

Sustainable Procurement

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Dear Reader,

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:
<http://update.sustainable-procurement.org/index.php?id=8281>

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1. Driving sustainable innovation through public procurement in your region – guidance now available!

Public bodies across Europe today face the dual challenge of shrinking budgets and ever stricter CO₂ reduction targets.

Many authorities are now recognising that to meet these challenges we need to change how and what we

purchase – we need the market to provide us with new, innovative solutions, which can help to cut lifetime costs whilst also lowering CO₂ emissions and offering high performance.

Launched at the beginning of 2010 for piloting in real-life procurement actions by the SMART SPP partners – the cities of Barcelona (Spain), Kolding (Denmark), Cascais (Portugal), the London Borough of Bromley and the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (UK) - the SMART SPP guidance has been revised and is now available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Danish. To help public authorities who wish to procure the best the market has to offer SMART SPP has developed:

- a guide to procuring innovation, including different ways to engage with the market, and a
- tool to calculate the life-cycle costs and CO₂ emissions of products (LCC-CO₂ tool) so that procurers can assess the true costs of a product throughout its lifetime and its related CO₂ emissions.

The new guidance was officially launched at the project's final conference held at the end of June in Brussels. The event showcased the experiences from leading European cities in the field of sustainable procurement, with representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission also present to take part in an interactive debate about developments at the EU policy level. Delegates had the opportunity to explore the role and potential of sustainable procurement as a driver of energy efficient innovation in the EU. As strong advocates for achieving clearer wording on what is possible when spending public money in a more sustainable manner, the main message from the Parliament and Commission is that the public sector is an important driving force for greening the market.

Download your copy of the SMART SPP tools today at www.smart-spp.eu/guidance

We're interested in hearing about your experiences using the guidance - email it to philipp.tepper@iclei.org.

Presentations, [press release](#) and photos from the conference are available at www.smart-spp.eu/conference. Play the [video](#) and listen to what the SMART SPP cities and other public authority partners have to say about their experiences on sustainable procurement to drive innovation in energy efficiency.

2. Project News

Anchoring green procurement principles in German training programmes

Following a series of training sessions on green public procurement (GPP) held over the last year and a half in Germany, ICLEI and the [Öko-Institut](#) (Germany) have embarked on a new project which takes a multi-faceted approach to help spread the uptake of green public procurement (GPP) among German public authorities. The project (called "Creating Landmarks") will provide a customised and user-oriented training concept on GPP for teachers and curriculum leaders from public administration training institutions in the form of train the trainer approach.

Lecturers and trainers from training academies across Germany will be trained on the most relevant aspects of GPP, and will also be provided with training material so that the approaches and knowledge are passed on to their target group - public sector employees.

Training on using a whole life-cycle approach for calculating the real costs of products and services before procurement decisions are made will be one of the central components of the training sessions. This will be done using a newly developed web-based tool to analyse the costs and related CO₂ emissions of energy consuming goods and services. The tool is currently being developed and will be based on the one developed through the [SMART SPP](#) project.

Training sessions will begin following a kick-off conference on October 5 in Wiesbaden (Germany). See article under "upcoming events" to find out more.

"Creating landmarks" is generously financed by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and the German Environment Ministry (BMU).

More information is available [here](#) (in German). Alternatively, please contact franziska.singer@iclei.org.

Engaging the right people to drive energy efficient data centres

A number of workshops were held in June in various countries to showcase the latest technological developments and to identify criteria for purchasers to procure energy efficient data centres. The events aimed to draw out the information needed for the development of guidance on public procurement of energy efficient data centres at a later stage.

Two workshops took place in the Basque Country (Spain) that addressed the opportunities of GPP of ICT equipment and services, and using a pre-procurement dialogue with the market to assist in purchasing the latest technologies. The latter was also at the heart of discussions that took place at a similar workshop in Paris.

At the Austrian workshop, in Vienna, the Austrian Energy Agency and suppliers of server technology focussed their discussions on the certification and benchmarking of data centres, and emphasised the need for eco-labelling schemes, such as the German [Blue Angel](#), to drive the market towards energy efficient data centres.

The focus of the event in Berlin (Germany) turned to cooling and power supply infrastructure, and planning overall performance according to specific needs in order to achieve greater energy savings. Whilst in Prague (Czech Republic), taking into account the life-cycle costs of running a data centre were the central focus. Here it was found that maintenance and energy costs far outweigh the initial building and equipment costs. This makes measures taken to reduce the energy consumption of data centres impact very positively on the economic performance of the data centre.

The workshops form part of the European Prime Energy IT project. The project is designed to further the development of the market for energy efficient central IT, such as cooling, servers, storage, power management and network equipment. This will be done by carrying out research into the various technologies, developing integrated public procurement guidance, as well as carrying out other activities that support the development of internationally accepted standards for energy efficient central IT equipment.

