

Project Name: **SMEs engagement for a GREEN transition**

Project Acronym **SME4GREEN**

Project number: **101074102**

Deliverable Name **Mapping of existing local policy framework, budget, and timelines regarding LGDs in Torino and Ilfov**

Deliverable Number: **D.3.1.**



Project coordinator

Businesses need innovation! Good ideas need funding!

fs *Fonduri-Structurale.ro*

Project partners



CONTENTS

- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 3
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4
- 1. CONTEXT 6
 - 1.1. The European Green Deal 6
 - 1.2. Green Deal at local level..... 6
 - 1.3. Intelligent Cities Challenge..... 7
 - 1.4. SMEs engagement for a GREEN transition - ACRONYM: SME4GREEN 7
- 2. CONTENT..... 9
 - 2.1. Assessment of existing national/regional/local high-level policy-goals 9
 - 2.1.1. City of Turin..... 9
 - 2.1.2. Ilfov County..... 17
 - 2.2. Assessment of existing local initiatives and practices led by local stakeholders (public & private – with an emphasis on resilient SMEs)..... 32
 - 2.2.1. City of Turin..... 32
 - 2.2.2. Ilfov County..... 36
 - 2.3. Assessment of internal existing governance and implementation structures in the two communities 40
 - 2.3.1. City of Turin..... 40
 - 2.3.2. Ilfov County..... 41
- 3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXISTING LOCAL FRAMEWORKS 42
 - 3.1. City of Turin 42
 - 3.2. Ilfov County 42
- 4. CONCLUSIONS ON THE FUTURE LGDS INTEGRATION IN OUR EXISTING LOCAL FRAMEWORK, WITH EMPHASIS ON: POLICIES INTERFACES, GAPS, POTENTIAL TRADE-OFFS AND SYNERGIES..... 45
- 5. REFERENCES 47

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Mapping of existing local policy framework, budget, and timelines regarding LGDs in Torino and Ilfov* report is deliverable D.3.1. of the *SMEs engagement for a GREEN transition project*, co-funded by the European Union.

This report was written by the Măgurele Science Park Team, namely Raluca BUȚURCĂ, with the precious support of Andreea IANCU, Paula BĂDINU and Mădălin IONIȚĂ, and the special contributions of Raluca PRELUCĂ from GRUPUL DE CONSULTANTA PENTRU DEZVOLTARE - DCG.

We want to extend our deepest appreciations to the Turin municipality's and ILFOV County Council's communities, together with Environment Park S.P.A. that supported our data gathering efforts, namely:

Tiberiu FECHETE – Ilfov County Council
Ana Maria ONU – Ilfov County Council
Carmen SOMANDRU – Ilfov County Council

Laura RIBOTTA – Municipality of Turin
Silvia GILLI – Municipality of Turin

Paola Zitella – ENVIRONMENT PARK S.P.A
Barbara LA LICATA – ENVIRONMENT PARK S.P.A
Ilaria SCHIAVI – ENVIRONMENT PARK S.P.A

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Green Deal (EGD) is the EU plan to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, and making the transition just and inclusive for all. With the EGD, the European Union committed to “no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050, economic growth that is decoupled from resource use and no person and no place is left behind”. It is the first continent in the world with a clear ambition, and a comprehensive plan for *climate neutrality*.

Standard policy implementation will not be sufficient to achieve the transformation required to truly implement sustainable development. Instead, the structure of the EGD needs to be used to reframe the way that sustainability actions are implemented. To implement the EGD at the local level requires linking up and integrating the policy areas outlined above at the city level, and in turn delivering consolidated implementation and action.

Ultimately, all of the policy areas of the EGD are implemented in cities. Therefore, they have a crucial role to play in its delivery, through facilitating integrated action, and bringing local stakeholders on board in the transformation process.

Cities are the places where Sustainable Development Goals policies are implemented and thus it is in their responsibility to facilitate the transformation process generated by the ambitious goals the EU has stated. Cities bring together a plethora of stakeholders, from local businesses, entrepreneurs and enterprises, educational facilities to citizens.

The Local Green Deals are to provide support to SMEs, regional and local economic operators to lead the twin green and digital transition and implement actions aiming to direct the local economy towards a sustainable and inclusive pathway, create new jobs, mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate a new, green and fairer recovery.

Financed by the European Commission, the project SME4GREEN supports building the resilience of Romanian SMEs from Ilfov and Italian SMEs from Turin, while creating lasting Local Green Deals using lessons learned from Amsterdam that could be replicated in other local communities throughout Europe. Through this study we want to take the first step in the complex process of implementing the Local Green Deal for Ilfov County and the city of Turin.

Following a process of assessment of existing national/regional/local high-level policy-goals, it resulted that both at the level of the Ilfov county and the city of Turin, there is a fairly large number of policies that can allow the implementation of a successful Local Green Deal in the two regions.

For the city of Turin, the following representative policies have been identified for the realization of the Local Green Deal:

- The National Recovery and Resilience Plan PNRR 2021-2023;
- Piemonte region Operational Program ERDF 2014-2020;
- Piedmont's innovation policy in the 2014-2020 EU programming period;
- Piedmont social innovation policy in the 2014-2020 EU programming period;
- Green public procurement in Italy and Piemonte region (from 2013);
- Torino 2030 Action plan, a sustainable and resilient vision of the future (2018);
- City of Turin - Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (from 2011);
- Torino Circolare - Circular Turin Initiative (2021);
- Food Atlas (2017).

For the Ilfov county, the following representative policies have been identified for the realization of the Local Green Deal:

- The National Recovery and Resilience Plan PNRR 2021 – 2027;
- Bucharest- Ilfov Regional Operational Program 2021-2027;
- Territorial development strategy of Romania 2019-2035;
- National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030;
- National Strategy for Green Jobs 2018 – 2025;
- Green Public Procurement Guide and Law no. 69/2016 regarding green public procurement;
- Romania's industrial policy document 2018;
- National Integrated Plan in the field of Energy and Climate Change 2021-2030;
- Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030;
- Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Bucharest - Ilfov Region 2016-2030;
- Ilfov county strategy in the field of energy 2018-2025;
- Ilfov County Waste Management Plan 2018-2040;
- Air quality maintenance Plan for Ilfov county 2019-2023;
- The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region 2021 - 2027;

At the same time, an assessment of existing local initiatives and practices led by local stakeholders (public and private - with a focus on resilient SMEs) was also carried out, following which a series of local initiatives and projects were identified that prepared the ground for implementation of the Local Green Deal.

To complete the evaluation process, an assessment of internal existing governance and implementation structures in the two communities was also carried out.

At the end of this report, are presented conclusions and recommendations regarding the integration of the Local Green Deal into the existing local framework with an emphasis on policies interfaces, gaps, potential trade-offs and synergies.

At the level of the city of Turin, it is recommended to continue the guidelines of the RIS3 (Regional Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy) of Piedmont, especially since it is guided by two major directions "Smart" and "Resource efficiency" in order to be able to achieve a critical mass of industrial and research investments towards Circular Economy, which will thus provide the best premises for the successful implementation of the LGD's of Turin.

At the level of Ilfov county, it is recommended to continue the implementation of the - Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030, which is in close correlation with the other existing strategies and policies at the local and regional level in order to be able to reap the benefits that Ilfov county has through the areas where they can be developed business incubators and green industrial parks, as well as science and technology parks, considering the proximity to the municipality of Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

1. CONTEXT

1.1. The European Green Deal

The European Green Deal (EGD) is the EU plan to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, and making the transition just and inclusive for all. With the EGD, the European Union committed to “no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050, economic growth that is decoupled from resource use and no person and no place is left behind”. It is the first continent in the world with a clear ambition, and a comprehensive plan for “climate neutrality”.

Standard policy implementation will not be sufficient to achieve the transformation required to truly implement sustainable development. Instead, the structure of the EGD needs to be used to reframe the way that sustainability actions are implemented. To implement the EGD at the local level requires linking up and integrating the policy areas outlined above at the city level, and in turn delivering consolidated implementation and action.

1.2. Green Deal at local level

Ultimately, all of the policy areas of the EGD are implemented in cities. Therefore, they have a crucial role to play in its delivery, through facilitating integrated action, and bringing local stakeholders on board in the transformation process.

The European Union consists of more than 80,000 cities and towns, who are mandated to promote the long-term wellbeing of their citizens. They implement 70% of EU legislation, handle one-third of public spending, and manage two-thirds of public investment. In addition, they are often responsible for the direct provision of many services for their citizens (*Local Green Deals, A Blueprint for Action*).

Cities are the places where Sustainable Development Goals policies are implemented and thus it is in their responsibility to facilitate the transformation process generated by the ambitious goals the EU has stated. Cities bring together a plethora of stakeholders, from local businesses, entrepreneurs and enterprises, educational facilities to citizens. Ultimately, only together we can find solutions that work best for each stakeholder and tackle the biggest challenges of our time whether we are talking about climate change or recovery and resilience post-COVID.

Cities manage a number of key sectors in urban areas, such as mobility and waste management, and are ultimately responsible for controlling land use and urban planning. Their public procurement, and investment budgets play a key role in driving demand for sustainable products and services, and impact decisions on infrastructure for energy, transport, and water.

As such, cities have the responsibility to develop more comprehensive governance structures and networks, thus being able to implement the EGD through concrete actions at the local level.

1.3. Intelligent Cities Challenge

The Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) is a European Commission initiative funded by COSME, the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs. Through this initiative, 136 cities are supported to use cutting-edge technologies to lead the intelligent, green and socially responsible recovery. The selected cities part of the ICC together with their local ecosystems will be engines for the recovery of their local economy, create new jobs, and strengthen citizen participation and wellbeing.

The ICC is part of a wider EU support system that recognizes the importance of delivering on the promises made by the European Green Deal, the digital strategy, and other EU policies. It looks to move towards a more digital, service-oriented and low-carbon economy, supported by a knowledge-based society, that enables circular economy systems through 'local value loops', evidence-based reskilling, and sustainable investments.

Only last year, the European Commission's Intelligent Cities Challenge published an open call to develop and implement Local Green Deals. The call aims to support SMEs to become more resilient.

The Local Green Deals are to provide support to SMEs, regional and local economic operators to lead the twin green and digital transition and implement actions aiming to direct the local economy towards a sustainable and inclusive pathway, create new jobs, mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate a new, green and fairer recovery.

The long term expected impact of the call is to increase innovation, sustainability and awareness of EU funding. The call will enhance the preparation and capacity for Local Green Deals movements of local economic operators and SMEs. Under the Social Economy Missions for community resilience topic, the aim is to create a more sustainable business environment.

1.4. SMEs engagement for a GREEN transition - ACRONYM: SME4GREEN

Financed by the European Commission through SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE - Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient, the project SME4GREEN supports building the resilience of Romanian SMEs from ILFOV and Italian SMEs from Turin, while creating lasting Local Green Deals using lessons learned from Amsterdam (The Netherlands) that could be replicated in other local communities throughout Europe. We are addressing common challenges that local public administrations, business organizations, science parks, incubators, SMEs and social enterprises from the local communities are currently facing in achieving green and digital resilience. We have an integrated approach and we are looking to develop solutions based on the realities of different ecosystems in terms of maturity, situated on different levels of the European Innovation Scoreboard: emerging innovator (Romania), moderate innovator (Italy) with input from a strong innovator (the Netherlands).

Based on the analysis we did in November 2021 in the two local communities, we defined two themes for the Local Green Deals we will be implementing in Torino and Ilfov:

Theme 1: Innovative and collaborative models for green transformation of business and SMEs

The SMEs from Ilfov and Torino are still lagging behind in terms of innovation and collaboration at local level between stakeholders needs to be enhanced in order to promote new technologies and create markets for sustainable solutions. We are planning to involve in the development of the Local Green Deals the SMEs as part of the transformation towards a clean, climate-neutral economy. Our main focus in the two local communities is circular economy, taking into consideration local challenges. Based on the local economy structure, one of the main focuses of the future Torino Local Green Deal will be green manufacturing/conversion of separate organic by-products (coffee grounds, orange peels etc.), whereas in Ilfov County the Local Green Deal will address finding solutions for the selection/disposal/recycling of used oil and electrical waste (e-waste). Through our capacity building activities and the setting up of the two local green deals we will target the involvement of SMEs in solving these local challenges, but also we will transfer knowledge on how businesses can integrate sustainability criteria into their own strategies.

Theme 2: Participatory funding for green products and services

One of the main challenges in implementing a Local Green Deal is ensuring the right financing opportunities to drive change. Through the project we will equip the local SMEs with strong knowledge in identifying funding opportunities under the European programs, but we will also develop pilots for participatory funding in the implementation of the Local Green Deals. Our activities are designed to ensure a high degree of involvement of all categories of relevant stakeholders from local levels in both designing and implementing local green deals. The local community will be directly involved in supporting the development of products/services by local SMEs that will conduct to achieving climate targets. This approach is directly linked to providing an effective mechanism for implementing the future Local Green Deals, taking inspiration from other cities flagged in the Local Green Deals Blueprint (eg. Milan, Italy).

