



# Delivering the transition to a circular economy through Cohesion Policy

*DG REGIO.G1 - Smart & sustainable growth  
JASPERS webinar, 23.02.2024*

# The European Green Deal

The EU will...



Become  
climate-neutral  
by 2050



Transform to  
circular and  
resource-efficient  
economy



Preserve and  
restore  
ecosystems and  
biodiversity



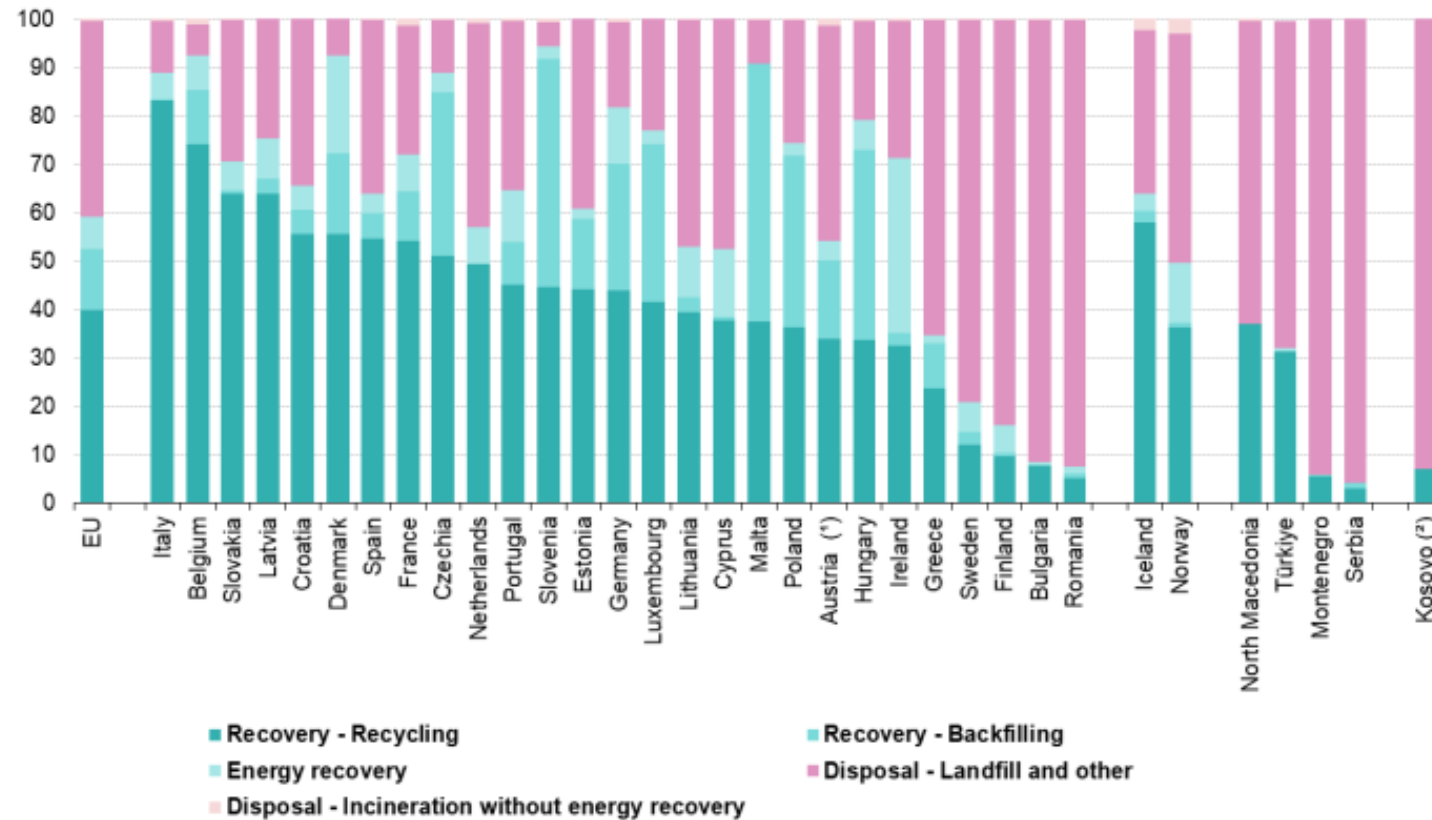
Ensuring a  
just and  
inclusive  
transition



Remaining  
competitive and  
helping companies  
become world  
leaders in clean  
products and  
technologies

# Different starting points

**Waste treatment by type of recovery and disposal, 2020**  
(% of total treatment)



(\*) Value of incineration for Austria estimated by Eurostat.

