

## Big Buyers Initiative: public authorities joining forces for strategic procurement

The [Big Buyers Initiative](#) has launched and is bringing public buyers together for strategic public procurement and to drive the development of innovative goods and services on the European market. By working together, and pooling their resources, cities, central purchasing bodies, and other major public procurers can maximise their market power and impact.

[ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#) and [EUROCITIES](#) are currently running the Big Buyers Initiative on behalf of the European Commission. The Big Buyers Initiative is looking for ambitious and committed public authorities willing to work together to develop pioneering approaches to procurement and develop joint strategic actions to help move the market.

A series of working groups, involving buying organisations, will be set up by July 2019 to collaborate on a specific sector for up to one year, through a series of face-to-face and virtual meetings.



Activities will include developing joint statements of demand, organising market engagement activities, developing technical specifications and tender criteria, collecting and sharing best practice, and even joint procurement. The buyers involved will determine the targeted outcomes for each group. One group has already been set up, focusing on the development of market capacity for zero-emission construction sites in cities and the procurement of such solutions.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Big Buyers Initiative or want to find out more, please contact [ICLEI](#).



### Zoom in on... LCC tool for Computers & Monitors

The European Commission has developed a new tool to calculate the Life-Cycle Costs (LCC) of Computers and Monitors for public sector purchases. The tool is accompanied by a User Guide aiming to make its use for GPP is easier. The LCC tool can be used for desktop computers, portable computers and monitors, and forms part of a collection of sector-specific tools due out this year.

[More information...](#)



### Zoom in on... Abolishing child labour

The Netherlands have passed a new law requiring companies to ensure that there is no child labour in their supply chains. On 14 May 2019, the Dutch Senate voted to adopt the Child Labour Due Diligence Bill, under which Dutch companies will have to conduct due diligence to address child labour in their supply chains. More information about the practical implications of the new law are available [here](#).

[More information...](#)

## Innovation procurement brokerage for circular textiles



*Camilla Raagaard Ernst, Project Leader at [Gate 21](#) (Denmark), facilitates public-private innovation by working with public contracting authorities to identify emerging green solutions using*

*dialogue and collaboration, and support innovation procurement processes.*

### How does Gate 21 support public authorities on green procurement?

Gate 21 is a partnership between municipalities, companies and knowledge institutions that work with the common goal of accelerating the green transition.

Our vision is to make Greater Copenhagen the leading region in the world for green transformation and growth. We base our strategy on the use of regional and local demand to develop, demonstrate and deploy new solutions for a green transition, with an emphasis on circular economy and energy efficiency.

This year Gate 21 is celebrating its 10th anniversary. With our partners, we have generated results and presented new concrete paths for the green transition.

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



## GPP good practice

### Sustainable procurement of desktop and portable computers by the Region of Stockholm (Sweden)

The [Region Stockholm](#) has been pioneering the inclusion of environmental and social criteria in information and communication technology (ICT) since 2010. It aims to promote innovation in the ICT sector by demanding products which are free from hazardous substances, which have a low environmental impact from a life cycle perspective, and which reinforce social responsibility in the supply chain.

In 2018, Stockholm went through the process of retendering its contract for ICT. As a sector with large market players and complex global supply chains, this process started with supplier dialogue, where proposed sustainability criteria and contract performance clauses were discussed and revised.



With this information, and building on previous experience, Stockholm created a tender which included a range of requirements, including energy efficiency, exclusion of hazardous substances (halogen and mercury), and packaging requirements. In addition, additional points were available in the evaluation stage for suppliers who could provide additional chemical and life cycle assessment benefits.

The process, however, does not stop here. Monitoring supplier performance is an important part of Stockholm's approach, and it has followed-up on nearly all ICT contracts since 2015 with desktop or factory audits. As well as encouraging greater compliance, it also allows the process to be assessed and improved for future years.

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](#).



#### Zoom in on... Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The recent [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) outlines pathways to achieve transformative change. Amongst others, it identifies the need for public procurement policies to promote sustainable production and consumption, such as by increasing efficiency in forest product use, and in the sustainable production and consumption of food.



#### Zoom in on... Biodegradable Plastics

An [EU-funded project](#) recently tested the behaviour of biodegradable plastics in managed composting and anaerobic conditions, as well as under simulated environmental conditions, such as in seawater or soil. A better understanding of the behaviour of biodegradable plastics and their blends would help inform product design, as would adaptations to waste management.

[More information...](#)

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