

Building a more sustainable construction sector



For most public authorities, the construction and renovation of buildings represents a major share of annual expenditure – in some cases over

50%. Better construction and use of buildings in the EU could influence 42% of our final energy consumption, about 35% of our greenhouse gas emissions and more than 50% of all extracted materials – as indicated in the [EU's Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#).

Examples of good practice from cities undertaking GPP for construction and renovation projects and an update on the EU GPP guidance for the sector were presented during the GPP Helpdesk's first Webinar on 23 April. The approach used for the

new EU GPP criteria for office buildings, which is to be adopted by end 2013, was presented by the European Commission. The criteria will cover the design, construction, use and disposal phases of newly constructed office buildings and major renovations. Some of the key principles for green construction projects that encourage innovation were presented by the Finnish company Motiva. This was complemented by a contribution from WRAP (UK) who presented clear guidelines on ways to integrate recycled content in construction materials through procurement. This was followed by a presentation on a "lighthouse" school construction project in Larvik, Norway. It was concluded that effective interaction between users, clients and contractors from the planning stage is fundamental to achieve environmental and other quality goals. All presentations given during the event are available [here](#). A second webinar will take place during the second half of 2013. Suggestions as to the topic of focus are welcome, please write to gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org.

Focusing on price alone for ICT is risky business



Gabriella Blomgren, Marketing Director at TCO Development and former Vice Mayor for the City of Örebro (Sweden) is involved in sustainability issues and procurement in ICT.

How can public procurers help drive the market towards more sustainable ICT products and services? They can achieve this by setting clear sustainability goals for the procurement of ICT. A recent report from the City of Malmö showed that ICT is the City's second largest spend category, and is also one that faces substantial risk of human rights violations in the production chain, as well as enduring high costs from a life cycle perspective. Many Swedish cities have set 25% of their food purchases to be ecological – we suggest that a similar thing be done for ICT products/services.

We also encourage procurers to become bolder, particularly those working in local government. Procurers should also go for best value, which isn't

necessarily the lowest price. If you buy the cheapest computers you might have to pay a higher price at another stage of the life-cycle including take-back. You also contribute towards unacceptable working conditions during production and in the e-waste phase. Set sustainable development criteria as a pre-condition – it will save you money and additional costs over the whole life cycle.

Can dialogues with the market bring about better results for sustainability? Dialogues with suppliers on where your organisation is heading is crucial. We encourage procurers to engage with the market at the planning stage to help get what they want in the long and short-term. This also makes it possible to shape the demand for improvements of the products you buy. With clearly defined needs and policies, all cities can indirectly be part of product and service development.

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

Zoom in on... GPP in the Slovak Republic



A [series of seminars](#) in the Slovak Republic are being held to inform and equip contracting authorities with knowledge and mechanisms to implement GPP. The next event will take place on 15 May in the region of Banská Bystrica.

A number of [resources](#) for GPP in Slovak are available online. Progress on implementation is monitored annually via a questionnaire and a [Helpdesk](#) on GPP is also available.

Zoom in on... funding for innovative solutions



Over six million euro are available for (mainly) European public procurers to form consortium or buyers' groups of innovative solutions, which are not yet available on a large-scale commercial basis.

The three areas of focus are: clean vehicles and vessels and related mobility devices excluding information and communication technology (ICT) solutions; sustainable construction; and more efficient use of raw materials, including recycling.

The [call](#) closes on 28 May.

Zoom in on... training on SPP in Germany



Last year saw concerted action to get the topic of sustainable public procurement (SPP) onto programmes for training public sector staff in Germany.

A series of eight tailor-made train-the-trainer sessions were held, which focused on the practical side of implementing SPP, including also approaches for integrating life-cycle costing (LCC).

A summary of the results are available [here](#) (in German).

Zoom in on... online e-learning modules for SPP



These new online e-learning modules are designed to help procurers achieve cost savings by using resources more efficiently, and sending less waste to landfill.

Developed by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), they are free to use and are designed to help both private and public sector professionals. They cover numerous high priority areas, such as construction, major refurbishment, ICT and furniture.

[More information.](#)

GPP examples

Framework agreement for zero-emission vehicles in Oslo, Norway



Pursuing its objective of having a zero-emission vehicle fleet by 2015, the City of Oslo has concluded a framework agreement to replace a thousand cars and vans with environmentally friendly options in the years to come. The move feeds into the City's "zero-emission technology" policy, established in 2010.

A range of pre-procurement activities were undertaken by Oslo prior to setting up the framework agreement, which included a thorough testing phase of the new vehicles by their users, and extensive communication of the City's policy for vehicles. The latter included a

dialogue with all major suppliers about Oslo's plans.

As road transport contributes to 55% of overall direct emissions in Oslo, the current practice will put the City on the right path for meeting its climate policy goals.

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

Promoting life-cycle thinking in construction in Jyväskylä, Finland



In 2010 the City of Jyväskylä began the Jyväskylään Optini project, which aimed at enhancing innovation and promoting life cycle thinking in procurement. The innovative procedure was piloted with the construction project of a school and day-care centre where specific targets for energy efficiency and sustainable development were included. Construction is expected to be completed by July 2015, and maintenance, management and refurbishment services will be provided by the contractor until 2033.

The essential new element in life-cycle procurement was to transfer the risk of exceeding the agreed limits of energy consumption from the customer to the service provider. The limits for heating energy, electricity (excluding user electricity demand) and water consumption, as well as the payment terms and price risk for exceeding the limits, were established in the service contract. If, on the other hand, consumption is below the limits set, the savings are shared 50/50 between the customer and the service provider. Because of the latter, the contract encourages the use of the property as energy efficiently as possible.

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

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