

GPP4GROWTH

E-newsletter on project updates



Project progress & news

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 and green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP).

The 5th Semester of the project implementation ends in June 2019 and partners have significantly advanced both with the thematic studies and guides on policy aspects of green public procurement, and with the interregional learning and capacity building activities.

You may find more detailed information on the GPP4Growth latest developments and upcoming activities in the following pages.

Inspiring existing experiences visit in Province of Antwerp

March 27 and 28 the province of Antwerp welcomed the GPP4Growth partners and stakeholders to the second existing experiences visit in Antwerp and Mechelen, to showcase both local and national case studies of Green Public Procurement.

Several local and regional authorities presented diverse good examples of GPP concerning classic topics as well as more innovative trends.

Participants were inspired by the more circular approach of ICT by Digipolis (City of Antwerp) and the project CirculT (BBL, Province of Antwerp). The contributions on the greening of the vehicle fleet showed the possibilities and the importance of TCO to prove that GPP is often not only the most sustainable but also the most economical choice (City of Antwerp). The Ecoscore instrument proved useful as award criterion in GPP (Province of Antwerp). Other topics were sustainable office equipment (Province of Antwerp and OVAM (Flemish authority)), sustainable catering, C2C sanitary disposables and dispensers, biological cleaning, (Province of Antwerp), light as a service (City of Mechelen), circular textile and work clothing (Public Social Welfare Centre Leuven and City Leuven), office supplies (Flemish authority) Of course Province of Antwerp showed off the new House of the Province (running for the BREEAM-certificate).

Attention was also given to enabling frameworks like environmental management systems, the Green Deal Circular Procurement or the Flemish Energy Company. The case studies demonstrated that GPP is possible for a wide range of products and services and is within reach of public authorities at all levels. Greener purchasing decisions often result in long run savings, even without taking in to account environmental and health gains.



According to J.J. Doheny , Procurement Officer: "Wexford County Council are very excited about the potential opportunity for positive environmental change brought about by its inclusion in the GPP4Growth knowledge exchange in Antwerp in March of this year. The occasion for information sharing has brought the probability of Wexford County Council going in a different direction in the implementation of the BioOrg cleaning project. Through the links made on this recent visit we are now linking in with the Province of Antwerp and Koen De Koster, CEO of BioOrg with the view of adopting their principals of environmentally friendly cleaning projects throughout our network here in Wexford."

News from the Wexford County Council

Wexford County Council hosted part of the GPP4Growth 'Experience Visit' to Ireland and their learnings from the project helped them to identify and showcase some of the best practices already underway in the organisation. Recently both procurement officers took part in the 'Experience Visit' to Antwerp and this engagement has been essential for generating ideas and providing new opportunities for GPP within their regions.



Project news

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The meeting was attended by more than 90 representatives from public, private, as well as NGO sectors and very experienced speakers gave a big portion of GPP practical information for them:

- Mrs Iwona Kowalczyk from the Centre for Public Procurement and Public-Private Partnership/University of Lodz presented legal and formal aspects related to GPP, and

- Mr Marcin Skowron from the Polish Public Procurement Office (central government) delivered a presentation about the state of play in GPP area in Poland, based on the GPP monitoring system in Poland.

After the „theoretical” part of the meeting, participants attended 3 workshops: related to the GPP in waste management (Mr Maciej Kowalczyk - Phenohorizon), GPP in Urban Infrastructure (Mrs Maria Herszel from the City of Lodz and Mrs Berenika Sikora from Lodzkie Region) and GPP in the organisation of the meetings, especially in catering (Mrs Monika Zielińska from Lodzkie Region).

The fourth stakeholder meeting in Stara Zagora (Bulgaria) took place on January 18th.

The meeting was attended by 10 local stakeholders, including representatives from the Executive Environment Agency, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Stara Zagora, Municipality Kazanlak and experts in the field of green public procurement from the NGO sector. Following the presentation by Venelin Dobrev from SZREDA, potential policy recommendations were divided in 4 different categories:

- Policy recommendations that will lead to mandatory changes in legislation
- Policy recommendations that will address the need for more information regarding green public procurement both for the public administration and the businesses.
- Policy recommendations that will be voluntary for the administration.
- Policy recommendations that address the administrative capacity of businesses and public administration which affect participation in green tenders.



Lodzkie region - 5th stakeholder meeting

European Commission published the second Environment Implementation Review (EIR)

On 5 April 2019 the European Commission published the second Environment Implementation Review (EIR), an overview of how EU environmental policies and laws are applied on the ground.

Besides a policy background document introducing all themes covered by the EIR, a communication with policy findings and an annex with the priority actions for the EU Member States, clustered by theme, the 2nd EIR package consist of 28 country reports and factsheets. GPP is reviewed in Part II of the reports: ‘Enabling framework: Implementation tools’.

