

## Tapping into the potential of networks

The [European Resource Efficiency Platform](#) was established to provide high-level guidance to the European Commission (EC), Member States and private actors on the transition to a more resource-efficient economy. One of the actions called for under its [Manifesto and Policy Recommendations](#) is to deliver a stronger and more coherent implementation of green public procurement (GPP). Specific mention is made of the role that networks could have in spurring implementation.

The EC therefore commissioned a study evaluating the options for supporting a European GPP network. The resulting [report](#) summarises the most successful (training, workshops and working groups) and challenging (monitoring and developing guidance) networking activities for GPP. Use of eco-labels and the link between green and innovative procurement were seen as areas of potential focus for networking activities. The study also revealed the potential for

greater interaction (or integration) between networks operating at different levels.

Many of the networking activities identified in the study form part of the EU-funded [SPP Regions Project](#). This project aims at raising knowledge, skills and capacities amongst public authorities – through direct collaboration between public authorities within specific regions in procurement activities, and through strengthening best practice exchange and market intelligence at the European level in sustainable and innovative procurement. New networks will be established, and existing networks strengthened in the participating regions: Barcelona, West France, Rotterdam, Torino, Bristol, Gabrovo and Copenhagen. Networking activities will include an intensive capacity building programme and collaboration on at least six tenders per region. The project will also strengthen existing European networking activities of the international [Procura+ Campaign](#).



### Zoom in on... Good practice on GPP

The good practice examples on GPP featured in the [GPP News Alerts](#) are now presented in a clearer format on the European Commission's GPP website

As previously, the examples are divided into 19 thematic sections; however, the new drop down function makes it easier for readers to find examples relating to a specific procurement category. There are over 110 good practice examples of GPP from across Europe available on the website.

[More information...](#)

## Challenges and opportunities for green purchasing in Latvia



*Zane Ramane manages national and European funded programmes in the environmental sphere at the Latvian Environmental Investment Fund (LEIF) including those in the field of GPP.*

### What is LEIF's role in the framework of GPP?

The Fund's mission is to reduce environmental pollution, and to promote the implementation of environmental protection projects. The Fund works to achieve this by increasing the capacity of municipalities and commercial organisations to implement high quality projects in the field of environmental management. Since November 2013, LEIF has been a partner in the EU-funded [PRIMES](#) project. As part of

PRIMES, LEIF provides technical support to Latvian municipalities for developing GPP requirements in public tender procedures, organises training on GPP, and works on supply chain development.

### What do you see as the main opportunities for GPP in Latvia?

Political support, the development of technical knowledge, and the provision of financial support, such as the current economic environment and financial support programmes, have been significant in developing GPP approaches. Latvia's current national GPP implementation plan (2015-2017) sets out the targets for municipalities and other public and state institutions to reach over the coming years. The target for 2015 is 15% and 30% by 2017.

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



### Zoom in on... United Nations (UN) sustainable procurement

A recently published report from the UN highlights the increase of sustainable public procurement (SPP) by UN institutions from 10 organisations in 2010, to 29 in 2014. It outlines how SPP is being integrated into procurement processes via specific interventions such as including sustainability criteria in the definition of requirement & using life-cycle costing in financial evaluations. The report also highlights the UN's SPP goals for 2015.

[More information...](#)



## GPP examples

### Resource efficient print and copy management solutions in Italy

In 2014, Italy's central purchasing body (Consip) launched a framework agreement for print and copy management services for use by the entire Italian public sector. Consip's aim was to move away from single user printers and copiers which lead to a great deal of printing and thus higher costs. A mechanism called Click and Save was sought through the procurement - a means for rewarding less printing.



The GPP criteria included require compliance with the latest version of Energy Star and apply an innovative system based on service provision rather than buying printers. Advanced GPP criteria include training courses, compliance with criteria for hazardous substances and resource efficiency.

The new print and copy management services are expected to save approximately 6,887,979 kWh per year and 34,439,895 kWh during the lifetime of the service. This translates to CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 4,417 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per year and 22,085 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents during the lifetime. The framework agreement has an approximate value of €54,322,400.

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

### The Welsh Waste Infrastructure Procurement Programme

Established in 2008, the Welsh Government's Waste Infrastructure Procurement Programme serves to implement the national strategy, Towards Zero Waste, and help address the affordability of sustainable waste infrastructure in Wales. The Welsh waste strategy aims to reach 70% recycling by 2025 and a target of "zero waste" by 2050.



The Programme is unique (particularly in the UK) for its approach to procurement.

The value for money benefits resulting from the Welsh programme for the public sector have been substantial, not least because of a stronger level of market interest in a highly collaborative government approach. Competition is maximised through a neutral procurement approach to technology and facility ownership. Financial savings against forecast future costs for the Welsh public sector amount to over 700 million euro to date, and are forecast to rise significantly further. Monetary savings have also been created with use of a standard contract; reducing legal costs and creating a more straightforward commercial environment for the market. The programme-led pre-qualification process delivers time and cost savings for local authorities and bidders, with an average of over 30 bidders per project.

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

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



### Zoom in on... Catalan SPP web-portal

The start of July saw the launch of the web-portal [www.comprasostenible.net](http://www.comprasostenible.net). The website provides an entry point for Catalan speaking public bodies to find all the information they need on sustainable procurement. Many resources available inside the portal are also in Spanish. The information and resources available aim to provide support to policy-makers and procurers, as well as multipliers. The website has been developed through the EU-funded [GPP 2020 project](#).



### Zoom in on... Reuse service

With 60% of NHS (National Health Service) Scotland's carbon emissions coming from its supply chains, the organisation is looking for ways to reduce purchasing in the first instance.

The NHS Tayside (Scotland) therefore procured a reuse service from [WARP IT](#) – which creates a convenient marketplace where staff can quickly see if another organisation has a surplus item available. In the first two months of the contract, NHS Tayside saved approximately 43,000 euros.

[More information...](#)

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