

Sustainable Procurement

Edition 44 | December 2009

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the quarterly Update on Procura⁺, the European Sustainable Procurement Campaign, and ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement activities in Europe.

You can also read more about Procura⁺ Campaign developments by visiting the Campaign website www.procuraplus.org. You can find more information about ICLEI's projects on Sustainable Procurement at www.iclei-europe.org/procurement

ICLEI welcomes your contributions. Just send your news to procurement@iclei.org. News from Procura⁺ Campaign Participants and ICLEI members enjoys publishing priority!

If this newsletter does not display properly, please click here to view it online:
www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=7581

In this issue:

1| SCI-Network – new network launched on sustainable construction and innovation!

2| Project News:

- Innovation through sustainable procurement: update on SMART SPP project activities
- German GPP training series successfully taken off
- Sustainable biofuels: practical step-by-step guide for European purchasers
- EUPOPP: European Policies to promote sustainable consumption patterns
- Public procurement of Fair Trade products: an update on Public Affairs

3| Procura⁺ Campaign News:

- Lisbon Metropolitan Area and the Inter-municipal Waste Management Service of Greater Porto join Procura⁺
- New partnership in Croatia for sustainable public procurement
- City of Reykjavik, host of EcoProcura 2009, signs up to the Campaign

4| Upcoming Events:

- Call for host: 8th EcoProcura Conference 2011

5| Recent Events:

- Lively exchange on climate-friendly procurement in Zurich at the Procura⁺ Seminar
- Governments call for closer cooperation on GPP in Suwon at International Conference

6| Other News

- GPP training toolkit now available online in all EU languages
- Draft ISO standard on social responsibility released
- Awareness raising and dissemination of the EU GPP policy
- Introducing TCO Certified Edge

7| Internal News

- Two new Project Assistants in ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team

1. SCI-Network – new network launched on sustainable construction and innovation

The Sustainable Construction and Innovation Network (SCI-Network) is being set up to help public authorities exploit and drive sustainable innovations in public construction projects across Europe. The network will bring together a large group of public authorities active in sustainable construction together with national government agencies, research institutes and other key stakeholders in the construction sector.

ICLEI is co-ordinating the network and is currently inviting interested public authorities to participate actively in the network, to share their own experiences and benefit from the expertise of others.



The overall goals of the network are to:

- Support public authorities to buy innovative construction solutions by providing a platform for active exchange and co-operation across Europe.
- Help bring innovative construction technologies, products & methods onto the market
- Spread knowledge within the European public sector about innovative construction solutions
- Inform future EU policy direction and the development of sustainable construction standards and criteria
- Encourage greater dialogue between public procurers and suppliers about future needs

The focus of the network will be experience exchange between public authorities and active engagement with private sector actors to explore possibilities for innovation. The aim will be to base the work on real construction projects being undertaken by public authorities across Europe.

Working groups will be set up to work on a number of topic areas - renovation of existing building stock, innovative building materials, and the use of life-cycle costing (LCC) and life-cycle analysis (LCA) in construction.

An interactive online platform will also be set up in the second half of 2010, providing access to useful information from across Europe, as well as the opportunity to join online discussion groups.

Seven further partners from throughout Europe are involved in establishing the network: the Greater London Authority, United Kingdom (UK), the City of Turin, Italy, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK, PIANOo- Public Procurement Expertise Centre, Netherlands, IFZ - Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture, Austria, and Motiva and Culminatum from Finland.

If you are interested in participating in the SCI-Network or would like further information please write to simon.clement@iclei.org

2. Project News

Innovation through sustainable procurement: update on SMART SPP project activities

Guidance and tools available for testing

A guidance document on driving energy efficient innovation through procurement, and an Excel tool for calculating both life-cycle costs (LCC) and CO₂ emissions in procurement are now available for testing.

The guidance and tool are downloadable for free from the SMART SPP project website (www.smart-spp.eu). They will now be tested by the public authority project partners in a series of pilot procurement actions before final versions are produced later in the project.

The project team is also looking for non-project partners to test the guidance and tool and send comments to ICLEI on their quality and usability. Please contact us (see below) if you are interested in taking such a role.

