

Sustainable Procurement

Edition 56, July 2013

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.sustainable-procurement.org/

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://www.sustainable-procurement.org/newsroom/sp-update/issue-56-july-2013>

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1. Mainstreaming low-carbon procurement across Europe

In recent years, awareness of green public procurement (GPP) has increased considerably. Tools, guidance

and GPP criteria are now widely available in many countries. Yet, the vast majority of public tenders in Europe do not incorporate effective environmental criteria and thus do not result in the purchase of sustainable solutions.



GPP 2020, a new European project co-funded by the **Intelligent Energy Europe programme** of the European Commission, wants to tackle this problem and support mainstreaming low-carbon procurement across Europe. The GPP 2020 approach is twofold: On the one-hand, project partners will implement more than 100 low-carbon tenders, which will directly result in CO₂ savings. On the other hand, GPP 2020 will enhance permanent GPP support structures and run capacity building programmes in eight target countries: Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

Through this, GPP 2020 aims to make a contribution to the EU's target to achieve a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20 percent increase in the share of renewable energy and a 20 percent increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

The GPP 2020 consortium consists of 19 partners, including major purchasing organisations and renowned support bodies from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. The project is coordinated by ICLEI and supported by a procurement expert body from Sweden.

Purchasing organisations and procurement training providers can get involved in GPP 2020 by becoming associate partners. Associate purchasing organisations commit to implementing low-carbon tenders for which they can benefit from free assistance from the GPP 2020 consortium. Associate procurement training providers can gain visibility by carrying out capacity building activities on low-carbon procurement, for instance by providing training.

If you would like to become an associate partner, want to be kept up to date through the GPP 2020 e-newsletter or would like to learn more about the project, email us on info@gpp2020.eu. The GPP 2020 website will be launched in September.

2. Project news

New project: Procurement of eco-innovation in the catering sector

Public authorities, companies, kindergartens, schools, universities, retirement homes, hospitals and prisons are all increasingly relying on catering services. Today, European contract caterers deliver approximately six billion meals annually to some 67 million consumers every day - generating an annual turnover of approximately €24 billion (according to the **European Federation of Contract Catering Organisations**).

Environmental impacts of the farming, food production and catering sector are significant, and the opportunities for eco-innovation are considerable. Until now, and with the exception of renewable energy technologies, eco-innovation has penetrated markets relatively slowly. Bottlenecks to eco-innovation include the failure of market prices to accurately reflect environmental costs and benefits, rigid economic structures, harmful incentives and subsidies, limited knowledge about the existence and performance of these innovations and uncertainty of the markets. Although many of these barriers are similar to those for innovative businesses, they tend to be more severe for businesses focusing on eco-innovation.

With a view to tackling these barriers and reinforce the procurement of eco-innovative solutions in the catering industry, the objective of the European project INNOCAT is to establish a trans-national network of green public and private procurers in the catering services sector to overcome the industry's fragmentation of demand and share the additional risks and costs of buying and using eco-innovative catering products and services.

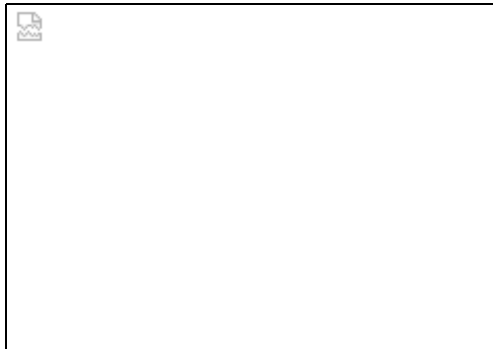


Due to the cross-cutting nature of the catering industry, INNOCAT will to varying degrees address environmental and social improvements in a range of fields, including: Transport, waste re-use and recycling, bio-based products and energy-efficient components.

INNOCAT is supported by the [Competitiveness and Innovation Framework of the European Union](#). The project began in March this year and is a partnership of seven organisations from across Europe led by ICLEI.

