

Sustainable Procurement

Issue 48 | December 2010

Dear Reader,

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=8090>

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1. Green public procurement in Germany – reflections from a German-wide training series

How can municipal departments work more closely together on green public procurement (GPP)? How can public authorities feel certain that they are using ecolabels correctly in their procurement procedures? What's the most effective way to train staff on the necessary skills and tools?

These are just some of the questions that have been addressed as part of the training series on GPP provided for German public authorities during the last year and a half.

The 20 training sessions have been attended by over 200 public sector employees, from mostly local authorities across Germany. Training has been done on GPP for public construction projects, for contracting cleaning services,

or for using life-cycle costing approaches, for instance. The sessions, partly funded by the [German Federal Environment Agency](#), were delivered by ICLEI and tailored to the interests of those which booked them. The [Öko-Institut](#) in Berlin supported the training series by providing further expert advice and monitoring outcomes.

Public authorities that have successfully implemented GPP say that it is fundamental to have political backing, and a central department coordinating implementation. The central department should then be supported by other specialists, for instance, experts on legal matters. Challenges still remain in overcoming financial barriers that can hamper longer-term sustainable investments, such as planning and accounting for the fiscal year. Cooperating more effectively with regional suppliers of green products, and informing the market in time about new GPP requirements, have been raised as strategies that can dramatically affect results. The majority of those people which took part in the training sessions voiced the importance of working with GPP policies that are more realistic and are supported by clear guidance on how to implement them.

One of the main conclusions of the training series is that training in this area should form part of internal training programmes of cities, and in the curricula of the training academies for civil servants, to ensure that staff is better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of implementing GPP.

The series of training sessions ended with a final event hosted and organised by ICLEI's member city [Bremen](#) (Germany) on November 18. Over 40 representatives from numerous public authorities came together to exchange their practical experiences, and listen to advice from expert presenters. For instance, tips on how to secure support for capacity building activities. The highlight of the event was the lively 'marketplace', where participants received practical advice in smaller groups. Getting around legal matters and setting up an effective GPP policy were two of the most visited tables in the market place.

Presentations and conclusions from the final event are available [online](#) (in German). If you are interested in ongoing training offers on sustainable procurement, take a look at ICLEI's [training and consultancy services](#).

For further information, please contact Philipp Tepper at philipp.tepper@iclei.org.

2. Project News

Join a peer to peer exchange on sustainable construction

This year's Procura+ Seminar in the City of Helsinki saw the official launch of the European network on fostering sustainable construction and innovation through public procurement - the [SCI-Network](#). The SCI-Network aims to bring together public authorities from across Europe to jointly identify new innovative solutions in construction, and examine how innovation can best be encouraged within construction procurement.



The public sector is responsible for 40 percent of European Union (EU) construction activity, with buildings responsible for 36 percent of the EU's CO₂ emissions. Stimulating sustainable innovation in the public construction sector would contribute significantly to local and global climate change efforts and targets. Participation in the network is free, and there are currently 30 public authorities participating, including the cities of London, Turin, Copenhagen and Helsinki. Five working groups have been set up on topics of relevance to the construction projects of the participants.

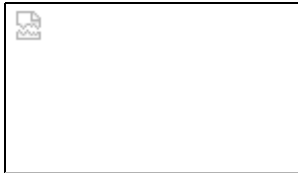
The Network was launched at this year's annual international event on sustainable procurement, the [Procura+ Seminar](#). The event was hosted by the [City of Helsinki](#), who is also an ICLEI member, and the current chair of the [Sustainable Procurement Campaign, Procura+](#). Innovation and how public bodies can capitalise on their purchasing power to encourage the production of sustainable goods and services was the overarching topic of this year's event. Over 90 representatives from 17 countries gathered at the two-day event in Helsinki on 11 - 12 November to share their knowledge and experiences on a theme of increasing interest to both policy makers and public authorities. The Procura+ Campaign is a framework supporting local government and public authority action on sustainable public procurement (SPP).

Visit the [SCI-Network](#) today and explore your opportunities for a peer to peer exchange on sustainable construction. Alternatively, please contact simon.clement@iclei.org for more information.

Gearing up for the Clean Vehicles Directive



December saw the deadline for EU Member States to transpose the EU [Clean](#)



Vehicles Directive (2009/33/EC) into national law. A small workshop was held as part of the **Procura+ Seminar** a few weeks ago in Helsinki to discuss how the EU Directive affects public tender procedures and examine the options for procuring cleaner and more efficient vehicles.

The Clean Vehicles Directive requires contracting authorities to take into account lifetime energy and environmental impacts when purchasing road transport vehicles. The impacts addressed by the Directive are energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and pollutant emissions. Authorities can either choose to set technical specifications which address each of these environmental impacts, or they can be assessed as part of the award criteria. If the award criteria approach is taken, a methodology is provided in the Directive for monetising each of the impacts.

The workshop reviewed a sample tender document developed by ICLEI as part of the European **Topten** project, to assist public authorities aiming to purchase cars and vans with high levels of environmental performance. The technical specification, award criteria and costing methodology were examined by the group for their usability and clarity. Following the workshop, some amendments and additions to the document have been adopted.

Have you applied one of the methodologies set out in the Clean Vehicles Directive? As part of the Topten project, ICLEI is gathering experiences in this area and will provide guidance and direct assistance to authorities. For more information, please contact abby.semple@iclei.org

3. Procura+ Campaign News

Cities gather in Helsinki for lively exchange on sustainable procurement

Procura+ participant cities Barcelona, Helsinki, Zurich, London and Reykjavik were joined by cities like Malmö, Vienna, Paris, Espoo, Gothenburg and Turin at this year's Campaign Participants meeting. The meeting was held as part of the Procura+ Seminar in Helsinki in November (see previous articles) and is one of the main opportunities for Campaign participants to share experiences with peers on SPP.



Experiences were shared about the use of benchmarking schemes, securing political support, organising training and creating links with other top policies, like innovation and climate change.

Opportunities were also available to discuss high priority topics in more detail in small working groups. Latest EU guidance on socially responsible procurement was one of these, were those who took part in the discussion felt that they are ready to walk the talk and will include more social criteria into their future tendering.

Interest in joining the growing movement of public authorities committed to sustainable procurement was high at the meeting. As Campaign Chair and Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Pekka Sauri, said "Let's work together on Procura+ and make it a Campaign that any public authority and city cannot miss joining."

Interested in a peer to peer exchange on SPP? Find out more about joining the Procura+ Campaign by visiting www.procuraplus.org, or by contacting philipp.tepper@iclei.org. All presentations and outcomes from the event in Helsinki are available online at www.procuraplus.org/helsinki

London ends the year with plenty of sustainable procurement activities on the agenda



The month of December is proving to be a busy period for responsible procurement activities in London.

The Mayor of London's Responsible Procurement Awards held on 6 December honoured achievements in sustainable procurement. The names of the all the winners and highly commended candidates can be found on their **website**, along with brief case studies of each of the winners.

On December 7, the Mayor, Boris Johnson, announced that extensive sustainability requirements will be included in the catering contracts of the Greater London Authority (GLA) Group. This commitment is the first

of its kind across such a large UK organisation, and demonstrates how organisations procuring their food can have significant positive impacts. From 2012, GLA group staff and visitors will eat healthier and see more environmentally sustainable food produced to higher welfare standards.

Finally, to conclude 2010, a second progress report 'Unlocking public value' is now available on London's Responsible Procurement website. The report includes an update on progress made across the GLA group in delivering responsible procurement outcomes through five good practice case studies, from the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police Service, for example - and an initial summary of wider initiatives.

The GLA has been a participant in the Procura+ Campaign since May 2008. For more information about the GLA's activities on responsible procurement, please contact the Central Responsible Procurement team on responsibleprocurement@tfl.gov.uk

Croatia's CPO steps up to the sustainability challenge

The Central Procurement Office (CPO) of Croatia joined the Procura+ Campaign in September, following the newly established partnership between ICLEI and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Croatia.

The CPO is a professional service set up in January this year for the national government, and aims to run joint public procurement actions in central state administration bodies. To facilitate the centralisation of its procurement activities, the Office endeavours to draw up tender documents which include sustainability requirements, whilst overseeing existing contracts and framework agreements. It will analyse the effectiveness of central procurement by regularly monitoring savings made and use these results as a basis for drawing up future product and service proposals.



Furthermore, the CPO will be promoting SPP through a network of procurers in Croatia. The network will be a forum for offering a number of support functions on sustainable procurement. Free advice to procurement officers, workshops on sustainable procurement, researching new approaches and participation in European projects will be some of the network's key activities.

For more information please visit the CPO's [website](#) or contact ivancica.franjkovic@sredisnjanaabava.hr

Avigliana Municipal Council strengthens its commitment to sustainable procurement by signing up to Procura+



The last couple of months have also seen Avigliana Municipal Council (Italy) sign up to the Procura+ Campaign. Avigliana is a municipality situated in the Province of Turin (Italy) with a population of 12,000 inhabitants. The municipal council's commitment to purchasing sustainably and reducing its CO₂ emissions is evident in many of its activities. Electricity, for example, has been powered exclusively from 100 percent renewable sources since January 2007.

Avigliana's City Council also won the "Buy Green Award" at the Italian Compra Verde International Forum in 2008 for its actions on greening the cleaning services carried out in municipal buildings. The tender, for the cleaning of the municipal buildings, included both environmental criteria and social 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.

Furthermore, Avigliana regularly purchases products labelled with the European Ecolabel and is also committed to setting a good example in the area of energy efficiency. Plans to install an energy efficient heating system in municipal buildings will soon be put into effect.

For more information, please visit Avigliana's [website](#) or contact aldo.blandino@comune.avigliana.to.it

4. Other news

Buying Social – new guidance published from the European Commission

The end of October saw the public release of the European Commission's guide on including social considerations in the public procurement process. The publication provides a detailed walk through the public procurement process, and details some of the experiences from a number of public authorities (local, regional and national governments) from various EU Member States.



Socially responsible public procurement is about using the purchasing power of public organisations to purchase products, works and services that have a positive social impact over the life cycle of the good in question. Purchasing uniforms for public workers produced under decent working conditions, or offering fair trade coffee and tea in vending machines, are just a couple of examples of what cities and other public sector bodies can do through their procurement actions.

Download a pdf version of "Buying Social – A Guide to taking account of Social Considerations in Public Procurement" [here](#)

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If you would like to subscribe to the Sustainable Procurement Update, please send an email stating so to procurement@iclei.org including in it your contact details.

If you 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 also 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 1,200 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+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign.

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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