First suppliers seminar in Barcelona

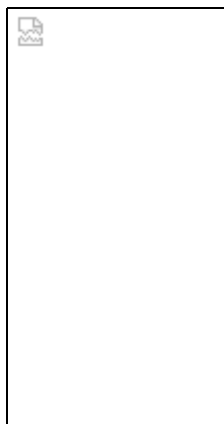
The first in a series of suppliers seminars planned within the SMART SPP project has taken place in Barcelona on 23 November. The seminar was related to an upcoming public tender for electric vehicle charging points and was attended by 67 people, including 30 suppliers. The event served to inform the 'market' about the upcoming tender which the City of Barcelona will publish. It was also an opportunity for procurers at the City to obtain more technical product information for the preparation of technical specifications.

The seminars are part of pilot procurement actions aimed at encouraging energy efficient innovation, and are intended to provide an opportunity for direct discussions between procurers and suppliers about upcoming tenders. The seminars should both help procurers judge what the market may be capable of achieving, and ensure that suppliers fully understand the intentions and wishes of the procurers.

Similar seminars are planned in the UK, Denmark and Portugal.

*To read the latest news on SMART SPP, please visit www.smart-spp.eu
For more information on getting involved in the project, please contact philipp.tepper@iclei.org*

German GPP training series successfully taken off



Magdeburg, the state capital of Saxony-Anhalt, was the first city to benefit from the series of tailored training sessions on green public procurement (GPP) as part of a project financed by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and the German Environment Ministry (BMU). Two representatives of ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team provided a one-day training workshop for ten local government public purchasers with specific focus on GPP of buildings and furniture.

Procurement staff working for the cities of Hanover and Siegen will receive the next round of training in December. Hanover, already known for its good practice in GPP, will have its procurers trained on using life-cycle costing in procurement, particularly for information and communication technology and office furniture. While in the City of Siegen, procurement officers will receive specialised training on GPP.

Training sessions can be booked by contacting franziska.singer@iclei.org

Sustainable biofuels: practical step-by-step guide for European purchasers

Summer this year saw the release of the 'Guide to sustainable biofuels procurement for transport', published by the Biofuel Cities European Partnership, a neutral platform designed for all stakeholders in the area of biofuels for transport.

The Biofuel Cities guide highlights the current discussion on sustainable biofuels and provides advice on how to overcome challenges related to implementing biofuelled transport. The recommendations for sustainable procurement have been inspired by the experiences from the pioneer cities in this field, such as Stockholm, Rotterdam, Lille and Graz.

Although the topic of biofuels is still being strongly debated by policy makers internationally, and particularly in the EU, sustainable biofuels are one form of alternative fuel which will help European cities achieve their environmental goals.

Download the guide from the Biofuel Cities website using the following link www.biofuel-cities.eu/index.php?id=5604. For more information, contact peter.defranceschi@iclei.org

EUPOPP: European Policies to promote sustainable consumption patterns

The EUPOPP project seeks to analyse the impacts of policy strategies and instruments on consumption patterns in order to examine how sustainable consumption policies can successfully tackle the problems caused by unsustainable consumption patterns. Funded under the EU's 7th Framework Programme and running until July 2011, the project is co-ordinated by the Öko-Institut in Germany and brings together a number of research organisations from Spain, United Kingdom, Finland, Germany, and the Baltic area to analyse consumption instruments and policies particularly for the two focus sectors - housing and

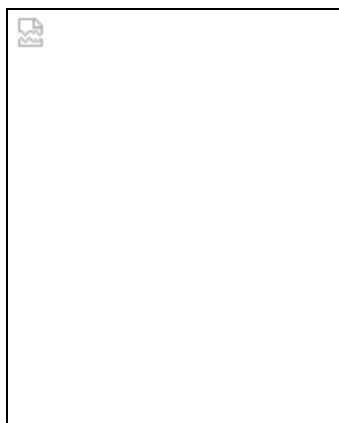


food.

ICLEI's role in the project is to analyse the impact that green public procurement could potentially have on the sustainable consumption practices of individual consumers, particularly for the food sector (school canteens, 'green' events). This will be done through a series of national meetings and research work.

For more information about the project, visit www.eupopp.net. Alternatively, please contact amalia.ochoa@iclei.org

Public procurement of Fair Trade products: an update on Public Affairs



Public purchasers interested in finding out how to purchase Fair Trade products using public tenders can now access more practical information from other European practitioners. From good practice cases to information on describing technical specifications and the subject matter of a contract are available from a selection of Spanish, French and Italian cities on the website of the [European Observatory on Fair Trade Public Procurement](#).

