

# Action plan



# BULGARIA

## 2021



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

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This action plan was prepared by BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF RECYCLING under Interreg Europe programme project Smart Circular Procurement (CircPro). The Smart Circular Procurement (CircPro) project receives financial support from the European Union (Interreg Europe / ERDF). This publication reflects the author's views only and the Interreg Europe programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Bulgarian Association of Recycling	BAR
Circular public procurement	.CPP
Bulgarian Food Safety Agency	BFSA
Green public procurement	GPP
Ministry of Environment and Water	MOEW
National Action Plan for stimulation of GPP	NAP
National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020	NWMP
Public Procurement Act	PPA
Public procurement portal	PPP
Regulations for the Implementation of the Public Procurement Act	RIPPA
Smart Circular Procurement	CircPro

## Part I – General information

Project: Smart Circular Procurement

Partner organisation(s) concerned: Bulgarian Association of Recycling

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### Introduction

The circular economy proposes a clean break from the linear consumption model; decoupling economic activity from the consumption of limited resources. In the circular economy, products are (re)used as long as possible, the maximum value is extracted in use, and at the end of its life cycle the material value of the product is recovered and regenerated instead of being treated as waste. The circular economy is currently regarded as a systemic solution to key sustainability issues we are facing as a society. It is embraced by companies, governments and citizens as it has the potential to protect the environment while creating jobs, business growth opportunities and cost savings. Everybody has a role and responsibility to realise the transition towards a circular economy, but public bodies in particular, can act as a key enabler of change through circular public procurement.

**Circular public procurement /CPP/** is an approach to greening procurement which recognises the role that public authorities can play in supporting the transition towards a circular economy. They can be defined as the process by which public authorities purchase works, goods or services that seek to contribute to closed energy and material loops within supply chains, whilst minimising, and in the best case avoiding, negative environmental impacts and waste creation across their whole life-cycle<sup>1</sup>.



The need to adopt a circular approach to implement public procurement derives from the reality, according to which communities from the whole world are facing the overexploitation of natural resources and threats to environment. Our habit of unsustainable consumption, without considering long-term

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<sup>1</sup> Definition from “PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY” – EC, 2017

effects, is the key problem involving all other problems mentioned above. Circular procurement - spending public money in a responsible manner for goods, services and works that contribute to sustainable development - must therefore be a priority.

In the new Circular Economy Action Plan 2020 public procurement maintains its importance in shaping sustainable and circular consumption in the public sector that represents around 14% of EU GDP. In addition to guidance and dissemination activities of good practices, European Commission is planning to propose mandatory green public procurement /GPP/ criteria and targets in sectoral legislation together with phasing-in mandatory reporting on GPP that will come into effect as of 2021. Current EU approach clearly indicates GPP as the principle instrument implementing circular procurement. However, the complex format of the circular procurement requires the inclusion of innovation policy dimensions that would stipulate the creation of new circular solution.

The current Action plan for increasing the share of circular procurement in Bulgaria was developed in Phase I of the PGI05074 CircPro project (Smart Circular Procurement) after consultation with the stakeholder group in Bulgaria (public authorities, companies, associations, universities). In establishing the actions, the following goals are set:

- Public authorities, including 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 (European Commission 2019)
- Promote circular economy and keep products, components, and materials in the economic cycle as long as possible (Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2017; European Commission 2015).
- Promote social and environmental sustainability, economic growth, and taking into account all dimensions of sustainability (European Commission 2017b).
- Minimize direct or indirect waste generation according to the waste hierarchy (i.e., waste prevention, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and safe disposal) (European Commission 2016).
- Encourage closing the loops and emphasising longer cycles/cascades (Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2017).
- Encourage cooperation between stakeholders (e.g., businesses, universities, administrations, and consumers). Collaboration is the foundation of a functioning circular economy (Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2014).

The roots of the actions developed below are the good practices observed in the other European regions of the CircPro project, in particular the creation of a network of participants and the sharing of working mechanisms to facilitate the public sector towards the circular economy.

