

EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) Policy Dissemination and awareness raising

Newsletter



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Promoting GPP in Member States



WHEN

On 10 and 22 March, national conferences on GPP were held in Cyprus and Hungary, respectively.



WHO

The events brought together a large number of national stakeholders, who learned and shared about the state of play and the prospects for GPP in their home countries.



The participants, more than 100 in each event, were mainly decision-makers and procurers from all levels of government. Industrial and consumer associations, NGOs, suppliers, academia and the research community also took part.



The targets (10%) for the reduction of paper consumption and the purchase of recycled paper have been met in full.

Criteria for energy efficiency are widely incorporated in tenders for IT equipment and lighting systems. Over 200 public officials have signed up for the implementation of GPP in the energy sector.

Furthermore, tenders for the installation of solar panels and photovoltaic systems on public buildings, schools, hospitals and military camps have already been finalised. The overall budget is 5.3 million euros and completion of the works is expected by mid-2010.

Organic food is already being purchased for several schools and hospitals, but more needs to be done for other key product groups, such as transport.

Development prospects

The GPP NAP will be reviewed in 2010, and key steps taken:

- including the product groups of the EC GPP Toolkit that are still missing
- revising the implementation targets
- consolidating the use of life-cycle costing for evaluation of tenders
- increasing the use of environmental management systems as a qualification criterion or as a contract performance clause
- strengthening the GPP monitoring system
- reinforcing the capacity of contracting authorities, at the local level especially, through GPP training and awareness-raising.

About the conference

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, in conjunction with the ITCILO, and was opened by the Minister, Demetris Eliades.

Presentations were given by experts of the organizing Ministry, the International Institute of Management (CIIM), the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and the ITCILO.



National conference highlights:

10 March 2010, Nicosia



Cyprus has a GPP policy and a National Action Plan (NAP) for 2007–2010. It concerns central government authorities only. Other government levels have to formulate their own action plans.



The priority product groups, 11 in all, were selected because of their environmental impact, the volume of expenditure on them, the availability of green criteria and the readiness of the market to meet those criteria. The products include electric and electronic equipment, construction, food, paper and cleaning.

GPP is already happening

An assessment of the NAP's implementation was recently made. The results show that GPP is already happening in Cyprus, and that it brings both environmental and financial benefits.



National conference highlights:

22 March 2010, Budapest



In Hungary, the GPP National Action Plan has been drafted and will be adopted through government regulation by the end of 2010. This is expected to be a significant step towards GPP.

The aim is more efficient use of natural resources and a boost to green innovation in industry through wider uptake of GPP.

The NAP prioritises paper, IT equipment and transport as a result of a market readiness analysis. Guidelines and criteria for those 3 product groups were developed by a task force, led by the Ministry of Environment, and are based on the EC GPP Toolkit.



Targets	Central procurement		Other procurement	
	2011	2011	2011	2011
Office IT equipment	90%	100%	45%	90%
Copying & graphic paper	60%	80%	45%	67%
Vehicles	80%	100%	45%	90%



These targets will be made mandatory for the Central Purchasing Agency, and they will be recommended for other government authorities at the central and local level.



The Hungarian ecolabel

In 1994, Hungary introduced a national ecolabel system to encourage products and services of high quality and with a low environmental impact.

Currently, in Hungary, 593 products from 60 companies hold the national ecolabel, while 272 products from 7 companies hold the EU ecolabel, with a turnover of 600-650 billion HUF a year. This certainly supports GPP practice.

The Central Purchasing Agency

The Central Purchasing Agency undertakes procurement for central government authorities, including the health sector. Rationalization of public expenditure, better supervision and increased transparency in the use of public money, along with cost savings, are the expected benefits.

The Agency has already issued green tenders for copying paper, office IT equipment and hybrid vehicles. The focus is on energy efficiency, waste management, recycling and reprocessing, use of alternative types of fuel and sustainable technology.

GPP in the city of Budapest

Budapest has had its own green procurement action plan and regulation since 2006. The aim is to have green criteria in at least 40% of city's public tenders. Considerable savings have already been achieved through the installation of energy-efficient public lighting and the renovation of public buildings with innovative heating and insulation systems. The next step is raising the awareness of end-users.

About the conference

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Water and held at an environmentally friendly site, the Regional Environmental Centre in Budapest.

Presentations were given by experts from the organizing Ministry, the Public Procurement Authority, the Central Purchasing Agency, the Regional Environment Centre, the Municipality of Budapest and the ITCILO.

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The conferences' programmes, presentations and pictures are online at: <http://www.itcilo.org/gpp>



GPP in your country



Municipality of Avigliana, Italy "BUY GREEN AWARD" FOR A TENDER OF CLEANING SERVICES



case study

The buy green award

In Italy, every year a "buy green award" goes to the procuring authority with the best GPP policy and the best green tender. It is an initiative by the Forum Compraverde and seeks to encourage and disseminate good GPP practice.

Innovative GPP for cleaning services

In 2009, the Municipality of Avigliana, in the province of Turin, won the "buy green award" for a tender for cleaning services. The tender, for the cleaning of the municipal buildings, included both environmental criteria and socio-ethical considerations.

Two aspects of the procurement procedure were particularly innovative: reporting on the type and quantity of products used and training of the supplier's personnel.

The contract award

The contract was tendered through an open procedure. The award criteria were formulated as follows:

- up to 50 points to the offer with the lowest price;
- up to 50 points to the offer with the best quality of the proposed service, including reduced environmental impact.

The contract was awarded to an Italian social cooperative for 2007-2009.

