

European Commission publishes new Circular Procurement brochure

How much leverage can public procurement provide to support the transition to a circular economy? The new European Commission brochure includes guidance and good practice to shed light on this point.

The brochure – Public Procurement for a Circular Economy – begins by considering the policy framework, the strategic thinking and planning recommended before embarking on a public procurement process, through to guidance on strategies for engaging the market and consideration of the various steps in the procurement hierarchy (based on the European waste hierarchy): reduce, reuse, recycle and recover. The different phases are complimented by good practice experiences from across Europe.

‘Circular procurement’ has the potential to transform how public bodies approach their purchases. As well as placing greater emphasis on fulfilling needs and considering lifetime costs, circular economy



principles can also facilitate a more holistic consideration of environmental impacts and waste creation across the whole life-cycle of goods and services.

The [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#) (2015) highlights the key role of public procurement in driving forward the transition to a circular economy. The brochure builds on the direction set in the Action Plan by providing a range of practical steps for considering circularity when carrying out green public procurement (GPP).

Download the brochure [here](#).



Zoom in on... EU 'Communication' on public procurement

A new [Communication from the European Commission](#) (EC) was issued on 3 October 2017 called 'Making Public Procurement work in and for Europe'. The EC presents six priority areas, where it considers that clear and concrete action can transform public procurement into a powerful instrument. The first of these – ensuring wider uptake of strategic public procurement – acknowledges that using green, social and innovative criteria in procurement forms part of strategic procurement, and calls for this “to be applied systematically”.

[More information](#)



Zoom in on... Webinar on GPP of Furniture

The next webinar of the [EU GPP Helpdesk](#) will take place on 29 November 2017 (14.30-16.00, Brussels time) and will focus on the newly updated EU GPP Criteria for Furniture. Details about the new GPP guidance (scope, environmental 'hot spots', proposed solutions, etc.) for this product area will be complemented by a selection of good practice experiences. Registration is open.

[More information](#)

URBACT Procure Network creating sustainable local economies



Tamar Reay is the Lead Partner Coordinator for the URBACT Procure Network. She works for Preston City Council, in the United Kingdom (UK).

What is the URBACT Procure project and what does it aim to achieve?

[Procure](#) is a two-year project connecting 11 cities from across Europe to exchange and learn how to create a sustainable local economy through the innovative use of public procurement. Procure partners are exploring how public procurement can bring about environmental, social and economic benefits for businesses and people, which in turn will have a positive impact on the city and its local economy.

The 11 partners in the network are Preston City Council (UK), Almelo (Netherlands), Koszalin and Lublin (Poland), Albacete and Candelaria (Spain), Nagykovács (Hungary), Satu Mare (Romania), Prague District 9 (Czech Republic), Metropolitan City of Bologna (Italy) and Koprivnica (Croatia). They are working both together and in their individual cities to harness the spending power of public procurement for positive change.

This project is funded by the [European Regional Development Fund](#), through the URBACT III Action Planning Networks programme.

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



GPP examples

Using recycled concrete in the construction of new buildings in Berlin (Germany)

In order to encourage greater demand for recycled concrete, the City-State of Berlin has required the use of recycled concrete in a number of public construction projects. This includes the recent construction of the Berlin Institute for Medical System's new laboratory building at the Max-Dellbrück-Centre for Molecular Medicine, which commenced in 2015.



Image: Staab Architekten

Along with an earlier pilot project, this project has proved that recyclers are able to produce high quality aggregates which meet all necessary standards (such as strength, class and consistency) and require no special or additional handling during installation. As a result, the Berlin will require the use of recycled concrete in all of its future public high-rise construction projects. This will replace around 100,000m³ of standard concrete per year.

The extraction of primary resources used in concrete production can lead to environmental damage and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. It is possible, however, to reduce these impacts and create a more circular lifecycle for buildings by making greater use of recycled aggregate in concrete production.

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

Building a sustainable pre-school using ecolabel standards in Hyvinkää (Finland)

In 2015, Hyvinkää City in Finland set out to procure a new pre-school. As well as providing a healthy, comfortable and flexible space for learning and play, the City also wanted the new building to contribute to environmental aims, including promoting eco-efficient construction and energy efficient building use.



Image: Hyvinkää Municipality

Prior to tendering, Hyvinkää conducted an in-depth dialogue process with the market. As well as gathering information on the best solutions available in terms of energy, materials and building techniques, the City consulted the market to see if there was any interest in forming a partnership to build the first [Nordic Swan Ecolabelled](#) pre-school building in Finland. After it was demonstrated that the market was willing and able to meet such an ambition, a call for tender was published. The resulting bids were all lower in price than anticipated, and the contract was awarded to the most economically advantageous tender.

Construction of the pre-school has now been completed, and it was awarded the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in August 2017.

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



Image: Pixabay

Zoom in on... Mobility as a Service

On 29 September 2017, the EU-funded [SPICE](#) project hosted a webinar on the role of public procurement in setting up a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) scheme. MaaS is a single mobility service which integrates all possible public and privately provided transport modes into one single service accessible on demand. The webinar provided information for public buyers interested in starting or joining a MaaS scheme.

[More Information](#)



Image: Fotolia

Zoom in on... Waste management

A collection of the lessons learned, including insights into the needs of public procurers operating in the waste sector, the barriers they face, possible solutions and opportunities, and policy recommendations has been published through the EU-funded [PPI4Waste](#) project. Boosting resource efficiency through innovation procurement, on the basis of the waste hierarchy, has been the cornerstone of the 30-month project, which concluded in September.

[More information](#)

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