The CircPro Partnership, consisting of 11 partners from 10 regions, identifies the main barriers to the systematic implementation of circular procurement in their regions.

CircPro's main objective is to increase the implementation of circular procurement under the targeted policy instruments so that the circular economy principles and criteria are incorporated into them or taken into account as a horizontal principle. CircPro targets the circular procurement from different approaches that have different complexity: all of which facilitate closed loops, but where the focus shifts from better quality products to new and innovative products and new business concepts.

With inter-regional cooperation, the project aims to tackle these challenges by:

- ▣ increasing partner regions' know-how on circular procurement and recycled materials;

- ▣ identifying, assessing, exchanging and disseminating the existing national/regional initiatives, good practices, supporting measures, pilots and initiatives, main actors, organisations and networks that could boost the implementation of the circular procurement in the regions;

- ▣ identifying the procedural and legal barriers experienced by procurers and suppliers when implementing procurements with circular elements;

- ▣ providing a meeting place and enhance dialogue between procurers and suppliers (both groups are represented in the partnership and stakeholders' groups);

- ▣ improving the existing regional policies, programmes or instruments with their local stakeholder groups<sup>2</sup>.

The aim of the Action Plan, developed within the CircPro project, is to establish the first lines for effective use of the "circular concept" by public contracting authorities. It will serve as an experiment and a step in the development of future regional policies on the role of circular public procurement.

This Action plan identifies five actions. These are specific measures for the development and increase of the share of the circular public procurement in Bulgaria. These actions will be implemented and monitored in the Phase 2 /2021-2023/:

- The first action focuses on the effect that the CircPro project has on the National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028. Defining the circular public procurements and their adoption as a tool for fulfilling the goals of the circular economy in Bulgaria, especially in the NWMP, will achieve a change in the behavior of the public sector and improvement of waste management in general. All follow-up reflects the impact of the change on the policy instrument on stakeholders - national and regional authorities, public policy bodies in the waste sector, budget managers and public procurement users, business - as providers of innovative and circular solutions. It is important to note that at this time, in our country, there is no other strategic document of national importance that contains information

<sup>2</sup> CircPro project website <https://www.interregeurope.eu/circpro/>

or prescriptions regarding the implementation of circular public procurement. Therefore, the change of the NWMP will contribute to the increased number of this type of public procurement, will improve the capacity of the institutions dealing with waste management, as well as will expand the circle of stakeholders.

- The second action focuses on Strategic Goal 1 of the NWMP, namely: Reducing the harmful effects of waste by preventing its generation and encouraging its reuse, Sub-program for the prevention of food waste. Given the global targets and the significant food waste in European countries, Directive 2018/851 of 2018 amending the Waste Framework Directive of 2008 calls on EU countries to reduce food waste at each stage of the food supply chain, to monitor food waste levels and to report on progress made towards achieving the goal of reducing food waste throughout the country EU by 30% by 2025 and by 50% by 2030. The sub-program envisages the implementation of objectives that can be supported by the implementation of circular public procurements by public contracting authorities.
- The third action covers Strategic Objective 3: Reduction of the quantities and risk of landfilled municipal waste - Program for reduction of the quantities and risk of landfilled municipal waste. The program includes non-investment measures to develop new product designs and technologies that require fewer natural raw materials, contain fewer hazardous substances, and generate less waste after using the products, and products and technologies with better "environmental behavior". ", etc. It can be said that this action is innovative, as such an in-depth analysis of the needs of public contracting authorities and businesses in Bulgaria has not been made. The implementation of the action will have an impact on the NWMP by providing accurate quantitative and qualitative data on the state of the market for innovative and circular products, as well as the ability of waste management institutions and businesses to use / participate in market consultations.
- The training of selected contracting authorities focuses on regional change and informed management decision-making at the local administration level. The share of public procurement performed by municipalities is relatively high - they are the second administrative unit with the most such purchases (including services and construction). In addition, municipalities are beneficiaries of the NWMP, which is the basis of their waste management programs. This is why this targeted group is essential, as the proper handling of circular public procurement will increase their share at both local and national levels.
- The action is related to the development of a guide with innovative, recycled materials that can be used in construction and repair activities. The high share of public procurement for construction (20% for 2019), as well as the normative legislation (eg. the Ordinance for



management and use of recycled construction materials in construction justified the inclusion of a non-investment measure in the NWMP regarding the mandatory requirement to use recycled materials in the tender documentation. The development of a guide on the recycled materials that can be used will increase the performance of the NWMP and will facilitate the contracting authorities in setting circular criteria in the award procedures.