The European Observatory on Fair Trade Public Procurement is managed by the European Fair Trade Association (EFTA) and is one of the main outcomes of the Public Affairs project on 'mobilising action for Fair Trade Public Procurement'. The project is led by EFTA and brings together three of EFTA's members, CTM-Altromercato in Italy, IDEAS in Spain and Oxfam Wereldwinkels in Belgium, and ICLEI.

The project partners recently gathered in Brussels at the end of October to discuss the latest developments regarding the status of Fair Trade in public procurement at national and European levels. The supply of Fair Trade products in vending machines was under the spotlight of discussion following the recent field work undertaken in the project. Accessibility to this category of suppliers (vending machines) has been found to be difficult for suppliers of Fair Trade products, as it is very much dominated by 'big operators'. In addition, CTM-Altromercato found that in Italy, in spite of the good practice examples on this topic, consumers are often too loyal to a particular taste and are not willing to easily switch to another kind of coffee.

For more information, please contact peter.defranceschi@iclei.org

3. Procura+ Campaign News

New participants in Portugal: Lisbon Metropolitan Area and the Inter-municipal Waste Management Service of Greater Porto

Purchasing products and services which make a positive contribution to a more sustainable development has been given more political impetus in Portugal in recent years. The establishment in 2007 of the central e-procurement service for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, centralising the purchasing of 14 local governments, coupled with the launch of the Portuguese national action plan on green public procurement (GPP) in April of the same year have triggered more interest in GPP and the need to exchange experiences and good practice.

The Central E-Procurement Authority (Central de Compras Electrónicas - CCE) for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area joined the Procura+ Campaign in August following their work on sustainable public procurement (SPP) with the Procura+ National Partner, the National Institute of Engineering, Technology and Innovation (LNEG). Following a step-by-step process, the CCE aims to use the power of its role and implement more sustainable purchasing practices to benefit local governments in Lisbon.

The Inter-municipal Waste Management Service of Greater Oporto (LIPOR) also committed to the challenge of implementing SPP through its membership in the Campaign. LIPOR is responsible for the management, valorisation and treatment of municipal solid waste produced by its eight municipalities: Espinho, Gondomar, Maia, Matosinhos, Porto, Povoia de Varzim, Valongo and Vila do Conde. Although LIPOR's main responsibility is the management of municipal solid waste, LIPOR firmly believes that they should go forward and start thinking out of the box, embracing new areas and new challenges. Sustainable consumption through procurement is one of the issues which LIPOR considers a priority for setting a good example in urban sustainability ultimately benefiting all players in the Oporto area.

For more information on the Procura+ Campaign visit www.procuraplus.org or contact

philipp.tepper@iclei.org

New partnership in Croatia for sustainable public procurement

A new partnership was announced on 23 November between ICLEI and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Croatia, to implement and promote sustainable public procurement (SPP) via the Procura+ Campaign. UNDP will act as National Partner for Procura+, helping Croatian public authorities to apply environmental and social criteria in their purchasing policies and practices.

Along with this comes the launch of the Croatian Procura+ Manual on cost-effective and sustainable procurement. The manual provides clear advice on how public authorities - such as local governments, universities, schools, and hospitals - can implement sustainable procurement no matter what their size or experience.

The new Manual in Croatian was launched at an event in Split on 23 November. The Campaign has also been promoted among Croatian local governments through a series of local workshops (held in Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka) on energy management organised within the framework of the Energy Management Project (SGE) run by UNDP Croatia.

*To download the Manual in Croatian visit www.procuraplus.org/hr
For further information please contact Jelena Kremenjas from UNDP on jelena.kremenjas@undp.org*

Building on the outcomes of EcoProcura 2009 – Reykjavik joins the Procura+ Campaign

ICLEI welcomes the City of Reykjavik as new participant of the Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign. The capital of Iceland, host of the 2009 EcoProcura conference (www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009) have set green public procurement (GPP) as their overall principle. During the process of centralising procurement a checklist for procurers was developed. Furthermore, the reference to the Nordic Swan ecolabel in the technical specifications increased by 100% in the last six months. Reykjavik collaborates closely with the national government and is now looking forward to handling severe cuts in budget, having been hit hard by the financial crisis - with the help of GPP. An assessment of products and services that are currently purchased by the city revealed the huge saving potential of buying 100% recycled paper for its offices, reorganising and downsizing the vehicle fleet and using environmentally-friendly cleaning products.

