Study on the implementation of life cycle assessment and environmental footprint methods in the context of public procurement

In November 2021, the European Commission published the results of a study on the implementation of life-cycle assessment (LCA) and environmental footprint methods in the context of public procurement.

The study builds on the Commission’s Environmental Footprint Initiative, launched in 2013, which supports methodological harmonisation in the field of LCA as a potential suitable basis for enhancing environmentally driven policies.

This study aims at supporting the Commission in assessing how to best address LCA-based information in public procurement procedures, by evaluating existing practices in nine European Economic Area (EEA) countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland), and assessing how LCA-based instruments may serve contracting authorities (procurers) and tenderers (suppliers). An analysis of relevant regulations, literature and an empirical approach that integrated interviews with experts on Green Public Procurement identified various instruments of interest. All of these entail benefits and limitations and none can be seen as applicable in all EEA countries without adaptation. Nevertheless, this study shows existing requirements and identifies possible best practice approaches and future options.

The study can be found [here](#).

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**Interview**

**Putting GPP plans into concrete actions in Greece**

Dr. Anastasia Zacharopoulou is a public procurement expert working for the General Directorate for Public Procurement (GDPP) – part of the Ministry of Development and Investments. Since 2017, she has been working on the National Action Plan (NAP) for Green Public Procurement (GPP).

Could you tell us a bit about the role of the Greek CPB when it comes to green procurement?

The GDPP is the Greek central purchasing body (CPB) for goods and services and it is a national policy maker in Greece, which provides centralised public procurement procedures, mostly framework agreements, to contracting authorities and disseminating horizontal public procurement governmental policies to all public purchasers in the country, including universities. In addition, it coordinates the National Strategy for Public Procurement (a broader strategy covering everything public procurement related), the NAP for GPP and is also the national competence centre on innovation procurement.

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

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**Zoom in on... Computers, monitors, tablets and smartphones**

The presentations and recording of the webinar on GPP of Computers, Monitors, Tablets and Smartphones organised by the GPP Helpdesk on 24 November are available online. The webinar served to present details of the EU GPP Criteria developed for this area along with two good practice examples (from Italy and the Netherlands). [More...](#)

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**Zoom in on... Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**

On 15 December, the Commission published a proposal for new rules governing the energy performance of buildings in the EU, aligning them with the European Green Deal and Renovation Wave Strategy. The Commission proposes that as of 2030, all new buildings must be zero-emission. To harness the potential of faster action in the public sector, all new public buildings must be zero-emission already as of 2027. [More...](#)
GPP good practice

**Combining procurement models for green and healthy buildings**
(South Moravian Region, Czech Republic)

This month’s GPP Good Practice Case provides an in-depth insight into the recent procurement undertaken by the regional government of the South Moravian region in the south east of the Czech Republic. The case is also the 200th GPP Good Practice Case published in the GPP News Alert!

In April 2018, the regional government began to prepare the tendering process that was to build a new treatment facility for respiratory diseases near the town of Ostrov u Macochy. It sought to undertake an approach which gave ample opportunity for the market to supply offers to make the new building as aesthetically pleasing, user friendly, and energy efficient as possible. The process included both a preliminary market consultation and a market dialogue event, both to test the clarity and feasibility of the procedure and to better prepare the tender documents. As such, the procurement procedure combined multiple methods. The tender itself was awarded using a combination of the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation and Architectural Design Contest (as the final stage of the process). For the first time ever, the South Moravian Region applied the Design and Build approach, and Building Information Modelling (BIM) in the design, implementation, and operational phases of a construction project.

The winning tender offered a number of sustainable solutions, including reusable (or fully recyclable) components of the existing main construction and interior design solution enabling simple layout adjustments in future. The building design also envisages rainwater collection and its subsequent use for irrigation, with its surplus being absorbed directly in the sanatorium area. Furthermore, the successful tenderer committed to achieve an annual consumption of non-renewable primary energy (NPE) valued at 93 kWh/m²/year, and an average heat transfer coefficient through the building envelope (Uem) of 0.21 W/(m².K) (with the aim of Uem ≤ 0.25 W/m².K).

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

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