

SUP²LOOP

Green Innovation Challenge

UNPACK THE FUTURE:
PILOTING PLASTIC FREE SOLUTIONS.



CALL FOR GREEN PROCUREMENT EXPERTS

Background

Single-use plastics (SUPs) remain one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, particularly in sectors with high consumption and disposal rates, such as the hospitality and food services industries. Despite growing regulatory pressures and consumer awareness, the transition to circular solutions is slow due to system-level constraints, limited innovation uptake, and a lack of cross-sector collaboration.

Plastic producers and HORECA businesses in Albania are at the heart of this challenge and strategically positioned to lead impactful and circular solutions.

The project aims to drive a systemic reduction of SUPs by promoting sustainable alternatives, fostering circular thinking within business practices, and strengthening an innovation ecosystem that aligns with circular economy principles, reduces plastic waste, and unlocks new value chains.

Why SUP matters

Single-use plastics (SUPs) are products made wholly or partly of plastic that are intended to be used only once or for a short period before being discarded. They represent one of the most harmful sources of pollution and add increasingly large amounts of waste to already strained national waste management systems. For this reason, the EU Directive (EU 2019/904) introduced restrictions and bans on certain problematic items.

As Albania progresses toward EU accession, these same rules will soon apply nationally, based on the provisions of the upcoming new law on integrated waste management. [Read more about the directive here.](#)

How will this affect Albanian businesses?

Both producers and users of plastic packaging must prepare to adapt. For Albanian businesses, the ban is both a challenge and an opportunity: producers will need to replace existing SUP products with eco-friendly alternatives, while SMEs that use packaging must switch to sustainable solutions to remain compliant. Early movers who invest now in innovation and alternatives will not only meet future regulatory requirements but also gain a competitive edge in Albania's circular and plastic-free future.

Objectives:

- Drive the systemic reduction of single-use plastics by promoting sustainable alternatives and supporting businesses in the HORECA and plastic production sectors through grant schemes
- Strengthening the innovative ecosystem by providing capacity-building opportunities, implementing sustainable solutions, and contributing to long-term environmental and economic sustainability

Through this project, Milieukontakt Albania aims to reduce SUP through the promotion of circular economy solutions and sustainable consumption and production practices. It will support five (5) large enterprises located in Tirana and Durrës, primarily operating in the HoReCa sector and related services, to design and implement concrete SUP reduction measures.

To ensure high-quality technical, legal, and economic support, Milieukontakt Albania seeks to establish a **pool of procurement experts**.

The **objective of this call** is to identify and contract qualified procurement experts, consortia, or private entities to assist beneficiary enterprises in procuring and implementing solutions for reducing single-use plastics (SUPs), in compliance with environmental legislation and market best practices. The selected experts will collaborate closely with Milieukontakt Albania and the beneficiary enterprises and may be required to:

- Support the preparation and implementation of procurement processes for:
 - Sustainable SUP alternatives
 - Water vending and refill systems
 - Reusable packaging and service solutions

- Conduct market analysis and supplier identification
- Ensure compliance with national and EU-aligned SUP and environmental regulations
- Guide environmentally sound and circular procurement practices
- Contribute to monitoring and reporting of environmental and economic impacts

Required Expert Profiles

Applicants may apply for one of the following profiles:

a) Procurement / Environmental Lawyer

- Legal support related to procurement procedures
- Interpretation of ESG and SUP-related legislation (national and EU frameworks)
- Review and drafting of procurement documents, technical specifications, and contracts
- Establishes the qualification criteria for participation and evaluation of bidding entities.
- Oversees the procurement plans of grant beneficiary entities.

b) Economist / Financial Expert

- Market and price analysis for sustainable products and technologies
- Cost-effectiveness and lifecycle cost analysis of alternatives to SUP
- Prepares the financial offer document in accordance with national legislation standards.
- Establishes the economic conditions/criteria for participation and evaluation of bidding entities.
- Oversees the procurement plans of grant beneficiary entities.

c) Environmental Engineer / Environmental Expert

- Support in applying circular economy and waste prevention principles
- Defines the technical specifications and evaluation criteria for the goods/services to be procured.
- Prepares the technical offer documentation in accordance with national legislation standards.

- Establishes the specific technical conditions/criteria for participation and evaluation of bidding entities.
- Oversees the procurement plans of grant beneficiary entities.

Eligibility and Qualification Requirements

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- University degree in a relevant field (law, economics, engineering, environmental sciences, or equivalent)
- At least [5] years of relevant professional experience
- Demonstrated experience in environmental protection, waste reduction, circular economy, or SUP-related initiatives
- Experience with procurement processes and supplier engagement
- Knowledge of Albanian environmental legislation and EU environmental acquis
- Good communication and reporting skills
- Fluency in Albanian; knowledge of English is an advantage

Application Procedure

Interested candidates are invited to submit:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Short motivation letter describing relevant experience related to procurement and SUP reduction
- Examples of similar assignments or references
- Financial Offer
- Copy of identity document (ID card or passport).
- Certificate of judicial status (e-Albania)
- Official Copy of the diploma and work certificates

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following scoring criteria:

Criteria	Maximum (points)
Updated CV highlighting professional experience and expertise related to SUP reduction and sustainable procurement	40
Documents (legal) and availability	20
Financial offer	40
Total	100

Duration and Modality of Engagement

Expertise Service

Location in Tirana

Assignment period: February – June 2026 (max 15 working days per expert, depending on the needs of each enterprise)

Work may include desk-based analysis, meetings with enterprises, and on-site visits

Applications should be submitted no later than **26 January 2026** to **office@milieukontakt.org**, clearly indicating the expert profile applied for.

Evaluation of offers

Assessment of proposals based on **best value**, considering both technical merit and price-quality ratio.

Notification of the winners

The successful bidder will be notified by email that their bid has been accepted.

We are pioneering this initiative through the EU for Circular Economy and Livable Cities project (EU4CELC), co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by GIZ Albania in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The EU4CELC project aims to facilitate Albania's transition to a circular economy, empower municipalities to create livable cities for the future, and contribute to improved citizens' health, green job creation, and enhanced energy efficiency.