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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA IN POLISH CONSTRUCTION: POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS

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Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to identify the main challenges in the functioning of the Polish public procurement market, with particular emphasis on the use of environmental criteria in construction procurement. The paper aims to assess the extent to which the current regulatory framework supports sustainable development objectives through Green Public Procurement (GPP).

Design/methodology/approach: The study employs a desk research approach combining a review of literature, legal analysis, and an examination of official statistical data from 2021-2023. It focuses on the practical application of selected provisions of the Public Procurement Law (PPL) that enable the incorporation of environmental aspects into the procurement of construction works.

Findings: The analysis shows a gradual increase in the number and value of construction contracts with environmental elements. However, the share of GPP in the total number and value of public contracts remains low. Article 101 PPL, which requires a clear and precise description of the subject matter, is the most frequently used. Provisions such as Article 116 (environmental management systems), Article 242 (life-cycle costing), and Article 245 (non-price criteria) are rarely applied, indicating an underutilized potential to promote sustainability and innovation.

Research limitations/implications: The study is limited to data from 2021 to 2023 due to inconsistencies in data classification in previous years. Further research is needed to explore the organizational, procedural, and institutional factors that influence GPP implementation.

Practical implications: The findings point to the need for improved institutional support, training, and legal clarity to facilitate broader and more consistent use of environmental criteria in public procurement, particularly in the construction sector.

Social implications: Greater use of GPP can help achieve environmental policy goals, promote sustainable construction practices, and positively influence public attitudes toward environmental responsibility.

Originality/value: This paper provides one of the first comprehensive assessments of green procurement in Polish construction based on empirical data. It offers new insights for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners involved in sustainable public procurement.

Keywords: Green Public Procurement, Sustainable Construction, Polish Construction Sector. **Category of the paper:** Research paper.

1. Introduction

Public procurement plays a fundamental role in the functioning of every economy, serving the rational and transparent expenditure of public funds. The state and its institutions, as the main purchasers, shape demand structures, influence the development of enterprises, and affect the overall competitiveness of the economy. One of the sectors closely tied to the public procurement market is construction, which, through the implementation of infrastructure investments, renovations, and modernizations, plays a significant role in stimulating activity across other industries (Zaborowski, 2019; Ahmed et al., 2024).

The scope of public procurement is broad and includes supplies, services, and construction works. Proper planning and execution of public procurement processes are crucial not only for the efficient functioning of public administration but also for fostering innovation, improving infrastructure quality, and achieving social and environmental goals in the long term.

In the construction sector, the implementation of public projects requires not only stable institutional conditions but also solutions that support innovation, efficiency, and sustainable development. A well-designed procurement system can thus contribute not only to economic development but also address environmental challenges. In recent years, environmental considerations have gained increasing importance in public procurement (Braulio-Gonzalo and Bovea, 2020; Plebankiewicz, 2022). Green Public Procurement (GPP) enables the inclusion of environmental criteria in the tendering process. Through GPP, public institutions can support the achievement of sustainable development goals-both by influencing market demand and by promoting environmentally friendly technological solutions. In the context of construction, GPP can contribute to reducing the environmental footprint of investments, improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and advancing innovative construction practices (Zachura, 2016; Nilsson Lewis et al., 2023; Olsson et al., 2021).

The Polish public procurement system has evolved over several decades, adapting to changing political and economic realities. Its origins date back to the Second Polish Republic, when the Act of 15 February 1933 on supplies and construction works for the benefit of the State Treasury, and the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 29 January 1937 were enacted (Borowicz, 2017, 2020; Kępa, 2024). In the post-war period, legal solutions favored the socialized sector, such as the 1948 Act and the 1957 regulations, which limited the participation of the private sector in public procurement. Contemporary public procurement law is based on the Act of 11 September 2019, which has been amended multiple times to increase procedural efficiency and align with European Union standards. The frequent publication of consolidated legal texts (between 2021 and 2024) reflects the dynamic nature of these regulations and the ongoing need for their refinement.

The aim of this article is to identify the main problems present in the public procurement market in Poland and to indicate potential directions for its improvement, with particular emphasis on procedures incorporating environmental criteria in the construction sector. The analysis covers applicable legal acts, relevant literature, analytical reports, and statistical data concerning the operation of the public procurement system in areas significant for the construction industry. An attempt is also made to assess the extent to which current normative solutions facilitate the effective implementation of construction investments and support the objectives of national environmental policy.

