

# SLOVAKIA POST COVID-19 RECOVERY: HOW TO DELIVER A GREEN BOOST TO THE ECONOMY

## Outcome report

### Speakers

- ▶ **Martin Hojsik**, Member European Parliament, Committee on the Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety, Renew Europe
- ▶ **Livia Vasakova**, Head of Economic Analyses Section, Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia
- ▶ **Katarina Nikodemova**, Director, Buildings for the Future
- ▶ **Norbert Kurilla**, Advisor to the President, Office of the President, Slovak Republic

### Main message

The EU will front load funds into digital and green economy which should be the backbone of Slovakia's revival. It is the role of the government to ensure infrastructure is fit for the future and this is an opportunity to identify concrete pro-growth green public investments in energy, buildings and transport. Cities, regions and national authorities should proactively access available funds and leverage private investments into these project pipelines.

### Summary of developments

- ▶ Slovakia can take advantage of Modernisation and Innovation funds and should also become a net recipient under the revamped Horizon Europe programme
- ▶ Gap between long term deep decarbonisation vision and short-term (2-5 years) air quality needs in the heating sector considering the role of biomass and natural gas with the Upper Nitra representing a major challenge
- ▶ The national gas boiler scheme subsidizes the replacement of solid waste in the poorest and most polluting households but is not eligible for EU support
- ▶ Ahead of elections the main party committed to phasing out electricity ahead by 2030 but now is seeking EU/public funds for natural gas infrastructure
- ▶ The Ministry of Environment took a good first step signing declaration supporting the central role of the European Green Deal in post COVID-19 recovery however the government's proposals are missing a greening element and do not environment or climate
- ▶ Presentation of detailed green recovery project proposals from civil society to European Commission for building renovations, water treatment, climate adaptation and circular economy is a very positive step

### Proposals for Green Growth

- ▶ Emphasizing opportunity for expanding and improving quality of building renovation in Slovakia where about half of single-family houses and ¾ of public buildings have not been renovated
- ▶ Modernizing energy networks and distribution systems and smart and sustainable urban transport
- ▶ Opportunities for reusing materials from construction waste
- ▶ Practical measures like shortening timeframe for amortisation of investments
- ▶ Freeing up frozen assets in Environmental Fund and expanding criteria from municipality grants, loans and credits to supporting private business e.g. energy efficiency measures in public housing sector
- ▶ Not only technological applications - natural solutions leveraging land use and forest and water management offer immediate work opportunities and locally derived carbon sequestration