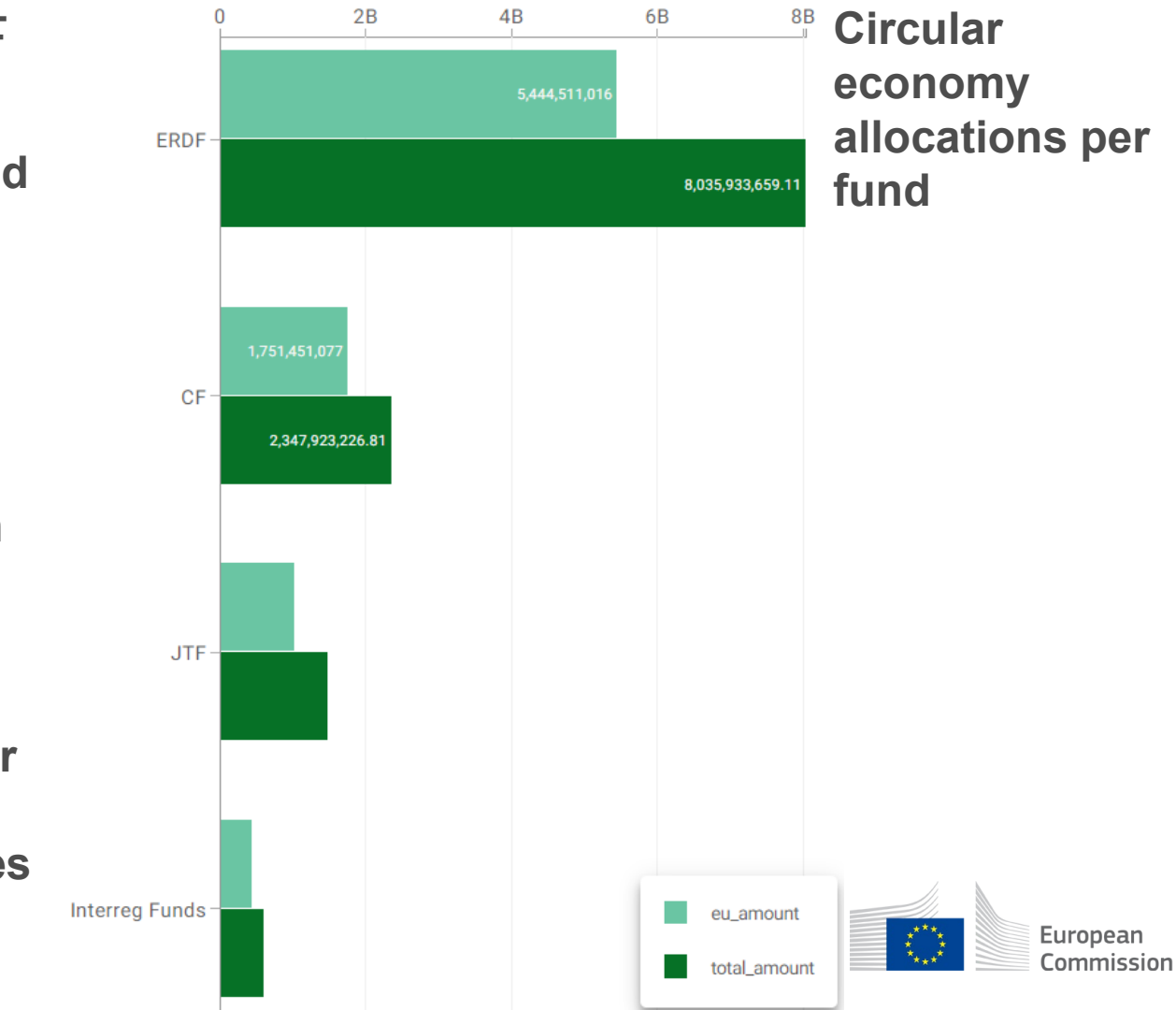
(?) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env\_wastrt)

