

3rd GPP4GROWTH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018



WELCOME TO THE 3RD EDITION OF NEWSLETTER SERIES OF THE GPP4GROWTH PROJECT!

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

GPP4Growth brings together nine partners from nine countries, to exchange experiences & practices and improve their capacity on implementing resource efficiency policies that promote eco-innovation and green growth through Green Public Procurement.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

GPP4Growth is a European project funded by the INTERREG Europe Programme that aims to create opportunities for public authorities to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency & green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP).

Over the last few months, the project partners have advanced significantly with the project implementation, focusing on activities to promote the exchange of experiences between regions and the organisation of meetings at a national level with key stakeholders, who have shown great interest in the project and its objectives. In the following pages, you will find information on the GPP4Growth latest developments and upcoming activities.

Through our GPP4Growth project website and this periodic newsletter, that is published every six months, we keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes.

The GPP4Growth project team

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Interregional Workshop on eco-labels and non-exclusive GPP practices

The Regional Economic Development Agency of Stara Zagora (SZREDA) organised and hosted a two-day workshop for regional authorities in Stara Zagora from the 16th till the 17th of May, with the participation of all GPP4Growth project partners and some of their stakeholder group members. The workshop focused on how to use eco-labels in order to apply environmental criteria and to verify compliance with technical specifications in public procurement, without leading to any unfair advantage or disadvantage for potential bidders.

During the workshop participants discussed environmental labelling, the use of eco-labels to promote the application of green and sustainability criteria in public procurement, factors that influence businesses in key GPP4Growth sectors to participate in green tenders and contracts, and identified measures for improving existing GPP policies to promote resource efficiency and waste management.

SZREDA developed a summary report on the main conclusions and partners organise debriefing meetings to diffuse lessons learnt in their organisations.





3rd Regional stakeholder meetings

Over the past few months, all partners have organised successful stakeholders meetings in their regions, taking into account the general guidelines provided by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Regional Government of Andalusia.

This third series of stakeholder meetings aimed to raise stakeholders' awareness and deepen their knowledge on the use of the eco-labels in GPP. Additionally, during the workshop participants were introduced with the overall progress in project implementation and the results from the project activities (e.g. investigation into the barriers in implementing GPP).

Key players that influence policy issues in the GPP4Growth regions, including representatives of public administrations and procurement specialists, as well as representatives of the industry and the academia, provided their input for proposed public procurement policy measures. They were informed on the important role that they have to play during the two phases of the project and expressed their increased interest and desire to continue to participate in the project.

Infoday - Green Public Procurement in Lombardy



On the 27th of June 2018, Lombardy Region, held an Infoday for Green Public Procurement for the GPP4Growth Project. The event took place at the Lombardy Institutional palace. A hundred people from the public and private sector participated in the morning and afternoon sessions.

The meeting started with the keynote speech by Raffaele Cattaneo, Councilor for the Environment and Climate of Lombardy Region. He underlined the importance of these type of initiatives but also the importance of adopting concrete measures following the Procurement Code and its minimum environmental criteria.

In the afternoon a round table took place. Representatives of public and private sector discussed the best practices and application guidelines of green public procurement. The discussion highlighted green procurement practices from European, national and local contexts, emphasizing the negative consequences that stem from omitting environmental criteria.

GPP needs in partnership territories & key factors for businesses' participation in GPP

GPP4Growth partners researched the **benefits, barriers and opportunities associated with a) the adoption and effective implementation of GPP** in the regions involved in the project, as well as the **b) barriers and enablers that affect businesses' decision to participate in tenders with environmental criteria.**

The purpose of these studies is to provide a tool for policy-makers and stakeholders to comprehend the policy obstacles that prevent public authorities and businesses from pursuing green contracts and tenders. Additionally, these studies aim to improve the management and implementation of policy instruments by highlighting the economic benefits deriving from the GPP implementation in public procurement management. Thirdly, they showcase the most pronounced enabling elements that stem from environmentally sustainable public procurement practices.