2. Green Public Procurement in Scholarly Literature

Sustainable public procurement, also referred to as Green Public Procurement (GPP), constitutes a significant instrument for the implementation of national environmental policies and the adoption of sustainable development principles. Its strategic relevance lies in setting directions for action not only for public administration but also for the broadly defined economic sector, highlighting the need to integrate economic objectives with environmental goals. As indicated in European Commission documents, GPP is defined as a process through which public institutions aim to procure goods, services, and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle, compared to products with the same function ((COM(2008) 400 final).

At the international level, definitions of GPP are also incorporated within the policies of OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) member countries, which undertake various measures to support and regulate sustainable public procurement in their respective jurisdictions (Dai et al., 2021). In both theoretical and practical terms, GPP can be seen as an administrative tool of growing strategic importance, influencing business models, market structures, and supporting the transformation toward a circular economy and climate neutrality (Czerwionka et al., 2025). The literature emphasizes that GPP practices facilitate pollution reduction, conservation of natural resources, and the promotion of innovative technological solutions (Rainville, 2022; Karlsson et al., 2022; Fregonara et al., 2022). In addition to environmental effects, and in accordance with the sustainable development paradigm, it is essential to consider social impacts when making procurement decisions (Wong et al., 2024).

Currently, the key legal act regulating sustainable public procurement within the European Union is Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement, repealing Directive 2004/18/EC. This directive allows for the inclusion of environmental and social considerations throughout the public procurement process - both at the stage of defining the subject matter of the contract and in the award criteria.

The directive promotes the life-cycle costing approach, i.e., accounting for environmental and economic costs incurred throughout the life span of a product, service, or public work. Across the EU, approaches to GPP implementation vary. In Belgium (Flanders), the Flemish Government set a target for 100% of public procurement to meet sustainable criteria by 2020. In Ireland, the "Green Tenders" plan stipulates that 50% of procurement in eight product and service categories should be green. In France, since 2021, public institutions have been legally obliged to consider environmental goals in procurement processes; however, this does not equate to a mandatory application of GPP according to defined criteria - rather, it is an element of broader environmental policy. In the Czech Republic, contracting authorities are required to consider the inclusion of environmental, social, and innovative criteria in every newly published tender. In Poland, GPP mechanisms remain optional and are used only sporadically, despite the availability of guidelines. In contrast, China has implemented a centralized and hierarchical GPP model, based on lists of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly products, supported by a strong legal framework (Zhang et al., 2022). In Japan, GPP is primarily applied in the procurement of goods, with public works being covered only occasionally (Miyamoto et al., 2020).

A review of the literature shows a growing interest in GPP among scholars. Several literature reviews have emerged focusing on various aspects of the topic. Guarnieri and Gomes (2019) analyzed the strategic role of public procurement in the context of sustainable development, Chersan et al. (2020) identified barriers and enablers of GPP implementation, while Cheng et al. (2018) focused on adaptation issues, effectiveness, and regulatory aspects. Adjei-Bamfo et al. (2019) emphasized the role of digitalization and e-governance in promoting GPP in developing countries. The most recent literature review in this area was conducted by Carrasco et al. (2024), covering publications from 2003 to 2023. An analysis of 201 publications indexed in the Scopus and Web of Science databases revealed that the greatest increase in both the number of publications and citations related to GPP occurred after 2016. More than 38% of articles in this field were published in three journals: Sustainability (MDPI), Journal of Cleaner Production (Elsevier), and Journal of Public Procurement (Emerald), indicating a high concentration of research in reputable journals. The leading research centers are based in Europe (including the UK, Italy, and Scandinavian countries), Asia (China, Japan), and the United States. This trend continues today. An analysis of the past ten years shows that 214 articles containing the keywords "green public procurement," "sustainable public procurement," or "sustainable procurement policy" were identified in the Scopus database for the period 2014-2024. The most frequently cited publications include: Testa et al. (2016) - 205citations, Adjei-Bamfo et al. (2019) – 129 citations, and Delmonico et al. (2018) – 113 citations. Numerous researchers (Bucea-Manea-Tonis et al., 2021; Rainville, 2022) argue that green public procurement can support the realization of circular economy objectives by promoting eco-innovation and resource efficiency. They also highlight that GPP can accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicle fleets (Karlsson et al., 2022) and the development of sustainable construction (Fregonara et al., 2022; Khahro et al., 2021). Despite its significant benefits, some scholars (Lundberg et al., 2015; Cheng et al., 2018) question the effectiveness of GPP as an environmental policy instrument. Lundberg et al. (2015) indicated that environmental criteria had limited influence on business decisions to participate in public tenders. In their view, implementation costs and interpretative challenges may have discouraged contractors from participating in GPP-based procedures. In conclusion, green public procurement represents a dynamically evolving field of research with considerable practical and political significance. While many countries and institutions are making progress in its implementation, further research is needed to better understand the barriers, success factors, and actual impact of GPP on the achievement of sustainable development goals.