Green criteria for cleaning products

The environmental considerations incorporated in the tender include:

- use of biodegradable detergents that comply with criteria from type I ecolabels (e.g. EU ecolabel, Nordic Swan)
- content of volatile components no higher than 10%
- content of certain solvents (ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, acetone) no higher than 30%.

Training of personnel

Training courses had to be run for the project staff before starting the service and thereafter at least annually. The training covers:

- environmental and health risks of the cleaning products
- appropriate use and dosage
- correct use of protective equipment.

The dates of the training had to be communicated at least 30 days in advance. Public officials in charge of the contract attended. A full report (including table of contents, presentations, list of participants and attendance sheets) was submitted immediately after the training course.

Contract monitoring

Every six months, the contractor had to provide detailed information on the type of cleaning products used and the levels of consumption for each type of surface (e.g. floors, desks, windows, tiles).

The aim was to make sure that green cleaning products and environmentally friendly cleaning methods were used!

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The State Regional Development Agency, Latvia PURCHASE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY IT EQUIPMENT

The State Regional Development Agency (SRDA) operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government. It is responsible for the development and operation of the e-procurement system in Latvia.

case study

The SRDA is the central procurement body. It organises procurement on behalf of all state and municipal entities (approx 300). It procures and signs framework agreements with suppliers which allow purchases through an e-procurement system (www.eiepirkumi.gov.lv).

Environmentally friendly IT equipment

In early 2009, a number of contracting entities expressed interest in purchasing energy-efficient IT equipment. In order to satisfy this request and to create a new e-catalogue for this product category, the SRDA publi-

shed an open tender for a framework agreement.

Suppliers were invited to submit offers for environmentally friendly desktop computers, laptops and monitors. Selected bidders would be included as potential suppliers in the e-catalogue. The lowest-price award criterion was used.

Formulating the technical specifications

In order to draw up the technical requirements, the SRDA looked for well known international standards for energy efficient and environmentally friendly IT equipment. The EPEAT standards were deemed to be the most advanced and appropriate ones.

Desktops, laptops and monitors that meet 23 obligatory environmental performance criteria may be registered with EPEAT by their manufacturers in 40 countries worldwide. Overall, EPEAT standards contain 100 environmental and user-oriented criteria.

Amongst these criteria are requirements for:

- minimum 65% use of reusable/recyclable materials;
- elimination of paints or coatings that are not compatible with recycling or reuse;
- declaration of recycled content on packaging;
- provision of product and rechargeable battery take-back service;
- identification and removal of components containing hazardous materials;
- availability of additional three-year warranty or service agreement.
- In addition, EPEAT is in line with many others standards, including ENERGY STAR.

Registered products are rated gold, silver or bronze depending on the percentage of criteria they meet in addition to the 23 baseline/mandatory ones. EPEAT operates a verification programme to ensure the credibility of the registry.

For the procurement in question, bids meeting the "silver" level requirements were deemed acceptable. However, the SRDA decided to add criteria for:

- maximum power consumption of 250W
- PSU to be marked with '80PLUS' or equivalent label
- noise level measured using ISO 7779/ISO 9296 no higher than 30db.

The SRDA received proposals from 5 suppliers and signed the framework agreement with all of them.

The e-catalogue

The e-catalogue of environmentally friendly IT equipment has been operating since 15 November 2009. Purchases by contracting entities in the first two months reached 35,952 LVL, approximately 51,000 euros.

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case study

Strovolos Municipality, Cyprus GPP AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

The Municipality of Strovolos, with over 70,000 inhabitants, is the second largest Municipality in Cyprus.

The GPP action plan

In 2008, the Municipality drafted and adopted its own GPP action plan for 2008–2010. It also developed a handbook for green tenders. The aim is more environmentally responsible management.

Quantitative targets for 2008 – 2010

Examples of quantitative targets are:

- 10% reduction of paper consumption
- 25% increase in use of biodegradable plastic bags
- 20% increase in use of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- 10% increase in use of recycled toilet/kitchen paper.

The products and actions have been prioritised on the basis of cost, ease of implementation and availability of green options on the national market.

Implementation

All the officials involved in the procurement action have been trained in how to prepare and conduct green tenders. Business seminars are held regularly in order to inform suppliers of the scope of the action plan and of green requirements for upcoming public tenders. A GPP dedicated Web page is about to be published on the Municipality's website.

Other initiatives:

- a pilot project for improving the energy efficiency of the lighting system in the Municipality's Linear Park
- a "Covenant of Mayors" signed by different cities in 2008 with a commitment to go beyond the EU policy objectives of reducing CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020
- less paper consumption through more use of electronic communication.

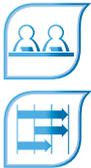
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Forthcoming GPP National Conferences

this document has been edited with ecofont
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Eight other GPP national conferences, in the national language with simultaneous translation into English, will take place in May and June 2010.

For further information please see
<http://www.itcilo.org/gpp>

Venue	Organising Institution	Date
Paris, France	Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea & Ministry of Budget	12 May 2010
Rome, Italy	Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea & Ministry of Budget	18 May 2010
Dublin, Ireland	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government	21 May 2010
Prague, Czech Rep.	Ministry of Environment	27 May 2010
La Valletta, Malta	Office of the Prime Minister	8 June 2010
Brussels, Belgium	Ministry of Social Security	22 June 2010
Lisbon, Portugal	Environmental Agency & National Agency for Public Procurement	25 June 2010
Athens, Greece	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change & Ministry of Economy	30 June 2010

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Participation is free.
We invite you to take part!



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