## Part II – Policy context

### Political framework

1. The Action Plan aims to impact:

- ☐ Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- ☐ European Territorial Cooperation programme
- ☒ Other regional development policy instrument

2. Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

- National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 /NWMP/; (previous)
- National Waste Management Plan 2021-2027/NWMP/; (in force)

3. Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

#### 3.1. Legislation

Bulgarian legislation in the field of public procurement is fully harmonized with Directive 2014/24 / EC on public procurement and Directive 2014/25 / EU on public procurement. The national regulatory framework, which regulates the legal requirements for public procurement, consists mainly of the Public Procurement Act /PPA/, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Public Procurement Act/RIPPA/ and subsidiary acts in the field of public procurement.

There is no legal definition for GPP/ CPP in the PPA. The contracting authority voluntarily decides whether to define the procurement as GPP/ CPP. There is a special section for green public procurement on the Public procurement portal /PPP/ that helps in that process and where a manual for green public procurement can be found.

Green conditions can be used in all stage of public procurement - they can be included in the qualification conditions, compliance conditions (incl. technical description of the subject of the contract), evaluation criteria and contract conditions. According to the Public Procurement Act, the environmental/green requirements are determined at certain stage of the public procurement process, presented in the following table:



Tab.1 Stages of the procurement process with the possibility of green requirements

STAGES OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS	PPA PROVISION
Market dialogue	Art. 44
Technical Specification	Art. 48
Terms of performance of the order	Art. 54 - 67
Personal status of the participants	Art. 54 - 58
Demonstration of the technical capabilities and /or qualification of the participants	Art. 64
Quality management systems for environmental protection	Art. 64 (10)
Award criteria for public procurement	Art. 70

At the strategic level, there are also no documents to directly stimulate the implementation of green / circular public procurement. The National Action Plan for stimulation of GPP /NAP/ has a time horizon up to 2014 and hasn't been updated. However, the results achieved during the period of the plan show that with properly formulated goals and well-defined ways to achieve them, green public procurement can become a key element in achieving environmental policy in Bulgaria.

In the process of implementation of the project activities under CircPro we tried to find out which existing policy instruments would be related to the implementation of circular public procurements. The results are presented in Table 2.

Tab.2 Strategic documents, related to CCP

National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028	Describes green and circular public procurement as an effective way to reduce waste.
Integrated transport strategy until 2030	Takes into account the risk of pollution from public transport emissions on human health and the environment
Integrated plan in the field of energy and climate of the Republic of Bulgaria  2021 - 2030	Points to the inclusion of environmental criteria in tender procedures as an indirect way to reduce gas emissions

National strategy for small and medium enterprises for 2021 - 2027	Favors the development of innovative and environmentally friendly solutions by enterprises
(DRAFT) Strategy for sustainable energy development of Bulgaria until 2030 with a horizon until 2050	Public procurement related to energy efficiency is one of the main goals of the strategy
(DRAFT) National Strategy and Plan for Circular Economy 2021-2027	It recognizes public contracting authorities as the main driver for the transition to a circular economy and circular and green public procurement as a tool for achieving goals in this direction.

*\*The table reflect only the updated documents as of the date of development of the Action Plan*

### 3.2. Policy instrument

The state waste management policy is a concept of resource efficiency, aimed at preventing the generation of waste, promoting reuse and recovery through recycling, regeneration or other process of recovery of secondary raw materials, disposal and safe storage of waste, increasing responsibility producers, stimulating investment in the sector, within the available financial instruments.

