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Abstract This chapter outlines the importance of green public procurement for the economy and society. It also defines the main objectives of the book and the methodological approach used in achieving these objectives. The structure of the book and the content of the individual chapters are also explained here.

Keywords Green public procurement • Global south • Global north

The public sector has the ability to shape how markets operate when they produce suboptimal outcomes. Law making, setting taxes, and imposing bans are some of the tools at its disposal. Public procurement is yet another instrument the public sector can use to intervene in these markets. Public procurement accounts for about 16% of global GDP (World Bank, 2022), representing a significant share. In the United States, the figure is around 24% (Dimand, 2024), while in the European Union, it is approximately 12–15% (Plaček et al., 2021). Given this large impact and the strategic component of public procurement, it has become evident that this tool can go beyond the mere acquisition of goods or services, as it can influence broader values. One such domain is environmental protection, pursued through Green Public Procurement (GPP). Given that the public sector accounts for up to 19% of carbon emissions and 74% of material consumption in some countries (Rehman et al., 2022), shifting toward greener practices could help mitigate this negative impact.

GPP is defined as “a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle, compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be purchased” (Albada et al., 2019; European Union & Sustainable Corp., 2016). This definition serves as the starting point for understanding what GPP entails, as well

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