This approach of supporting green transformation industry leaders from the two communities will be easily replicated for other local communities throughout Europe. Also, the project fosters the development of mutual trust between two communities: Ilfov County and Torino. The green products/services that will be developed by SMEs from the two ecosystems will have the opportunity to be supported in the crowdfunding campaigns by the two communities (we will ensure adequate promotion of the benefits of such collaboration) - this is a unique approach for cross-border cooperation that could prove a veritable success for future action.

2. CONTENT

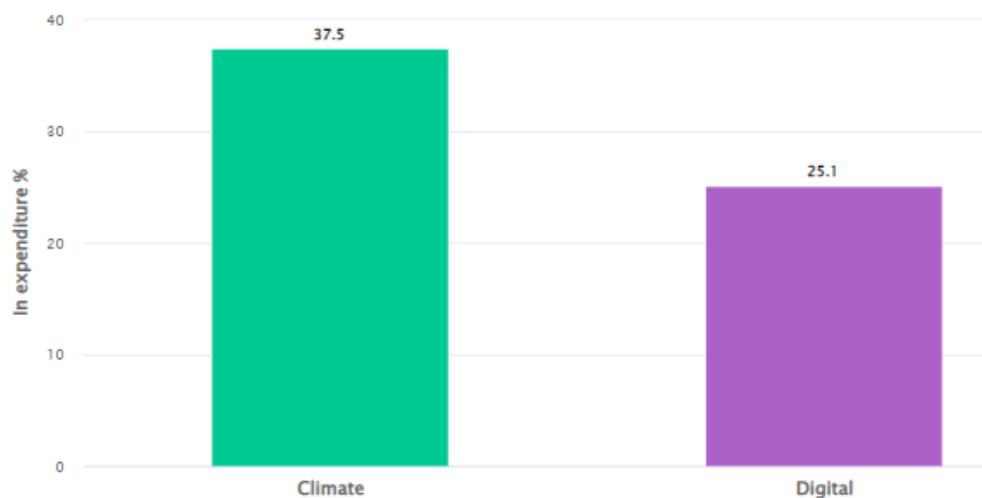
2.1. Assessment of existing national/regional/local high-level policy-goals

2.1.1. City of Turin

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan PNRR

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza, NRRP) is part of the Next Generation EU programme, namely the € 750 billion package – of which about half is in the form of grants – that the European Union negotiated in response to the pandemic crisis. The main component of the NGEU programme is the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which has a duration of six years – from 2021 to 2026 – and a total size of € 672.5 billion – of which € 312.5 billion is in the form of grants, and the remaining € 360 billion is in the form of low-interest loans.

The Recovery and Resilience Plan presented by Italy envisages investments and a consistent reform package, with € 191.5 billion in resources being allocated through the Recovery and Resilience Facility and € 30.6 billion being funded through the Complementary Fund. The total amount of funds envisaged amounts to € 222.1 billion. In addition, a further € 26 billion has been earmarked for the implementation of specific works and for replenishing the resources of the Development and Cohesion Fund by 2032. A total of some € 248 billion will thus be available. In addition to these resources, there are also those made available by the REACT-EU programme, which will be spent in the years 2021-2023 in accordance with EU regulations. These funds amount to a further € 13 billion.



Source: 1 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility/italys-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en

The Plan is developed around three strategic axes shared at a European level:

- digitization and innovation;
- ecological transition;
- social inclusion.

It is an intervention that aims at repairing the economic and social damage caused by the pandemic crisis, contributing to addressing the structural weaknesses of the Italian economy, and leading the country along a path of ecological and environmental transition. The NRRP will substantially contribute to reducing territorial, generational and gender gaps.

Piemonte region Operational Program ERDF 2014-2020

The OP is built around some pillars that include Green Economy & Sustainability with close links into 3 of the Priority Axes (PAs) of the OP:

- PA1 (R&I): The support of R&I infrastructure and closer links between research and industry (IP1a) is planned aimed at the development of innovative products and services (IP1b) taking into consideration social innovation and eco innovation as transversal strands.
- PA3 (Competitiveness of SMEs): Competitiveness of SMEs in the agricultural, fishing and aquaculture sectors thanks to the development of new business models including green economy and more efficient concepts are planned (IP3b). Investments in greening the SMEs processes are also planned (IP3c).
- PA4 (Low Carbon Economy): Promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency (IP4b) within companies is supported, to which end, Circular Economy processes can contribute to.

The measures to be supported falling under the Green Economy & Sustainable fields, fail to mainstream systemic approaches for a Circular Economy. The application of the concept of environmental sustainability is limited to the increase of resource efficiency, use of renewable resources, reduction of waste production and preservation of environmental heritage (*Smart Circular Procurement*).

Piedmont's innovation policy in the 2014-2020 EU programming period

The Innovation policy of Piedmont Region is strongly guided by European Union Cohesion Policy programming and funding. To meet the requirements of the 2014-2020 European Programming Period, Piedmont developed an S3 – in accordance with the EU's smart specialization strategy concept to prioritize and guide innovation investment financed through European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)3. It builds this strategy and its innovation policy around a strong innovation cluster and cluster organization model and promoted cross-disciplinary technologies and products in six areas of specialization: aerospace, automotive, mechatronics, green chemistry/cleantech, "made-in" (agri-food and textiles), health and

well-being. There are also two transversal guidelines or guiding directions: “smart” and “resource efficiency”. These are considered transformation trajectories, and should support the six prioritized specializations, for example by increasing the use of digital modalities to improve agricultural production and to make use of the circular economy. In general, the strategy reflects and supports the largest existing business and research concentrations in the region – mechatronics and industrial production, as well as agriculture and food (“made in”).

In the 2014-2020 EU programming period, Piedmont heavily prioritized investment in research and innovation (R&I), as evidenced by its allocation of ESIF. It dedicated more than twice as much of its European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to R&I in the six specialization areas than to other EU priority areas (e.g. low-carbon economy, SME competitiveness, information and communication technology (ICT), etc.). This prioritization aligns with Piedmont’s S3 objectives of supporting smart and resource-efficient industrial modernization.

Piedmont social innovation policy

Piedmont Region presents a well-developed social innovation ecosystem, with a longstanding tradition of community-based organizations and new organizations and funding agencies. It has a strong third sector, and a growing social economy. There are about 40 000 organizations with a social purpose in Piedmont, of which about 4 000 are for-profit companies that pursue social goals. In addition, Piedmont has a relatively well-established network of institutions that support social entrepreneurs and impact investing. For example, Torino Social Impact functions as a platform that fosters high-tech social entrepreneurship in the Turin metropolitan area. SocialFare, private foundations (e.g. the bank foundations), or Impact Hub Turin are organizations that fund social innovation.

Public sector innovation is a central point of the Regional strategies for innovation. The EU Green Deal, the growth in national, regional and local policies and investments in green infrastructure, the circular economy, climate transition and the call for greater regional resilience post COVID-19, indicate that social innovation and public sector innovation will become even more relevant in the future. Piedmont has already made some progress in these areas and prepared the next steps in the Agenda 2030 and the Unified Strategy Document.

Green public procurement in Italy and Piemonte region

Italy has demonstrated to be quite responsive to transformative trajectories driving sustainability into public procurement procedures, far before the official introduction of Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria. While the mentioned acts represented sporadic attempts to include sustainability criteria in public procurement strategies and so reduce environmental risks, through the adoption of subsequent 2007 Budget Law a more comprehensive set of actions was foreseen, including the funding of the implementation of an “Action Plan for the Environmental Sustainability of the Public Sector Consumption”. The integration of environmental sustainability criteria was provided according to the following principles:

- reduction of the use of natural resources;

- replacement of non-renewable sources of energy with renewable sources of energy;
- minimization of waste generation;
- reduction of polluting emissions;
- mitigation of environmental risks.

These environmental sustainability criteria were to be initially applied to the following product categories:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ furniture; ▪ building material; ▪ road maintenance; ▪ public green maintenance; ▪ lighting and heating; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ electronics; ▪ textiles; ▪ stationery; ▪ catering; ▪ hygiene material; ▪ transport sector.
--	---

Afterwards, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economy and Finance approved the Interministerial Decree and so adopted the Action Plan on Green Public Procurement, partially amended by subsequent Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 10 April 2013. Given the Action Plan, implementation measures were approved. Amongst others, was introduced the obligation for public procurers, including central purchasing bodies, to integrate into procurement documents certain technical specifications and contract terms appositely defined by the Ministry of the Environments. That was in fact the initial step on the path that resulted in GPP criteria being mandatory at national level. That eventually happened with the adoption of the Italian Public Contracts Code, which currently constitutes the Public Procurement Code. In the legislative text, environmental protection is clearly mentioned amongst the principles governing contract award together with the principles of economy, effectiveness, impartiality, parity of treatment, transparency, proportionality, publicity, environmental protection and energy efficiency. Moreover, contracting authorities are generally obliged to include GPP criteria in procurement procedures. The monitoring is carried out by the National Anti-Corruption Authority. Based on that, from time to time the Ministry of the Environment introduces GPP criteria in new areas, ranging from paper, cartridges and toner for printers, textiles, furniture, catering equipment, urban waste etc. In its acts the Ministry of the Environment usually also provides guidelines on how to include in procurement procedures and quite clear references to general procurement rules.

Depending on the specific area, the inclusion of GPP criteria might affect the definition of technical specifications, the exclusion grounds, the selection criteria, the award criteria, and contract execution. The fact that implementing acts are still expected definitively proves that the framework is constantly evolving and that the intention of the legislator is to broaden the scope of green procurement in a way to make an impact at systemic level. The increasing attention on circular economy is confirmed by the policy paper “Towards a model of circular economy for Italy”, that the Ministry of the Environments, together with the Ministry of Economic Development, has published in 2017, after the lapse of a period in which a preliminary draft had been submitted to open consultation. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that an entire paragraph of this policy paper is dedicated to green public procurement and green public procurement criteria, with particular focus on those criteria promoting new models of

production and consumption; the paragraph ends highlighting the interactions between green and social criteria and the benefits that such interactions could bring to the overall system. Indeed, several acts promoting circular economy principles had been adopted even before 2017, both at national and regional level, not in response to a comprehensive strategy on the matter though. That is why the adoption of such a policy paper shall be considered material in the process of transition. Circular economy is gaining momentum at the national level. The National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) has recently launched the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ICESP). The ICESP is a “network of network” bringing together circular economy initiatives, experiences, critical issues and perspectives from Italy which can be represented at European level. In addition to that, a lot of initiatives are flourishing at regional and local level and new supporting measures are expected, both in the public and private sector.

Within the national context, Piedmont Region stands out for its pioneering role and specifically for the project *Acquisti Pubblici Ecologici – A.P.E.*, which has been recently included amongst best practices of green public procurement by the Ministry of the Environment. The idea at the base of project *A.P.E.* is quite similar to that behind the definition and application of GPP criteria, provided that the Metropolitan City of Turin and ARPA (Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment) started the project *A.P.E.* in 2003. Up to now, 45 institutions are involved in project *A.P.E.* In 2007 the regional coordination for Local Agenda 21 was established. It was the 11th of May, 2007, when the original Memorandum of Understanding adopted through Regional Resolution no. 17-5698 of the 16th of April 2007, was signed by the Piedmont Region and other 20 subjects. In addition to that, a lot of other initiatives are emerging (public and private partnerships, research projects, information desks, living labs, startup hubs, innovation centers). Indeed, there is a breeding ground for taking Piedmont a step further down the road of sustainable development, but also a need for help to understand how to apply public procurement instruments to put circular economy principles into practice. In order to make this happen, a lot of effort has been made especially in the field of education and dissemination. All this in line with the guidelines contained in the Protocol “Piedmont Region for Green Education”.⁹⁰ Scope of this document is to set the stage for strengthening the green community flourishing at local level and open it to public and private subjects. At the moment, it has already been signed by 37 subjects.

Further initiatives were implemented. On May 31, 2018, the Piedmont Region set up a workshop on “Piedmont Region for Green Education within 2030 Agenda”. That was the occasion to discuss the steps taken after the adoption of the aforementioned Protocol “Piedmont Region for Green Education” as well as new instruments to promote green and circular economy (*Regional guidebook on circular procurement*).

Torino sustainable city

In the past 25 years Torino has made great strides towards a more sustainable and resilient city.

Recognized for its technological, engineering, higher-education, design and manufacturing vocations and for a significant artistic and cultural heritage, the city has undertaken a sustainable development policy in recent years especially focusing on the urban environment, the green infrastructure system and the sustainable urban mobility.