The waste management policy is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Water /MOEW/, assisted by the Directorate for "Waste Management and Soil Protection", in accordance with the legislation of the European Community and the national legislation - Environmental Protection Act, Waste Management Act, regulations, national planning and strategic documents - National Waste Management Plan, National Strategic Plan for Sludge Management from Urban Wastewater Treatment Plants, National Strategic Plan for Construction and Demolition Waste Management and the National Strategic Plan for gradual reduction of the quantities of biodegradable waste intended for landfill.

In the context of the European Commission's policy on waste and the development of a circular economy, the linear economic model of the "take, produce and throw away" type no longer meets the needs of modern society and the limited nature of natural resources. According to the adopted waste hierarchy, priority is given to waste prevention, followed by preparation for re-use, recycling, recovery and finally disposal, as the most undesirable option.

In this sense, the state waste management policy focuses on the integration of new, environmentally and economically sustainable models, where everything that can be recovered and recycled to be converted into energy is separated from municipal waste, in raw materials for industry, in fertilizer for plants, and in the newly built regional landfills to deposit minimal amounts of waste.

Supporting the policies of the MOEW and the main aspects of the national interest, the Bulgarian Recycling Association chose to participate in the CircPro project, with the National Waste Management of Bulgaria /NWMP/, as a policy instrument.

As already mentioned, the NWMP is a key strategic document in the „Waste sector“. It has a key role for the efficient and effective waste management in the Republic of Bulgaria. The plan aims to reduce the harmful effects of waste on the environment and the health of the population, as well as maximizing resource efficiency, opening up new markets and creating new jobs.

An important part of the Plan is the creation of maximum conditions for waste prevention. Within the framework of the NWMP 2021-2028, five programs have been developed, which through their activities lead to the achievement of the specific program goals.

The choice of specific measures and their combination over time represent different alternatives for achieving the set goals:

**Strategic Goal 1:** Reduction of the harmful impact of waste through preventing their formation and encouraging their reuse:

- National Waste Prevention Program with
- Sub-program for the prevention of food waste;

**Strategic Goal 2:** Increasing the amount of recycled and recovered waste:

- Program for achieving the objectives for preparation for re-use and for recycling of household waste;
- Program for achieving the goals for recycling and utilization of construction and demolition waste;
- Program for achieving the goals for recycling and utilization of “widespread waste” with;
- Sub-program for management of packaging and packaging waste;

**Strategic Goal 3:** Reducing the quantities and risk of landfilled municipal waste:

- Program for reducing the quantities and the risk of landfilled municipal waste;

Based on the activities of CircPro, the information received from the other project partners, the interregional meetings, as well as the meetings with the stakeholders in Bulgaria, the Association prepared a proposal for inclusion of the circular public procurements in the new National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028. To date, the proposal has been accepted and entered into force. The reuse of materials, the observance of the principles of the waste hierarchy, as well as the development of innovative business solutions in the field of the environment are those specific tools of circular procurement that fulfill the goals of the circular economy.

This addition comes at a very important time for the country, when the adoption of the first Strategy for a circular economy is expected. Defining circular procurement as a policy tool for contracting authorities will provide a strong incentive for the use of sustainable criteria in tender documentation, awareness of the life cycle costing model and will create a precondition for the inclusion of circular procurement in a number of other strategic documents.

### 3.3. Influence of the Action Plan

The current Action Plan for increasing the share of circular public procurement in Bulgaria is part of the public policy context presented above. It also relies on NWMP 2021-2028 on effective compliance with the waste hierarchy and the role of public authorities. The described policy tools lead to the need to improve the coherence regarding the knowledge and practical application of circular public procurement.

The Action Plan containing specific details about the main activities, timetable, funding, stakeholders' role, persons from the team of the contracting authority, who are responsible for their conduction, and in relation to the expected practical implementation of CPP. As the change in the policy instrument is already a fact and circular public procurement is included in the NWMP, as an opportunity for contracting authorities to support the process of transition to a circular economy, this Action Plan outlines supporting measures to help achieve strategic ones in the NWMP.