Full implementation of EU environmental legislation could save the EU economy around €55 billion every year in health costs and direct costs to the environment. This is the result of a new study on the costs of not implementing EU environmental law. Although the methodology is new, the study results in a similar figure as a 2011 study, which resulted in an estimate of €50 bn/year. While this is not surprising as the progress in implementation of EU law comes against new targets and the environmental pressures are not easy to overcome, this confirms the EIR overall finding that more, steady efforts are needed.

You can find all info on

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/country-reports/index2_en.htm .

Greening Public Procurement Conference in Sofia

On 28.02 and 01.03, Venelin Dobrev from SZREDA participated in the Greening Public Procurement Conference in Sofia and presented the GPP4Growth project. The event was organised by the Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation.

Venelin participated in the event with a presentation entitled "Barriers and Enablers for Public Procurers and Contractors Related to Green Public Procurement - Experience from the GPP4Growth Project". Venelin highlighted that in many green public procurement cases business interest is really limited, and public institutions have to lower or remove green criteria in order to receive offers from businesses. Szreda also drew attention to the fact that small public purchasers, like small municipalities, have a good will to apply more sustainable solutions, but do not have enough purchasing power to influence the market. The audience was made up of representatives of small municipalities in Bulgaria who have difficulty in including green criteria in their public procurement.

Discussion focused on the opportunities for public buyers to get more information on the possibilities for cooperation on the implementation of environmentally sustainable solutions through public procurement and possible measures to increase the administrative capacity of the contracting authorities.



Workshop on GPP in Greece

On February 17, 2019, the 3rd international exhibition "Verde.Tec" over environmental technologies, which lasted from 15 to 17 of February, was held at the city of Peania of Eastern Attica in Greece. The exhibition featured over 200 speakers and more than 120 bodies, municipalities and businesses submitted nominations for applications at the "GreekGreenAwards 2019", which received special recognition this year. During the exhibition, the Technical Chamber of Greece successfully held a workshop titled as: "Green Public Procurement - Implementation of KENAK and evaluation of the 'Household Savings' Program".



Training course on GPP in Andalusia

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Regional Government of Andalusia has developed a training course on Green Public Procurement addressed to the Public Administration staff.

On November 27 and December 4 of last year there were in Seville two sessions of the training course "Novelties in Green Public Procurement after Law 9/2017" with the participation of 86 attendees from the public administrations (face-to-face modality). Each session lasted 6 hours where the participants could learn more on the use of eco-labels, environmental clauses as solvency & award requirements and how green criteria must be included after the new Public Sector Contracts Law.

The training courses were organized by the public entity responsible for the training of the civil servants in Andalusia, the Andalusian Institute of Public Administration (IAAP). In 2019 IAAP is going to offer an online course from the contents elaborated within the framework of GPP4growth project.

Green Public Procurement in South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County Council is one of the 31 local authorities in the Republic of Ireland. It provides and funds a broad range of services including housing, roads, walking and cycling routes, parks and playgrounds, libraries, sports facilities, litter control, arts centres, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports. It also serves as a platform for local democracy with 40 councillors spread across seven electoral areas.

South Dublin County Council's Corporate Plan (2015 - 2019) sets out sustainability as one of the Council's core values, which goes to the heart of Green Public Procurement (GPP).

The GPP4Growth Project, has proven a valuable support for the Council in this regard. The network provides a great platform to share ideas and knowledge on how to implement green procurement. In Autumn 2018 a staff training seminar on green procurement was held in the Council's headquarters in Tallaght. Irene Cadogan from the GPP4Growth team gave an overview of the GPP4Growth project; the resources available to staff procuring green; and some sample projects that have been carried out to date. A local training provider addressed how GPP could be incorporated in keeping with procurement rules, from preparing the tender documents right through to contract management. The training session was very well attended and gave plenty of food for thought, for both upcoming procurements and for how existing contracts could be managed 'greener' - some examples are provided below.

Electric Vehicles

The Council recently purchased 5 Citroen Berlingos to replace old petrol and diesel vehicles, further to an open tender competition advertised in the OJEU in December 2017. Fully Electric Vehicles (EVs) provide a reduction in air pollution and carbon emissions, promoting sustainability and tackling climate change.



The EVs have benefits across the environment, financial and operational areas, and they require less maintenance. Electric vehicles also provide superior acceleration and climbing than standard petrol or diesel powered vehicles and offer drivers a quieter and smoother driving experience.