Torino has developed the Action Plan: *Torino 2030, Sostenibile | Resiliente* whose vision corresponds to the UN 2030 Agenda and to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals towards a world without poverty, where the environment is protected and people have the opportunity to live in a state of peace and prosperity. The Action Plan compares each of the actions with the UN objectives, highlighting the challenges to which they respond.

TORINO 2030 ACTION PLAN, A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT VISION OF THE FUTURE

Torino2030 is an Action Plan that presents the medium-term vision of the Administration's choices. It is a project based on sustainability and resilience, the guiding threads of the actions that are and will be implemented. The Plan presents the projects already started and those to be started by the Administration and places them in a multi-year framework with an important objective: to achieve a city that puts the well-being of its citizens and quality of life first. The Plan sets out objectives to be achieved and actions to be taken to realize the vision of Torino 2030, identifying priorities for action.

The methodology: to communicate the City's vision to citizens and stakeholders, to share with them strategic objectives and structuring actions, and to gather from the comparison projects and public and private initiatives with which to create synergy.

The Torino 2030 Action Plan considers the productive and cultural vocations already acquired in the city's toolbox: the transformations that have already taken place, which have allowed us to diversify a panorama of industrial monoculture that suited neither the complexity of Torino's past, endowed with a historical, natural and cultural heritage of the highest order and recognised by UNESCO as one of its treasures, nor the opportunities of the future.

At the same time, the Plan indicates new perspectives and lines of development based on the concepts of sustainability and resilience. Sustainability in relations between citizens and between neighborhoods, resilience understood as a balance that encourages mutual stimulation between the communities that make up our city. Economic sustainability to heal accounts and induce virtuous production processes and more circular supply chains. Energy and consumption sustainability, environmental sustainability through land management geared to the quality of life of its citizens. Resilience understood as the ability to adapt to epochal changes, the increasingly less predictable economic changes, the resulting social transformations, and climate change, but also as strength of mind, a positive drive that stimulates a creative response to the challenges of our times.

There are four principles on which to build projects and policies: a city must be participatory, dynamic, liveable and supportive, as many lines that intersect with the ten sectors of intervention of the municipal administration (Urban Planning, Culture, Economy, Education, Welfare, Mobility, Sport,

Environment, Equal Opportunities, Innovation) plus the chapter of special projects. The innovation projects and the names of the councilors they refer to are placed in this network.

THEMATIC AREAS:

- Climate change
- Water management;
- Green infrastructures;
- Noise pollution;
- Sustainable mobility;
- Food policies;
- Air quality;
- Zero waste

CITY OF TURIN - SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY PLAN

In 2011 Torino adopted the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), defining seven priority strategies, closely linked to each other:

1. Ensure and improve the accessibility of the entire city
2. Ensure universal access throughout the city
3. Improve air quality and the quality of the urban environment
4. Facilitate the use of public transport
5. Ensure the efficiency and safety of the transportation system
6. Manage mobility through information technology systems
7. Communicate and monitor the implementation of the Plan

In 2013 Torino also approved the Cycling Masterplan (Biciplan) whose principal objective is to increase cycling to 15% of all trips less than 5 km while promoting intermodal trips with public transportation. Turin's new Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan will promote intermodality, strengthen metropolitan public transport, enhance electric and shared mobility as well as cycling and walking, reduce public space dedicated to parking and incentivize smart-working. In addition, it will make urban spaces more liveable in coherence with the vision of the newly revised General Urban Masterplan (currently underway), including more green-infrastructure and safer, more walkable neighborhoods.

TORINO CIRCOLARE- Circular Turin Initiative

Torino Circolare represents an initial collection of indicators on the city administration's action to promote an increasingly circular local economy, highlighting the areas of intervention where to concentrate more energy to achieve the urban ecological transition. Circular Turin is thus a tool that highlights opportunities to encourage increasingly decisive action by successive administrations, which will be able to assess which policies to strengthen each time. This collection will have to be periodically updated and will be expanded with other indicators over time. The Torino Circular data, organized as an

open and accessible system, will have to be periodically updated and, over time, expanded with other indicators, while some of them will be outdated. They will serve to define and monitor the achievement of national and European objectives, as well as to record the evolution of the dynamic balance of the three fundamental elements of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) and to provide indications for making choices towards transition, in alignment with general, European, national, regional and local guidelines.

Food Atlas

In 2017, an internal research group from the University and the Polytechnic University of Turin published the first Food Atlas of Metropolitan Turin with the intention of photographing the main elements of Turin's food system and thus offering a tool from which to define goals for the food future of Turin and its metropolitan area.

Building on that experience, in 2019 the collaboration is expanded and formalized through the creation of a Metropolitan Turin Food Atlas Coordinating Committee. In addition to Urban Lab, the University of Turin, the Polytechnic University of Turin, the University of Gastronomic Sciences, the Turin Chamber of Commerce, the City of Turin, the Metropolitan City of Turin, and Ires Piemonte are part of the project.

Those involved are collaborating to implement the wealth of scientific and technological knowledge related to the project, also with a view to promoting a systemic vision to support policies and encourage the spread of a culture of healthy, accessible and sustainable food in our territory.

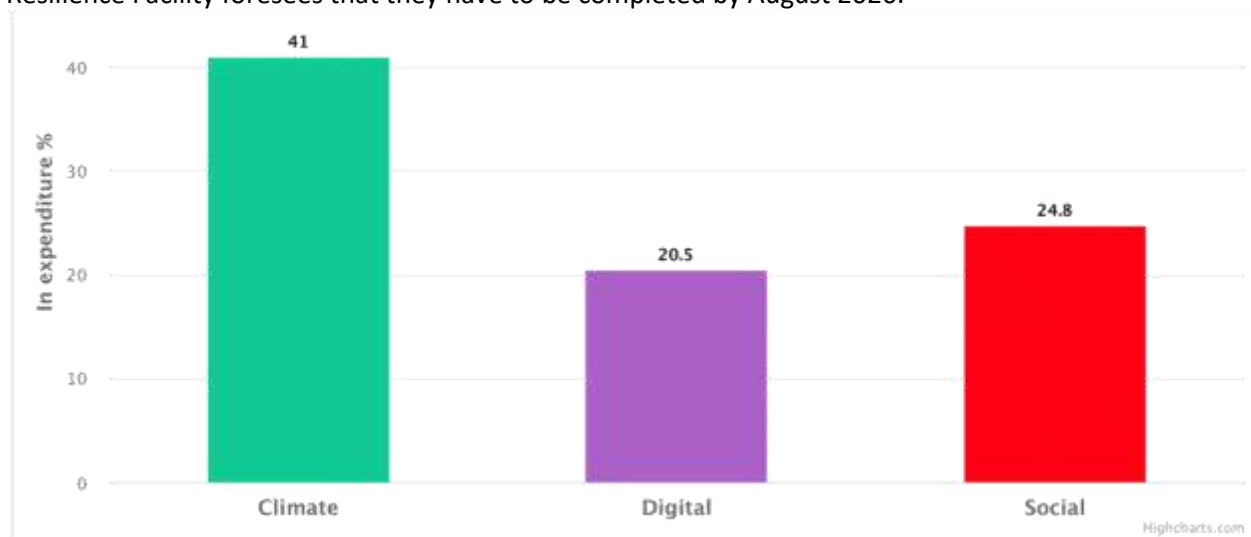
The Food Atlas represents an open, searchable, simple, yet content-rich tool that brings together the components and dimensions of the metropolitan food issue; suggests to public administrations and businesses possible food policy strategies and the construction of desirable scenarios, for a more sustainable, equitable and resilient food management; provides educational content to increase the sensitivity of the different actors involved throughout the supply chain; stimulates mechanisms of integration and cooperation among projects and initiatives related to the food system, with the aim of optimizing the resources used, increasing their critical mass and positive impacts on the territory and the community; promotes citizen participation, sharing information and creating groups for specific food-related activities.

2.1.2. Ilfov County

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan PNRR

Following an unprecedented crisis due to the pandemic, Romania's recovery and resilience plan responds to the urgent need of fostering a strong recovery and making Romania future ready. The reforms and investments in the plan will help Romania become more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. To this end, the plan consists of 107 investment measures and 64 reforms. They will be supported by an estimated €14.24 billion in grants and €14.94 billion in loans. 41% of the plan will support the green transition and 20.5 % of the plan will support the digital transition.

The transformative impact of Romania's plan is the result of a strong combination of reforms and investments which address the specific challenges of Romania. The reforms address bottlenecks to lasting and sustainable growth, while numerous investments are targeted towards the green transition, notably through sustainable transport, building renovation, biodiversity protection, industry decarbonization and deployment of renewables. Romania's plan also includes measures on digitalization of public administration and public services and improvement of healthcare and education sectors, in an approach that takes into account regional disparities. Important reforms and investments aim at improving the quality and sustainability of public finances and the pension system, the effectiveness of public administration, including state owned enterprises, public procurement, the judiciary and the fight against corruption, as well as support for the business environment and research & innovation. All reforms and investments have to be implemented within a tight timeframe, as the Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility foresees that they have to be completed by August 2026.



Source: 2 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility/recovery-and-resilience-plan-romania_en

The plan will foster economic growth and create jobs. It is expected to lift Romania's gross domestic product by 1.8% to 2.9% by 2026. This boost to the economy is expected to bring up to 90,000 citizens into jobs. Romania will also benefit from the Recovery and Resilience Plans of other Member States, for instance through exports. These spillover effects account for 0.2 percentage points of gross domestic product in 2026, showing the value added of synchronized expenditure across Member States.

Green transition

In the area of climate and environmental policies, Romania faces challenges related to the greenhouse-gas emissions that are set to increase and could jeopardize the achievement of 2030 and 2050 energy and climate targets. In addition, while Romania's circular economy has potential, there is a particular need to improve infrastructure and increase investments in water, waste, wastewater and air pollution infrastructure.

Digital transition

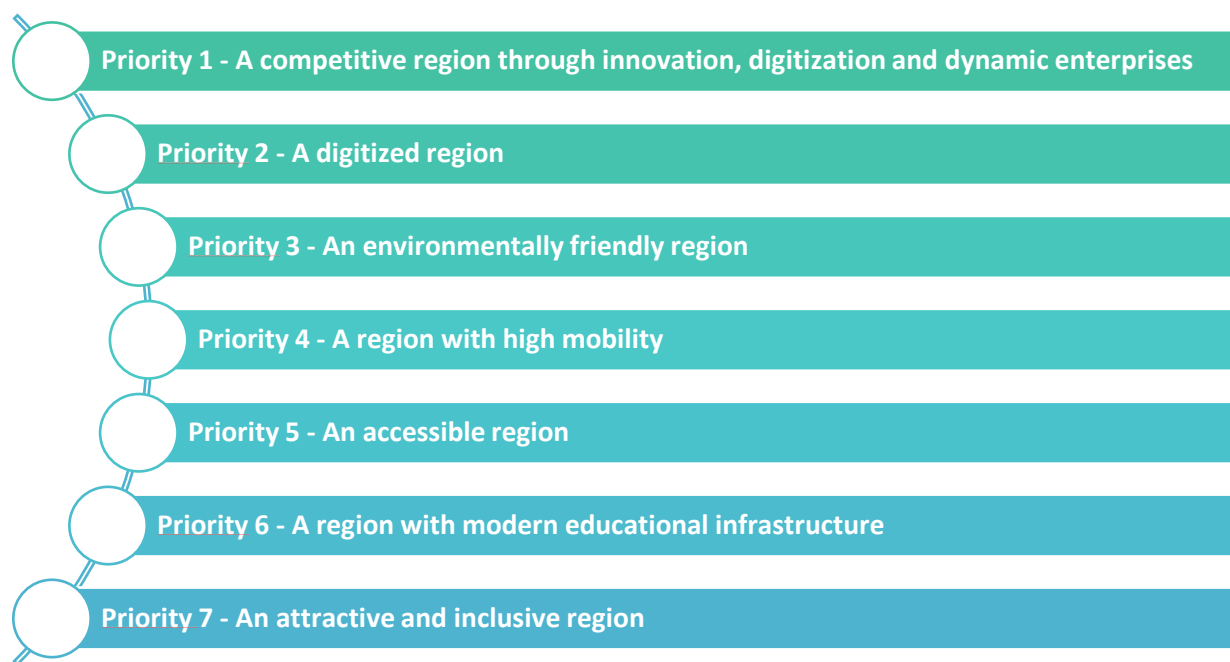
Digital challenges for Romania include connectivity especially in rural areas, lack of digital skills, below EU average digitalization of schools, households, companies and public services. Existing capacities are not sufficient to ensure a high level of network security and adequate cyber risk management.

