

EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) Policy Dissemination and awareness raising

Newsletter



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Promoting GPP in Member States

WHEN

GPP national conferences were held on 22 and 30 June in Brussels and Athens, whereas Valletta and Lisbon hosted their conference on 2 on 7 July, respectively. They were all a success!



WHO

Ministries of Environment, Finance, Social Security, Central Purchasing and Environmental Agencies, Standard Authorities, and Prime Minister's Offices contributed to the organization of these events.



WHAT

Focus on GPP as a powerful means by which to advance sustainable development, to boost innovation and competitiveness, and to rationalize public expenditure. Strategies and tools for achieving ambitious GPP targets for priority product groups were shared and discussed.



National conference highlights:

Brussels, 22 June 2010



The key message

Shift happens: for the first time in history, we face the possibility that we will destroy our planet, because we do what we do and we don't do what we should do. We should make choices: better choices, green choices, public green choices. What the world needs now is sustained action that benefits our planet. Either we are part of the problem or we are part of the solution.



The Federal Public Service

At the Federal Public Service, one solution is the green office project, with green public procurement. It aims at energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and products that are "cradle-to-cradle".



The action plan

In Belgium, a federal sustainable procurement action plan has been endorsed for 2009-2011. The priorities are:

- enhancing sustainable procurement expertise;
- offering technical support and ensuring coordination amongst different political levels and stakeholders;
- promoting research for innovative procurement and the application of life-cycle costing.

Networks of federal purchasers, facility managers, IT specialists and EMS experts have been set up.



Sustainable procurement in Brussels

In 2008, a circular introduced green and social criteria for the procurement of goods, works and services in all municipalities in the Brussels government district. It also covers hospitals and schools. Sustainable procurement guidelines were produced and training was held to help purchasers. Monitoring is currently taking place. The Institute for Environmental Management is running a help desk (<http://www.ibgebim.be>).



About the conference

Opened by the President of the Federal Public Service Social Security, Frank Van Massenhove, the conference was the first sustainable procurement event at the federal level. Several suppliers and consultancies presented their initiatives on more sustainable production and consumption patterns (<http://www.greenpublicprocurement.be>).



National conference highlights:

30 June, Athens



GPP state of play

The process of developing the Greek GPP National Action Plan (NAP) has recently been launched. Key ministries are involved, along with academia, research centres and environmental agencies.



The principles underpinning the process and the immediate objectives are as follows:

- redirecting public procurement towards sustainable development objectives;

- increasing the number of GPP tenders targeted at eco-innovation and the competitiveness of the national economy;
- adapting the EC common criteria to the national context;
- increasing the number of EMAS-certified public and private entities and of eco-labelled products and services;
- raising awareness and stimulating public consumption of green products and services.



Next steps

Conducting surveys to assess the overall national public procurement framework, to identify the environmental impact of the main purchasing areas and to detect the readiness of the market to meet green criteria.

Training state and local procurement officials, raising the awareness of national suppliers and obtaining stronger synergy among key stakeholders.

GPP is a reality

Although a NAP is not yet in place, GPP is already happening. The Municipality of Poseidonias has already purchased photovoltaic street lights and replaced conventional lamps with energy-efficient ones. The annual savings amount to 500,000 kWh and €45,000. The Municipalities of Oia, Amaroussion, Holargos, Kallithea and Psikiko have taken similar steps.



About the conference

Co-organized by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping, the conference brought together 129 delegates representing all GPP national stakeholders. It received wide media coverage (<http://www.skai.gr/player/TV/?MMID=202153>).



GPP targets

GPP targets are proposed for a 3-year period and for a large number of product groups:

- 100% of GPP for copying and graphic paper, gardening products and services, cleaning products and services, textiles, office IT, air conditioning and heating pumps, thermal insulation and wall panels;
- 30% of GPP for transport, furniture, food and catering services, hard floor coverings, windows, street lighting, traffic signs and road construction.

Next steps

Warming up the market, setting cultural change in motion, building the capacity of procurers and providing them with guidelines and tools.



About the conference

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Tonio Fenech, addressed the conference delegates. There were practical workshops on how to incorporate green criteria into tender documents and to apply life-cycle costing to priority products.



National conference highlights:

7 July 2010, Lisbon



The GPP NAP

The GPP NAP was approved in 2007 by a Resolution of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (65/2007).



The target is to achieve 50% of GPP by volume and number of contracts by 2010 (intermediate objectives were 15% in 2008 and 30% in 2009). The priority product



National conference highlights:

2 July 2010, La Valletta



GPP state of play

The first GPP NAP was drafted in 2007. It is being revised by the Prime Minister's Office to incorporate the latest EU GPP policy developments. The consultation process, led by



groups include construction, transport, energy, IT, office stationery, paper, cleaning, and maintenance services.

Monitoring GPP

A monitoring system tracks effective implementation of the NAP. Every year, public authorities at all levels of government are invited to submit an official report on their achievements regarding objectives, targets and timeframe.