Playground Construction Programme

The traditional urban playground is synonymous with brightly coloured plastic and metal equipment with brightly coloured glued rubber surfacing and metal surrounding railings. Most of the equipment for these playgrounds is very expensive and would have to be imported. The new playspaces are predominantly constructed using natural materials such as earth, grass, sand, gravel,



boulders, trees trunks and equipment made from sustainably sourced timber. The Council has found that larger natural playspaces can be built for a fraction of the cost of traditional playgrounds. The procurement of the playgrounds required a shift away from equipment suppliers designing the playgrounds to more in-house involvement in the design process and more community input. The results are that no two play areas are alike, the play areas are more sustainable and have a very low environmental impact, and they are spaces where children are more in contact with nature, more likely to be active and spend much longer playing.

Interview with the Italian Minister of Environment of Regione Lombardia, Mr Raffaele Cattaneo

Until the end of the project, what other actions do you think can be taken by Lombardy Region?

We are working to define and develop the GPP Regional Action Plan with the involvement of and consultation from private sector and institutions for a more sustainable use of natural resources and raw materials. The partnership in the GPP4Growth Project is helping us throughout this process.

Public action can effectively contribute along the path towards sustainability through green public procurement. At the same time, it is an example to stimulate private action, but it is also one of the major parts of the market in which public authorities are major consumers in Europe. Public authorities can also stimulate eco-innovation, create opportunities for emerging green economies and enlarge markets for environmentally friendly products and services.

As known, Lombardy is the region in Italy with the highest GDP and the first region to private and public investment: we produce about 23% of the national GDP and, more or less, in Lombardy there are about 3.125 public procuring entities which manage about 6.5 milliards of euros per year.

Moreover, we have various activities in the field of sustainable development. The Regional Government of Lombardy is strengthening its capacity to implement the UN 2030 Agenda through the definition of a Regional Strategy for sustainable development that will be approved within 2019. The Regional Strategy will provide a synthetic framework for sustainability at a regional level and will establish a shared commitment of public administrations and civil society towards the sustainable development. Local and regional administrations can play an important role to achieve Agenda 2030 targets and in localizing the SDGs which is even more important than the role it played for achieving the more import target on GPP (12.7).

Public policies on sustainability need to be shared widely and being convinced of this necessity, I proposed the setting-up of “a regional observatory for circular economy and energy transition”.

It is a permanent working table among the regional governments and all the trade associations (industry, handicraft, commerce, and agriculture), the trade unions, the environmental associations, the consumer associations, the universities and research centres (about 60 bodies). The goal of the observatory is to co-design the regional action for circular economy and energy transition by making a shared proposal for new regional regulations, programs, measures or initiatives and by transferring at a national level the requests of the stakeholders and proposing solutions since Lombardy is a driving force in Italy for the circular economy and energy policies.

Do you think that the actions taken to make procurement greener by various public administrations such as Regione Lombardia will have an impact on the progress made towards achieving SDG 13 on the national or regional level?

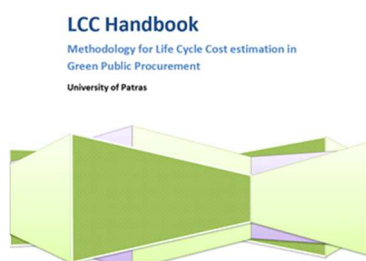
Yes, I think that public administrations can play an important role. Among the mandatory CAM, art. 18 of Law 221/2015 and art. 34 states “energy and environmental sustainability criteria” which can really readdress the public investments. Minimum Environmental Criteria for energy services were between first criteria adopted by the Italian Ministry, acknowledging the importance of climate change among the national policies. In particular, a relevant reduction is expected in the sector of public lighting and energy efficiency in buildings in relation to which Lombardy has already invested significant resources from its own budget and the ERDF funds.

Of course, we need a new step, starting with the development of the public bodies’ skills, but the opportunities for business are enormous.

Upcoming events & activities

Regions summit on GPP in Valetta, Malta

University of Patras (UPAT) developed an innovative digital LCC methodology and resources, with the aim to support regions in identifying and calculating the direct and external costs in certain products related to the key sectors of partners' interest. The final deliverable will be soon available



Regions summit on GPP in Valetta, Malta

The Regions Summit to allow EU level learning and exchange of experiences on policy support for GPP and green growth will be hosted by MRDDF in Valletta, Malta.

MRDDF will develop an input paper based on research on market availability & potential for green products, services & works in EU to facilitate the regions summit.

Participants will include public authorities from EU countries, especially from North West EU regions which are more experienced in GPP. Discussion will focus on GPP experiences and plans, analysing inhibitors and problems encountered, and enabling factors exploited.

Partnership



University of Patras (GR)



Lombardy Region (IT)



Lodzkie Region (PL)



Province of Antwerp (BE)



Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Regional Government of Andalusia



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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