Economic and social resilience

Key macro-economic challenges for the Romania's economy include growing fiscal and current account deficits stemming from a consumption-led growth model based on strong domestic demand, which was stimulated in recent years by expansionary fiscal policy. In addition, adverse demographic developments and shortages in the education system have led to labour and skill shortages and inequalities and regional disparities have been further accentuated by Covid-19 crisis. An unpredictable business environment is also a challenge of the Romanian economy.

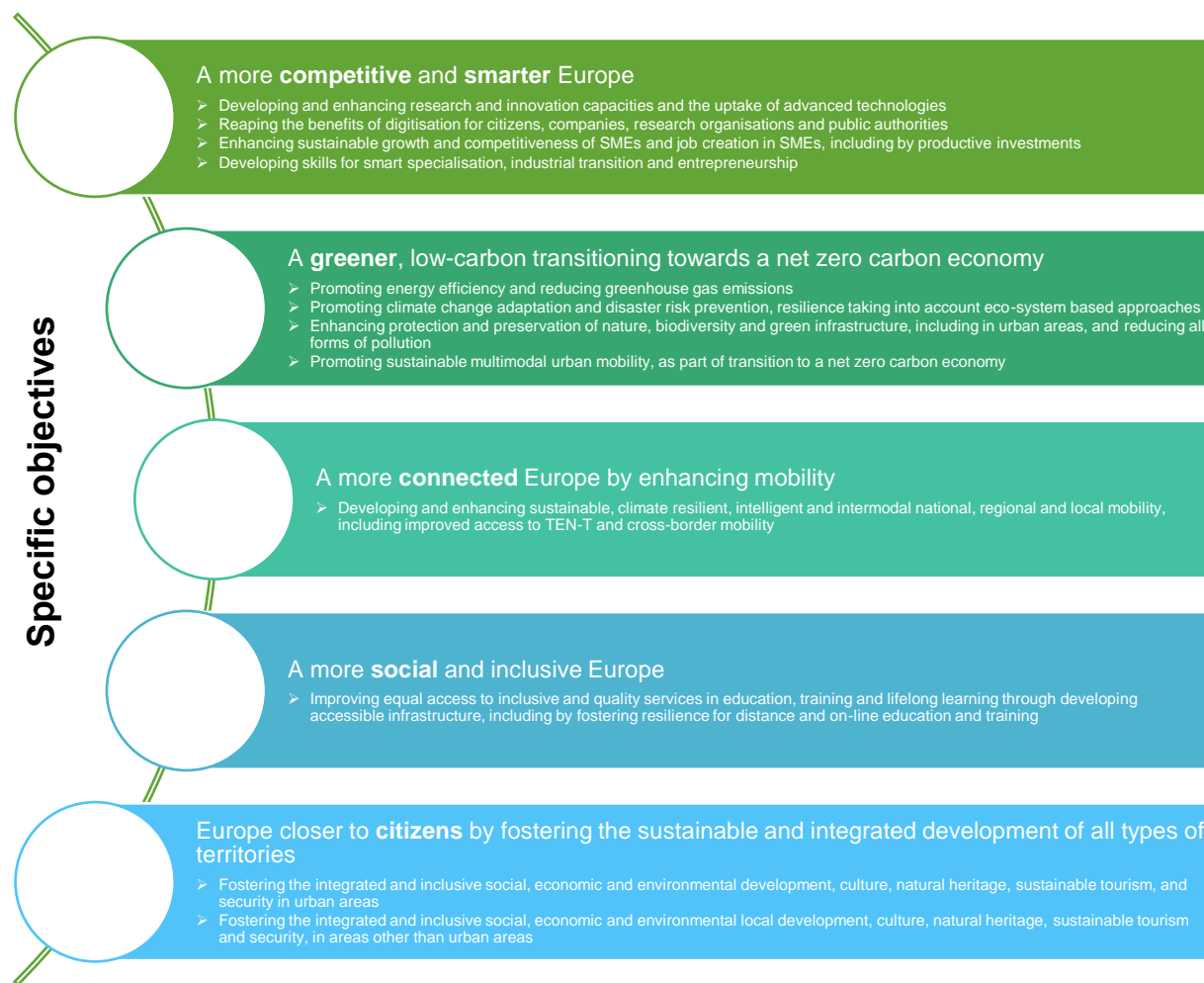
Bucharest - Ilfov Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 is a strategic programming document covering the areas of: smart specialization and innovation, SMEs, digitalisation, energy efficiency, urban development, mobility and connectivity, biodiversity, educational infrastructure, tourism and culture/cultural heritage. Taking into account national, regional and local needs, the selected specific objectives support the Program Strategy for the sustainable and balanced development of the region. The projects financed by ROP BI 2021-2027 have the potential to contribute to the improvement of the green infrastructure, by adopting solutions that allow the reduction of the ecological footprint of the human component. The adoption of solutions compatible with the principles of green infrastructure also contributes to improving the living conditions of local communities, by ensuring the maintenance of optimal ecological conditions.

The strategic vision of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region until 2030 is to capitalize on its competitive potential and improve its ability to offer citizens and businesses an attractive, sustainable, clean and inclusive environment in which they will want to live and invest, by promoting innovation, digitization, equitable access to modern public services, education and business opportunities, constantly considering the efficiency of energy consumption, the reduction of CO₂ emissions and adaptation to climate challenges.



The general strategic objective of POR BI 2021-2027 is to contribute to the strategic vision of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region by supporting an intelligent, sustainable and inclusive economic development with a view to improving the standard of living and increasing resilience to societal challenges and increasing regional economic competitiveness and improving the living conditions of local communities in the region by supporting the development of the business environment, infrastructure and public services, so that

they are able to effectively manage resources, capitalize on the potential for innovation and assimilation of technological progress and represents the sum of the specific strategic objectives identified as the most relevant starting from the sectoral challenges outlined in the analysis of development needs and correlated with the local, regional, national and European documents through which strategic action directions are established.



Territorial development strategy of Romania

The Territorial development strategy of Romania for 2035 is the long-term programmatic document through which the territorial development guidelines of Romania are established, based on a strategic concept, as well as the implementation directions for a period of time of over 20 years, on a regional, interregional, national scale, with the integration of relevant aspects at the cross-border and transnational level.

The Territorial development strategy of Romania is the document that is the basis of the entire spatial planning system (territorial planning and urban planning) at the national level, underpinning

regional, country and local strategic documents (territorial development strategies, territorial development plans, regional development plans) and operational documentation (urban planning), as well as the other development strategies at the national level with territorial relevance and impact. The mission of this strategy is to ensure a polycentric development and a balance between the need for development and the competitive advantages of the national territory in a European and global context. Thus, the Territorial Development Strategy of Romania represents:

- A tool to facilitate an integrated planning process on a national scale for the time horizon 2035;
- An instrument for informing the central and local public authorities, on the general directions and long-term development objectives of the national territory;
- An instrument for substantiating development policies from different administrative levels;
- A tool for informing European and global stakeholders on the development potential and competitive advantages of the national territory.

Taking as a benchmark the current situation of the national territory and the development opportunities, the Territorial Development Strategy of Romania proposes a series of development objectives with relevance for different areas of the national territory, with a different sphere of impact depending on the geographical specificity and socio-economic, functional and cultural aspects characteristics of the territory.

National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030

Romania, as a member of the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), has adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit through UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1. The European Council endorsed this Agenda in “A Sustainable European Future: The EU Response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” on 20 June 2017. The Council’s document represents the political document to which the member states have committed themselves, setting the direction EU member states should follow in their task of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This strategy defines Romania’s national framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, providing a roadmap for achieving the 17 SDGs. This strategy promotes the sustainable development of Romania by focusing on Sustainable Development’s three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. This strategy is citizen-centered and focuses on innovation, optimism, resilience, and the belief that the role of the state is to serve the needs of each citizen in a fair, efficient, and balanced manner, all within a clean environment.

Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, at least four have an impact on a Local Green Deal, namely:

- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action

The National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030 sets targets for the 2030 horizon that have an impact on the Local Green Deal, as follows:

- Decouple economic growth from the process of resource depletion and environmental degradation by substantially boosting energy efficiency
- Increase the share of renewable energy and low-carbon fuel
- Targets for recycling of municipal waste and packaging waste
- Implement sustainable green public procurement practices
- Strengthen Romania's resilience and capacity to adapt to climate-related risks and natural disasters
- Intensify Romania's efforts to achieve the transition to a "green" economy, characterized by low carbon dioxide emissions and resilience to climate change, and to integrate measures with a view to adapting to climate change in vulnerable economic, social and environmental sectors, in keeping with EU policies

The National Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030 proposes actions to consolidate and expand the governance framework for sustainable development, in order to promote the principles and values of the strategy.

National Strategy for Green Jobs 2018 – 2025

The National Strategy for Green Jobs 2018-2025 is a strategic document based on a multi-sectoral approach. This strategy initiated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice aims at sustainable employment and the achievement of an employment rate of 20-64 year-olds of 70%, the national target established in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy by stimulating and capitalizing on the green job generator potential of competitive economic sectors.

Consolidation of the development process and economic growth in the medium and long term in Romania can be done simultaneously with the transition to an economic model that has as little negative impact as possible on the environment and on the natural ecosystems balance. Thus, the intelligent capitalization of the natural and human capital potential can ensure Romania a sustainable economic growth, well-being and a decent living for citizens, in balance with the environment and nature.

The transition towards a green economy involves a series of activities from various economic sectors, which have as a common denominator direct or indirect reporting to the environment, so three specific objectives have been established in the Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy:

- stimulating entrepreneurship and green jobs creation, with an emphasis on sectors of increased competitiveness;
- developing the skills of the workforce in order to ensure quality employment in competitive sectors, generating green jobs;
- strengthening cooperation with relevant actors and dialogue with social partners in sectors with potential for creating green jobs.

Green public procurement is a key tool in the sustainable development of cities that is underutilized and little known.

Green public procurement is one of the ways to achieve the global goals of sustainable development – responsible production and consumption, protecting the environment, encouraging innovation and clean technologies. Green public procurements are public procurements whose award documentation uses ecological criteria at the level of qualification requirements, specifications, award criteria or contractual clauses.

At the level of the United Nations and the European Commission, numerous recommendations and strategies have been issued that underline the particularly important role that public authorities play in protecting the environment and encouraging innovation when purchasing goods, products and services using ecological technical requirements or applying green evaluation factors.

Since 2006, the European Commission has recommended that at least 50% of all purchases made by public authorities be green. In order to achieve this objective, it was recommended that the member states adopt an important instrument for the implementation of Green Public Procurement which consists in the adoption of a National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement, which includes mandatory annual targets for green public procurement.

In order to be in line with European strategies, Romania adopted Law no. 69/2016 on green public procurement, and in October 2018 this legislation was completed by approving the Green Public Procurement Guide for 6 groups of products and services. This guide includes the minimum requirements regarding environmental protection for green public procurements that are required by their specifications.

The main purpose of the guide is to provide contracting authorities with information on the minimum mandatory requirements regarding environmental protection that must be taken into account when drawing up documentation for awarding green public procurement contracts and framework agreements. Through the guide, the contracting authorities are given the opportunity to introduce in the specifications environmental requirements related to specific ecological labels to guarantee that the products or services offered meet the requirements requested by the contracting authority.



In the field of statistical information, The National Agency for Public Procurement (ANAP), in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, started on July 12 2022 a process of identifying the categories of public/sectoral procurement contracts and framework agreements to which the legislative provisions on green public procurement in Romania apply.

In this sense, the Questionnaire on green public procurement in was launched to be filled in by July 19 2022.

At national level, a monitoring activity was conducted between 13.11.2018 (the date of entry into force of the Green Public Procurement Guide) and 15.05.2021.

The total number of award procedures (open tenders and simplified procedures) published in SEAP in this period having as object the copy paper and the graph paper was 202. Following the analysis, the results indicate that during 30 months there was an average of approximately 6.73 public procurement procedures initiated every month from the total number of public procurement procedures (202), 79% of the procurements did not comply with the requirements of the Guide. A percentage of 7% of the 202 awarded procedures partially complied with the Guide (using only one technical criterion between the two mandatory and cumulative). Only 14% of all procedures of public procurement fully complied with the requirements the guide.

Romania's industrial policy document

The concept of industrial policy has evolved significantly in recent years, being strongly influenced by the challenges of globalization. European Union documents emphasize the need to involve all Member States, regions, cities and the private sector in the industrial policy review process, in order to emphasize the importance of innovation, digitization, investments in new technologies, the transition to a circular and low emissions carbon economy, the integration of businesses into European and global value chains and a fairer single market to strengthen industry's ability to adapt to the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities of the new era of globalization.