Benefits of a centralized procurement system

In Portugal, GPP is part of the progressive centralization and professionalization of procurement.

The aim is to rationalize public expenditure through more competition among public suppliers, and to modernize the procurement system through on-line tendering. This also allows a more standardized and transparent use of green criteria.

Between 2008 and 2010, about 30 framework agreements were established for vehicles, furniture, IT, cleaning, energy, security, paper, printing, office stationery, etc. Their value amounts to €1,200 million. Savings are estimated at €150 million. SMEs make up 70% of the selected suppliers.

Green requirements are incorporated into technical specifications and award criteria. They have to do with recycled content, reduced packaging, energy efficiency, CO2 emissions, fuel consumption, waste management, hazardous substances, etc. Up to 25% in extra points may be given to offers above the minimum requirements.

The GPP NAP's targets have been widely achieved! For more information, see the "GPP in your country" section, below.

About the conference

The conference was jointly organized by the Central Purchasing Agency and the National Environmental Agency. Practical sessions were held on the application of life-cycle costing and GPP criteria for priority product groups.

The conferences' presentations can be found online at: <http://www.itcilo.org/gpp>



GPP in your country



NEW STREET LIGHTING IN THE CITY OF MAROUSSI, GREECE

The background framework

Motivated by the pro-EE project (Intelligent Energy Europe on www.pro-ee.eu) and within the EU framework of action to integrate energy-efficiency criteria into public procurement, the City of Maroussi conducted an assessment of the potential savings of energy-efficient street-lighting equipment.

It then launched the procurement of new equipment with metal halide lamps to replace the old-style luminaries with high-pressure mercury lamps.

case study

The green tender

In line with the municipality's GPP policy, energy-efficiency criteria were included in the technical specifications for both luminaries and compatible lamp types.

The tender was advertised in the media and via a press release. Five bidders submitted offers and three of them were technically compliant. The contract, for €242,000, was awarded to the cheapest complying offer in March 2010.

With the contract awarded, 2500 new-technology luminaries were purchased and installed. Given that the new metal halide lamps are more energy-efficient than the previous high-pressure mercury lamps, the new-technology luminaries have a high potential for energy efficiency. The nominal savings achieved just through the replacement of lamps are shown in the following table: new-technology luminaries bear a high potential for energy efficiency. The nominal savings that are achieved solely through the substitution of lamps are presented in the following table:

Type of Lamp	High Pressure Mercury	Metal Halide
Wattage (W)	250	150
Screw Base	E40	E40
Luminous flux (lm)	12,700	17,000
Lifespan (h)	16,000	32,000
Price (€/unit)	8,89	22,66
Operation time in one year (h/y)	3,650	3,650
Total Electricity Consumed per year (kWh/y)	912.50	547.50
Electricity price (€/kWh)	0.1	0.1

Yearly energy savings		40.00%
in kWh		365.00 kWh
in €		36.50
in CO2 emissions	0.90 kg/kWh produced electricity	328.50 kg

Moreover, the large-scale procurement (2,500 luminaries) contributed to a market price reduction of up to 46%.

The benefits

The initiative of the City of Amaroussion is in line with the Greek energy strategy for public lighting. The energy and cost savings, as well as the CO2 emission reduction, are concrete benefits. Moreover, the market-price reduction achieved through large-scale procurement shows the value of establishing a joint procurement scheme among different municipalities.

CONTACTS:

Maria Kapassa,
Head of Quality Office,
Municipality of Amaroussion
E-mail: mkapassa@maroussi.gr

Vaggelis Memos,
Head of Procurement Department,
Municipality of Amaroussion
E-mail: orders@maroussi.gr



GREEN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS AT THE PORTUGUESE CENTRAL PURCHASING AGENCY

The Portuguese ANCP

In 2007, the Portuguese National Public Procurement Agency (Agência Nacional de Compras Públicas, <http://www.ancp.pt>) was established, with the mission of:

- devising a strategy for centralizing the procurement of the Portuguese central public administration;
- promoting savings and sustainable procurement;
- establishing framework agreements for common goods and services.

Since 2010, procurement for the main spending categories is covered by ANCP framework agreements. They are mandatory for central public administration and optional for local administration.

In order to achieve the goals set by the Portuguese GPP National Action Plan for 2009 and 2010, the ANCP introduced sustainable criteria and requirements, including

green criteria, into their framework agreements. These criteria and requirements are present in the two phases of each framework agreement:

- Phase 1 - green criteria and requirements are evaluated by the ANCP when conducting the tenders that will define the framework agreement;
- Phase 2 - further green criteria are evaluated by the public contractor when contracting under the framework agreement.

GPP monitoring

To monitor the introduction of green criteria, the ANCP uses the network of Ministry Purchasing Units that centralize information on the acquisitions of each ministry.

Before the introduction of framework agreements, there were some public procurement green criteria, but they depended on the organizational commitment and skills of the buyers.

With this new tool, and with the establishment of a monitoring process, Portugal has been able to exceed the GPP targets sets in the GPP NAP.

