

Scaling up the global use of sustainability standards in public procurement



The ISEAL Alliance and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) recently announced the launch of an innovative three-year project to increase the use of sustainability standards so as to improve public procurement practices around the world, particularly in emerging economies.

This first-of-its-kind initiative has two distinct, yet interrelated streams: one focuses on increasing awareness and the use of sustainability standards in Brazil, India and China, and the other focuses on supporting international governments to incorporate sustainability standards into public purchasing, with the end goal of improving sustainability outcomes.

On a global scale, the project aims to enhance the credibility and consequently a greater use of

sustainability standards in public procurement. To achieve these goals, ISEAL and project partners will build awareness of sustainability standards among procurement officials and develop tools to strengthen existing and emerging public procurement structures globally, with special emphasis on emerging economies. The project team will, for example, carry out research on sustainable public procurement best practices, organise capacity building workshops, produce guidance documents and other customised tools for using standards in SPP.

The project will result in advice for global governments on how to use sustainability standards in SPP. ISEAL and partners will also develop globally agreed principles that leaders can use to evaluate the credibility of standards systems and a system for classifying the different sustainability claims on the market and how these can be factored into procurement decisions.

Read the [full report](#)

Zoom in on... Consultation on EU environment policy priorities for 2020



The European Commission has launched a public consultation to gather views on the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme, which will set out priority objectives to be pursued up until 2020. The EC is interested in the opinions of stakeholders regarding environmental challenges such as increasing biodiversity and resource efficiency, and making the shift to a low-carbon economy.

The consultation remains open until 1 June and can be answered [here](#).

Click [here](#) if you are answering this consultation on behalf of a public authority

Building Sustainable Public Procurement in Portugal and Greece



Paula Trindade is the coordinator of the Building SPP project, and a researcher at LNEG (National Laboratory of Energy and Geology, Portugal). The Building SPP project aims to develop and implement activities that result in the promotion and mainstreaming of sustainable procurement practices in municipalities of Portugal and Greece.

Which actions were or are currently being implemented through the program to promote SPP?

The creation of the Building SPP website and the establishment of the Procura+ Network in Portugal and Greece are two of the main actions of the Building SPP project. Through both these instruments, we disseminate information on SPP, organize thematic workshops and training opportunities for public procurers, and provide a platform for engagement between public procurers and potential suppliers through a series of workgroup meetings. We are currently developing an interactive SPP Toolbox which will help public authorities define and implement sustainable procurement strategies,

and an SPP Training package which will compile in depth information for public authorities on implementing sustainable procurement. Experiences gathered through the project will ultimately result in recommendations for National Action Plans for Public Procurement in both countries.

What have been the main achievements of the project so far?

We believe this is the first program in Portugal and Greece focused on capacity building in SPP. Currently 29 public bodies in Portugal and 85 in Greece regularly participate in meetings and workshops through the Procura+ network. Since the advent of the network, three meetings and three thematic workshops have been organised in Portugal, and four of both in Greece. In Portugal, a 4 day training session was organised at the end of 2011, which welcomed 40 participants from public administrations. Participants were encouraged to bring along draft tenders, for which they would develop environmental criteria during the training sessions. A conference has also been held in March 2012 in each country; the conference in Portugal was attended by approximately 60 participants.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview

Zoom in on... Mainstreaming GPP in Nordic countries



This report contains the results of a scoping study on the potential for mainstreaming green public procurement in Nordic countries. The report provides recommendations on how GPP can be better integrated in other policy areas, such as energy and innovation policy. Guidelines for compiling statistical information on public procurement as well as adding life cycle information to procurement tools are also provided.

[More information](#)

Zoom in on...Webinar on encouraging innovation through SPP



SMART SPP is a European project promoting the introduction of innovative low carbon emission technologies and integrated solutions onto the European market through public procurement.

You can watch their online webinar, held on 10th April, to learn more about Smart SPP, innovative technologies developed, approaches to pre-procurement of these technologies, managing risks in pre-procurement, life cycle analysis tools, and more.

[See the webinar here](#)

Zoom in on... The sixth LIFE+ call for proposals



The sixth LIFE+ call for proposals was recently published offering up to €276 million for co-financing of projects under three headings:

- Nature and biodiversity;
- Environment policy and governance;
- Information and communication.

Public procurement related projects will be eligible to receive funding. Project proposals should be sent to the relevant national authority no later than 26 September, 2012.

[More information](#)

GPP Examples

Green cleaning services in Denmark



In 2006, the Danish Government launched the national Governmental Procurement Programme, which aims to streamline the public tendering process and standardise services provided to national government departments and agencies.

Under the umbrella of this programme, in January 2012 the Danish Agency for the Modernisation of Public Administration launched a joint framework contract for cleaning services in Denmark's government departments and agencies.

The tender for cleaning services sets out minimum environmental requirements that will need to be met by service providers working with all government departments and agencies. The framework contract is divided into five lots, each of which covers government departments and agencies located in one of the country's five regions. Five companies were selected through the pre-qualification process to deliver cleaning services that utilize ecolabelled products, use reduced amounts of water and energy as well as minimize hazards to human health and the environment.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Zero carbon refurbishment in an east England school



Commissioned by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the Governors of Westborough Primary School, Westborough Primary School embarked on a project to reduce the school's carbon footprint and become the country's first zero carbon school.

Since its opening in 1915, Westborough Primary School has undergone a variety of adaptations and additions. The need for repair and refurbishment of the school provided an opportunity to build a more sustainable school. To reach this goal, the school, with the help of an architectural design firm, focused on reducing energy demand, addressing inefficiencies, and selecting low carbon energy supplies.

A performance review of Westborough School following the refurbishment showed gas consumption was reduced by 65.8% and electricity use reduced by 65.6%. This corresponded to a 66% of reduction of CO2 emissions. Westborough School provides a good example of how retrofitting existing structures can contribute to significant reductions in energy consumption, and consequently, CO2 emissions.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

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