

New practical guidance to help public buyers with innovation procurement

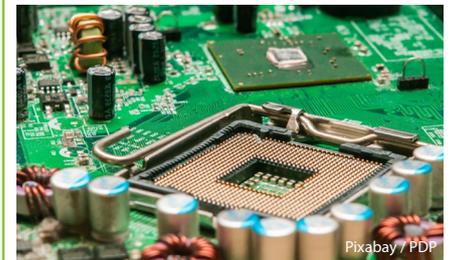


On 22 June 2021, the European Commission released new guidance for contracting authorities in the EU on the practical aspects of innovation procurement: why it is important, who may be interested in it, and how this process can be done.

The [Guidance on Innovation Procurement](#) clarifies the concept of innovation procurement and gives concrete examples and practical tools for public buyers to implement procurement strategies that are open to innovators and to help them acquire the new solutions the market can provide. For instance, rethinking how a new car fleet is deployed to reduce its environmental impact, as was done in Portugal by the Ministry of Health; or by setting up a Board composed of elected officials who discuss strategic

procurement decisions at an early stage - as is done in the City of Paris. The guidance reflects the responses given in a prior consultation thus builds upon the experience gained through past implementation of innovation procurement. The level of detail has been deliberately chosen so that it reaches the widest professional public (buyers, policy makers and suppliers) and triggers interest in those who never thought of it, those who never felt concerned, while including useful initiatives and examples for the most advanced readers.

“Innovation procurement opens the door to higher quality and more efficient solutions that value environmental and social benefits, better cost-effectiveness; and new business opportunities for enterprises.”



Zoom in on... GPP Helpdesk webinar on ICT equipment

On 24 November 2021, the European Commission's GPP Helpdesk will host a webinar on the [EU GPP criteria](#) (updated in March 2021) for Computers, Monitors, Tablets and Smartphones and their practical implementation. The criteria have been designed to encompass the most important environmental impacts during the life cycle of these products - product lifetime extension, energy consumption, hazardous substances, end-of-life management. They also include criteria for refurbished or remanufactured devices and related services. [Register here](#).

**19th EUROPEAN WEEK of
REGIONS and CITIES**
Together for Recovery #EURegionsWeek

Zoom in on... European Week of Regions and Cities

The full [programme](#) (11-14 October 2021) for this year's event, which focuses on the themes of Green Transition, Cohesion, Digital Transition and Citizens Engagement, is available online. Some sessions/side events centre on green procurement, such as how it relates to [circularity](#) or for reaching [climate protection goals](#).



GPP good practice

Vending machines for food and beverages - University of Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy)

The University of Cagliari (UNICA) is a public higher education institution with approximately 25,000 enrolled students and 3,000 staff. It is located in Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, an island located in the Mediterranean Sea.

UNICA's procurement of a food and beverage vending service with 64 machines in September 2019, through a concessions contract, resulted in four suppliers bidding for a five-year contract worth €210,000. This particular concessions contract is part of UNICA's sustainability policy and aims to improve the services provided by the University in terms of environmental sustainability, through the reduced use of plastic and the promotion of circular waste management.

The procurement procedure included mandatory requirements about the provision of fresh or processed food produced using organic farming methods (at least 40% of a range of foodstuffs must come from organic production), while the use of plastic to store carbonated drinks, cold tea, fruit juices and other drinks (for example, energy drinks) was not allowed. Points were awarded for product packaging with less or no plastic, and dispensing water without the use of plastic, among others. The vending service also results in the recovery of coffee residues by a specialised company for the production of plant fertiliser.

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



Zoom in on... New Dutch Procurement Action Plan focuses on impact

The Netherlands have drawn up a new National Action Plan on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) for the next five year period - [Commissioning with ambition, procuring with impact](#). Evaluation has shown broad support for SPP, but still too little uptake. To significantly boost the impact of procurement the most important bottlenecks are being addressed with new instruments and support mechanisms. Important activities are:

1. activating the key people who determine procurement demand to create a greater uptake of SPP,
2. creating more commitment to action by setting up a more stringent SPP Manifesto,
3. maximising impact in the most important sectors by creating buyer groups and making specific agreements, and
4. taking an integrated approach to sustainable procurement wherever possible.

Interview



Making meals more sustainable and healthier – results from Strength2Food

Angela Tregear is Professor of Marketing at the University of Edinburgh Business School, with research specialisms in food and agriculture. From 2016-2021, she led an investigation of the sustainability impacts of school meals services in Europe, within the [Horizon 2020](#) funded project [Strength2Food](#).

How can food quality schemes be harnessed further to positively affect sustainable development?

Food quality schemes are helpful to sustainable development, because they can promote the extension of good practices across a community of growers/farmers that might not otherwise happen, and impose mechanisms for monitoring compliance with agreed standards. They can offer a means to protect and reward farming systems that deliver public goods (e.g. cleaner environment, biodiversity,

cultural heritage), which would otherwise be vulnerable under global market forces. At their best, food quality schemes are also very helpful to sustainable public procurement, as they provide contracting authorities with a means to easily identify and specify sustainable goods, both when designing tender documents and also when evaluating supplier bids in contract award processes.

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

To read more GPP examples, visit the European Commission's GPP [website](#). Previous issues of the GPP News Alert are available [here](#).

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