More information about the project and presentations from the event are available on the [project website](#). For more information about ICLEI's work on public procurement in the project, please contact franziska.singer@iclei.org

Keep up to date on green procurement news - update your subscription

The latest policy developments from the EU, guidance, practical examples and studies carried out relevant for GPP are available in an easy to digest format. The information is published on a monthly basis through the European Commission's [GPP News-Alert](#).

The newsletter is free of charge, so why not [sign up](#) today!

If you were subscribed to the newsletter, please note that the subscription process has changed and you need to renew your subscription to receive upcoming newsletters. You can renew your subscription [here](#).

The GPP News-Alerts are prepared by ICLEI on behalf of the Commission (DG Environment). Read the [latest issue of the GPP News-Alert](#).

3. Procura+ Campaign News

Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Workshop at ICLEI's European Convention

Brussels will be the location of this year's Procura+ Campaign event. The event will serve to discuss how sustainable public procurement (SPP) can contribute to meeting the [EU's 2020 targets](#). The event will be a session held as part of ICLEI's European Convention, and will take place on Tuesday 13 September (9.00 - 12.30), hosted by the EU North Denmark office.

The workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the contribution SPP can make to reaching the Europe 2020 goals, with representatives from the Commission, the Environmental Management Corporation for the Basque Country (IHOBE) (Spain) already confirmed as speakers. The programme will provide opportunities for delegates to exchange experiences on putting SPP into practice and will also offer training sessions on selected topics, such as, calculating the life-cycle costs of products and services for procurement, and socially responsible procurement.

Register [here](#) today!

For more information about the Procura+ session, please contact franziska.singer@iclei.org

Procura+ Participants taking action in eradicating unjust labour conditions from supply chains

Worst forms of child labour, no right to associate, unfair pay - these are some of the issues which countries that have ratified the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Core

Conventions seek to abolish. Public procurement can be a powerful tool for addressing these issues and other issues related to the labour conditions of workers employed to produce goods consumed by cities and other public administrations in Europe.

Participants in the Procura+ Campaign from all over Europe use a number of approaches to address supply chain issues - like the employment conditions of garment workers in some companies – through the way in which they design their public tenders and/or approach the issue at the policy level.

Barcelona's City Council (Spain) demands that suppliers of uniforms for municipal workers in the City's parks and gardens department (employing around 700 people) provide a guarantee that their supplies have been produced according to the fulfilment of the the ILO Core Conventions. The requirement is included as part of the subject matter of the tender and as part of the selection criteria. The guarantee, in the form of a self-declaration from the company must be supported by a code of conduct ([Social Accountability 8000](#) or [Fair Wear Foundation](#)), a certificate from an third party auditor or a declaration from the company itself explaining the details of its own audit.

In the **City of Zurich** (Switzerland), uniforms for hospital staff fulfil fair trade criteria from harvest to production and include the use of organic cotton production methods. Read a short case study [here](#) (in German). Furthermore, a city-own [guideline for social sustainability](#) ensures that the eight ILO Core Conventions are met for all purchases.

Helsinki City Council (Finland) have recently begun to include criteria that address supply chain issues when purchasing work wear, like uniforms. A broader programme called "Fair Helsinki" is also being rolled out, which includes other areas in addition to procurement.

The **City of Nantes** (France) also aspires to change harmful production methods used to produce textiles and food through its public procurement practices. The City Council sees it as their role to set a good example for companies for their corporate social responsibility work and policies.

Lipor - the inter-municipal waste management service of greater Porto - (Portugal) has developed its own code of conduct which must be signed by all suppliers of importance or which have contracts over €10,000 with Lipor. The code of conduct includes clauses against the use of forced labour and child labour. Adherence is verified through audits, meetings and interviews.

The **City of Hannover** (Germany) regularly holds supplier seminars to help increase awareness about the labour conditions of workers in some countries or companies and to encourage ethical sourcing. This particularly done for items produced in the global south, such as uniforms, toys for day care centers, sports balls and stones for construction. The seminars target small and large suppliers which are locally-based and supply a range of products.

At the **Greater London Authority** (United Kingdom), relevant [contracts for uniforms](#) (for example) must abide by, or work towards abiding by the Ethical Sourcing Initiative's [Base Code](#), which is based on the ILO Core Conventions.

For more information about any of the above, please contact franziska.singer@iclei.org

4. Upcoming Events

Local Renewables 2011

Green Buildings & renewable energy: The way forward in urban development

27-28 October 2011, Freiburg, Germany

The fourth conference in the Local Renewables series will focus on the topic of sustainable construction, both from a technological and city development point of view. The topic will be examined from various angles, ranging from policy making and financing, to the latest technological innovations. The challenges for new and existing buildings, private and public, as well as the issue of retrofitting of existing building stock, historical buildings and development of new zero emission districts will also be addressed.

The programme will include presentations from a number of cities and other experts participating in the [SCI-Network](#) (Sustainable Construction & Innovation through Procurement).

