

PPI Platform offers exciting new resource for procurers



With Europe's economy facing serious challenges, there is a need to find innovative and sustainable solutions to stimulate the market. Experts suggest that dedicating just 1-2% of public spend on such products and services could have a significant effect on the market penetration of innovative firms. In recognition of these issues, the Procurement of Innovation (PPI) Platform has been developed, an online hub assisting public authorities, procurers, policy makers, and others with PPI and pre-commercial procurement (PCP). Co-funded by the European Commission (EC), the platform was launched on 29 October at the event "[The Path to](#)

[Growth: Achieving excellence in business friendly public administration](#)" in Brussels (Belgium).

"Public procurement of sustainable and innovative goods and services is one of the essential tools for stimulating new technological or service solutions while helping to create jobs and boost the competitiveness of the European industry and SMEs," said Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the EC and Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship.

The PPI Platform is comprised of a website, Procurement Forum, and Resource Centre. The website contains the latest news on PPI and PCP developments and events, and offers policy and legal support. The Procurement Forum is a professional networking space for procurers and stakeholders from around Europe. The Resource Centre provides a database for PPI guidance.

To visit the website, click [here](#).

Zoom in on... GPP Webinar on 26 November – register now!

Webinar
Web-based seminar
live online educational presentation
viewers can submit questions
see slides while the speaker
interactive elements - the a

A webinar on organising GPP internally will be held on November 26 as part of the [EU Helpdesk on GPP](#). The webinar will look at how GPP policies can be translated into effective initiatives and processes. It will also provide examples of procedures which aid the implementation of GPP within an organisation on a day-to-day basis. Participation is open to all.

To find out more and register contact gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org

Leading up to a Nordic GPP initiative



Sven-Olof Ryding is the Managing Director of the Swedish Environmental Management Council (SEMCo). SEMCo is the Swedish Government's expert organisation on GPP.

Could you describe the scope and strategy of the new initiative? The Nordic GPP idea has arisen from an initiative started by the Prime Ministers of the Nordic Region – Leading in Green Growth. One of the eight measures identified to stimulate green growth was green procurement. The Nordic Prime Ministers recognise that knowledge and experience on GPP in the region is extensive, however this could be better utilised among the Nordic countries themselves and by other countries and regions.

A group of experts, which SEMCo forms part of, have been assigned the task of identifying Nordic green growth opportunities that can be brought about through public procurement.

One of the central proposals that is to be put forward is about cooperation and coordination. One example is setting up a Nordic Centre for GPP Excellence to assist organisations in the Nordic Region with GPP in a practical way, such as through documenting and sharing good practice experiences. Establishing a Nordic GPP network, and working outside typical 'business as usual' scenarios to bring together suppliers and procurers to help drive new ideas and innovations, are some of the other important measures that are being put forward.

What are some of the opportunities the initiative will lead to? Regarding Nordic authorities, we will be creating rather practical concepts for GPP with the aim of creating green growth. For the Nordic business sector, we aim to establish a platform for companies and authorities to get in touch and more effectively communicate together on GPP issues.

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

Zoom in on... 7th Environmental Action Plan (EAP)



On October 22, the European Parliament gave its green light to an earlier political agreement with the Council of Ministers on the new EAP "Living well, within the limits of our planet", running up to 2020. The new EAP is to be formally approved by the Council in mid-November. Regarding GPP, the Plan actively encourages Member States and regions to "take further steps to reach the target of applying GPP criteria to at least 50% of public tenders".

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... Buyers of eco-innovative catering solutions



Image: Dreamstime

Public authorities and companies interested in participating in procurement activities on eco-innovative catering solutions have the opportunity to do so through the INNOCAT project. INNOCAT - Procurement of Eco-innovative Catering is a European collaboration between public and private buyers who wish to procure eco-innovative catering solutions over the next two and a half years.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... New UK policy guidance on clean vehicles



Image: ACTEXPO, Flickr.com

A Strategy from the UK Office for Low Emission Vehicles was published last month, describing UK Government initiatives to support a transition towards the use of ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs). Along with a £1 billion support package for grants and incentives, infrastructure and industry, the UK ['Government Buying Standards'](#) for transport will be revised in February 2014 to help fulfil the ambition to have effectively zero emissions from the UK car fleet by 2050.

[More information...](#)

GPP examples

Västra Götaland's public buildings & offices improved by GPP



Image: SXK

With an annual procurement budget of 10 million euro for furniture alone, the Swedish Region of Västra Götaland (VGR) is one of the country's most significant purchasers. Its sustainability demands are therefore very influential on the market, which has responded positively over the years by developing new prototypes to meet accessibility and environmental needs (following eco-label requirements).

VGR has been working with manufacturers and suppliers from the furniture and interiors sector since 2002 on improving sustainability requirements. This has resulted in the development of the Green List – a purchasing list in the form of a product catalogue presenting products that meet specific eco-label requirements. The approach has been widely consulted across Sweden and is in use by other municipalities in the Västra Götaland region. It has also served to boost knowledge and green ambitions in the furniture industry, and has played a strong role in advancing the environmental maturity of the market in Sweden. In 2012, VGR met their target of more than 50% of their volume of furniture purchases stemming from the Green List.

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

Environmental requirements for print products for Cognac (France)



Image: Rodney Ramsey, Flickr.com

The Municipality of Cognac decided to use overarching sustainable development criteria as part of its new print strategy, which involved the consolidation of all printed services. Cognac is part of Reseau Grand Ouest (RGO), a cross-sectoral network of organisations committed to driving sustainable development through public procurement. The sustainable development criteria used as part of this tender process were put together in collaboration with other members of RGO.

Those tendering for the eight lots under the framework agreement for print services were awarded for offering materials which are printed on recycled paper, or derived from forests certified as being sustainably managed. Points were also available for using vegetable-based inks, which are non-toxic to humans and the environment.

The sustainability criteria have been fulfilled by the successful bidders at no extra cost to the municipality, in fact the consolidation of the print orders has reduced costs significantly, as well as the frequency of deliveries of printed materials.

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

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