

Rich debates at EcoProcura 2012



The EcoProcura conference 2012 was held in Malmö, Sweden from 19-21 September on the theme 'opportunities to deliver sustainable procurement and innovation'. The European-wide forum on SPP attracted purchasers from all levels of government, suppliers, policy-makers as well as representatives from the European Commission and European Parliament.

The conference addressed a variety of issues in the field of sustainable, green and Innovation procurement: updates on the latest legislation and available guidance to encourage the uptake

of SPP; the current status of the proposed EU PP Directives and the points of the revision key; the latest projects to foster innovation through public purchasing, and finally what are the key barriers and solutions to the actual implementation of sustainability in procurement processes.

Many more subjects were tackled in smaller formats, allowing for exchanges on specific aspects ranging from LCC to networking and the ways of how to best include social aspects in procurement.

If you were not able to attend the conference, you can catch up with the Live Updates [here](#).

The outcomes of the conference will also be uploaded onto the Procurement Forum. Sign up [here](#).

New GPP good practices brochure



Since January 2010, the European Commission has developed examples of GPP in practice to illustrate how European public authorities have successfully launched 'green' tenders, and provide guidance for others who wish to do the same. The new "GPP brochure of good practice examples" presents some of the most interesting examples collected over the years. It highlights some of the specific actions that have been undertaken by public authorities to implement GPP in public contracts. We hope the brochure will help to inspire public (and private) procurers to opt for green products and services when making their purchasing decisions.

Read the brochure [here](#)

The Baltic Green Public Procurement project



Karl von Bothmer is the coordinator of the Baltic GPP Network Group, which will establish a wide capacity building program on GPP across the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The overall aim of the project is to increase the uptake of GPP in the entire region.

2012. Members are encouraged to keep in touch between meetings in order to pass on experience and news to each other.

If the members so desire, it is possible to start one or several projects within the scope of GPP. Currently there is one active project under the GPP Network Group. The project aims to develop common training material for GPP to be used by procurers in the member states. The project is headed by the Swedish Environmental Management Council, SEMCo, the Swedish government's expert body on environmental and other sustainable procurement. The activities of SEMCo are intended to initiate and further develop the systematic and voluntary work on sustainability issues for organisations in the public and private and third sector.

How do you keep track of your achievements?

The meetings are the focal point for the Network Groups activities. Open issues from the last meeting are addressed at the following one. However, as the goal is to create a forum for dialogue, the measures of the group can vary.

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Who is the Baltic GPP project aimed at and how will it help them?

The Baltic GPP Network Group consists of members from countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Representatives in the group are mainly from government environmental agencies from the member states. The Network Group aims to provide a forum for member states to raise current and future issues regarding GPP.

What actions will be implemented through the project to increase the uptake of GPP in the BSR?

The members usually meet twice a year to discuss the trends in GPP in the member states. The last meeting took place in Tallinn, Estonia in June

1st European Conference on e-Public Procurement



In December 2011, the European Commission proposed new Directives for Public Procurement, introducing mandatory e-Public procurement (ePP) after 2016 (including eTendering). The 1st European Conference on e-Public Procurement will provide an opportunity to discuss the implications of the single digital market on public procurement, examine the role of ePP and related legislation, present new advances of e-Public procurement software, discuss strategies to simplify e-Public procurement, and discuss best practices. The conference will take place in Barcelona, 20th March 2013.

Registration can be performed [online](#), while information on the conference programme may be found [here](#).

Public consultation on Waste Water Infrastructure criteria



The cohesion and structural funds have invested and continue to significantly invest in waste water infrastructures. In this framework, DG Regional policy of the European Commission is developing, in cooperation with DG Environment, green public procurement criteria for the tendering of such works. The draft criteria and accompanying technical background report are now in public consultation in order to receive input from all interested stakeholders. The consultation is open until 14 December 2012.

Please see [here](#) for further details on the consultation. The Commission intends to publish the final criteria in early 2013.

Buying Green! now available in 22 languages



Buying Green! is the Commission's main guidance document to help public authorities buy goods and services with a lower environmental impact. It is also a useful reference for policy makers, and businesses responding to green tenders. Its updated second version is now available in 22 languages [here](#).

The second version of the Handbook includes:

- Guidance on how environmental considerations can be included at each stage of the procurement process
- Examples drawn from contracting authorities across EU Member States
- Sector-specific GPP approaches for buildings, food and catering services, electricity and timber

GPP Examples

Retrofitting trams for energy efficiency in Craiova



In 2008, the Romanian city of Craiova joined 3 other European cities under the framework of the CIVITAS Mobility, Development and Energy Reduction (MODERN) initiative, co-financed by the European Commission. Through the CIVITAS Initiative, the European Commission aimed to support cities in the implementation of sustainable urban transport strategies. The Local Council of Craiova Municipality's main objective was to increase the overall quality of life of its citizens through the reduction of pollution generated by transport and the implementation of energy-saving measures. To reach this goal, one of the measures undertaken by the city was to improve the energy efficiency of its existing tramlines.

Modernisation of the trams would include the replacement of old drive systems with electric choppers that control the electric current used by the trams. 9 trams were upgraded with the chopper based system, achieving a 35% reduction in energy consumption. These trams were previously out of commission due to the inefficiency of the older system. Due to the installation of this new system, Craiova has been able to reduce the costs of running parts of its electric urban fleet, increased passenger capacity across the system and reduced pollution related to energy consumption. The technology employed in Craiova's trams is also currently being promoted in the neighbouring countries.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Supply of sustainable concrete at the London Olympics



The London bid to host the 2012 Games set out a vision and plan for how the Games could play a major role in the revitalisation of east London. Equally important was achieving this in a sustainable manner, providing value for money, and leaving a lasting social, economic and environmental legacy for east London. From the outset, the Olympic Delivery Authority set challenging sustainability targets for the procurement of materials for the Olympic Park. The ODA aimed to identify, source, and use environmentally and socially responsible materials.

Initial estimates made for the Park indicated that 500,000 cubic metres of ready-mix concrete would be required to build both the sporting venues and for supporting infrastructure. Through sustainable design initiatives and rationalization of materials the actual volume poured was closer to 400,000 cubic metres with a further 20,000 cubic metres precast off-site. Overall, the Park claimed to have reduced the embodied carbon associated with the Park concrete by approximately 24 per cent (equivalent to 29,000 tonnes) compared to industry average concrete with 18 per cent ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS) cement substitution.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

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