable procurement.

Session Details

 19 May 2026; ~90 minutes

 [Holiday Inn Hotel Skopje — North Macedonia]

 Language: English

Key Topics

- Green Public Procurement as a driver of circular economy in the Adriatic–Ionian region
- EU policy developments on GPP, circular economy and the Digital Product Passport
- From policy to practice: key challenges and lessons from the ADRION region
- Capacity building and support mechanisms (GPP Ambassadors and Contact Points)
- Towards a transnational approach: cooperation and future perspectives

Agenda

19 MAY 2026

Moderator: Angela Plaku, Communication Officer, Forum AIC

14:00-14:10 | Opening & framing

Setting the scene: Green Public Procurement as a driver for circular economy in the Adriatic-Ionian region

- **Matilde Cavalli**, PhD student, University of Padova (Lead Partner, GPP2ADRION) (Italy)

14:10-14:20 | EU policy on Green Public Procurement, circular economy and the Digital Product Passport: priorities and future directions”

- **Alessandro Manzardo**, Associate Professor, University of Padova, CESQA – Environmental and Sustainability Assessment (Lead Partner, GPP2ADRION) - (Italy) online

14:20 - 14:40 | Lessons from practice: translating GPP policy into implementation across the ADRION region

- **Milena Rmuš**, Secretary of Coordinating Board for Energy Efficiency and Environment Protection, Montenegro Chamber of Economy (Montenegro) - online
- **Ivana Ostojić**, Research Associate, Institute of Social Sciences (Serbia)
- **Ivana Lekić**, GPP Ambassador, Fund for European Affairs and Development of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Serbia)

14:40 - 15:20 | Strategic Policy Exchange – From policy to practice: enabling circular economy across the Adriatic-Ionian region

Moderator: Ladeja Godina Košir, Founder and Executive Director of Circular Change

- **Mitja Bricelj**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia
- **Gilles Kittel**, Team Leader – South-East Europe, DG-REGIO, European Commission
- **Lodovico Gherardi**, Coordinator of the Managing Authority Unit, Interreg IPA ADRION - online
- **Avni Arifi**, Director of Operations, Business & Innovation Center (North Macedonia)

15:20 - 15:30 | Q&A and Conclusions

- **Eleonora Tramannoni**, Secretary General, Forum AIC