

Four new initiatives target CO₂ emissions through green procurement

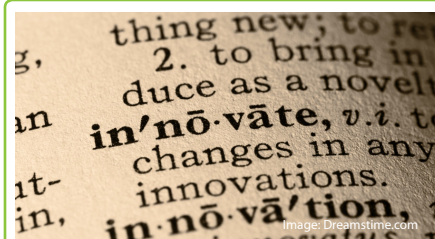


Several European projects have been launched with the aim of helping public procurers to use their purchasing power to create markets for new, energy efficient technologies and solutions. SPP Regions, CEPPI, GreenS and EURECA are funded by the [EU's Horizon 2020 Programme](#).

The Sustainable Public Procurement Regions (SPP Regions) project aims to promote strong networking at both European and sub-national, regional level on sustainable and innovative procurement (SPP/PPI), to help embed capacity building and knowledge transfer in seven regions.

Capacity building is also one of several key activities of the Coordinated Energy-Related PPI Actions for Cities (CEPPI) project. CEPPI seeks to build capabilities in cities on how to achieve more sustainable energy solutions, through the adoption of proven innovation procurement methods. Strengthening the capacity of public authorities to implement GPP by establishing support structures in energy agencies is one of the main goals of the Green Public Procurement Supporters for Innovative and Sustainable Institutional Change (GreenS) project. Finally, the Public Sector Leadership of Environmentally Sound Procurement of Data Centres (EURECA) project will tackle the lack of knowledge and awareness of how to identify and procure environmentally sound and greener data centres.

More information can be obtained by emailing the following: SPP Regions ([Simon Clement](#)), CEPPI ([Jackie Homan](#)), GreenS ([Filippo Giglio](#)) and EURECA ([Rabih Bashroush](#)).



Zoom in on... Eco-innovation forum

Boosting competitiveness and innovation – the role of environmental labelling, management and information schemes is the theme of the European Commission's 18th Forum on Eco-innovation. The event will take place on 20-21 May 2015 in Barcelona (Spain).

This event will particularly focus on strengthening competitiveness and innovation among SMEs, and will also look at the role of public authorities in this area.

[More information...](#)

Green procurement under the new directives



Public procurement consultant Abby Semple shares her view on the European legal framework and some of its practicalities regarding environmental sustainability. Her areas of expertise include the EU Procurement Directives and sustainable procurement.

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Will the new European legal framework make a difference for GPP?

I think the biggest effects will be in terms of raising the profile of techniques for greener procurement and increasing the availability of data to support policy development. In my view there are some issues with the provisions on life-cycle costing and labels which may limit their take-up, depending upon how the Court of Justice interprets these rules and the link to the subject matter requirement.

We are pretty far away from having common approaches which work for all sectors and all types of contracts, although GPP criteria are now widely available. Despite these issues, the 2014 directives definitely place more emphasis on environmental and social considerations in procurement, and Member States have the ability to go further in their national implementations. The second major benefit which I think we'll see over the next few years is that we will have much better quality data about GPP, due to the requirement for tender documents to be fully and freely available online. Combined with the move to fully electronic tendering, this should make it possible to analyse large data sets showing the effect of GPP criteria on procurement outcomes and allowing successful approaches to be replicated.

To read the full interview click [here](#).



Zoom in on... Catering in the healthcare sector

In April, the Network for Hospital Procurers in the Paris Region of France ([Resah-idf](#)) launched two framework agreements – available for use by all French healthcare organisations – for biodegradable food trays and a corresponding recycling service. The procurement actions are being carried out as part of the European [INNOCAT project](#).

[More information...](#)



environment

GPP examples

Vienna's sustainable procurement programme – Ökokauf Wien

Ökokauf Wien began as a project in 1998, and since then has become one of the world's most successful city run programmes on sustainable procurement. This is largely as a result of the cooperation and drive stemming from the City's procurement and environment departments, which goes hand in hand with the political buy-in the Programme has benefitted from since its inception.



Image: "Night Vienna" by Andrey / photo on Flickr / CC BY 2.0

Tools, such as extensive lists of procurement criteria and product databases, which are developed via municipal working groups on the various products and services purchased, equip staff with the knowledge they require to include sustainability criteria in their procurement. In turn, the City of Vienna is able to take pride from its long list of achievements, which it has been accumulating since 2004. Over 135,000 tonnes in CO₂ emissions have been prevented and financial savings totaling over 63 million euro have been made since 2004. Ökokauf Wien also serves as a role model for private individuals, has had positive effects on health and has improved cooperation between the City's departments.

Download the full case study [here](#).

Environmentally sound cleaning services in Portugal

Optimising costs by finding the best solutions on the market, and increasing the efficiency of the previous service were the two main aims of LIPOR's procurement of sustainable cleaning services in 2014. [LIPOR](#) is responsible for the management and treatment of municipal solid waste produced by eight municipalities in the Porto Metropolitan Area.



Image: Radu Razvan Gheorghe / Dreamstime.com

Market engagement activities were part of the groundwork for launching a restrictive procurement procedure. The final result was a two year contract with the lowest priced service provider who met all of LIPOR's environmental and social demands. Involving and establishing a dialogue with suppliers right from the start was considered extremely important, not only to know to what extent suppliers are prepared to respond and compete for increasingly demanding and complex procedures, but also to find out about the availability of alternative solutions on the market. The experience is one which LIPOR aims to replicate for future contracts.

Download the full case study [here](#).



Image: Monkey Business Images / Dreamstime.com

Zoom in on... Seminar on low-carbon procurement

Organised by the [Latvian Environmental Investment Fund](#) and the European [GPP 2020](#) and [PRIMES](#) projects, the upcoming seminar aims to equip attendees with information on how to best calculate carbon and energy savings in public procurement.

The event will take place on 21 May in Riga (Latvia).

[More information...](#)



Image: Dreamstime.com

Zoom in on... Green electricity purchases

Koprivnica recently became the first municipality in Croatia to [purchase energy from renewable sources](#). An estimated 1,300 tonnes of CO₂ emissions will be saved annually as a result of the switch to green energy. Savings totalling more than the average annual consumption of 10,000 European households will be made through the recent electricity and gas tender put out by the Catalan government (Spain) worth over €132 million annually.

[More information...](#)

To read more GPP examples, visit the [GPP website](#).
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GPP News-Alert is an initiative of the European Commission, Directorate-General Environment published on a monthly basis.

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