Romania's industrial policy document, with the related Action Plan, presents, based on ex-ante analyses, the current situation of the Romanian industry and underlines, in correlation with the recent communications of the European Commission, the main directions of action for an industry of the future.

The contribution of the private sector in achieving the ambitious objectives of increasing economic competitiveness through energy efficiency in industrial processes and combating climate change and ensuring sustainability is essential. Romania's industrial policy document emphasizes that satisfactory results can only be achieved through vision, partnership and the creation of appropriate framework conditions for innovation, new business and production models, including measures to support the transition to low CO₂ emissions in industrial sectors.

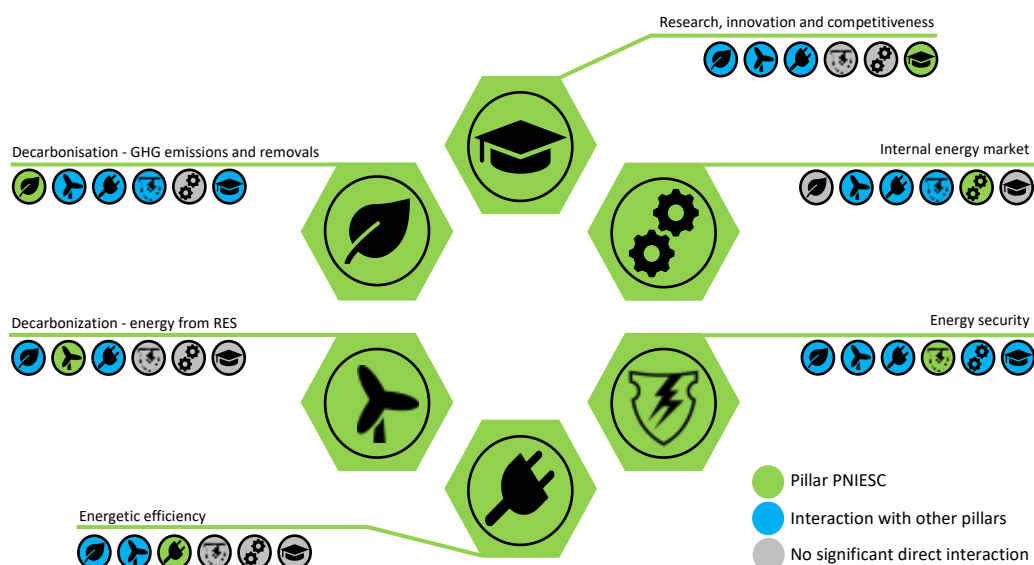
National Integrated Plan in the field of Energy and Climate Change 2021-2030

The National Integrated Plan in the field of Energy and Climate Change (PNIESC) for 2021-2030 was created to guarantee Romania's fulfillment of the 5 objectives of the EU energy policy established by the Strategy regarding the energy union, which aims at energy security, decarbonization, energy efficiency, the internal energy market and research, innovation and competitiveness.

PNIESC integrates with priority the objectives and directions established by the specific strategies in the field of energy, respectively of climate change, at the same time relying on the programmatic documents initiated by other ministries/authorities.

As such, the approach aimed to identify a set of priorities leading to the achievement of the revised assumed objectives, taking into account the available, the need to ensure a bearable transition for industry and consumers, and the institutional capacity for implementation.

Similar to the perspective of the European Union to build its energy and environmental policy for 2030 around five pillars, PNIESC was built on a series of essential elements for defining the role and contribution of Romania to the consolidation of the Energy Union.



Source: 3 - The National Integrated Plan in the field of Energy and Climate Change (PNIESC) for 2021-2030

The measures and policies prioritization to achieve the objectives was carried out mainly on the basis of the interactions between the dimensions, considering the maximization of the expected impact of those policies and measures. For example, investments to increase energy efficiency will have the impact of reducing GHG emissions, increasing the share of renewable energy, but also in combating energy poverty. Positive effects will thus also be registered at the macroeconomic level, ensuring the creation of new jobs, the improvement of the quality of life, as well as the reduction of social costs.

Also in this direction, at the moment the Romanian Energy Strategy 2022-2030, with the perspective of 2050, is in the legislative approval procedures.

Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030 represents the capital investment planning document that integrates areas regarding the socio-economic development of localities, environmental protection, connectivity, etc., thus aiming at coordinating the local strategies of the territorial administrative units in the county, to ensure the reconciliation of functional development with its effects on the specificity of the territory. The formulation of the development strategy is the result of a participatory process, involving decision-makers, businessmen and the population, to establish a consensus regarding the future of the respective community.

The development strategy, as a document resulting from the planning process, starts from the profiling of the territory on the regional market (its strong points, opportunities, problems), from a unanimously accepted vision and proposes sectoral policies that lead to programs and projects that respond to that vision. Corroborating them with the spatial component of development is carried out in order to create a more rational territorial organization, land use, balancing development demands with the need to protect the environment and achieving economic and social objectives.

The defined vision and strategic objectives are based on a number of key elements, namely pillars of development, which integrate common interests in the development of the spatial network of the 40 administrative-territorial units in Ilfov County, with specific borders and responsibilities, functions and values, which have decided to strengthen its position as a regional leader, connected to the major economic corridors of Europe. These pillars of development are:

1. economic vitality,
2. connectivity,
3. ambience and style,
4. territorial partnership and
5. metropolitan branding.

Under the VISION 2030: Ilfov County – a space of dialogue and intelligent polarization; a competitive, sustainable and inclusive county, two Strategic Objectives are defined, aimed at:

1. Improving the quality of life of the inhabitants
2. Increasing attractiveness for economic activities and visitors

Furthermore, a number of 9 specific objectives are defined and coordinated with the Territorial Development Strategy of Romania 2035 and with the Investment Priorities of the European Commission for the modernization of the cohesion policy.

The Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030 also defines:

- the responsibilities of the public and private sector related to the achievement of the specific objectives along with
- a list of sectoral policies in coordination with specific objectives.

For all categories of policies and programs/development directions, formulated on the basis of the results of the territorial diagnosis corroborated with the strategic and sectoral objectives, the Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030 presents a long list of projects, which meet development needs.

This list is drawn up based on the proposals of the Ilfov County Council and the local public administrations in the county (through the answers received at the CJ addresses), as well as on the basis of the experts' proposals resulting from the needs analysis. The list thus includes projects included in the development strategies of the communities and in other programmatic documents at the regional and national level, under preparation, or in the project idea stage.

Among the most important projects that are at an advanced stage of implementation, or already under deployment and that are closely connected with the realization of the Local Green Deal, we can specify the following:

Măgurele Science Park

The project is part of the list of strategic projects included in the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 and provides for the construction of:

- a Technologic Transfer Centre with the role of facilitating technology transfer to SMEs residing in the park, enhancing innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship;
- an Innovation Centre with the role of facilitating business incubation in order to create high-tech companies, oriented towards growth and competitiveness, both domestically and internationally;
- an Expositonal Centre;
- a Social Centre (networking).

Bucharest-Ilfov Multimodal Hub (BIMH)

The project envisages the construction of the intermodal terminal and related infrastructure - warehouses, railway terminal, storage platform, functional buildings, roads. The scope of the project is to transfer a part of the current freight traffic carried out by car and intended mainly for the Bucharest-Ilfov area on the railway.

Additionally, the Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030 defines a set of Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the strategy, as well as Result Indicators at the level of development programs/directions.

The development strategy of Ilfov county starts from an integration of its issues, in which the key aspects of development overlap on the territory and the administrative configuration of the county. They will lead to the strategic objectives and respond to the territorial development priorities of the European Union, formulated in the Territorial Agenda 2030 and in the Green Charter of Territorial Cohesion, coordinating directions regarding:

1. Polycentric and balanced territorial development;
2. Territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and businesses;
3. Management of natural, built and landscape heritage;
4. Economic competitiveness and social cohesion. The integrated character of the development will be ensured by measures regarding:
 - a) coordinating the impact of various sectoral policies on the territory;
 - b) achieving a more balanced distribution of economic development than if it were left to free market forces;

- c) regulating of the functional conversion of land and property

The county development strategy represents the capital investment planning document that integrates areas related to the socio-economic development of localities, environmental protection, connectivity, etc., thus aiming to coordinate the local strategies of the Territorial Administrative Units in the county, to ensure the reconciliation of functional development with its effects on the specificity of the territory. In this context, the county's development strategy for the 2030 time-horizon is built around the concepts of Metropolitan Area and Functional Urban Area.

The strategy is coordinated at the level of sectoral objectives and policies with the main planning documents developed at the central and regional level:

- The National Territory Development Plan;
- Territorial Development Strategy of Romania, 2035;
- Sectoral strategies, covering key sectors of development such as human capital, connectivity infrastructure (General Transport Master Plan), economic competitiveness, capitalization of natural resources, administrative capacity, etc.;
- The Plan for sustainable urban mobility 2016-2030 – Bucharest-Ilfov Region.

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Bucharest - Ilfov Region 2016-2030

The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Bucharest - Ilfov Region 2016-2030 is a strategic document and a development policy tool, using transport simulation software aimed at solving the mobility needs of people and businesses to improve the quality of life, while contributing to the achievement of European objectives on environmental protection and energy efficiency. Its implementation will ensure the implementation of European planning and management concepts for sustainable urban mobility adapted to the specific conditions of the Bucharest - Ilfov region and includes the list of measures/projects to improve mobility in the short, medium and long term.

The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Bucharest - Ilfov Region aims to be a strategic plan for people and places and has the role of correlating the vision of mobility development with the vision of spatial development of the metropolitan area with the aim of achieving an efficient, integrated, sustainable and safe transport system, designed to promote socially inclusive economic and territorial development and ensure a high quality of life as well as a minimal impact on the environment.

The policies and measures defined in the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Bucharest-Ilfov Region 2016-2030 cover all modes and types of transport in the entire Bucharest-Ilfov region, public and private, passenger and freight, motorized and non-motorized, moving and stationary. To achieve the Operational Objectives listed above, PMUD uses 7 transport policies. These policies group similar projects from different types of interventions and prioritize them for maximum efficiency.

This sustainable urban mobility plan was created in 2015 with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and will be updated in 2023 through the project "Mobility 2.0 - Strategic planning and digitized public administration at the level of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region" implemented by the Municipality of Bucharest in partnership with the Intercommunity Development

Association for Public Transport Bucharest-Ilfov and financed by the Administrative Capacity Operational Program 2014-2020.

Ilfov county strategy in the field of energy 2018-2025

Ilfov county's strategy in the field of energy 2018 - 2025 lays the foundation for a concrete plan of actions that will lead to the reduction of energy consumption and investments in renewable energy systems in the county and which provides the most accurate view over the current situation of the energy sector in Ilfov county, as well as over the internal and external factors that influence them.

The Ilfov county's strategy in the field of energy 2018 - 2025 has the following general objectives:

- Security of energy supply and ensuring economic-social development, in the context of a future growing energy demand;
- Ensuring economic competitiveness by maintaining an affordable price for final consumers;
- Improving the quality of energy services: improving the quality of lighting to meet the standards in force, improving the quality of the heating service,
- Ensuring energy supply continuity and safety of final consumers at the parameters established by the contracts;
- Environmental protection by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in order to limit the effects of climate change.

Ilfov County Waste Management Plan

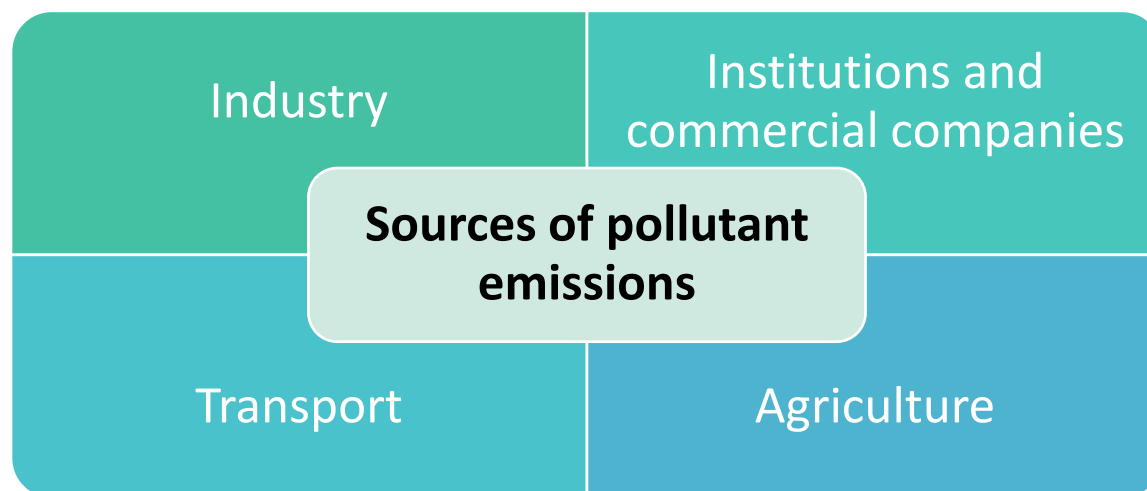
The purpose of the Ilfov County Waste Management Plan is to establish the framework for ensuring a sustainable waste management system, which ensures the fulfillment of the objectives and targets assumed at the national level. As such, the Ilfov County Waste Management Plan aims to:

- define county objectives and targets in accordance with the objectives and targets of the National Waste Management Plan, as well as the existing objectives and targets at the European level;
- address all waste management aspects that are the subject to planning at the county level. Also, the Ilfov County Waste Management Plan will serve as a basis for:
- establishing the investment and policy requirement in the field of waste management that are the subject of planning;
- implementation and development of integrated waste management systems at county level;
- developing projects to obtain financing

In addition to the County Waste Management Plan, at the level of Ilfov County, a Master Plan for the Integrated Waste Management System in Ilfov County was created in 2020, its purpose being to develop a general framework conducive to waste management at the county level, with minimal negative environmental effects.

