

Sustainable Procurement

Issue 53 | July 2012

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/topics/sustainable-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=8523>

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1. Verifying Social Responsibility in Supply Chains-new guidance available

A practical and legal guide on social considerations for public procurers has been produced within the [LANDMARK project](#). The overall aim of the project is to enable European local authorities to act as drivers for the promotion of fair working conditions in global supply chains.

[Verifying Social Responsibility in Supply Chains](#) analyses different instruments of verification that

can be used at the various stages of a procurement process.

The guide demonstrates how verification schemes can be applied in a legally compliant manner by citing case law, providing examples of verification schemes developed and implemented across Europe, and by discussing the monitoring and measuring of compliance. One such measure is a bidder declaration, whereby a self declaration is submitted by the bidder to verify compliance with certain (social) criteria. This is quite common in Germany and model bidder declarations are included in the guide. Follow-up questionnaires are used by many municipalities in Sweden. The included 15-point-questionnaire is targeted at assessing the knowledge of working conditions of contractors along the supply chain.

A method which is not a formal part of the procurement process yet has been proven useful in the Netherlands is transparency and disclosure of the supplier and sub-contractors. This allows for NGOs and other civil society organisations to come forward with information they may have relating to compliance with required social standards. In Switzerland, bidders are asked to provide documentation proving that they comply with [ILO core convention](#) labour standards. For high risk products, an external audit is conducted - this very reliable tool requires substantial resources however, and cannot be transferred to the EU without additional modifications. A catalogue which includes a number of measures and means of verification for sustainable procurement of computers and textiles that was developed in Austria, is also included.

The use of labels, multi-stakeholder initiatives and codes of conduct to assist with verification of compliance with social criteria is presented with a number of practical examples. Finally, some sector-specific schemes relating to timber, construction materials and textiles are also discussed.

A [good practice collection](#) of a number of verification schemes used throughout Europe has also been published by the project. This series of case studies describes how organisations from different countries have approached the verification of social criteria at various stages of the tender process. Each study looks into how the compliance of direct suppliers is monitored and how this applies to the rest of the supply chain. It is hoped that procurement professionals and other key stakeholders will be able to use the experiences of their counterparts to develop or improve verification systems in their own authorities.

The legal guide and the good practice collection will be used in trainings for procurers and trainers in Germany, Portugal and Spain and will be presented at EcoProcura 2012. At the EcoProcura conference there will also be an interactive multimedia-stand demonstrating social aspects along the supply chain.

Translations in German, Catalan, Spanish and Portuguese are also available or will be so shortly.

The documents can be downloaded here: www.landmark-project.eu/en/guidance-tools For more information, contact philipp.tepper@iclei.org

2. Project news

Strengthening the uptake of SPP standards in emerging economies

With the support of the [Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs](#) (SECO), the [ISEAL Alliance](#) – the global association for social and environmental standards - has started a three-year project to strengthen the uptake of sustainability standards in sustainable public procurement in emerging economies. The objective of the project is to work closely with governments around the world, specifically in emerging economies, and help them to increase the scale, scope and effectiveness of their sustainable public procurement (SPP) efforts through the better use of sustainability standards.

As part of this project, ISEAL in collaboration with [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#), has conducted a series of interviews with a global range of public sector entities. The purpose of these interviews is for ICLEI to

undertake field-level research to assess the extent and manner in which sustainability standards, such as eco-labels, are being used by public sector officials to support SPP.

These interviews will feed into a baseline report on the current use of sustainability standards in SPP around the world. When completed it is anticipated that this comprehensive report will reflect the current global status, successes, needs and challenges faced in the use of sustainability standards in SPP policies and procedures.

For more information, go to www.isealalliance.org or contact Ignacio Giménez at ignacio.gimenez@iclei.org.

Purchasing the most energy efficient products on the market - Euro Topten Max

Euro Topten Max is a follow on project from Euro Topten Plus, aimed at facilitating the purchase of the most energy efficient products on the market. Topten is a consumer-focused online search tool, which presents the best appliances in terms of energy efficiency, impact on the environment, health and quality. Seventeen European national Topten sites have so far been established. National websites in the United Kingdom and Croatia are now well underway and should go live later this year.

Topten caters for large-scale procurement professionals as well as individuals through a specific Topten Pro webpage which contains sample tender documents and procurement guidance for a number of product groups. This guidance includes potential cost and energy savings, example technical specifications and award criteria. Topten therefore not only serves as a powerful instrument to raise public awareness on energy use, but also as a means to drive sustainable procurement by promoting transparency and influencing manufacturers.

A number of sections on national websites are planned and will be tailored to the Topten specifications developed by European countries. As part of the Euro Topten project, ICLEI is coordinating a pilot scheme to find six European local authorities to use Topten criteria in their tenders in order to demonstrate potential cost and energy savings.

Topten product criteria are continually revised, as inefficient products used for comparison are made obsolete and new, highly energy efficient products enter the market. Updates to all technical criteria and sample tender documents on the European Topten website have now been made and will be released imminently. Procurement guidelines for a wider range of product groups will also soon be available.

For more information, go to www.topten.eu or contact Natalie Evans at natalie.evans@iclei.org.

3. Procura+ Campaign News

Procura+ Participants' and National Partners' Meeting

The Procura+ Campaign will hold its Participants' and National Partners' meeting on 19 September 2012 before the start of **EcoProcura** in Malmö (Sweden). The meeting will take place between 9.30 and 11.30am, just before the start of the conference.

One of the main objectives of the gathering will be to finalise the Campaign's Action Plan as a group. There will be the opportunity for an exchange of information and good practice between Procura+ Participants, National Partners, ICLEI and others on socially and environmentally responsible public procurement. Newer participants will also briefly report on the progress their organisations have made to date on SPP.

The meeting will be open to those interested in the Procura+ Campaign and potential new Members as well as current Participants and National Partners.

For further information please contact natalie.evans@iclei.org.

Three new members join the Procura+ Campaign

The City of Gent (Belgium), the City of Turku (Finland) and the Region of Brussels (Belgium) are the latest additions to the Procura+ Campaign, joining cities from across Europe and beyond in the drive towards sustainable public procurement.

In 2008 the City of Gent introduced an action plan for sustainability, titled Gent 2020. Before 2020 more than 105 actions and projects will be implemented. This includes a sustainable procurement strategy centring on strategic procurement, with an additional focus on sustainable return on investment.

The City of Turku is currently implementing a long-term strategy for sustainable development with a strong emphasis on sustainable public procurement. By applying environmental criteria for their lighting and office equipment Turku expects to reduce its electricity consumption by 50 percent.

The Region of Brussels has organised general and specific training sessions on SPP. They also developed a network of Brussels green public procurers, which includes four training workshops per year and a website which centralises all relevant information about green procurement, in particular green procurement in the Region of Brussels.

For more information contact procurement@iclei.org

Procura+ founding Member receives Diamond Purchase Award for Sustainability

The [Barcelona City Council](#) was awarded the first prize in the category Sustainability and second prize in Public Sector procurement for their More Sustainable City Council programme. The Diamond Purchase Award was given from AERCE, the Spanish Association of Professionals in Procurement.

In particular their pre-procurement engagement on the market for electric vehicle charging stations and green vending machines using the [SMART SPP](#) project approach was honoured.

For more information (in Spanish) [click here](#).

4.Upcoming Events

Annual SCI-Network meeting & EcoProcura 2012

The next Annual [SCI-Network](#) (Sustainable Construction and Innovation through Procurement) meeting will take place on 19 September 2012 in Malmö (Sweden) – directly before the [EcoProcura](#) conference.

The meeting will focus on the presentation of a new SCI-Network Guide for public authorities to assist them in procuring innovative and sustainable construction solutions. This guide will be the culmination of the wide consultation round on the draft recommendations developed by the Network's five working groups. The meeting will provide an opportunity for public authorities to share their experiences in sustainable and innovative construction procurement.

The meeting is open to non-Network participants interested in the topic. If you are interested in attending the meeting please email: sci-network@iclei.org. The Guide is due to be published in September and will be available for download from the project website – www.sci-network.org.

Training on sustainable timber procurement

Training seminars for public authorities on sustainable timber procurement will be organised in six European countries between October 2012 and June 2013. The seminars will take place in Romania (October), Italy (November) Spain (November), Germany (December), Estonia (April), Hungary (June). Further seminars for SMEs in the timber sector will be organised in Romania, Estonia and Hungary in the same months.

The seminars are being organised by the [Sustainable Timber in Action](#) project, and are to be based around the sustainable timber procurement guide due to be published in August.

If you are interested in attending the seminars please email: procurement@iclei.org. The Guide and information about the training and will be available on the project website – www.sustainable-timber-action.org.

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Update on EcoProcura

The Market Lounge sections of EcoProcura are set to be interesting, varied and informative, and to stimulate discussion amongst delegates. With categories ranging from low impact detergents to socially responsible information and communication technology equipment and sustainable nano-products, the sessions promise to cater for all interests. Initiatives to support SPP such as carbon footprinting, using e-procurement, verifying socially-responsible public procurement, implementing innovation and measuring green public procurement are topics to be discussed. Confirmed contributors include representatives from local governments, not-for-profit organisations, universities, private companies and national organisations. You can find a list of the tables for the first round here: www.ecoprocura.eu/malmo2012/programme/day-1-wed-19-september/market-lounge-round-tables-1/ and for the second round here: www.ecoprocura.eu/malmo2012/programme/day-3-fri-21-september/market-lounge-round-tables-2/

The break-out sessions will present the latest good practice, research, guidance and tools designed to improve the implementation of green (GPP) and socially responsible (SRPP) purchasing as well as the public procurement of innovation (PPI). Specific topics include European initiatives to stimulate PPI, tools to determine Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and embedded CO₂, discussions on the proposed Public Procurement Directives, social issues in procurement, energy efficiency and the purchasing of clean vehicles and sustainable food.

Speakers include the Member of the European Parliament Heide Rühle, Klaus Wiedner from the European Commission's DG MARKT and Janet Meissner Pritchard, legal expert from Client Earth.

For more information, go to www.ecoprocura.eu/malmo2012/home/ or contact ecoprocura2012@iclei.org

5. Other News

New Project Officer and New Assistant join ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Team

We would like to welcome Natalie Evans as the latest Project Officer working for the Sustainable Procurement Team. Natalie worked for Gloucestershire County Council for almost three years as their Sustainable Procurement Officer. Previously, she worked as a Procurement Officer for the UK Prison Service and as an Intern for the World Land Trust. Natalie has a Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation and Project Admin and a degree in Environmental Biology with European Studies.

Natalie will be working on the Procura+ Campaign, The LANDMARK Project, Euro Tipton Max, the Sustainable Procurement Resource Centre (SPRC), EcoProcura 2012 and the GPP Helpdesk.

Marlene Grauer also joined ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team in April 2012. Marlene holds a double degree in Natural Resource Management (M.Sc.) and Environmental Economics (M.Sc.) from Germany and the United Kingdom. She gained previous work experience in forest conservation projects in Ecuador and Nicaragua. Marlene will be primarily supporting the Sustainable Timber Action project.

You can contact Natalie at natalie.evans@iclei.org and Marlene at procurement@iclei.org.

Subscribe? Feedback? Questions? Please let us know!

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. Editor: Franziska Singer (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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