Among the main lessons learned, the following key points were identified:

- Public administrations and enterprises have similar visions about opportunities and advantages of GPP, which can be a crucial factor in the development of the green economy market. The majority of the participating public authorities have at least on one occasion applied some type of environmental award criteria in the procurement processes and will continue to do so

in an effort to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.

- Public authorities and enterprises state different obstacles and barriers to implementing GPP in relation with their economic, social and environmental role in the society. In particular, the companies surveyed experience certain limitations to engage in green tenders, such as lack of technical experience in green tenders, low-skilled personnel and limited environmental awareness and consciousness are cited as the most significant internal barriers to GPP engagement. However, survey results show that public authorities have a great capacity to drive the market through their demand and to stabilize the costs when they apply GPP in a widespread way.
- Key enablers for the adoption of green practices and increased engagement of businesses in GPP are: access to information related to procurement opportunities, transparency across all stages of the tendering process, good regulatory conditions, and political support. These were the most pronounced factors related to companies' willingness/ability to participate in green tenders.

The outcomes of these studies will help partners in addressing their actions towards GPP4Growth Project's objectives and, therefore, they strengthen the role of GPP in their regional programs and policies.



Seizing opportunities for green purchasing

Bernie Kiely (DCCAIE) was featured in the EU GPP News Alert, discussing development of green, sustainable, and circular procurement in Ireland. Here is an excerpt from the interview:

How is green public procurement (GPP) progressing in Ireland?

In Ireland approximately 12.5% of total government expenditure (€9 billion) is allocated to goods and services that are procured at the national and local levels, the state has significant market influence. We are conscious that instilling GPP into core purchasing decisions will ensure that that our public spend is underpinning our environmental and sustainability goals. Public procurement generally is a function of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and its Office of Government Procurement. Obviously in DCCAIE, we have an interest in ensuring that public procurement serves our broader government policies around climate change, sustainable development priorities, and circular economy plans.

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

Next activities

Here is an overview of some of the key project activities coming up before the end of the year:

- UPAT will lead a study on how public authorities and stakeholders can understand better the GPP lifecycle costing approach by delivering innovative resources for applying harmonised Lifecycle costing (LCC) methods in GPP4Growth regions. The final outcome of the study will support regions in identifying and calculating the direct and the environmental (external) costs when purchasing products related to the key sectors of partners' interest.
- A number of research reports have been prepared by the partners since the project commenced. These have been converted to policy briefs by DCCAIE and will be published soon.

Upcoming experience visit in October 2018 in Ireland

All partners will be travelling to Ireland where **DCCAIE** will host a **2-day experience visit on GPP processes and results**. The visit will take place on the 3rd and 4th of **October 2018 in Wexford, Ireland**. During this event partners will have the opportunity to share their experiences of existing GPP procedures, measures, and criteria as well as learn about the processes that led to investments in green contracts in Ireland. All project partners, relevant stakeholders, and external experts are invited to participate to the event.

An accompanying input study will be the primary source of knowledge for the capacity building processes of the workshop. After the completion of the event, DCCAIE will deliver a summary report presenting the main conclusions.



Experience visit information

Thematic focus

GPP processes and results

Type of participants

Regional authorities' officials, stakeholders, external experts

Host organization

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Date

3-4 October 2018

Location

Wexford, Ireland

Contact details

Irene Cadogan (Email: Irene.Cadogan@DCCAIE.gov.ie)

PARTNERSHIP



University of Patras (GR)



Lombardy Region (IT)



Lodzkie Region (PL)



Province of Antwerp (BE)



Ministry of Environment and Spatial
Planning, Regional Government of Andalucía
(ES)



Zemgale Planning Region (LV)



Stara Zagora Regional Economic
Development Agency (BG)



Department of Communications, Climate
Action and Environment (IE)



Malta Regional Development and Dialogue
Foundation (MT)

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For every info or update about the newsletter please contact:

Ms. Liesbeth Taverniers



liesbeth.taverniers@provincieantwerpen.be