In 2009, more than 65% of tenders under the framework agreements included green criteria for priority product groups.

In 2009, the central public administration reported that 41% of the tenders by number and 61% of the tenders by value included green criteria for priority product groups.

These results are well above the target of 30% of GPP by number and value of tenders scheduled for 2009, and 50% GPP is on schedule for 2010.

Next steps

The ANCP also secured a commitment by the network of Ministry Purchasing Units to include green criteria in more than half of their tenders for priority product groups in 2010. Some of these committed to 90% of green tenders for some of those product groups (e.g. IT).

The next step will be to train procurers in charge of other spending categories, including public works, health, education and defence.

CONTACTS:

Pedro Viana,
The Portuguese Central Purchasing Agency
Lisbon,
Portugal
Tel: +351 217 944200
E-mail: pedro.viana@ancp.gov.pt
Web: <http://www.ancp.pt>



THE GREEN PROCUREMENT STRATEGY OF THE BASQUE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY

About IHOBE

IHOBE is the Public Agency for Environmental Management of the Department for the Environment, Spatial Planning, Agriculture and Fisheries of the Basque Government (Spain). The Agency supports the Department in developing its environmental policy and in spreading the culture of environmental sustainability in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

In 2005, IHOBE was entrusted with launching GPP at all levels of the Basque public administration. To gain the necessary experience, IHOBE decided to carry out green tendering for its own supplies (e.g. paper, office materials, ITC equipment and printing services).

case study

The GPP initiative

The IHOBE GPP initiative aims at both the demand side and the supply side: making the public administration a leading responsible purchaser while boosting innovation and the availability of green products on the market.

Action

The initiative, running since 2006, has three main lines of action:

- Development of tools and criteria in line with both the EC GPP Toolkit and the Basque context. They are included in the Basque GPP manual available on the IHOBE website.
- Support for public administrations in the form of working parties, training, dissemination and back-up for preparing green-tender documents and implementing GPP strategies.
- Cooperation with manufacturers and suppliers through discussion forums and awareness-raising activities.

See: <http://www.ihobe.net> . The website also lists best practice and tenders by the Basque public administration with green criteria.

Green criteria

In 2006 and 2007, IHOBE produced guidelines and green criteria for seven product groups, including ITC equipment. The criteria were first drafted and discussed with public purchasers, then submitted to suppliers through a consultation process that assessed market readiness and raised awareness of green requirements.

The tender for ITC equipment

The green criteria were used for the first time to tender

a 3-year framework contract for ITC equipment. The tender was launched to establish a catalogue of qualified suppliers. A set of minimum compulsory green criteria for all future purchases were included.

For services	Longer guarantee for the products. Longer guarantee for spare parts. Management of obsolete equipment for recycling or re-use. Environmental training for staff. Commitment to conducting an active search for greener products.
For products	Extra points for companies that provide information on energy consumption, noise levels, flat screens that comply with the TCO standard, etc.
For offers	To be submitted either on CD-ROMS or on recycled paper, printed on both sides and without plastic covers or any other superfluous material.

Achievements

Most companies were able to provide the appropriate information on the environmental features of their products. Moreover, companies with an environmental management system were committed to conducting a more active search for greener product options and environmental training for their staff.

IHOBE achieved good results for three main reasons:

- A clear message to the market through standardized green tenders (since 2005).
- Dialogue with companies through discussion forums.
- Active market development for ICT products.

CONTACTS:

Gorane Ibarra
Project coordinator
C/Alameda Urquijo 36, 6º -48011- Bilbao, Spain
Tel: +34 94 423.07.43
E-mail: gorane.ibarra@ihobe.net
Web: <http://www.ihobe.net>



About the EC-ITCILO GPP project



This project to disseminate the EU GPP policy in Member States, implemented by the ITCILO, has now finished.



It was a success: 40 national GPP experts have been trained through a training of trainers programme. 19 GPP conferences in the national language were held in Member States. More than 2,100 national stakeholders attended these events.

They learned about the GPP state of play at EU level and in their home countries, and shared best GPP practice.

The ITCILO would like to thank all the people who contributed to making this project a success:

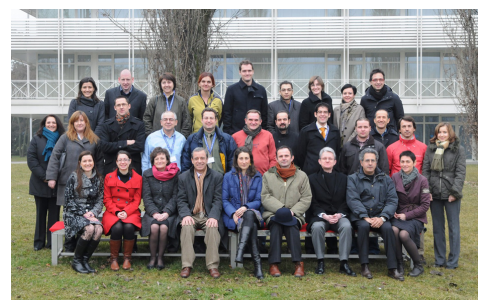
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...and contact

ITCILO

George JADOUN

Maria Teresa PISANI

**Sustainable Development and
Governance Programme**

g.jadoun@itcilo.org
m.pisani@itcilo.org
proc@itcilo.org

Tel.: +39 011 693 6512/6690

Website: <http://www.itcilo.org>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Alenka BURJA

DG Environment / Unit G1 / Environment and Industry

alenka.burja@ec.europa.eu
Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>

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