The principles for partnership and cooperation have been adhered to in the process of the Action Plan elaboration. The stakeholders, which are related to the "circular criteria" implementation in the process of PP procedures conduction, have been identified even at the Project preparation stage.

To involve the stakeholders in the process of the Action Plan elaboration, the following methods were used:

- Exchange of good practices: Key stakeholders participated in interregional partnership meetings and study visits under the project. During these events, stakeholders had the opportunity to exchange good practices and experiences with other project participants as well as with their counterparts from other countries. This enabled the institutions, both locally and nationally, to increase their knowledge and skills in the circular economy and waste management;
- Stakeholder meetings in Bulgaria: After each interregional meeting, regular meetings with stakeholders in Bulgaria were organized. The main idea is to reach the lessons learned from international meetings to reach more people at the national level. In addition to the responsible waste management institutions, the project activities involved representatives of NGOs and businesses, who received information on how to include circular criteria in their tender procedures.

On the grounds of the drawn conclusions and given recommendations as a result of the roundtable discussions, the interested parties rallied around the conclusions that the activities in the current Action plan should be combined into three group of measures:

- Improvement capacity of waste management institutions related to CPP implementation and oriented towards the effective use of resources;
- Improvement of the capacity of local contracting entities and NWMP implementors for taking informed management decisions;

- Improvement of the communication with business, regarding the benefits from the introduction of circular economy principles and the role of CPP;

## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### ACTION 1:

#### Name of the action: Incorporation of CPP into National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028

##### Relevance to the project

The CircPro project allowed to influence the political instrument in our region. Indeed, the work done with the Ministry of Environment and Water has made it possible to include circular public procurement as a waste prevention tool. The addendum on the criteria for reuse, recycling and recycled materials, as well as the official definition of circular public procurement given by the EC (Brochure for Public Procurement for Circular Economy, EC, 2017) are included in Strategic Objective 1: Reduction of the harmful impact of waste through preventing their formation and encouraging their reuse with National Waste Prevention Program, in the part with measures that have been implemented so far.

The first action aims to monitor this policy change and also aims to consider the possibility of including circular public procurement in project funding and implementation procedures, on resource efficiency, in relation to the green transition and the circular economy.

The inspiration for this action comes from the effect that the CircPro project has made on Kouvola Urban City Strategy 2019-2030, more precisely, on Kouvola City Environmental Programme. The program sets goals and outlines actions across six different themes. One of the topics is "Consumption and material cycles", with an emphasis on:

- 1) Smart procurement driven by a life-cycle perspective and circular economy
- 2) Efficient use of construction and other materials and their maximum circularity at the end-of-life stage.

The actions envisaged in the period 2019 - 2022 include trainings on environmental issues, updates of procedures to direct resources to sustainable procurement, as well as projects for the recovery of recycled materials.

##### Nature of the action

#### Measure 1:

*Monitoring policy change: Using circular procurement to reduce the harmful effects of waste by preventing its generation and encouraging its reuse*

The measure is based on the compilation of annual statistics on the number of public procurements of a circular nature. A similar practice was implemented in Bulgaria, in the period 2012-2014, on the website of the Public Procurement Agency. Data from this past period show that when contracting authorities and stakeholders have access to measurable, quantitative results, distributions on various grounds - number, criteria,

evaluation, contracts, they are easier to formulate and refine the requirements in their tender procedures. The reporting of the circular public procurements by characteristics will allow the correct assessment of the public procurement market in our country, as well as will be a prerequisite for normative and legislative changes, if it is established that the set goals do not correspond to the achieved results.

## **Measure 2:**

### *Foster the circular procurement component in the Green transition and Circular Economy Regional Call for Projects*

The National Waste Prevention Program sets goals for the implementation of a procedure for financing and implementation of projects, for the acquisition and / or improvement of qualifications and skills for efficient use of resources, in connection with the green transition and the circular economy. Funding comes from the budget of the Operational Program for Human Resources Development and the European Social Fund. The expected results include the creation of preconditions for re-use of products by raising the qualification. The inclusion of the CPP in the regional call for project proposals will increase the number of implemented ones, as well as will support the implementation of the goals that Bulgaria sets for the prevention of waste generation. Opportunities for the inclusion of the circular award will be sought through participation in working groups, preparation of expert opinions and promotion of good practices arising from the CircPro project.