The provisions of the Master Plan complement the provisions of the National Waste Management Strategy, the National Waste Management Plan and the County Waste Management Plan as the main approach to direct Romania towards a recycling society and the application of the waste hierarchy, for all types of municipal waste.

The mission of the "Air quality maintenance Plan for Ilfov County" is to maintain and improve air quality in Ilfov County to protect human health and the environment as a whole.



The general objective is to implement the provisions of Law no. 104/2011 on ambient air quality, as well as those of Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on air quality and cleaner air for Europe in order to keep the concentrations of all pollutants placed in the management regime II below the limit values/target values.

The specific objective of the Plan is to implement the measures identified in other local or national projects, plans and strategies, as well as additional measures with an impact on reducing emissions in order to maintain air quality and the quality of the environment as a whole.

The implementation of the Air Quality Maintenance Plan is intrinsically linked to the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan 2016-2030 for Bucharest-Ilfov Region, which ensures the implementation of European planning and management concepts for sustainable urban mobility adapted to the specific conditions of the Bucharest-Ilfov region and which presents a unitary and coherent vision of mobility development at the level of the Bucharest-Ilfov region.

The projects and measures of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan have an essential contribution in reducing pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, the environmental protection component being thus a strategic objective of the PMUD.



The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region

Among the priority areas of regional smart specialization set out in the strategy, the field of "new foods and food safety" and the highlighted niches are in line with European concerns in the sphere of the bioeconomy which offer a unique opportunity to comprehensively address societal challenges in terms of food waste, the availability and access to functional foods and the relationship between the food industry and the circular economy. Moreover, the sector is correlated with the global challenge identified in Pillar 2 of the Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2021-2027 grouped in the cluster "6 Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment" which emphasizes the protection, restoration, management and sustainable use of biological and natural resources on land and in the sea to address food and nutrition security and the transition to a low-carbon and efficient circular economy in terms of resources.

2.2. Assessment of existing local initiatives and practices led by local stakeholders (public & private – with an emphasis on resilient SMEs)

2.2.1. City of Turin

TORINO CITY LAB

Building on its territorial know-how and industrial past, Torino becomes an open laboratory of frontier innovation able to attract companies and skills to guide the development of the "City" of the future. Autonomously driven and connected vehicles, Drones, IOT and 5G, Artificial intelligence and robotics: frontier technologies at the service of quality of life, environmental and social sustainability at city size.

The priorities for the next three years are the followings:

- Green & Smart Mobility
- Green, climate resilience and circular economy
- Innovative urban services
- Culture and Education

TORINO SOCIAL IMPACT

An alliance among companies, public and private institutions aimed at making Turin one of the best places in the world to do business and finance pursuing goals of economic viability along with objectives of social impact. A cluster of skills, activities, services to strengthen and promote the local ecosystem in the framework of Agenda 2030. The mission of Torino Social Impact is to strengthen the local system and qualify it as one of the best places in the world to do business and finance by pursuing economic goals along with social impact objectives, in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. It is an open platform already gathering over 200 companies, institutions, financial operators, charities, foundation and third sector enterprises. They joined the project by subscribing a MoU aimed at sharing ideas, experiences, projects and resources in order to catalyze and attract investments and activities which aspire to solve emerging social problems through economically sustainable business models.

is an alliance among public and private actors that in the framework of their activities carry out projects with a meaningful social impact, thus composing a cluster rich in skills, initiatives, opportunities and services. The different partners also collaborate in a horizontal strategic planning aimed at: building common infrastructures and pilot projects to strengthen the ecosystem; creating a collective brand to promote the ecosystem and position it on the global map of social impact investments. This section is a showcase of all projects, services, opportunities, events generated both by the partners individually and by the collaboration among them.

FOOD METRIC REPORTS

Turin has long been active and attentive to the theme of food, as witnessed by the richness of its gastronomic culture, agri-food heritage and the various experiences of animation, consultation and participation that have involved in the Turin area in recent years, on an urban and metropolitan scale.

Today, the Administration promotes a set of projects, initiatives and partnerships aimed on the one hand at favoring fair access to access to quality food on the one hand and to increase the visibility of this vocation on the other: from the fight against food wastage to the organisation of international quality events, from urban marketing actions to raising the awareness of the citizenship to healthy and sustainable lifestyles. Together, these actions begin to compose an overall framework that enhances the activities developed in the area and proposes them organically with a systemic vision on food. In fact, the Administration is committed to building projects on four main strands: the promotion of sustainability, economic development, education information and participation. The first important step for any systemic action is to know the state of the system and monitor the progress of ongoing projects and initiatives, measuring the concrete impacts on the territory.

The Administration has undertaken the drafting of this food balance sheet conceived as an initial census of its action within the urban food system. The intention is to take a first step towards a more structured, reasoned action consistent with the objectives of sustainability and social resilience, environmental and economic sustainability and resilience. The food balance sheet is intended to be the tool by which the administration measures the effectiveness of its various policies and projects. The indicators identified and investigated in this first report can in some cases be considered established while in others they may require further investigation or may even be absent, pending the processes and relations with the territory in order to possibly produce an even richer and more articulate picture.

Food metric report indicators:

- Food security
- Healthy, ecological and fair public procurement
- Food, nutrition and health
- Food trade
- Urban agriculture
- Food enterprise
- Gastronomic tourism
- Food and the circular economy
- Training and research

FUSILLI PROJECT

The Municipality of Turin will be responsible, together with its third parties (UNITO, UNISG, ORTI GENERALI) and in collaboration with the Fondazione Comunità di Mirafiori, for the implementation of the “Food Innovation Living Lab” in Turin, which will include:

- Experimental initiatives of environmental sustainability, support for economic development, raising awareness around nutrition and health, citizens’ participation in food culture, to be scaled up throughout the city in compliance with the strategy “Turin City of Food”.

- Drafting and publication of the “Annual Food Balance Sheet” of the Food Atlas, namely the Food Policy Report: a tool for assessing the current state of the food system and monitoring food policies
- Creation of a “Food Council”, intended as an arena of multi-sectoral coordination capable of fostering a comprehensive quality food system, and promoting concrete regulatory, communication or experimental actions.
- Activation of awareness-raising campaigns involving local key actors such as “Slow Food” and “Coldiretti”, as well as open workshops focused on the link between food quality, healthy eating and public health.
- Food Lab: Supporting experimentation with circular business models for the production/processing of food for local commerce, including bars, restaurants, local associations that manage collective catering functions and local markets.
- Food Hub: experimentation of a widespread pole for the collection and redistribution of unsold food.
- Food Policy Training: the Turin living lab will focus on training and dissemination activities, in order to trigger a process of awareness around food among practitioners and citizens.
- Food Tech Testing: Testing activities will also be promoted in collaboration with companies according to the ‘Torino City Lab’ model of above-ground farming techniques and Tech for Food.

RePoPP PROJECT

The RePoPP project was set up in 2016 on the occasion of the European Week for Waste Reduction from the Administration's strong desire to launch an efficient system for collecting organic waste and fruit and vegetables that can still be recycled in Europe's largest open market, through activities to raise awareness and educate people to separate organic waste, recover and redistribute food surpluses, provide street vendors with civic and environmental training, and promote food waste issues. Every week, from Monday to Saturday, the "Waste Sentinels", together with some asylum-seeking volunteers, recover surplus food from the stalls of the hawkers at the Porta Palazzo market and six other markets, and then redistribute it to the needy through the use of fruit and vegetable boxes filled with a mix of food to satisfy, both quantitatively and qualitatively-nutritionally, the needs of a family for two days. Thanks to RePoPP, 450 tonnes of still edible food have been recovered from the beginning of 2017 to the first half of 2021.

Novamont's contribution to the project has been fundamental from the outset through its sponsorship of awareness-raising activities, communication and the distribution at food counters of trolleys with Mater-Bi bags for separate collection of organic waste. Iren/Amiat is another key partner facilitating operations and the evolution of the collection system, for example with the implementation of electric compactors in the Porta Palazzo market.

CIRCULAR WORKSHOP AT THE CENTRAL MARKET IN TURIN

In 2020, the Administration started a collaboration with the Turin Central Market to valorise food surpluses and raise public awareness of the culture of sustainability in the food supply chain. On 5

February, on the occasion of the national day for the prevention of food waste, the Mercato Centrale made available space, furnishings and personnel, including collaboration with the speedy Chef Scabin present inside the Market, for the preparation of dishes and side dishes prepared with the surplus food from the Porta Palazzo. On this occasion Novamont provided 100% biodegradable media. Also in 2020, the Central Market will provide the Administration with a shop inside the Market, equipped with cold storage, kitchen and exhibition space. Thus the Bottega Circolare was born, a place for experimenting with sustainable and fair trade food projects, where culture against waste and the transformation of surpluses can be practised, and to animate debate on the circular economy.

Active initiatives include the preparation of ethnic food from surpluses, mushroom cultivation from the coffee grounds of the Market cafeteria and photographic exhibitions for environmental awareness. Projects for new experimental forms of above-ground cultivation are in development.

BAG-TO NATURE

Ninety per cent of restaurants are already equipped with common aluminium containers for delivery/take-away or to allow customers to take away ordered and uneaten food. However, the forced growth of delivery has also led to an increased impact of packaging on the environment.

Hence the idea of a project created to raise awareness among food service operators on the issue of waste reduction and the fight against food waste in order to involve consumers, through the dissemination of good practices also outside the home, in the adoption of behaviours and habits that are more respectful of the ethical and environmental value, even before the economic value, of our daily purchasing behaviour.

This is why Ascom Confcommercio and Epat Torino, with the coordination of the City of Turin, the Chamber of Commerce, and with the support of Amiat Gruppo IREN and NovamontS.p.A, are launching a mini awareness-raising campaign entitled "BagTO Nature", which is part of the Ministry of Ecological Transition's "Plastic Free - Challenge" campaign and the City's "Towards Zero Waste" strand of the Sustainable and Resilient Torino 2030 Action Plan, for a clean, healthy and circular city.

The *Bag to nature* campaign provided for the free delivery to Turin businesses in the food sector (bars, restaurants and delicatessens) of 40,000 biodegradable and compostable foodbags, made by S.I.S. and Novamont, to take home food not consumed, for delivery or take-away.

The initiative is aimed at operators in the traditional and fast-food sector and consumers, in order to enhance the fight against waste in all its forms, both through the use of biodegradable and compostable containers for take-away, delivery and home foodbags, and by avoiding food waste.

JUNKER APP

It is an application that provides access to a wealth of information to make more circular choices. The big new feature is the possibility to scan the barcode of products to determine the correct disposal for separate collection. In addition, it provides information on collection calendars, proximity of drop-off locations, reuse and bulk product outlets, drinking water dispensers, shared mobility stations and much more.

2.2.2. Ilfov County

Ilfov County is part of the Bucharest-Ilfov Development Region, but there are significant structural differences between Ilfov County and Bucharest Municipality, Ilfov County being composed of communes and small towns, without a county seat. Due to the small size of the localities in the county, as well as the fact that the financial resources of the communities have been prioritized for the development of the localities' infrastructure, so far there have been very few initiatives regarding combating the effects of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, at this moment there is an increased interest of the territorial administrative units within Ilfov county in realizing some green investment projects. Among them, most refer to:

- improving the efficiency of public lighting systems,
- increasing the energy efficiency of public buildings by providing thermal insulation and installing lighting fixtures with low energy consumption,
- construction of wastewater treatment plants,
- creation selective waste collection systems and waste sorting and treatment stations,
- construction of charging stations for electric vehicles,
- creation of bicycle lanes.

