



Portugal's National Strategy for Green Public Procurement makes progress

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What is the current status of Green Public Procurement (GPP) in Portugal's National System for Public Procurement?

The National Strategy for GPP for the period 2008-2010 was first approved by the Council of Ministers Resolution no. 65/2007 of May 7th. This was Portugal's first strategy for the introduction of environmental criteria into procurement procedures. Since then, our strategy was updated and the most recent strategy ([ENCPE 2020](#)) – which was adopted by Council of Ministers Resolution no. 38/2016, of July 29th – has built on the experience acquired since 2008, and provides an important reference point that demonstrates the importance of GPP for the sustainability objectives of Portugal's public administration.

Part of the strategy has involved identifying priority groups of products and services, and developing Criteria Guidelines for these. Between 2018 and 2020, Criteria Guideline [working groups](#) (WG) were established to bring together representatives

from buyers, suppliers and other national stakeholders. These WGs were responsible for taking the voluntary [EU GPP Criteria](#) as a starting point, and adapting these to national circumstances.

Twelve national voluntary GPP guidebooks containing criteria sets have now been developed for the following products and services: Office building design, construction and management; electrical and electronic equipment used in the health care sector; road lighting and traffic signals; copying and graphic paper; food catering services and vending machines; transport; sanitary systems; public space management; road design, construction and maintenance; furniture; cleaning products and services; and, textile products and services. These are all available on our dedicated [ENCPE 2020 website](#).

The first monitoring exercise, which took place early 2021 and will soon be published in the Monitoring Report of the Strategy, revealed that under 20% of public procurement exercises (and their respective budget) between 2017 and the first

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quarter of 2020 contained green criteria. The monitoring also revealed, however, that this trend is growing, and the publication of the first twelve criteria guidebooks is expected to boost these numbers. In addition, three new working groups have been established and have just begun work on further Criteria Guidelines for water-based heaters, imaging equipment, consumables and print services, and finally, data centres, server rooms and cloud services.

How are you working to raise awareness of GPP in Portugal?

Raising awareness of GPP among all the different public buyers in Portugal is important in order to promote and encourage the use of green and circular criteria in public procurement. The APA has organised several events to disseminate ENCPE2020 and launch the green criteria working groups. Despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly restricted our ability to host face-to-face sessions, we have continued to participate in online sessions, often in collaboration with other organisations. For example, the APA collaborated with the [Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia \(LNEG\)](#), which is currently responsible for organising the GPP training activities in Portugal with funding from the European Commission. These training actions were carried out in a mixed format (face-to-face and online), and are aimed at publicising the opportunities related to the inclusion of green criteria in public procurement, with practical advice on how to do so.

In 2020, 18 online training sessions were also carried out within the scope of the BASE Portal (which contains all relevant info on public procurement

and is of compulsory use for all public bodies). The training sessions were delivered to around 150 entities and 300 participants, in which the information necessary for the correct filling of data and the dissemination of ENCPE were disclosed. Through this training, many entities became aware of the existence of the green criteria available through the GPP guidebooks and nationally adapted guidance materials, and have started to use them.

Going forward, the widespread dissemination of the GPP Guidebooks and their associated environmental, economic and social benefits to public entities will be one of our top priorities. With this in mind, a public session for the presentation of ENCPE 2020's results is planned during 2021, after the completion of the monitoring report.

How will your next ENCPE strategy for GPP further support green purchasing in future?

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environmental impact throughout its life-cycle.

Consequently, a set of guidelines has already been identified for the next strategy, which is expected to be adopted during 2022. In particular, the next strategy will define mandatory criteria for certain products/services. This will be done in line with European Commission's proposals with appropriate adaptation to our national context.

In the next strategy, we also plan to: create guidelines and/or compensatory mechanisms which prevent the adoption of the "price" criteria as the primary criterion when choosing proposals; guarantee the inclusion of "circularity" in the definition of green criteria; and reconsider the "end-of-life" concept to enable new circular flows, such as reuse, restoration and renovation.

In addition, as part of our next strategy, we will be reviewing our governance model in order to improve its effectiveness. Among other things, this will include creating a systematic review process to ensure that our GPP Criteria Guides are updated with new or more recent green and circular criteria, in order to reflect technological development and market trends.