### **Stakeholders involved**

- Ministry of Environment and Water /MOEW/ - responsible for the implementation of environmental policies and operations at the national level; responsible for the policy instrument;
- Public Procurement Agency - responsible for the implementation of public procurement at all levels in Bulgaria;
- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy /MLSP/ - Managing Authority of the Operational Program "Human Resources Development"

### **Timeframe**

January 2021 – May 2023

### **Costs**

The funds provided under the Human Resources Development Program for financing project proposals amount to 5 million BGN.

### **Funding sources**

Human Resources Development Program

## ACTION 2:

### Name of the action: Circular criteria for high value added procurement

#### Relevance to the project

The construction industry is an important player in the worldwide economics. Based on studies in developed countries, the construction industry has exploited 30-40% of its natural resources; 50% of the energy was used for heating and cooling in buildings, approximately 40% of the materials' worldwide consumption had been converted to the building environment and 30% of the energy was used in operational requirements.<sup>3</sup>

This action 2 aims to develop and disseminate a catalog of environmentally friendly as well as recycled materials that are suitable for use in the construction of buildings. The final version will allow contracting authorities to set circular criteria for high value-added procurement. In addition, it will help prevent the waste of raw and critical raw materials. An environmental aspect is a way of selecting more efficient materials or products and launching support for an environmentally conscious design of principles, such as cradle-to-cradle. By implementing circular procurement in the starting of a project, procurers will avoid any air pollution, water pollution, or even soil pollution in the construction industry. With the circular procurement knowledge, stakeholders will know how to control the chemicals and handle the hazardous substances. This catalogue will motivate the contractor to follow environmental laws and regulations when arranging raw materials; such as, it is important that procurement is made by purchasing the timber or the timber materials from legally harvested forests. It also will consider the sustainability of managing forest activities to avoid a negative impact made by human beings. That will possibly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions to the environment due to the purchasing of green materials, such as recycled steel and glass, as well as renewable materials like rubber and bamboo. Besides that, water management also provides a benefit with saving on water usage by selecting more water efficient fittings. Other than that, a green building can reduce the consumption of energy to less than half of what a conventional building does, with similar reductions in potable water usage, runoff to sewer and solid waste. The idea of a catalog of ecological materials in the construction of buildings comes from the Italian partner in the consortium - GPP models were tested and actions implemented within ECO-BATI project.

ECO-BATI project - funded by Italy/France Interreg ALCOTRA Programme – is a project which improving the use of local materials and sustainable construction products in the energy refurbishment of public buildings thanks to the use of GPP. Finally, many partners are supported to use environmental criteria and to include the use of local and recycled materials in their public procurement. The preparation of such a catalog is synchronized with the National Waste Management Plan, in particular Goal 2: Increasing the amount of recycled and recovered waste with Program for reducing the quantities and the risk of landfilled municipal waste. The program includes a non-investment measure, which provides for inclusion in the tender documents for construction of buildings of the requirement for use in the construction of recycled construction materials. The goal to be achieved is the use of 2% recycled materials for the period 2021-2023 and 2.5% for the period 2024-2028.

<sup>3</sup> Dubrin. Growth opportunities for the global construction industry 2018-2023 - A Potential \$10.5 Trillion Market, Research and Markets (2018).



## Nature of the action

### **Measure:**

#### *Development of Catalogue of ecological materials in the construction of buildings*

There are so many benefits to using recycled materials for construction projects, the real question is why would some people choose not to do so? The answer really comes down to ease of supply and habit. Contractors, like everyone else, have their own specific ways in which they prefer to set requirements in their procurement - and switching to other materials and / or innovations may simply be inconvenient enough to provoke their resistance. With the advancement of new technologies and innovations, an increasing range of recycled materials could be used to strengthen the construction of buildings.