There are several opportunities to get involved in INNOCAT. If you are in the process of preparing a new catering services contract, you may be interested in joining our Extended Buyers Group. If you are interested in finding out more about INNOCAT, please contact amalia.choa@iclei.org. The INNOCAT website will be online at the beginning of September.

HAPPI website launched to identify innovations in ageing well



HAPPI (Healthy Ageing - Public Procurement of Innovations) is a European project which aims to identify innovative products and services in the field of “ageing well”. Funded by the European Commission, HAPPI addresses the challenges of the demographic change in Europe by putting in place procurement contracts that will benefit healthcare organisations, hospital staff, the elderly and their families.

The [HAPPI website](#) will keep industry and healthcare professionals informed about the project and key events, including information days to be held in major European cities from September 2013, starting in London (United Kingdom).

The website also provides manufacturers, suppliers and healthcare organisations with detailed information on the project, its objectives, milestones and members. Additionally, it allows manufacturers and suppliers to register their interest in the project and receive updates.

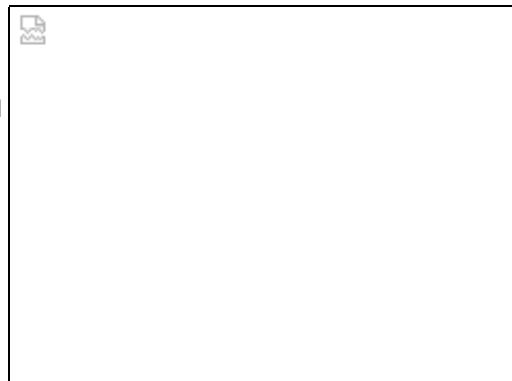
From September 2013, suppliers and manufacturers will be able to access an online platform via the HAPPI website where they will have the opportunity to confidentially submit information on their innovative solutions for caring for an ageing society and maintaining health in old age. Before this, they can register their expressions of interest in the project through the website.

HAPPI is run by 11 partners from seven European countries that are a mixture of healthcare central purchasing organisations, innovation and SME experts and academics. Follow HAPPI on twitter via www.twitter.com/HAPPI_Project. For more information, visit www.happi-project.eu or contact ignacio.gimenez@iclei.org.

European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition - Creating markets for sustainable timber

European local governments increasingly recognise the considerable role they can play in driving the market for sustainably produced timber, by demanding that the wood products they procure come from sustainably managed forests – whether the forests are tropical or European. Preserving forests requires making them valuable to the populations that depend on them – instead of threatening the remaining tropical forests, demanding sustainably produced tropical timber therefore helps to maintain them.

The [European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition](#) (EU STTC) aims to boost the market for sustainable tropical timber - with public procurement seen as a key tool. The Coalition will bring together partners from local, regional and national governments, as well as from the private sector. Membership in the EU STTC will allow you to showcase your municipality’s commitment to the public, and also open up opportunities to obtain free expert assistance in planning sustainable timber procurement activities, co-funded technical support services such as training, supply chain mapping and match-making of demand and supply and the opportunity to participate in the annual seminars of the EU STTC.



Meet other participants at the [EU STTC launch conference](#) on 6 November 2013 in Amsterdam, which will also present the final outcomes of the Sustainable Timber Action project.

For more information, please visit www.sustainable-timber-action.org/the-coalition or contact marlene.grauer@iclei.org.

Thematic groups on clean buses and LCC begin their work



Partners of the [Clean Fleets](#) project have joined forces with public transport operators and procurers from municipalities around Europe to create two thematic working groups. These focus on

1. Alternative fuels and technologies for buses, and
2. Life-cycle costing (LCC), including monetised lifetime emissions.