Although at the level of local public authorities in Ilfov county, a limited number of projects that can serve as a starting point for the implementation of a Local Green Deal have been carried out, at the level of the Ilfov County Council and the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency there were a number of projects aimed at the implementation of policies that have the potential to support the Local Green Deal of Ilfov county. Among them, the most important ones are listed below.

SmartEdge, project implemented by Ilfov County Council and Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests together with 6 european partners. The overall objective of the project (Sustainable Metropolitan Areas and the Role of The Edge City) is to improve low carbon economy policies in edge cities and their metropolitan regions. The project provides for the transfer of good practices, mutual learning and experience in the field of innovative spatial planning tools, low-emission transport, as well as increasing the energy efficiency of public buildings using the potential of renewable energy sources.

This project's results are the following:

- carrying out an Action Plan for Improving the Low Carbon Economy in Bucharest-Ilfov Region
- carrying out a regional analysis regarding the emissions
- development of a online web platform in order to facilitate the transfer and to trigger the harmonization between local practices in the field
- a set of recommendations to improve the strategic documents to which the project is addressed
- public policy proposals applicable at local, regional and national level in the field of reducing carbon emissions.

Through this project, the Ilfov County Council also carried out an analysis of local strategies and their correlation with the objectives and activities of the action plan.

The collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests was also essential for designing the procedure that will be the base of the matchmaking platform and a list of indicators have been elaborated:

- Main sources of carbon emissions in the targeted localities
- The main areas in which there is an increase in carbon emissions;
- Practices that have led to a reduction in carbon emissions in the region;
- Ways to quantify emission reductions.

Pre-waste - project implemented by Ilfov County Council together with partners from 9 European countries.

This project has developed a consistent and comprehensive approach to help local and regional authorities to prevent waste generation. In particular, Pre-waste project provided:

- guidelines for planning, implementing and monitoring regional waste prevention policies
- 20 best examples of waste prevention actions implemented in the European Union by local or regional authorities, along with other good practices
- a web tool allowing the assessment of waste prevention actions' efficiency and monitoring.

PLASTEKO is a project developed in partnership between the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency and 7 other European partners.

PLASTEKO, in line with the "European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy", supports participating territories to take the steps necessary for a transition towards a "new plastics economy". The focus of the project is on advances in waste management, eradication of single-use plastics from regional value chains, and spurring growth through eco-innovation. PLASTEKO covers the areas of waste management, public procurement, funding/investments, secondary raw materials, and awareness raising. The objective of the project is to support 8 partners from 8 EU countries, through joint policy learning efforts and exchanges of experiences, to benefit from the momentum of the EU plastics strategy and achieve their goals in terms of protecting the environment, increasing resource efficiency, alleviating health effects, and boosting innovation. PLASTEKO enables partners and key stakeholders to:

- assess the current situation, potential, and barriers in their regions;
- identify pathways for sustainable growth in plastics value-chains;
- design and put into effect new policy measures and regulations.

AgroRES is a project carried out by the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency in partnership with eight regions, from seven member countries of the European Union.

The main objective is to develop measures that encourage the production and use of renewable energy in the agricultural and rural sector. AgroRES will support this sector by solving its energy needs in a sustainable, economic viable and socially responsible way.

In the context of implementing the AgroRES project, the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, as a member of the partnership, has developed and implemented actions in the region, in order to increase production and usage of renewable energies in agriculture and rural areas in Bucharest Ilfov region.

In this regard, the first three years of the project have focused on interregional learning and exchange of experience, based on good practices identified within the partnership with high potential of transferability. Following these steps, each region has developed an action plan, a document which outlines how expertise gained through interregional learning will be implemented in practice in own region in order to improve the chosen policy instrument.

The AgroRES action plan for Bucharest Ilfov region is focusing on the improvement of the Regional Operational Programme Investment in Growth and Jobs 2021 – 2027 and is composed by one action: Establishment of RES Regional support services for improving governance of funding projects meant to develop renewable energies in the agricultural and rural sector.

In this respect, by implementing this action it is desired to support farmers and other organizations that are dealing with agricultural sector, to make investment through grants financed by the policy instrument addressed for implementing their activities in a more sustainable and viable way – with “green” energy. As a part of these support services, the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency has developed a Toolkit Guide which has the main objective to raise awareness and to promote production and usage of renewables in agricultural and rural sector.

Blue Green City is a project carried out by the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency in partnership with seven regions, of the European Union, that aims to promote Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) as an integral part of a local and regional natural heritage conservation strategy. Project partners worked together with stakeholders from the implementation regions to assess the use of a diverse range of policy instruments and identify barriers in the adoption of green-blue infrastructure. Objectives of the project:

- assess the use of a wide range of Policy instruments and identify the potential barriers for adopting GBI
- develop and improve GBI strategies in order to create functional ecological connectivity between cities and peri-urban protected areas
- map the existing GBI provisions and assess the economic and non-monetary valuation of ecosystem services
- defining measures to be included in a Biodiversity Action Plan and a strategic spatial plan for future GBI implementation
- raise awareness and knowledge of the concept of ecosystem services and of the value of green and blue infrastructure in protecting, preserving and enhancing natural and cultural capital
- develop best practice recommendations for improving Policy instruments that promote green and blue infrastructure

One of the main objectives of the project was the elaboration of an Action Plans to develop/improve GBI strategies for natural heritage preservation (including the mapping of existing GBI provision, a Biodiversity Action Plan and a Strategic Spatial Plan for future GBI implementation).

e-MOPOLI (Electro MObility as driver to support POLicy Instruments for sustainable mobility) project is a European research project financed by the European Regional Development Fund aiming at

the diffusion of electromobility and the implementation of innovative strategies for reducing the carbon footprint of economic activities in urban and extra urban areas.

The project activities focus on several main areas of work:

- charging and tolling policies in favor of e-vehicles;
- development of charging infrastructure powered by alternative sources;
- integration of charging infrastructure and charging hubs in spatial planning, deployment and purchase of alternative fuel vehicles in public transport;
- promotion of e-mobility in niche market fleets.

A key output of e-MOPOLI project is the development of action plans which will contribute in promoting electromobility and alternative fuels in the region of each project partners. In order to achieve this output nine regions from eight different European countries exchanged ideas, knowledge and policies already implemented that should be adopted, altered or avoided.

Green Screen is an Interreg Europe-funded partnership project working across eight EU regions, including Bucharest-Ilfov region, to improve policies and achieve measurable success in reducing the carbon footprint of film and TV production. These industries are a successful driver for growth across Europe, and an important contributor to the creative industries within the European economy.

The Project aims to align the practices of these successful industries, standardise environmental practices and improve regional policies so that sustainable measures for producing films, TV and audiovisual content can be adopted across Europe. Through Green Screen, participating regions will improve policies to motivate and equip productions to adopt sustainable practices and thus reduce CO2 emissions.

The aim of the action is to develop a guide on sustainability and green practices in audio visual production industry. The guide refers to measures that need to be implemented both during the whole filming process (pre-production, shooting, post-production) and in the stages between productions (such as set and materials recycling).

Such a guide would help the studios and production companies to start introduce green production practices in their everyday activities. It is intended that at least the most important stakeholders that were actively involved in the project to become pioneers in the domain and examples for the others.

GPP-STREAM (Green Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming) is a project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests together with 8 european partners that aims to improve the management, implementation and monitoring of policy instruments that integrate green public procurement approaches so as to ensure that resource efficiency gains can be maximized and that resource efficiency objectives are institutionalized through green public procurement. Therefore, the overall objective of the GPP-STREAM project is to support the partners to transfer the lessons learnt to all implementation phases of the policy instruments addressed and to create a community of stakeholders that can mainstream GPP practices.

The GPP-STREAM project focuses on how the governance and implementation of GPP can be improved by encouraging the interaction of different policy instruments within one administration and across different government levels. The innovative character is also reflected by the use of environmental

criteria and the spread of green procurement practices not only in the purchases of goods and services that administrations need for the realization of their ordinary activities, but also by the use of the tool as a transversal instrument for selecting and directing development and investment measures, directly targeting the policies beneficiaries.

GPP-STREAM has proposed monitoring measures that can guarantee that the effects of the inclusion of GPP into policy instruments can be measured as part of the overall GPP strategy of an administration.

2.3. Assessment of internal existing governance and implementation structures in the two communities

2.3.1. City of Turin

100 European Cities

The City of Turin is officially among the 100 European cities that will commit to lower emissions by 2030, while also becoming a "Mission City," or a hub for climate experimentation and innovation, a virtuous example for all other European cities. The objectives of the mission are to achieve 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030 and to ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. One of the goals of each city is to write and sign the Climate City Contract (CCC) and follow the process and its implementation. The Climate City Contract is an instrument instrumented on three interconnected components: commitments, action plan, and investment plan. Selected cities will have to initial their Climate City Contract with stakeholders in the territory within the next few months. Contracts should include multi-level governance of the actions to be implemented with commitments from the regions, the government and the European Commission. The green deal tool provided by this project will be part of the dialogue the city will have with stakeholders in the terroir and will become part of the contract. At present the working group is structured within the city with technical and political involvement, but in the coming months it will expand externally by involving actors from the quadruple helix: research, public agencies, NGOs, businesses.

FOOD POLICIES

The City of Turin has established an interdepartmental and intersectoral coordination on food policies that include and represent all offices dealing with it and encourage a shift from sectoral actions to more strategic approaches. The goal is to improve the governance process in which all components of the city administration participate.

About food governance the city has signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) and created a study group called Turin Food Atlas, with some relevant stakeholders. It analyzes, maps and communicates the Turin Metropolitan food system. Useful to create new relationships for all actors. Food is approached in a transversal and system approach, flexible to the multiple spatial and thematic dimensions and as a participatory and inclusive tool. As part of the FUSILLI project, the city aims to create a "Municipal Food Commission" that can direct the city's policies in this area. Some working tables have begun and the topics that will be explored are:

- Environmental Sustainability and Circular Economy;
- Food Safety and Food Waste;
- Urban Agriculture;
- Cultural Promotion.
-

2.3.2. Ilfov County

For the integrated management of environmental aspects, infrastructure, innovation and internal and international cooperation, at the level of the Ilfov County Council, the General Directorate for Development Programs Management exists, consisting of 3 directions and several services and departments. By means of this structure with multiple competences, at the level of Ilfov county, projects from several fields can be realized and implemented, contributing significantly to the achievement of the strategic objectives of Ilfov county to increase the attractiveness for economic activities and visitors and to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants.



3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXISTING LOCAL FRAMEWORKS

3.1. City of Turin

The RIS3 (Regional Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy) of Piedmont, the Region where is located the city of Turin, identifies seven priority areas which the Piedmont Region is particularly specialised in, considering the enterprises concerned that are involved, the technological know-how and the presence of high-level research centres, resulting in a strong concentration of innovation activities: Aerospace, Automotive, Green Chemistry/Clean Tech, Mechatronics, Textile, Agrifood and Life Sciences (*Policy Road Map A Systemic Approach for Circular Regions*)

Moreover, the RIS3 is guided by two transversal trajectories, “Smart” and “Resource efficiency”, the latter intended as “the use of skills and processes to increase efficiency in the priority areas of innovation to support the emergence of a more sustainable regional economy” (source: RIS3), which apply to all priority areas. Even if the CE paradigm is not explicitly addressed as a policy goal, the identification of the “Green Chemistry/Clean Tech” area demonstrates the presence of a regional industrial specialisation which is particularly promising for CE and the willing of the Region to support its development.

On the other side, the “Resource efficiency” trajectory is a clear indicator of the willing of the Region to promote sustainable production processes in all priority areas. The RIS3 is implemented mainly through Axis I (Research, Innovation and Technological Development) of the ERDF Regional Operational Programme (ERDF ROP), with a financial allocation of around EUR 350 million. This means that a substantial funding support, through different schemes, is delivered to implement the RIS3 objectives. After the first three programming years, many R&I projects related to CE processes have been already funded, but there is an ample room to improve support in a more systemic way

Under a more general point of view, the regional situation is characterised by good assets to build on towards a CE (e.g., research, innovation and technological development capacities and initiatives, robust economic sectors with leading enterprises, key actors mobilised, networks, solid methodology).

On the other side, a critical mass of industrial and research investments towards Circular Economy is still lacking, which calls for further actions.

3.2. Ilfov County

From the legislative framework point of view, for Ilfov county it is assessed that there is legislation in place that allows the effective implementation of a Local Green Deal; still this legislation can be further improved in certain respects, but we have to take into consideration the fact that this legislative process is difficult to influence or push by the decision factors and the existing institutions at the county level.

Measures to improve the national legislative framework:

1. **Updating and supplementing the legislation regarding green public procurement** to encourage public authorities to carry out green public procurement; through this action economic agents will also be encouraged to certify their products and services in accordance with the existing ecological labels at the level of the European Union.