3. Policy Evolution and Strategic Objectives of Green Public Procurement in Poland

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is increasingly recognized at the European level as a tool for implementing sustainable development policies and environmental objectives. The key legal basis in this area is Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, which explicitly allows for the inclusion of environmental considerations in public procurement procedures-for example, through technical specifications, award criteria, and contract performance clauses. The directive also encourages the use of life-cycle costing (LCC) to better reflect the long-term environmental and economic impacts of public purchases. Poland has aligned its legal and policy framework with EU expectations; however, the application of GPP remains non-mandatory. The Act of 11 September 2019 – Public Procurement Law (PPL) introduced several provisions that enable contracting authorities to incorporate environmental aspects into their procurement procedures. These include: Article 96, which permits the inclusion of strategic procurement objectives, including environmental and social criteria; Article 104, emphasizing the possibility of supporting public policies through procurement; Article 116, which allows for the requirement of environmental management systems (e.g., ISO 14001 or EMAS), provided they are proportionate and relevant to the subject of the contract; Article 242, which enables life-cycle cost calculations; Article 245, which allows for non-price award criteria, including environmental ones.

Strategic policy documents also highlight the role of GPP. The National Environmental Policy 2030 identifies green public procurement as a soft instrument supporting the circular economy and decarbonization efforts (Ministry of Climate and Environment, 2021). Additionally, the National Action Plan on Sustainable Public Procurement for 2022-2025 (Ministry of Development and Technology, 2022) includes educational and promotional

activities aimed at encouraging broader use of sustainability criteria. However, these initiatives are non-binding and do not impose legal obligations on contracting authorities.

In contrast to some EU Member States that have adopted mandatory GPP targets (e.g., France, Italy, or Belgium), Poland has opted for a voluntary model, primarily supported through guidelines and training. Reports from the Public Procurement Office (PPO) confirm that despite the availability of legal tools, the use of environmental criteria in public tenders remains relatively limited, particularly in the construction sector. The gap between regulatory potential and practical implementation indicates the need for stronger institutional support, awareness-raising, and a more systemic integration of GPP into national public procurement policy (Public Procurement Office, 2024a; Trojanowska, 2024; European Commission, 2021).

4. The contribution of the Polish construction sector to the national economy

The construction sector constitutes a branch of the economy with a significant impact on national economic performance, as evidenced by the high level of gross value added generated by this sector. Figure 1 presents the dynamics of Poland's gross domestic product (GDP) and the gross value added by the construction sector in the years 2013-2023. The data illustrate a generally upward trend in GDP, reflecting overall economic development despite temporary disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic and cyclical fluctuations. The gross value generated by the construction sector followed a similar trajectory, confirming its stable and systemic contribution to the country's economic results. Between 2013 and 2023, the share of the construction sector in Poland's GDP ranged from 5.49% to 7.08%. In 2023, the gross value added by the construction industry amounted to PLN 200.4 million, accounting for 5.88% of GDP (see Table 1). This represented a slight increase compared to 2022, when the sector's share stood at 5.49%. According to statistical data from Statistics Poland (GUS), construction ranked sixth among all sections of the Polish Classification of Economic Activities (PKD). It is worth noting that although the construction sector represents a relatively smaller portion of GDP in absolute terms, its role remains strategic due to its multiplier effects across related industries such as manufacturing, transport, and services.

The stable and measurable contribution of the construction sector to Poland's GDP in the years 2013–2023 (Figure 1) is partially reflected in the structure of public procurement expenditure (Figure 2). During the analysed period, construction works accounted for the largest share of the total value of public procurement contracts (with the exception of 2015 and 2016) indicating that public investment remains one of the key drivers of activity in this sector. The share of construction works ranged between 36% and 44%. Although public procurement



is not the sole factor determining the sector's performance, its scale and long-term nature reinforce the role of the construction industry as a strategic component of the national economy.

