

## Advances in green procurement among EU countries



Policies and tools that support greening government spending are essential to increasing action in this area. Numerous Member States have updated or are in the process of updating existing policies governing green public procurement (GPP), such as the governments of Austria, Denmark, Finland, [France](#), [Germany](#), Italy, [Malta](#), Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain. In Denmark, as a follow-on from the positive experiences of Copenhagen's regional government's GPP taskforce, the government is planning to set up a

similar kind of initiative to provide practical assistance on implementing GPP across the country. In terms of ambition, the Flemish government (Belgium) are seeking rollout of a new central purchasing body which will aim to make all their purchases sustainable. A number of new tools have been (or will be) developed, such as the Danish tool which will serve to measure the total cost of ownership (TCO) for five product groups. The French government have plans to develop their own tool on calculating the life-cycle costs (LCC) of products and services, and also plan to publish a guide on public procurement and climate change. Also, a new project on how LCC can be used as a strategic tool in procurement is being undertaken by the Swedish Competition Authority, who are also developing a prototype to assess the carbon footprint of the contracting authority's purchase. Finally, a [guide](#) (in Finnish) on how public procurers can best communicate with the market has been released in Finland.

## GPP example

### Energy efficiency through performance contracting in Catalonia

In order to improve the energy performance of its buildings, the Agri-food Laboratory, an agency attached to the Government of Catalonia, published a tender in 2014 for both building maintenance and energy efficiency services. Taking 2013 as the baseline year, 10% savings in electricity consumption and 3% savings in water consumption were required as a minimum. The company contracted committed to guaranteeing reductions in energy consumption of 15%. As a result of the energy efficiency service, savings of 135 tonnes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are predicted (in total) by the end of the five year contract.

The work done by the Laboratory has been fostered by the Catalan Institute for Energy (ICAEN), who, in this case, works to create market demand by pooling knowledge and developing an integrated tendering model based on guaranteed energy savings for use in energy performance contracting. The model was developed as part of a broad stakeholder consultation process involving energy service companies; building owners, managers and users.

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



### Zoom in on... European projects on GPP

Looking for a project on GPP? The European Commission's website on GPP now has lists of all (current and previous) EU-funded projects with GPP relevance broken down by sector in easy-to-use drop down lists. Sectors range from energy efficiency to gardening through to waste. Please send an email to [gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org](mailto:gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org) if you would like to add a new project to the website.

[More information...](#)



### Zoom in on... Sustainable procurement in Tampere Hall

Scandinavia's largest congress centre, [Tampere Hall](#) (Finland), is the winner of this year's Finnish Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) award. Apart from their long history of doing SPP, they also use a carbon footprint calculator, which calculates the carbon footprint per visitor to the congress centre. It monitors the building and its use as a whole: waste management, consumption of power, heat and water, the effect of air conditioning and cooling, and so on.

[More information...](#)



## Improving water sector sustainability through public procurement

Pieter de Jong works as EU Liaison Officer for Wetsus and Water Campus Leeuwarden. Wetsus is the European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology.

**What bottlenecks and barriers has FINNOWATER identified that companies in the water sector face in offering more eco-innovative services?**

The water sector is a very delicate sector, as unlike IT, there is no room for error. After installing a new water treatment system you can't wait for people to get sick and then fix bugs in the design. It has to be perfect from the start. Therefore the research and innovation cycle takes longer. Introducing a new system also has to coincide with the investment cycle of the water companies or industrial actors. On top of that, the mentality within the sector is generally risk averse. This makes introducing a new technology into the market very challenging.

Both green public procurement (GPP) and public procurement of innovation (PPI) could also play a role in introducing innovation in the water sector. If more innovative and low environmental impact solutions were procured and public authorities allowed these innovative solutions to be tested in real life situations, we could see an increase in eco-innovation in the water sector. The [Water Public Innovation Procurement Policies](#) (WaterPiPP) project is offering its services to procurers who wish to do this but perhaps do not have the formal skills. In fact, in the coming weeks WaterPiPP will publish a Call for Interest offering procurers who are interested in investigating new approaches to procuring innovation in the water sector guidance in preparing related procurement procedures.

Within Europe, the most recent



development is the link between water treatment and the circular economy. To establish smart cities one also has to take water into account. Conventional sewage treatment systems consume a lot of energy and produce greenhouse gases. Innovative water treatment systems can generate energy, recover nutrients, cellulose, metals and in some cases even valuable proteins. These innovative systems are installed more and more and are often considered as part of the GPP of regional authorities and industries.

**"Both green public procurement (GPP) and public procurement of innovation (PPI) could also play a role in introducing innovation in the water sector."**

**How can public procurement be used as a tool to help overcome these barriers?**

As previously indicated, public procurement can help with market introduction and also product development. Market introduction is a very important step to convince other potential buyers, as they themselves are keen to know if it has worked before for an actual client. How PPI and pre-commercial procurement (PCP) can be used to introduce innovation to the water sector is being looked at in more detail in the WaterPiPP project.

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

To read more GPP examples, visit the [GPP website](#).  
Previous News Alerts are available [here](#).



Image: Andrei Rybachuk / iStock.com

### Zoom in on... Energy performance contracting

A European Code of Conduct for energy performance contracting (EPC) has been published through the [Transparens](#) project. The Code of Conduct is a set of nine (voluntary) guiding principles on EPC projects implementation to support the high quality and transparency of European EPC markets. The Code can be used as a quality indicator for clients, such as public purchasers, on what they should expect and could require from EPC providers.

[More information...](#)



Image: Tomeng / iStock.com

### Zoom in on... ISO 14001 standard

The revision of one of ISO's most widely used standards - the ISO 14001 standard on environmental management systems - has entered its final stage with publication expected in October 2015. Some of the key changes relate to life-cycle thinking when considering environmental aspects, and increased prominence of environmental management within the organisation's strategic planning processes.

[More information...](#)

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