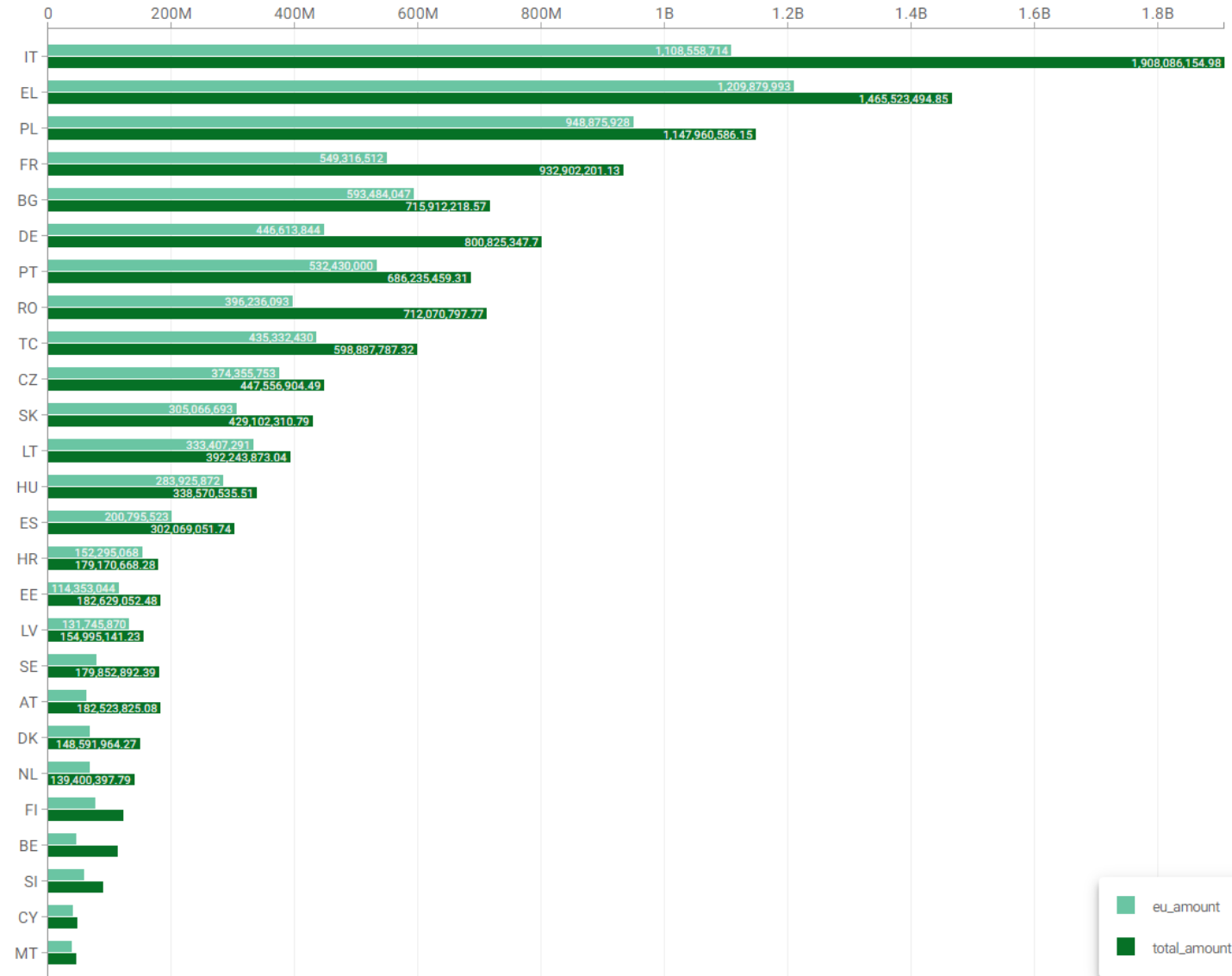
# Circular economy in Cohesion policy 2021-27

One specific objective for ERDF and CF under PO2 Greener Europe:

- promoting the transition to a **circular and resource efficient economy**;
- **EUR 8.6 billion** have been allocated to circular economy investments, of which 67% is going to less developed ('Cohesion') Member States.
- investments will result –among others– in capacity for 10 million tonnes/year of waste to be recycled, more than the amount recycled annually in Austria.
- A change of paradigm – **focus on upper stages of waste hierarchy – different types of investments and beneficiaries**



# Circular economy allocations by Member State



# Eligible types of actions (I)

- Development of **circular economy strategies** at national, regional and local level.
- Measures in the **upper stages of the waste hierarchy** to prevent valuable materials from leaving EU value chains, including by improving **durability and reparability of products**, e.g. systems of separate collection (taking into account applicable state aid rules), reuse centres, repair networks.
- Measures to help **build capacity** to implement **separate collection requirements** for municipal bio-waste and textiles, and to develop facilities for handling these new waste streams.
- Actions and campaigns to raise awareness and to support **sustainable consumption practices** and behaviour (e.g. through the promotion and uptake of schemes such as EMAS, EU Ecolabel or Green Public Procurement).
- **Capacity-building for all stakeholders** involved in the transition to circular economy. Cooperation to share experiences between stakeholders of different Member States should be used.

# Eligible types of actions (II)

- Measures to develop alternatives to raw materials and to **promote the use of recycled materials as secondary raw materials** (e.g. actions to increase the demand for recycled content, promotion of enhanced materials mining of waste sites, promotion of 'urban mining', such as collection of old mobile phones from households).
- Measures to **increase resource efficiency and to promote the circular economy in SMEs**, such as development of remanufacturing activities, advisory services, training on business-to-business circular procurement, re-skilling or 'circular hubs'.
- Measures to introduce **digital solutions to increase resource efficiency or promote industrial symbiosis** – such as collaborative and sharing platforms, better tracking and tracing of products and material contents, resources and waste, and to match surplus or by-product materials across industry sectors.
- Actions to **improve the knowledge base** with regard to circular economy and monitoring of waste and material streams (e.g. develop tracing systems for substances of concern). This could also include measures to modernise/develop the national waste electronic registry and tracing system (including for hazardous waste) and integrated systems to improve inspections and control of hazardous waste management.
- Actions to promote investment in the plastic value chain in order to transition towards **safe and sustainable-by-design plastic** materials.

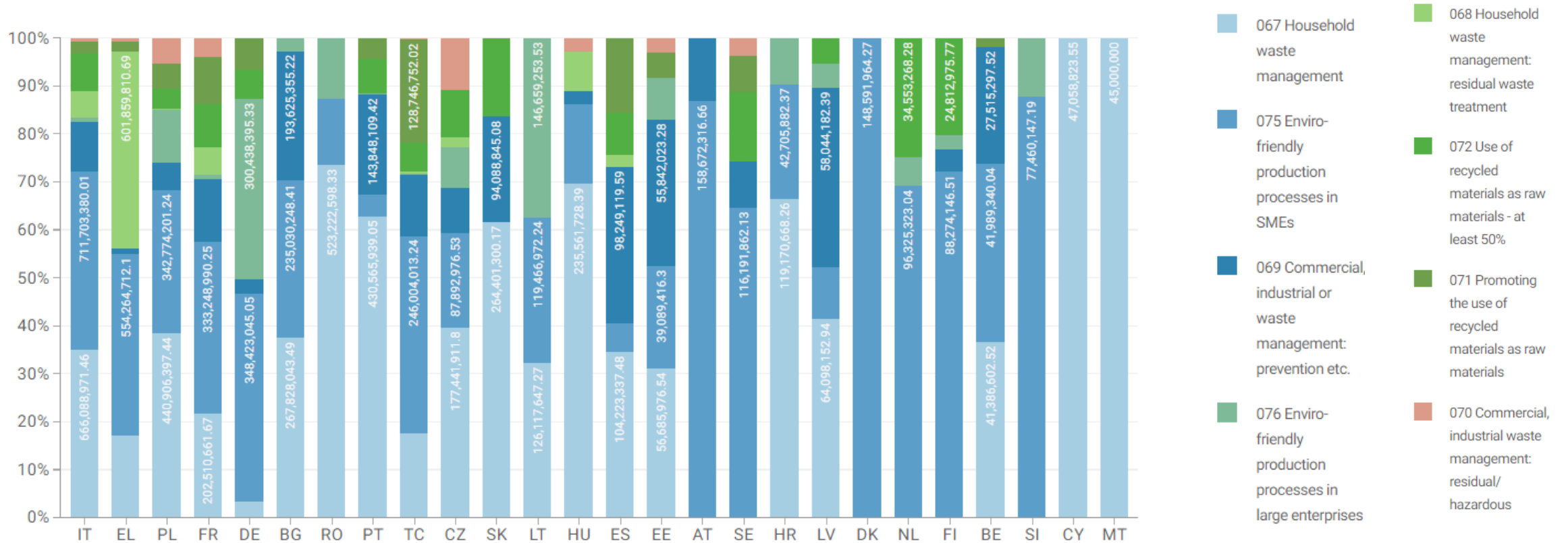
# Monitoring investments in Circular Economy





# Investment types by MS

21-27 Circular economy and waste management interventions by member state



# Challenges and support for circular economy investments in 2021-2027

## ECA Special report (2023) Circular economy: Slow transition by member states despite EU action

- Recommendation 2 – Analyse reasons for low take up of EU funding for circular design and consider scope for greater incentivisation
- **What are challenges identified by MS?**
  - Capacity building gaps, regulatory barriers, institutional/organizational set up, low demand for secondary raw materials, insufficient harmonization for reused materials...

## Available tools for support:

- JASPERS solid waste and circular economy advisory to MS
- **JASPERS multi-country assignment to support MS with CE actions**
- Technical Assistance from Cohesion for Transitions Groundwork
- Exploit synergies with other EU instruments
  - Technical Support Instrument, DG REFORM

# Thank you

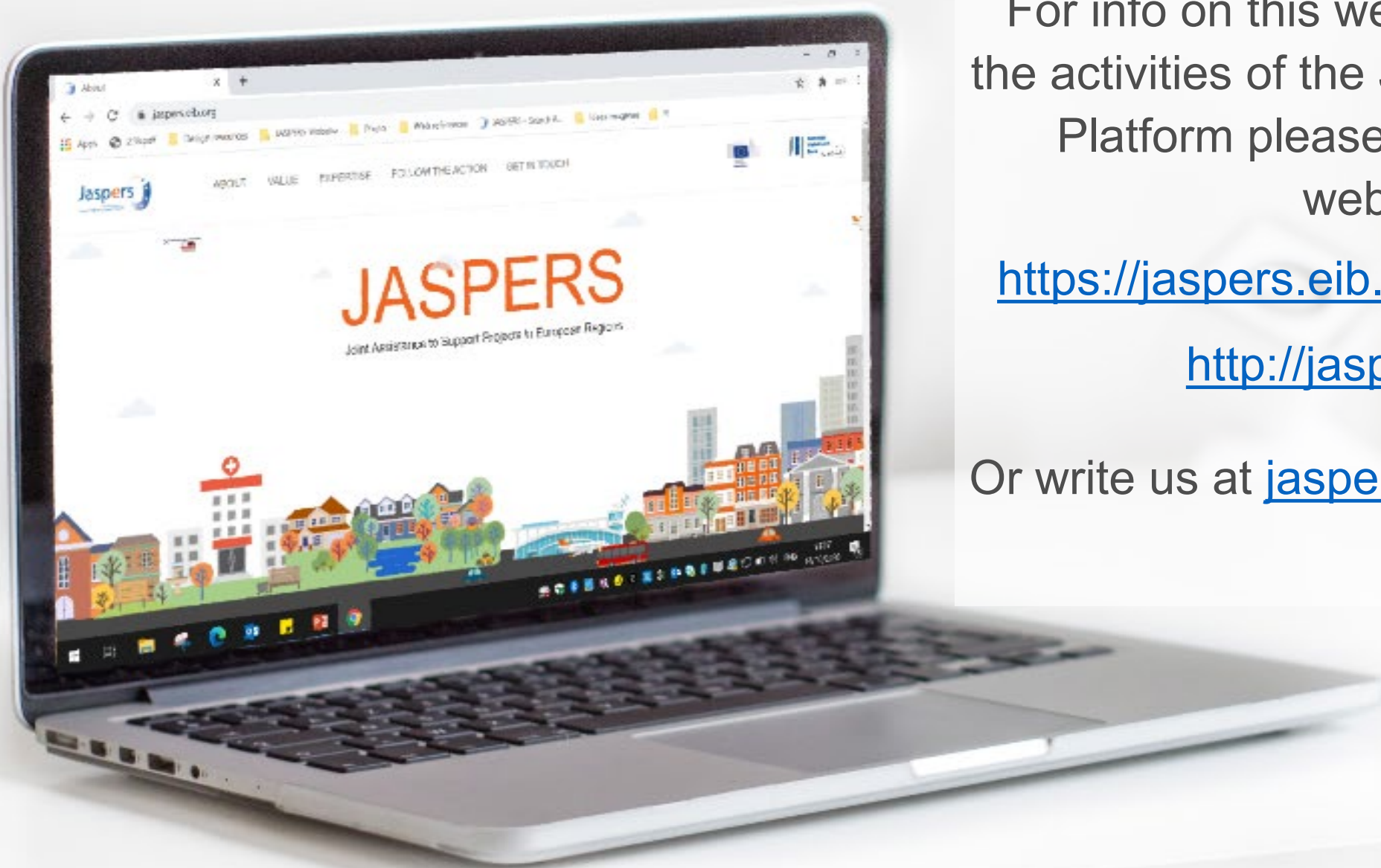


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