*More information: vinn.is
www.procuraplus.org*

4. Upcoming Events

Call for host: 8th EcoProcura Conference 2011

ICLEI has opened a bidding process for the 8th EcoProcura Conference. Cities in Europe, preferably ICLEI members, are invited to express their interest in hosting and funding this unique event which is tentatively planned for 2011.

The conference which usually lasts for a maximum of three days leaves open the possibility for pre-events and side-events. It can be combined with a Sustainable Product Exhibition/Trade Fair or Business Forum and can be linked to other national initiatives related to sustainable procurement.

EcoProcura provides a platform for purchasers from all levels of government, suppliers, policy-makers and multipliers to interact, share their vision and knowledge and analyse the latest solutions on sustainable procurement. The last conference earlier this year in Reykjavik, Iceland, was attended by more than 220 delegates from 41 countries.

To find out more about the EcoProcura conferences please visit the EcoProcura 2009 conference website and download the call for interest: www.ecoprocura.eu. For more information, please contact mark.hidson@iclei.org

5. Recent Events

Lively exchange on climate-friendly procurement in Zurich at the Procura+ Seminar

The City of Zurich, Switzerland, hosted representatives from more than 15 European nations at the this years Procura+ Seminar organised by the City together with ICLEI. Participants engaged in one and a half days of exchange in an interactive format with roundtable discussions and training elements.

In speaking about the EU's Agenda for sustainable procurement at the event, Heide Rühle, Member of the European Parliament, stressed the importance of the public sector taking action. "The European procurement guidelines clearly allow for the consideration of ecological and social standards in the tendering process of public contracts as long as the rules of the internal market are abided by", Rühle stressed. Leading on the European Topten Initiative, Eric Bush, representing the Swiss Agency for Energy Efficiency, underlined that good ideas should not stop at national borders. The Topten online search tool, originally developed in Switzerland, is available for use in 17 countries and also assists public purchasers in their sustainability actions.

Complementing the discussions on using public procurement to mitigate the effects of climate change, day two of the event addressed some of the social injustices of production and how public purchasers can effectively use their purchasing power within the European internal market rules to make positive social impacts. The main message was that European public authorities need wait no longer to include social considerations in their purchasing practices. Cities such as Zurich, Gothenburg, Barcelona and the region of Tuscany are a few of the pioneers in this field offering a wealth of experiences transferable to other public bodies. More and more national authorities, such as the Dutch government, are now sending clear signals to other public bodies in their country by providing recommendations on how socially responsible public procurement should be done in practice.

Download presentations, the press release and photos from the Procura+ Seminar in Zurich by visiting www.procuraplus.org/zurich. Alternatively, please contact amalia.ochoa@iclei.org for more information

Governments call for closer cooperation on GPP in Suwon at International Conference

Hosted by the City of Suwon, South Korea, the 3rd International Conference on Green Purchasing ended with the unanimous adoption of the Suwon Declaration. The Declaration called on governments at all levels and other stakeholders to co-operate more closely internationally to promote green purchasing, and to commit to implementing strong policies, strategies and regulations.

The conference began with a keynote presentation from former US Vice President Al Gore and brought together public authorities, businesses and consumers with the aim of building partnerships between these stakeholder groups to drive green purchasing forward.

The Suwon conference was the third milestone in the work of the [International Green Purchasing Network](http://www.icgpsuwon.org) (IGPN), which was founded at the first conference in Sendai, Japan in 2004 and held its second conference in Barcelona two years ago. ICLEI is a founding member of the IGPN.

The Suwon Declaration can be downloaded from the conference website at www.icgpsuwon.org. For further information please contact simon.clement@iclei.org

6. Other News

GPP training toolkit now available online in all EU languages

The European Green Public Procurement (GPP) Training Toolkit is now available in all 22 EU languages. Material in the EU languages is available for the entire practical module (module three) of environmental purchasing criteria for 10 high-priority product groups and services. The introductory presentation (in module one), which provides the key arguments in favour of GPP has also been translated.

The toolkit was published in 2008 by the European Commission and parts of it have been adopted in several of the GPP national action plans of the EU Member States.