Figure 1. Gross domestic product of Poland in 2023-2023 and gross value for the construction sector. Source: (Own elaboration based on source: Statistics Poland, 2024a, 2022a, 2019a).



Figure 2. The structure of the value of public procurement contracts awarded by type of contract in 2013-2023.

Source: (Own elaboration based on source: Public Procurement Office, 2024, 2021, 2019, 2017, 2014).

In 2023, construction and assembly production completed within Poland—including construction works performed using own resources (i.e., without subcontracting), under commission for external clients, sold externally by both construction and non-construction enterprises, as well as carried out for own use by businesses and individuals—reached a total value of PLN 367.8 billion (Fig. 3). In constant prices, this represented a 4.1% increase compared to the previous year (Statistics Poland, 2024).

Throughout the 2013-2023 period, the structure of construction and assembly production by PKD (Polish Classification of Activities) division remained relatively stable. The largest share of the total value was consistently attributed to enterprises engaged primarily in specialized construction activities, which accounted for 38.16% to 48.87%. Companies focusing on the construction of buildings contributed 27.8% to 35.6%, while those carrying out civil engineering works, including the construction of land and water infrastructure, represented 22.6% to 28.3% of total output. This structure highlights both the internal specialization of the construction sector and the growing importance of technically advanced or finishing work. The sector is also dominated by private entities, which accounted for 98.8% of total construction and assembly production in 2023. The public sector share was 1.2% (PLN 4.1 billion), slightly higher than in 2022 (0.8%). Over the last decade, the share of the private sector ranged from 98.8% to 99.3%, while the public sector contributed between 0.7% and 1.2%.



Figure 3. Value and structure (current prices) of construction and assembly production carried out by construction companies according to the predominant type of activity (PKD divisions) in 2013-2023.

Source: (Own elaboration based on source: Statistics Poland, 2024, 2019).

5. Analysis of green public procurement for construction works in 2021-2023

The analysis of statistical data for the years 2021–2023 (Figure 4, Table 1,) indicates that both the number and value of public procurement contracts for construction works in Poland, in which specific legal instruments of the Public Procurement Law (PPL) were applied, have been steadily increasing. The data reflect the practical implementation of selected regulatory mechanisms, including provisions related to the precise description of the subject matter of the contract (Articles 101 and 116), life cycle cost accounting (Article 242), non-price award criteria (Article 245), and strategic objectives (Articles 96 and 104). Among the most frequently applied provisions was Article 101, concerning the requirement for a clear and precise

description of the contract subject. Its use increased steadily from 236 contracts in 2021 to 451 in 2023, with a total value exceeding PLN 2 billion in the latter year.



Figure 4. Number of public procurements in Poland in 2021-2023 taking into account various proenvironmental instruments.

Source: (Own elaboration based on source: Public Procurement Office, 2024, 2021, 2019, 2017, 2014).

Table 1.

Value of green public procurements (excluding VAT) in Poland in 2021-2023 taking into account various pro-environmental instruments

Item	Years		
Item	2021	2022	2023
Number of contracting entities that awarded public procurement contracts of an environmental nature	613	609	963
Number of contracts awarded with environmental aspects in mind	1938	3322	4052
Value of contracts awarded taking into account environmental aspects (value excluding VAT), PLN	7529457088,11	17172330387,65	11925319278,12
Share of green public procurement in the total number of public procurements awarded, %	1	2	3
Share of green public procurement in the total value of awarded public procurement contracts, %	4	6	4

Source: (Own elaboration based on source: Public Procurement Office, 2024, 2021, 2019, 2017, 2014).