As the construction sector in Bulgaria is most strongly covered by the obligation to use recycled materials, the development of our catalog will help contracting authorities to have a broader view and knowledge about the opportunities that these materials provide.

The structure of the catalog will group certain types of waste. They will include the most common ones, which are usually used in the construction of buildings what and innovative ones.

The partial list of innovative materials includes:

- Wood concrete: a lighter form of concrete made from sawdust.
- Ferrock: a longer- lasting form of concrete made with processed steel powder.
- Newspaper wood: paper waste redirected to wood.
- Denim insulation: made from recycled blue jeans.
- Ecobricks: made of recycled plastic.
- Recycled cork: from bottle caps to flooring and wall panels.

Each of the materials will be studied in detail, its physical advantages will be described, as well as the benefits of its use on the environment.

The most important function that the catalog performs is that it will motivate public contracting authorities to use the opportunities that recycled materials offer. In addition, the implementation of such circular orders can reduce the cost of environmental technologies. The introduction of circular tender criteria in construction projects can affect the market and develop new entrances for the business in the field of environment. It therefore has the potential to stimulate the efficiency of the supply chain and increase market competition, innovation and capacity. In addition, the introduction of circular criteria saves money, especially when new products use less energy, generate less waste and last longer. Although some products may be more expensive in terms of

upfront acquisition costs, there will be more economic benefits for the entire product life cycle.

### Stakeholders involved

Chamber of Construction - Representatives of the construction sector will be the basis for the development of the catalog. They will provide expert assistance on the feasibility of recycled materials, their properties – quality, durability, hardness, life cycle, use, etc.;

Ministry of Environment and Water - as the body responsible for environmental policies, the Ministry will make recommendations on the eligibility of different groups of recycled materials;

Small and medium enterprises – small and medium enterprises - in the field of innovative technologies, developing construction materials from recycled sources.

### Timeframe

The development of the catalog will cover Semester 8 and Semester 9. The final version will be presented in December 2022.

### Costs

According to preliminary data, the costs of preparing the catalog are reduced to the payment of experts to participate in its compilation.

**Total: 5000BGN**

### Funding sources

The elaboration of Catalog of ecological materials in the construction of buildings will be funded by the Association budget.

## Part IV – Monitoring of the actions

An ex-post monitoring of the activities assigned in the Action Plan will be carried out periodically, at least two times per year, by the Bulgarian CIRCPRO Project manager, who will ensure that the key implementation indicators are achieved.

Objectives:

- To evaluate progress of the activities implementation and take into account the achievements;
- To define the occurring problems and develop solutions for them.

The following actions should be taken for the purposes of monitoring of the Action Plan implementation:

- Conduction of regular updates of the Action Plan implementation progress, which will guarantee that there are no delays in the objectives implementation, and will encourage the people who are responsible for the Plan realization;

Internal monitoring focuses on the following main components:

**The Action plan** - Are all activities carried out according to plan? Are there any gaps in the implementation of the planned activities? What obstacles have arisen? What are the potential solutions?

**Objectives** - Are the objectives pursued as planned? Have the expected results already been achieved?

**Stakeholders** - What can be improved to ensure that people remain engaged?

The monitoring of the relevant activities can be informal or formal and the scope of review will depend on the scope of activities undertaken. (Table 4)

Table.4 Monitoring indicators

Action	Monitoring information	Indicators
Incorporation of CPP into National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NWMP;</li> <li>- Implemented circular public procurements;</li> <li>- Participation in working groups;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- % increase in the circular public procurements for the period 2021-2023 (annual base);</li> <li>- Project proposals, including implementation of circular public procurements</li> </ul>
Circular criteria for high value added procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website of BAR;</li> <li>- Conclusions from the experts;</li> <li>- List of participants;</li> <li>- Meeting minutes;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catalogue of ecological materials in the construction of buildings;</li> <li>- Setting criteria - "recycled materials" in a public procurement for construction;</li> </ul>

Date: 15.11.2021

Name of the organisation: Bulgarian Association of Recycling

Signature of the relevant organisation:

