

Sustainable Procurement

Issue 47 | October 2010

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the quarterly Update on Procura⁺, the European Sustainable Procurement Campaign, and ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement activities in Europe.

You can also read more about Procura⁺ Campaign developments by visiting the Campaign website www.procuraplus.org. You can find more information about ICLEI's projects on Sustainable Procurement at www.iclei-europe.org/procurement

ICLEI welcomes your contributions. Just send your news to procurement@iclei.org. News from Procura⁺ Campaign Participants and ICLEI members enjoys publishing priority!

If this newsletter does not display properly, please click here to view it online:
<http://update.sustainable-procurement.org/index.php?id=8004>

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1. GPP Helpdesk – a new EU-wide service for public authorities

GPP is one of four voluntary instruments included under the EU Helpdesk initiative, launched by the European Commission's (EC) [Directorate-General for the Environment](#) in January this year.

The EU Helpdesk provides support and promotes initiatives on GPP and three other key schemes managed and put forward by the EU - [EMAS](#), the [EU Ecolabel](#) and the [Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs \(ECAP\)](#). Although GPP is a voluntary instrument, it has a key role to play in the EU's efforts to become a more resource-efficient economy and for stimulating eco-innovation.

The aim of the GPP Helpdesk is to promote and disseminate information about GPP, and to provide timely and accurate answers to stakeholders' queries. Queries may be submitted to the Helpdesk in English, French and German. Contact details for submitting a query are available [here](#).

ICLEI is working with BIO Intelligence Service to deliver the GPP Helpdesk service offered by the EC.

As part of the work, the [EC's GPP website](#) has recently been updated with new content, including:

- GPP criteria and background reports for eight new product groups
- Comprehensive information on the policy and legal framework for GPP
- Links to helpful studies and projects on green and sustainable procurement

- A section on frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a glossary of relevant terms

In addition, a monthly electronic newsletter called the GPP News-Alert is being published. The newsletter features a selection of practical experiences from public authorities from across the EU on implementing GPP, in the form of one-page case studies. It is also used to present recent developments and upcoming events on GPP, as well as interviews with stakeholders.

To subscribe to the GPP News-Alert, please visit ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/alert_en.htm and follow the instructions. If you have a story or case study that you would like to see published in the newsletter, please contact [Abby Semple](#)

2. Project News

Stay informed with the SMART SPP Update

The latest edition of the SMART SPP project newsletter has been released. In this issue, public authorities from the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany are featured as the latest to be trained to use the new life-cycle costing and carbon dioxide emissions assessment tool (LCC-CO₂ Tool). Further training sessions for the tool are planned for the North-East of England in September.

The importance and value of early market engagement between public procurers and suppliers in the pre-procurement phase has already been recognised by several countries. Municipal and public authority partners in the project from Spain, Denmark, Austria and the UK are now using pre-procurement approaches for the purchase of low energy lighting and sustainable vehicle technologies.

SMART SPP – innovation through sustainable procurement aims to promote the introduction of low carbon emission technologies and integrated solutions onto the European market through encouraging early market engagement between public authority procurers, and suppliers and developers of new innovative products and services in the pre-procurement phase of public tenders.

Read the latest edition of the newsletter by visiting www.smart-spp.eu/index.php. For further information on the project, contact [Philipp Tepper](#).

3. Procura+ Campaign News

Ecosistemi partner with ICLEI to increase SPP actions in Italy

ICLEI entered into an agreement with **Ecosistemi** in July this year to reinforce and further increase action on sustainable public procurement (SPP) in Italy through the Procura+

Campaign. Ecosistemi is one of the leading technical consultant in Italy for SPP, particularly among local, regional and national government agencies and ministries.

The new partnership will ensure that Ecosistemi, as the Italian National Partner, and ICLEI, together will provide more support for sharing experiences, knowledge, resources and strategies for public entities in Italy through their networks.

Cooperation with the Italian **GPP Information Network**, coordinated by Ecosistemi, will be one of the main activities of the partnership. The GPP Information Network promotes the implementation of GPP at the national and European level with the goal of lessening some of the obstacles preventing action in this field. One of the core elements is to build up regional networks for GPP in Italy, based on the existing national model - the national GPP Working Group for **Local Agenda 21**.

To find out more about the activities in Italy, visit www.compraverde.it, or contact [Livia Mazzà](#) from [Ecosistemi](#).

4. Other news

Carbon literacy in the low carbon economy

The development of a low carbon economy is a core objective of the UK

Government but for many small businesses there remains a significant lack of understanding of what a 'low carbon economy' means, how it can be achieved and in particular, how businesses and individual members of the workforce can contribute and prosper in it.

Clear About Carbon is a three year [European Social Fund](#) project based in Cornwall, South West England, which aims to develop, test and deliver innovative approaches to increase the level of carbon literacy in the workplace. As a 'path finder' project, it aims to begin shifting focus towards the importance of developing a strategic understanding of carbon reduction between procurers and suppliers.

The Clear About Carbon project will seek to develop skills and competences to enable public sector procurement professionals to act as key drivers in developing a resilient, low carbon economy. The project is focused on translating the intellectual debates about tackling climate change and resource efficiency into a language and methodology public procurers and small businesses can understand. It also aims to identify and explore good practice in low carbon public procurement across Europe, and to capture learning outcomes and experiences, making sure these are shared and disseminated as widely as possible. ICLEI has an advisory role in the project and will assist in disseminating the results.

If your organisation is developing relevant work in this area or is interested in knowing more, please visit www.clearaboutcarbon.com or contact [Paul Holmes](#) from Clear About Carbon.

5. Event Reminders

[FAIR PROCURA 2010: Fair Trade Public Procurement, a Tool for Sustainable Development](#)
24 September, Dortmund, Germany

[Procura+ Seminar: Innovation through Procurement](#)
11-12 November, Helsinki, Finland

[Saving Costs and the Environment: Green Public Procurement in German Public Authorities](#)
18 November, Bremen, Germany

Subscribe? Feedback? Questions? Please let us know!

If you would like to Subscribe to the Sustainable Procurement Update, have any further questions, would like to give feedback on ICLEI's work in Sustainable Procurement or would like to be taken off this mailing list, please contact us at: procurement@iclei.org

The Sustainable Procurement Update is produced by the European Secretariat of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. Editors: Franziska Singer, Amalia Ochoa (responsible).

ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

More than 1,000 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns such as the Procura+ Campaign and programmes.

The Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign is an initiative designed to help support public authorities across Europe in implementing Sustainable Procurement and help promote their achievements. The Campaign was established in 2004 to help drive the mainstreaming of sustainable public procurement throughout Europe. Through participating in the Campaign, public authorities can contribute to a growing international movement and help bring about real change on the market.

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