Other instruments, such as Article 116 (environmental management systems), Article 242 (life-cycle costing), and Article 245 (non-price criteria), were applied significantly less frequently. For instance, in 2023 only 34 construction contracts referred to Article 116, despite its potential to support sustainability through recognized standards like ISO 14001 or EMAS. This underuse indicates a broader need for institutional support and clearer guidance for contracting authorities. This may indicate barriers to the broader implementation of environmental standards in construction procurement practices. Other provisions, such as Article 96 (supporting strategic procurement objectives, including social and environmental criteria), have seen broader use; in 2023, 986 contracts (worth over PLN 3 billion), were

awarded under its provisions. In contrast, provisions related to life cycle costing (Article 242) and non-price criteria (Article 245) were applied sporadically, suggesting untapped potential for promoting sustainability and innovation through public procurement. In conclusion, while some instruments supporting green and strategic public procurement are being applied in construction contracts, their overall usage remains relatively limited. This highlights the need for further institutional encouragement and capacity-building efforts to promote the integration of environmental considerations into public procurement practices in the construction sector.

The analysis of statistical data on the use of green public procurement (GPP) in Poland was limited to the years 2021-2023 because, in the longer term, it requires interpretive caution. This is due to the fact that data for the year 2020 included not only contracts taking into account environmental aspects, but also those classified as innovative, in line with the classification used at the time by the Public Procurement Office. Such a methodology leads to an overestimation of both the number and value of contracts identified as "green" in 2020. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that in 2020, there were 324 contracting entities that awarded public procurement contracts of an environmental nature, and a total of 1,544 contracts were awarded with environmental aspects in mind. The total value of these contracts (excluding VAT) amounted to PLN 12,323,813,756.82. In contrast, beginning in 2021, reporting was standardized and limited exclusively to contracts of an environmental nature, in line with the formal definition of green public procurement. This change in the substantive scope of the analyzed data results in limited comparability of statistics between 2020 and subsequent years. Accordingly, without prior methodological adjustment, conclusions concerning the dynamics of GPP development in 2020, and in the years that followed may be misleading.

6. Barriers and Enablers of Green Public Procurement in the Construction Sector

Although the application of Green Public Procurement (GPP) is regulated by law, its practical implementation in the Polish construction sector remains relatively limited. This gap can be explained by the coexistence of multiple barriers and enabling factors, which occur not only in Poland but also in various other countries, influencing the behavior of both contracting authorities and contractors. Table 2 summarizes the key factors identified through a review of the literature and official public procurement reports. Institutional uncertainty and lack of binding obligations – The voluntary nature of GPP in Poland means that contracting authorities often avoid environmental criteria due to legal ambiguity or fear of appeals and procedural annulment (Testa et al., 2016; Trojanowska, 2024). Lack of technical competence – Many public officials are unfamiliar with how to formulate environmental requirements, assess non-price criteria, or apply life-cycle cost calculations. This is particularly evident among

smaller contracting authorities with limited resources (Chersan et al., 2020; Adjei-Bamfo et al., 2019). Perceived risk and cost – Contractors may perceive GPP as increasing the cost of bid preparation or as posing implementation risks, especially when environmental standards are poorly defined or selection criteria are viewed as subjective (Bucea-Manea-Toniş et al., 2021; Rainville, 2022). Limited market readiness – Particularly in less developed procurement markets, there is a lack of suppliers offering certified green materials or services, which reduces the feasibility of applying environmental criteria in tenders (Khahro et al., 2021; Zhang et al.,

Table 2.

2022).

Category	Barriers	Enablers	
	Voluntary nature of GPP; legal	Clear national guidelines and model	
Legal/institutional	uncertainty; fear of appeals	documentation	
	(Testa et al., 2016; Trojanowska, 2024)	(MRiT, 2022; CIRCuIT, 2023; Lotko, 2021)	
Organizational	Lack of technical expertise; insufficient quantity and quality of human resources (Chersan et al., 2020, Borowicz, 2020; Puciato, Puciato, 2020)	Capacity-building and training programs (Adjei-Bamfo et al., 2019; Chersan et al., 2020)	
Economic/market	Perceived high costs and risks; limited	Eco-labeled product databases and	
	supply of green-certified products	certification systems	
	(Khahro et al., 2021)	(Zhang et al., 2022; Testa et al., 2012)	
Strategic/political	Low political priority; lack of integration into policy frameworks (Rainville, 2022; Brammer, Walker, 2011)	Strong policy leadership and integration with sustainability goals (Fregonara et al., 2022; European Commission, 2016)	
Cultural/perceptual	Resistance to change; lack of awareness	Political leadership; promotion of best	
	(Chersan et al., 2020; Rainville, 2022)	practices	
		(Fregonara et al., 2022; European	
		Commission, 2016).	

The Barriers and Enablers of GPP Implementation in the Construction Sector

Source: (Own elaboration).

