

New discussion groups on waste and transport launched on the Procurement Forum

Two discussion groups have been launched on the [Procurement Forum](#), the online community for public sector procurers and purchasing stakeholders. The groups, on [Sustainable Transport Procurement](#) and [Waste, Resources and the Circular Economy](#) each involve more than 150 procurement experts, researchers and policy-makers and build on buyers' communities and interest groups established as part of EU-funded [Horizon 2020](#) projects such as [Clean Fleets](#) and [PPI4Waste](#).

The Procurement Forum currently comprises more than 4,500 members and allows procurers to discuss, share and connect on ideas, tools, policies and strategies on all categories of public spend. Expertise on public procurement of innovative solutions, information on the implementation of [European Green Public Procurement \(GPP\) criteria](#), legal analysis of procurement regulations and opportunities to engage in policy-making are regularly exchanged between Forum members.



Public procurers and other procurement stakeholders can join the Procurement Forum for free by registering via procurement-forum.eu and join discussion groups once membership is confirmed. The Procurement Forum was established within the EU-funded [PPI Platform](#) project in 2013 and is managed by [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#) in collaboration with [PIANOo](#), the Dutch Procurement Agency.

For more information, visit the Procurement Forum [homepage](#).



Zoom in on... LIFE Environment funding

The European Commission recently adopted the next [LIFE Environment programme](#). Over the next three years, the programme will drive progress on the [EU Circular Economy Action Plan](#), the [Action Plan on Nature, People and the Economy](#), and the [Paris Agreement](#) commitments. Amongst others, the programme is relevant for actions which help drive green/circular public procurement, and green growth. The [call for proposals](#) will be published mid-April 2018, with first-stage concept notes due in June 2018.



Zoom in on... European Green Week

The [EU Green Week](#) this year (21-25 May) will explore ways in which the EU is helping cities to become better places to live and work. Thematically, the programme will focus on air quality, noise, nature and biodiversity, and waste and water management. A session on [Greener Cities through Smart Public Procurement](#) will feature a number of interventions to showcase good practice from European cities, present news on policies and tools from the European Commission and [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#).

Inspiring each other through the Danish Food Procurer Network



Betina Bergmann Madsen is Chief Procurement Officer for the City of Copenhagen and a sustainable food procurement specialist. She has been involved in the development of both European and

Danish GPP Criteria, and in 2017, she helped establish the Danish Food Procurer Network.

Why was the Danish Food Procurer Network first established, and what has it achieved so far?

At the moment, a lot of work is being done on developing guidance on GPP - such as

through green procurement criteria for use by procurers. For example, I'm a member of the European Commission's GPP Group working on updating the EU's criteria for food and catering services, and I lead a group which is doing something similar for Denmark. I think that GPP criteria can be a very helpful tool for greening contracts, but only when procurement officers know that they exist. Far too often, however, criteria are sent to an environmental department or similar, and never reach the desk of procurement officers.

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



GPP good practice

Circular procurement for a sustainable learning environment (Aalborg, Denmark)

In 2017, when the Danish municipality of Aalborg decided to set up a new framework agreement for school furniture, it decided to use the opportunity to transform its approach to one that creates an inspiring learning environment that supports learners' needs while also strengthening the circular economy (rather than solely focus on tables and chairs). Aalborg approached this procurement by asking potential suppliers/companies to not just supply, but to inspire and challenge, and provide a comprehensive proposal for a new classroom environment.



Following an extensive phase of market dialogue and engagement to prepare the launch of the procurement, along with including a long list of sustainable development requirements, Aalborg decided to include four example cases of potential classroom redesign briefs, which would allow bidding companies to showcase their ability to fulfill the overall purpose of the tender. These briefs included a description of classrooms' needs and an overview of the furniture in use (which could be reused or refurbished), for instance.

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

Introducing green criteria for contracting cleaning services in Romania

The National Environmental Guard (GNM) is the body responsible for environmental protection in Romania, and is one of several authorities in Romania supporting the uptake of GPP. In 2017, the GNM decided to 'green' its first public and targeted the new contract for cleaning services (for its 35 offices) by introducing specific requirements for environmentally friendly cleaning products, toilet paper and paper towels.



Green considerations were introduced as minimum technical specifications, which were derived from the EU Ecolabel and the Romanian GPP Guide. The insertion of green criteria had a positive institutional effect, as it encouraged GNM to develop a systematic process for conducting GPP. The winning contractor provided the cleaning service using products carrying the EU Ecolabel. GNM are now in the process of developing a Public Procurement Plan that will include specific targets for GPP in line with the national ones under development as part of the Romanian GPP National Action Plan.

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

To read more GPP examples, visit the European Commission's GPP [website](#). Previous issues of the GPP News Alert are available [here](#).



Zoom in on... Data centres

The EU-funded [EURECA](#) project has highlighted the importance of optimising IT deployment (refresh, utilisation, etc.) in order to minimise the environmental impact of data centre facilities, reducing their energy consumption as well as running costs. As well as training modules and a market directory, EURECA has created a [tool](#) which helps procurers assess energy efficiency and profile of their data centres. [Published scientific work](#) is also available.



Zoom in on... Recycled concrete in Berlin

Public buildings made from [recycled concrete will soon become the norm in Berlin](#), once the changes to the regional public procurement law (for public works) are in place. All public buildings with a construction spend of over five million euro will be required to be built using recycled concrete. Recycled concrete is an opportunity to close the loop in building materials, and create a more circular lifecycle for buildings.

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