A first webinar was held recently to discuss the results of a series of interviews and surveys on these topics and also to share experiences of challenges and effective solutions. The objective of the working groups is to explore these key areas to come up with the most effective ways to implement the [Clean Vehicles Directive](#), which aims to drive the market towards cleaner, more energy efficient vehicles. Group members represent a broad spectrum of both learner and leader cities and always welcome the involvement of new stakeholders interested in these themes.

For details about how to join the thematic groups click [here](#). For more information about the work being undertaken in Clean Fleets, please visit www.clean-fleets.eu or contact natalie.evans@iclei.org.

Awareness-raising on social responsibility across Europe

In the wake of recent tragedies such as the collapse of a Bangladesh factory [killing over 1100 people](#), and fires in textile factories from which [100 people could not escape](#) in Dhaka and in which almost [300 people perished](#) in Karachi, it becomes clear that “downstream” buyers have a fundamental responsibility to ensure that fair and safe working conditions are respected throughout their supply chains. This is especially relevant for high risk product categories such as commodity items, textiles, and electronic equipment and construction materials, and is of particular importance for procurers with a public purse.

Workshops, seminars, training and capacity building sessions have been taking place in various European cities to raise awareness about the importance of including verifiable social criteria in public tenders and about how procurers can achieve this in practice. These events have taken place in Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Germany, targeting various audiences including public procurers, traders, political decision-makers, worker’s representatives and NGOs. Details of these events, including many presentations, are available online through the [LANDMARK project website](#).

The events support the work of the LANDMARK project, which developed [resources](#) on verifying social responsibility in supply chains, along with a collection of good practice examples. The resources are available in seven different languages and a [video](#) on the same topic, which features interviews with key stakeholders, is also available.

For more information, please contact philipp.tepper@iclei.org.

3. Procura+ Campaign news

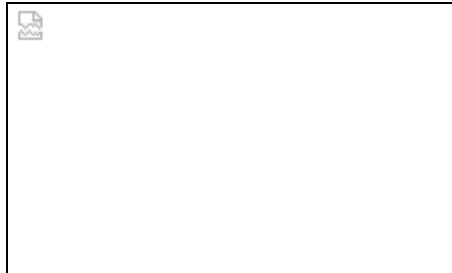
Cities of Helsinki, Barcelona and Malmö to lead Procura+

A small group of international experts from local government have been chosen to lead the [Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign](#) for the next two years (until April 2015). The three cities were chosen based on their commitment to sustainable public procurement (SPP) and are represented by

- Pekka Sauri, Deputy Mayor of the City of Helsinki



- (Finland), re-appointed as Chair of the Campaign
- Mercè Rius i Serra, Deputy President for Environment of the Provincial Council of Barcelona (Spain), appointed as Vice-Chair
- Lari Pitkä-Kangas, Deputy Mayor of the City of Malmö (Sweden), appointed as Vice-Chair

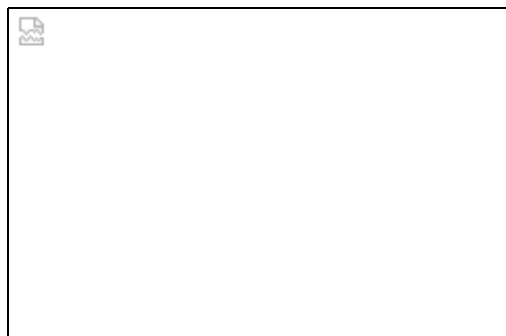


Speaking of his re-appointment, Pekka Sauri said he is "...delighted to be re-appointed chair of the Procura+ Campaign" and he "...look[s] forward to continuing to support its work in mainstreaming SPP across Europe, and encouraging exchange amongst public authorities." Pekka Sauri believes that the Campaign can send a strong message to Europe on the importance of SPP, particularly during the time of the EU public procurement reforms.

For more information about the Campaign, please contact philipp.tepper@iclei.org.

Aalborg and Réseau Grand Ouest reinforce their commitment to SPP by joining Procura+

The **City of Aalborg** (Denmark) officially joined the Procura+ Campaign earlier this year. Aalborg is a well-known pioneer in the field of sustainable development and has been particularly active since 1994, through its efforts of putting local sustainability, including sustainable procurement, on the European agenda. This initiated the creation of the **Aalborg Charter** - a call on municipalities and their citizens to exert their responsibility in creating environmental, social and economically sustainable communities. The Aalborg Charter has been signed by over 2,500 municipalities across Europe.



Furthermore, the City of Aalborg has been an ICLEI member since 1994, and is a founding member of the **European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign**. It followed on to host the First European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in 1994. In addition to its work on SPP, the City has participated in several ICLEI campaigns, including **agenda+ - The Local Sustainability Leaders Network**.

The **French municipalities' network Réseau Grand Ouest** – Public Procurement and Sustainable Development, joined the Campaign in May this year. Since its founding in 2006, the network unites communities willing to introduce social

and environmental requirements in their procurement policies. Hundreds of public authorities from the regions of Low-Normandy, Brittany, Pays de la Loire, Poitou-Charentes and Limousin, and most recently the department of Indre-et-Loire are members of the network.

Members pool their resources and share their expertise on the implementation of SPP policies and the integration of sustainable development in public procurement. The organisation focuses its work around thematic working groups.

If you would like more information about Réseau Grand Ouest's SPP activities, please visit www.procuraplus.org/en/participants/france-reseau-grand-ouest/

More information about Aalborg's activities on SPP is available at www.procuraplus.org/en/participants/denmark-aalborg/

4. Upcoming events

To keep you informed about events, workshops and seminars taking place across Europe related to SPP, visit our **events calendar** on sustainable procurement by visiting www.sustainable-procurement.org/events.

Would you like us to promote your event on SPP? Tell us about it by sending an email to procurement@iclei.org.

Compra Verde conference, Milan, 30-31 October 2013

Compra Verde aims to promote a widespread culture of buying green by updating public and private operators on the most recent policies, offering expert trainings and showcasing latest research and experiences in the field. The conference also aims to promote interaction between institutions, companies and civil society organisations, highlighting good practice and projects from the local, national and international level.

For more information (in Italian) please visit www.forumcompraverde.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=2&lang=en

LANDMARK exhibition on tour, Portugal, Germany

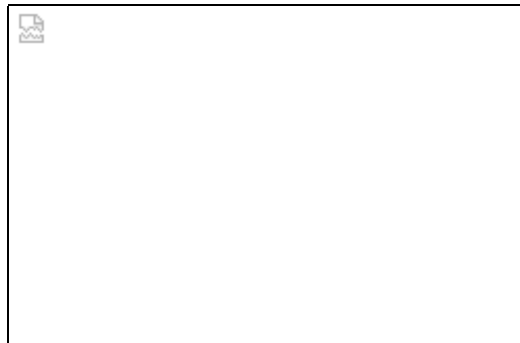
The LANDMARK multimedia exhibition is now travelling around Portugal and will come to Germany in autumn. Visitors will learn about socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) along the supply chain in an interactive manner, for instance, by scanning Quick Response codes that display information on high-risk product groups such as food or textiles. Starting in Berlin in November, the exhibition will stop in various German cities during four months and end in Bremen in March.

More information on the exhibition and on the LANDMARK project is available on www.landmark-project.eu.



Creating Sustainable Timber Markets, Amsterdam, 6 November 2013

Every year, thousands of hectares of tropical forest are destroyed. European public authorities have a large role to play in reversing this trend. The power of sustainable timber procurement as well as Europe's role in the sustainable use of tropical forests will be central themes of the event hosted by the City of Amsterdam.



The conference will mark the initiation of the [EU Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition](#) (EU STTC) as well as the presentation of the outcomes from the [Sustainable Timber Action](#) project. The event will also feature the annual [Seminar of the Procura+ Campaign](#).