On the other hand, enablers of successful GPP implementation include: Clear guidelines and model documentation – Tools such as standard documentation templates, model evaluation matrices, and procurement manuals help reduce uncertainty and support the consistent application of environmental criteria (MRiT, 2022; CIRCuIT, 2023). Capacity-building and training – Ongoing education and professional development programs for procurement staff are crucial for enhancing confidence and competence in using GPP tools (Adjei-Bamfo et al., 2019; Chersan et al., 2020). Policy leadership and political support – Countries and regions with strong political mandates and integration of GPP into strategic policy frameworks show higher levels of adoption and institutionalization of environmental criteria (Fregonara et al., 2022; European Commission, 2016). Availability of eco-labeled products and databases – Access to reliable and verified green product registries (e.g., EU Ecolabel, national eco-labels) facilitates the specification and evaluation of environmentally preferable solutions (Zhang et al., 2022; Testa et al., 2012). Unfortunately, as shown by the study conducted by Godlewska and Godlewski (2024), circular public procurement based on environmental, social, and economic criteria remains more of a myth than a reality in the practice of Polish local government units.

Therefore, in the context of construction works, it is essential to identify the barriers faced by contracting authorities and construction companies in preparing tenders, and to introduce new regulations or guidelines that would increase the use of environmental criteria in public procurement. This would support the transition towards a more sustainable economy. At the same time, the European Union institutions recognize similar challenges at the EU level. According to a study commissioned by the European Parliament (Methven O'Brien and Caranta 2024), the integration of environmental and social criteria into the public procurement practices of EU institutions remains limited and inconsistent. The report highlights the need for stronger mandatory rules and clearer guidance to mainstream Green Public Procurement (GPP), not only in the area of construction works, but across all sectors and levels of public administration.

Despite numerous barriers, green public procurement (GPP) in Poland is beginning to play a significant role in promoting eco-innovation. Zachura (2016) presents cases of GPP implementation in the construction sector. One notable example involves the development of public utility buildings constructed according to passive and energy-efficient standards. These investments, financed with public funds, not only reduce energy consumption and CO₂ emissions but also stimulate the market to adopt innovative construction technologies and foster the growth of sustainable building practices in Poland. Empirical research by Borowiec (2016) also suggests that GPP can positively influence the innovativeness of Polish enterprises, provided that adequate institutional support and transparent tender evaluation criteria are in place. Among 165 contractors who had participated in public procurement, only 7% had experience with green procedures, while 37% declared offering environmentally friendly products or services. In addition to ecological construction materials, these included organic environmentally certified computers, and low-emission vehicles-indicating food. a significant, yet underutilized, potential for GPP to stimulate innovation demand in the Polish economy. In this context, promoting eco-innovation through GPP requires considering not only product quality but also environmental impact across the entire product life cycle. Pacana et al. (2024) propose the Quality Life Cycle Assessment (QLCA) model, which integrates quality assessment with life cycle analysis. This model supports the design of products that meet customer expectations while maintaining environmentally sustainable life cycles. Applying such an approach in green public procurement could help prioritize products that are both highquality and low-impact, thereby supporting the advancement of eco-innovation.

7. Conclusions

An analysis of data from Statistics Poland indicates that the construction sector has constituted a significant component of the Polish GDP for over a decade (2014-2024). However, as evidenced by reports of the President of the Public Procurement Office on the functioning of the public procurement system, the implementation of Green Public Procurement (GPP) in the field of construction works remains limited. Data published prior to 2020 are not directly comparable with current reports due to the entry into force of the new Public Procurement Law of 11 September 2019 (Journal of Laws 2019, item 2019). Between 2021 and 2023, the share of public contracts incorporating environmental criteria in the construction sector remained low, although it demonstrated a modest upward trend — increasing from 1% to 3% of all awarded tenders. Among the available GPP instruments, the most frequently applied is Article 101 of the Public Procurement Law, which concerns the precise and unambiguous description of the subject matter of the contract. Despite the existing regulatory potential, mechanisms such as life-cycle cost (LCC) calculation or requirements for environmental management systems continue to be used only sporadically. The literature review highlights the existence of institutional, legal, and market-related barriers, and underscores the need to intensify training for procurement staff, standardize guidelines, and strengthen political support for the wider adoption of sustainable practices in public procurement.

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