In order to be in line with European strategies, Romania adopted Law no. 69/2016 regarding green public procurement, based on the old GEO no. 34/2006 which regulates public procurement. The entry into force of this law was followed only one day after the adoption of the new package of laws on public procurement: Law no. 98/2016, Law no. 99/2016 and Law no. 100/2016 which transposed European Directives no. 2014/23/EC (concessions), no. 2014/24/EC, (public procurement) and no. 2014/25/EC (sectoral procurement), making these normative acts uncorrelated.

Although at the European level the criteria established by the European Commission for green procurement for 19 categories of products, services and works are only of a recommendation nature, in Romania the application of green public procurement is mandatory only for 6 categories of products and services established by the Green Public Procurement Guide from 2018. Although the legislation on green public procurement is mandatory for all contracting authorities, in practice it is observed that this legislation is applied by very few contracting authorities, while a very large number of officials working in the field of public procurement are unaware of the existence of these legal provisions.

2. **Shortening the approval period of some policies and strategies at the national level.** There are several policies or strategies that have been adopted through a legislative process in the Government or Parliament after several years from drafting. Others have not been adopted until now, being in the project stage for several years. Given the very long period of time that passes from the drafting of the documentation to actual approval, there is a risk that, at the time of adoption, these policies and strategies will not be fully updated to the new realities of rapid transformation. We mention here the Territorial Development Strategy of Romania and the Energy Strategy of Romania, which although they were drafted in 2016, have not been approved until now.

From the point of view of the regional and local strategic framework, Ilfov county is very well prepared; at the level of Ilfov county there is a county development strategy for the period 2020-2030 which is integrated with the other existing policies and strategies at regional level. By means of this strategy, both specific objectives and thematic objectives were established which are in agreement with the objectives of the Territorial Development Strategy of Romania as well as with the objectives of the EU cohesion policy. An important aspect regarding the monitoring of the implementation of this strategy is the existence of a Strategy Monitoring Committee established on the basis of the partnership principle, which involves close cooperation between public authorities, economic and social partners and the bodies representing civil society at national, regional and local level.

However, **it is recommended that at the time of the future update of the strategy, it should be reported to the targets established by the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania 2030.**

Ilfov County LGD proposed governance structure withholds components that seem very close to the values of multilevel governance.

Given the complexity of GDs, strong governance is a prerequisite for effective green change. It is crucial for efficient coordination of different types of stakeholders and for management of different governance areas, different instruments and different projects. First, **the various partners must be incentivized** with a set of balanced, clear, credible and time-consistent commitments. Second, it is necessary to **set clear and realistic intermediate goals** throughout the process to promote more risk taking. Third, **flexible design is required to cope with the uncertainties** of new green technologies, with clear intermediate targets and milestones that can be monitored in order to strengthen measures over

time. Fourth, **it is key to ensure accountability**, with incentives and penalties where needed. This could be provided through a governance body or structure gathering stakeholders from energy, transport, environment, education and labor, budget, innovation.

Ensuring the coordination and cooperation of multiple players, each responsible for aspects needed for LGD implementation, and ensuring that they will work together, requires a **designated leader**. **This person should be selected externally**, based on their skills, and able to coordinate and run Ilfov County LGD.

The governance structure must take into account multidisciplinary (environmental, economic, and social) to support sustainable decision-making, policy development and action in a broad context. The governance structure may come as LGD partnerships that must deliver concrete action, leading to collaboration agreements.

A collaborative governance model, interactions between different partnerships and initiatives will be managed more efficiently. This process is meant to become iterative and long-lasting once effective governance structures are in place. When the LGD approach has been demonstrated, new deals can be continuously added, covering a wider range of topics and fully embedding collaboration with local stakeholders in the governance framework of Ilfov County.

A multi-stakeholder approach, where public, private, community, and voluntary sectors from across Ilfov County and entrepreneurial ecosystems work together to deliver common goals.

The development of LGD can come in two steps: building momentum and scaling up. Those steps are based upon the similarities found through past experiences from cities implementing LGDs, in our case City of Amsterdam and, as main LGD functional structure, may mobilize existing staff, review existing strategic framework, mobilize local stakeholders around immediate opportunities, assess legal and fiscal conditions.

From an institutional point of view, it can be noted that at the level of the Ilfov County Council, the General Directorate for Management and Development Programs operates, which ensures the integrated management of environmental aspects, infrastructure, innovation and internal and international cooperation. For the successful implementation of the Local Green Deal, it is recommended to implement institutional cooperation mechanisms between the Ilfov County Council and the other institutions and authorities at the Ilfov county level, including the Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport Bucharest - Ilfov.

From the point of view of the community and local stakeholders involvement, it is recommended to continue the very effective model of consultation and collaboration that took place during the development of the Ilfov County Development Strategy and the transposition of the work procedures and principles adopted for the operation of the Ilfov County Development Strategy Monitoring Committee.

4. CONCLUSIONS ON THE FUTURE LGDS INTEGRATION IN OUR EXISTING LOCAL FRAMEWORK, WITH EMPHASIS ON: POLICIES INTERFACES, GAPS, POTENTIAL TRADE-OFFS AND SYNERGIES

Cities have a central role to play in the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the fight against climate change, the historic challenge our society faces now. Cities can mitigate climate change by supporting the SMEs of the road of green transformation of their business and participatory funding that is helping businesses to adopt energy efficiency technologies. For this to happen, all actors at European, national and municipal levels need to ensure the implementation of stable, long-term policies and legislation, which will provide certainty and trust to the business environment and citizens.

The need to materialize the concept of sustainable development requires a holistic approach, which detects and integrates the interactions between the three pillars: social, economic and environmental. Such a complex approach represents a challenge for decision-makers, but also for civil society, because the meaning of sustainability goes beyond the simple critical evaluation of sectoral statistical indicators.

The need for sustainable transformation is underlined by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 11 which is dedicated to making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the European Commission's Green Deal. The Green Deal aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent in the world and Europe as a whole has a strong responsibility as well as the collective ability to achieve this goal.

Cities and regions are ideally placed to drive action on sustainability through local action plans. Local authorities in their individual national context are responsible for local green urban development. Decision-makers in local authorities set strategic guidelines and specific operations for the whole city area. They act as a formal link between small scale neighborhoods and wider functional areas, with a decisive role in stabilizing surrounding and wider rural areas.

Sustainable and resilient green urban development takes place within a regional or metropolitan context and relies on a complex network of functional interdependencies and partnerships. This is exemplified by the functional area as stated in the Territorial Agenda 2030. In part, this covers a metropolitan area or a combination of other territorial entities. In order to adapt urban policies to people's daily lives, towns and cities need to cooperate and coordinate their policies and instruments with their surrounding suburban and rural areas on policies for housing, commercial areas, mobility, services, green and blue infrastructure, material flows, local and regional food systems and energy supply, among others.

Green Urban transformation is based on the integration of the social, ecological and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

The transformative power of cities is based on a diversified economy which provides jobs while ensuring a sound financial base for sustainable urban development. Cities as attractive, innovative and competitive business locations need a skilled workforce, social, technical and logistical infrastructure as well as affordable and accessible space. Ensuring these preconditions, including a favorable innovative

environment as well as opportunities for local and regional green production should be integral to a Local Green Deal.

In addition to traditional industries, many other economic sectors are shifting more and more towards a digital, service-oriented and low-carbon economy built on a knowledge-based society and cultural industries. Small-scale businesses, low-emission-manufacturing and urban agriculture can be stimulated to re-integrate production into cities and urban areas, enabling and promoting new forms of mixed-use neighborhoods.

The retail sector in European cities is changing as a result of an increasing digitalization in commerce. Staple goods and especially food, however, should be accessible locally to offer a good quality of life and to counterbalance the adverse effects of demographic change. Transforming central urban areas into attractive multifunctional spaces provides new opportunities for green urban development through mixed use for living, working and recreation, where manufacturing, retail and services are found alongside housing, hospitality and leisure.

All areas of urban policy have to be coordinated in a spatial, sectoral and temporal manner. The integrated approach relies on simultaneous and fair consideration of all concerns and interests relevant to urban development. Therefore, it should pool and balance different, partly conflicting, interests as well as the mutual effects of different interventions. Cities need to establish integrated and sustainable urban development strategies and assure their implementation for the city as a whole, from its functional areas to its neighborhoods. The best tool for coordinating and integrating these strategies is a Local Green Deal. The integrated approach requires the involvement of the general public as well as social, economic and other stakeholders in order to consider their concerns and knowledge. Public participation in green urban development processes should engage all urban actors, which also strengthens local democracy. Wherever possible, citizens should have a say in processes that impact their daily lives. New forms of participation should be encouraged and improved, including co-creation and co-design in cooperation with inhabitants, civil society networks, community organizations and private enterprises.

Experimenting with new forms of participation can help cities manage conflicting interests, share responsibilities and find innovative solutions while also reshaping and maintaining urban spaces and forming new alliances to create integrated city spaces. **Public participation is essential to the successful delivery of a high quality Local Green Deal.**

Every governmental level – local, regional, metropolitan, national, European and global – has a specific responsibility for the green future of our cities based on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Complex challenges should be jointly tackled by all levels of urban and spatial policy. This requires the cooperation of all societal actors, including civil society and the private sector.

5. REFERENCES

Air quality maintenance Plan for Ilfov county, 2019-2023, available at <http://apmif.anpm.ro/documents/22999/36385962/PMCA+ILFOV+2019+2023+aprobat.pdf/19851eef-8492-4855-8aed-855dfb6567ef>

Bucharest - Ilfov Regional Operational Program 2021-2027, available www.adrbi.ro/media/2745/sfc2021-prg-2021ro16rfpr009-10.pdf

First National Study on the Use of Green Public Procurement in Romania - ADRLD & ONV LAW, available at <https://www.onvlaw.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/1ST-NATIONAL-STUDY-ON-GREEN-PUBLIC-PROCUREMENT-IN-ROMANIA.pdf>

Green Public Procurement Guide, available at https://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/gpp/buying_green_handbook_ro.pdf

Ilfov County Development Strategy 2020-2030, available at https://cijilfov.ro/wp-content/uploads/Strategia_de_dezvoltare_Jud.IF_2020-2030/Strategia-de-Dezvoltare-a-Judetului-Ilfov-2020-2030_-_prima-versiune.pdf

Ilfov county strategy in the field of energy 2018-2025, available at www.primariabuftea.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Strategie_domeniul_energiei_mic.pdf

Ilfov County Waste Management Plan, available at https://adigidi.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/12_PJGD-Ilfov_final.pdf

Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (The National Recovery and Resilience Plan), available www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf

Law no. 69/2016 regarding green public procurement, available at <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/177918>

Local Green Deals, A Blueprint for Action, available at <https://www.intelligentcitieschallenge.eu/sites/default/files/2021-06/Local%20Green%20Deals-8.pdf>

National Integrated Plan in the field of Energy and Climate Change 2021-2030 (PNIESC), available at https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-04/ro_final_necp_main_ro_0.pdf

National Strategy for Green Jobs 2018 – 2025 (Romania), available at http://mmuncii.ro/j33/images/Documente/Munca/2018/21082018_SN_Locuri- Munca_Verzi_2018-2025.pdf

National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030, available at <http://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Romanias-Sustainable-Development-Strategy-2030.pdf>

Piedmont social innovation policy, available at <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/44ec1bd3-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/44ec1bd3-en>

Piedmont's innovation policy in the 2014-2020 EU programming period, available at www.regione.piemonte.it/web/sites/default/files/media/documenti/2021-12/oecd_piedmont.pdf

Piemonte region Operational Program ERDF 2014-2020, available at https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/italy/2014it16rfop014

Policy Road Map A Systemic Approach for Circular Regions, available at <https://www.allemandi.com/download/906/5e5fdc06c48bd/retrace-3-cover.pdf>

Regional guidebook on circular procurement, available at http://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/tx_tevprojects/library/file_1622539554.pdf

Romanian National Recovery and Resilience Plan, available at [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733641/EPRS_BRI\(2022\)733641_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733641/EPRS_BRI(2022)733641_EN.pdf)

Romania's industrial policy document, available at www.economie.gov.ro/images/politici-industriale/SIPOCA7/Document%20de%20Politica%20Industrial%20a%20Romaniei.pdf

Smart Circular Procurement, available at <https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/circpro/>

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Bucharest - Ilfov Region 2016-2030, available at https://doc.pmb.ro/servicii/transporturi_drumuri/docs/raport_instruire_model_cerere_de_transport.pdf

Territorial development strategy of Romania, available at <http://sdr.mdrap.ro/>

The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region, available at <https://www.adrbi.ro/comunicare/noutati/strategia-de-specializare-inteligenta-a-regiunii-bucuresti-ilfov-analiza-potentialului-document-de-lucru/>