

## CHALLENGE 3, 11 September 2019

### How can we innovatively integrate responsible public spending (including public procurement) with local entrepreneurship for tackling climate change consequences?

Challenge-owners: Pszczółki municipality & Metropolitan Area of Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot

**By analyzing the public money spent and the everyday behaviours and actions undertaken by the municipalities/public institutions' employees one can realize how much money it is and how big an impact they can potentially have. This is why public institutions, municipalities seem to be the potential role models for reducing climate change effects.**

What can we gain from matching the ecological approach with responsible public spending and procurement?

A combination of these two issues: interventions undertaken by municipalities' employees in their everyday activities and wisely financed expenses such as public procurements can give the power to meaningfully reduce the effects of climate change. So-called "green public procurements" or "green purchasing" prove that by using their purchasing power to choose environmentally friendly goods, services and work, they can make an important contribution to sustainable consumption and production and eventually ward off the worst effects of climate change. What is more, the good practices introduced in the municipalities by the local authorities could potentially trigger new environmental and climate-friendly actions adopted by all the stakeholders of the local communities. Public procurers need to think about environmental issues throughout the cycle of procurement to enable maximum impact.

#### key questions:

- How to raise awareness about climate change among suppliers, companies and other stakeholders of the services/products that the public money is spent on?
- How to change the attitudes and habits of the public institutions' employees interventions, in order to ward off the worst effects of climate change?
- Is there a way to cooperate (legally and transparently) between the public and private sector in order to share the goal of minimizing the climate change effects?
- Is it possible to combine thriftiness of public procurement with good quality products and services with care for the environment whilst effectively reducing climate change effects?
- How can we do more, with less? Investments implemented taking into account future limitations of land, water, and pristine zones. How to find public acceptance for sustainable development?
- Can economic growth be reconciled with the environment and landscape protection?

#### who should be potentially interested in this challenge?

municipalities/public institutions' employees, public procurement officers/experts, companies, social enterprises, ecological activists and experts in climate change effects, researchers on both: climate change and public expenses analyses