The event addresses local, regional and national government representatives as well as private sector organisations. Participation is free of charge and support to fund travel expenses may be possible (enquire with the organisers). To secure your spot at the event, please register by visiting www.eusttc.com/en/registration-event (all participants must use the registration code 4525931).

For more information visit www.eusttc.com/en/home or contact marlene.grauer@iclei.org.

5. Recent events

Webinar - Sustainable Construction and Public Procurement, 23 April 2013

Examples of good practice from cities undertaking GPP for construction and renovation projects, and an update on the EU GPP guidance for the sector were presented during the [GPP Helpdesk's](#) first Webinar on 23 April.

The approach used for the new EU GPP criteria for office buildings, which is to be adopted by end 2013, was presented by the European Commission. The criteria will cover the design, construction, use and disposal phases of newly constructed office buildings and major renovations. Some of the key principles for green construction projects that encourage innovation were presented by the Finnish company Motiva. This was complemented by a contribution from WRAP (UK) who presented clear guidelines on ways to integrate recycled content in construction materials through procurement. This



was followed by a presentation on a “lighthouse” school construction project in Larvik, Norway. It was concluded that effective interaction between users, clients and contractors from the planning stage is fundamental to achieve environmental and other quality goals.



All presentations given during the event are available [here](#). A second webinar will take place during the second half of 2013. Suggestions as to the topic of focus are welcome, please write to gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org.

Innovative procurement approaches needed to green cities

A wide range of eco-innovative ideas for urban sustainability were discussed at the 14th European Forum on Eco-Innovation. These ranged from electro-mobility to the power of innovative public procurement. The forum took place in Prague (Czech Republic) from 23 – 24 May.

Speaking on sustainable mobility and procurement of innovation, Heather Allen, Programme Director for Sustainable Transport at TRL, noted that buses are as expensive as Ferraris, but that vehicle makers “see the bus market as a very small part of their overall market,” and invest relatively little in their design and development. Creative approaches to procurement could help change this.

Public procurement remains a tool with largely untapped potential, concluded delegates. Innovation in financing models is also necessary to unlock new approaches to public procurement. While overarching goals might be set internationally or nationally, it is cities, said delegates, which must take eco-innovative steps to ensure these goals are achieved. The forum was organised by the European Commission's Eco-Innovation Action Plan Unit.

For more information, visit ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation2013/1st_forum/presentations.html

Madera Justa conference, 30 May, Madrid



The Madera Justa conference was a national event used to present the [Madera Justa fair and sustainable timber standard](#) and to present guidelines and pilot cities from the Sustainable Timber Action project. The conference focused on activities in Spain and included presentations from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment; the European Forest Institute and European Sustainable Timber Coalition. The latter has also been set up to support procurers in Spain in buying sustainable timber products and to encourage private companies to offer these products.

For more information and links to all presentations please visit maderajusta.org/ponencias-30-de-mayo-conferencia-politicas-e-instrumentos-para-la-compra-publica-responsable-de-madera-en-madrid/

6. Other News

New resources available on sustainable procurement

The [Sustainable Procurement Resource Centre](#) has over 500 different kinds of resources available online through an easy to use system. Publications on the results of studies; good practice cases; tools and guidance material; online information (e.g. useful websites); and criteria for public procurers are some of the many resources available on the topic of SPP.

The Resource Centre contains resources of interest to procurers, policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders.

Some of the resources recently added include the following:

- *'Green Public Procurement in the Asia Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Green*



- *Growth and Trade*, published by the APEC (2013)
- Preliminary report *'The Case for Innovative Procurement'*, published by FIREd-uP (2013)
- *'Vancouver's Ethical Purchasing Policy'*, published by the City of Vancouver (2013)



All resources can be accessed by visiting www.sustainable-procurement.org/resources/

If you have a resource you think would be interesting to publish, please let us know by sending an email to procurement@iclei.org.

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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 unsubscribe, please also contact us at procurement@iclei.org

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

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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www.iclei-europe.org/procurement