Visit the European Commission's GPP website: [ec.europa.eu/environment](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm) [/gpp/toolkit_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm)



Draft ISO standard on social responsibility released

“An organisation should consider the potential impacts or unintended consequences of its procurement and purchasing decisions on other organisations, and take due care to avoid or minimise any negative impact... It can also stimulate demand for socially responsible products and services” (para 2165-2167 of draft international standard). The future International Standard ISO 26000, Guidance on Social Responsibility, reached an important phase in its development with its publication in September as a Draft International Standard. Although not a management standard (not appropriate for certification purposes or contractual use, as is the case with other ISO standards), ISO

26000 will provide harmonised, globally relevant guidance. The standard is based on international consensus among expert representatives of the main stakeholder groups and will thus encourage the implementation of good practice in social responsibility globally.

A five-month balloting period (ending 14 February 2010) has begun during which the national member bodies of ISO and participating liaison organisations will be able to vote and comment on the text, which will be discussed at the next working group meeting in May 2010. ISO 26000 may be published as an International Standard in late 2010 if all votes go as planned.

For more information, visit www.iso.org/iso/pressrelease.htm which includes links to the relevant pages on the ISO website.

Awareness raising and dissemination of the EU GPP policy



The European Commission (Directorate General for the Environment) commenced a series of awareness raising and dissemination activities at the start of this year aimed at supporting the EU Member States (MS) in green public procurement (GPP), particularly those that are least advanced. This initiative is part of the Commission's support of the policy and implementation framework for GPP in the EU. Extra support is being given to ten MS (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia) which were selected following the results of a European survey on GPP carried out earlier this year.

These activities aim to contribute to building the capacity for EU-wide use of the common GPP criteria included in the EU GPP Training Toolkit for the ten prioritised products/services groups. The capacity-building activities will take the form of training of the GPP national experts in a distance learning and experience-sharing e-forum, and via face to face training courses. One-day national events will be organised in the ten MS (mentioned previously) aimed at accelerating the understanding of GPP nationally. The national events in Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria took place during October and November, while the Polish national event will be held on 11 December in Warsaw.

The awareness raising and dissemination work is being carried out by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITCILO) in Turin, Italy, on behalf of the European Commission.

For more information (on upcoming national events or documentation from past events), please visit gpp.itcilo.org or contact Maria Teresa Pisani from the ITCILO on m.pisani@itcilo.org. To find out about the European Commission's work on GPP, visit ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

Introducing TCO Certified Edge

The well-known TCO Certified label for sustainability issues of information and communication technologies (ICT) products has now gone a step further and launched a supplementary award. The supplementary award will further push the boundaries of ICT design in usability and reduced environmental impacts. TCO Certified Edge is the new certification programme and can be awarded to products already fulfilling the known TCO Certified criteria.

Earlier this year, the TCO certification programme was updated on the environmental criteria and to cover social responsibility, ensuring that the manufacturer commit to international standardised programmes within the field of social responsibility.

The TCO label is a global third-party certified type I label for ICT products in the following five categories: displays, computers, notebooks/netbooks, headsets and projectors.



Visit TCO's website for more information: www.tcodevelopment.com. To subscribe to TCO's newsletter or for more information please contact Anna Pramborg from TCO on anna.pramborg@tco.se.

7. Internal News

Two new Project Assistants in ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Team

Following the completion of her MSc in Environmental Governance (at Albert Ludwig's University, Freiburg) at the end of November, Shannon White joined ICLEI as a Project Assistant in the Sustainable Procurement team. Shannon has recently completed her thesis on the barriers to implementing GPP in Central and Eastern Europe. Her previous work experience includes working for the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

Shannon can be contacted on procurement@iclei.org

Franziska Singer joined ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Team as a Project Assistant in November this year. Franziska previously worked for ICLEI's International Training Centre (ITC) organising conferences, including EcoProcura in Reykjavik. She will be involved in the Procura+ Campaign, the German GPP training series and the SCI-Network. Franziska has an M.A. in Religious Studies, History and Southeast Asian Studies.

Franziska can be reached on franziska.singer@iclei.org

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If you would like to Subscribe to the Sustainable Procurement Update, have any further questions, would like to give feedback on ICLEI's work in Sustainable Procurement or would like to be taken off this mailing list, please contact us at: procurement@iclei.org

The Sustainable Procurement Update is produced by the European Secretariat of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. Editors: Amalia Ochoa (responsible).

ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

More than 1,000 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns such as the Procura+ Campaign and programmes.



The Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign is an initiative designed to help support public authorities across Europe in implementing Sustainable Procurement and help promote their achievements. The Campaign was established in 2004 to help drive the mainstreaming of sustainable public procurement throughout Europe. Through participating in the Campaign, public authorities can contribute to a growing international movement and help bring about real change on the market.

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