The conference will bring together local and regional decision makers, representatives of the European institutions, urban planners, industry representatives, architects and business. The Local Renewables Conference 2011 is part of a series of events which began in 2007 and explores the different sources of local renewable solutions in order to promote sustainability at a regional and local level.

Website: www.local-renewables-conference.org

Contact: lr2011@iclei.org

“Creating landmarks” in Germany on green procurement

5 October 2011, Wiesbaden, Germany

The kick-off event in Wiesbaden for the "Creating Landmarks" project (see earlier article) will offer representatives from training institutions, public authorities and interested decision-makers – based or working in Germany - with the opportunity to learn about the services offered in the project.

The event in Wiesbaden will also be the occasion to discuss issues related to anchoring GPP into professional training programmes and curricula in Germany.

The "Creating Landmarks" event is being organised in cooperation with the Federal State of Hesse, and in the framework of the project [Hesse: Leading in sustainable and fair procurement](#).

To download the registration form and draft agenda, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact franziska.singer@iclei.org

5. Past Events

Public Procurement of Innovation - Facing Societal Challenges, Delivering Better Public Services & Supporting SMEs to Innovate

This two-day event (27-28 June 2011) which took place in Turin (Italy), examined both the policy and practice of public procurement for innovation. The first day saw speakers present on EU policy regarding the procurement of innovative solutions, and a study for future possibilities to foster innovation procurement was presented.

On the second day, national and regional policies were presented as were experiences from local governments. Breakout-sessions were held to discuss and exchange on issues specifically related to mobility, healthcare and construction.

The Sustainable Construction and Innovation Network ([SCI-Network](#)) hosted two sessions on state-of-the-art technologies for energy-efficient buildings and tools and procedures for procurement of innovation in construction.

All presentations can be downloaded by accessing this [link](#).

Any enquiries related to the SCI-Network sessions should be sent sci-network@iclei.org

6. Other News

Modernising the EU public procurement framework – What is the scope for sustainable procurement?

At a conference in Brussels on **30 June**, the European Commission presented the [results of the consultation](#) on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy. Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, **Michel Barnier**, invited stakeholders interested in public procurement to present and discuss their opinions at the event.

"Public procurement needs to play its part in helping us to protect the environment, to innovate, to improve jobs and living conditions, and to help us to fight against climate change", said Barnier. According to the Commission, the majority of respondents from the public sector (29% of responses) believed that the current legal framework already allows sufficient scope for pursuing these societal goals. However there was public sector support for greater clarity on how social and environmental criteria may be taken into account during the award phase. About half of the respondents from the public sector were in favour of abandoning the link with the subject matter of the contract, to allow aspects such as the general environmental and social performance of suppliers to be better taken into account in tendering. On many issues there was a clear difference of opinion from the different groups involved: Member States (4% of responses), business (40%), public authorities, and civil society (17%).

Heide Rühle, public procurement rapporteur for the European Parliament emphasised that "public

procurement legislation currently has the wrong emphasis and is too focused on the cheapest bid, which a lot of people tend to go for if the legislation isn't particularly clear" whereas the cheapest bid "isn't necessarily the best one." A number of solutions were mentioned for addressing this issue, such as applying lifecycle costing in the awarding of contracts. The approach appears to be gaining greater support from both businesses and contracting authorities.

Arguments in support of minimal or no changes to the current legislative framework were raised continuously throughout the conference; however, views more supportive of changes designed to further enable sustainable public procurement (SPP) were brought forward during the final panel session. **Malcolm Harbour**, Chair of the Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection argued in favour of substantial changes to the current legal framework. He pointed out that cross-border purchasing activities are very low and that this is likely due to legislation being "very complex and consequently impossible to understand properly without the assistance of experts." In response to the question of whether we need a revolution or an evolution of current public procurement rules, **Rob Cameron's** (Chief Executive Officer of Fair Trade International) comments summed up the situation in very clear terms by saying that "we really need a revolution in the outcomes as a result of public procurement" and that "it's the outcomes that matter, far more, than the rules." Cameron stressed the role and responsibility that leaders have in dealing with the global crisis (economic, water and biodiversity related) and pointed out that companies and politicians alike should be leading in actions towards eradicating child labour (for instance) in product supply chains.

With 623 responses received in response to the Commission's Green Paper, it remains difficult to predict how the legislative rules will be changed so that procurement can better contribute to sustainable development goals and those of the EU 2020 strategy. The Commission's views and future line of thinking in this area will certainly also be reflected in its **revised edition** of the widely used **Buying Green handbook** – scheduled for release this autumn.

The discussions and feedback received from the consultation round and the conference will provide input into the preparation of the Commission's legislative proposals – scheduled for the end of 2011. A video recording, summary of the proceedings and other documentation can be found [here](#).

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If you 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 also contact us at procurement@iclei.org

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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 1,200 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+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign.

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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