

Sustainable Procurement

Edition 41 | January 2009

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 current 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 enjoy publishing priority!

If this newsletter does not display properly, please click here to view it online: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=6916>.

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1. EcoProcura 2009: Latest programme available online!

The EcoProcura 2009 conference "Climate Neutral through Procurement", is now just 2 months away. The Conference, to be held in Reykjavik (Iceland) from 25th - 27th March 2009, features a packed



and highly interactive programme, and will provide an ideal opportunity to exchange and learn about how **sustainable procurement** can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The conference will present and discuss:

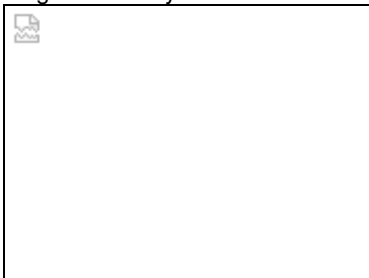
- the importance of sustainable procurement in the global climate debate,

- how sustainable procurement can support climate mitigation and adaptation strategies,
- improving dialogue between public authority procurers and suppliers,
- how sustainable procurement can drive innovation and act as a launching pad for new sustainable technologies.

Confirmed speakers include representatives from the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, front-runner cities such as Vienna, Malmö and Barcelona, together with international organisations such as the Responsible Purchasing Network (US) and the International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) and many others. The [latest programme](#) is now online.

The programme format is designed to maximise the contribution of all delegates in a dynamic environment, and to provide fresh ideas and impetus for your work:

- **Keynote speeches** providing expert input, leading edge trends, and new inspiration,
- **Panel debates** for critical analysis and insights into topics,
- Conference hall set up to enable **roundtable discussions between participants**,
- **Theme-based workshops** minimising presentations and maximising discussion time,
- **Training sessions** providing an opportunity to learn new skills and approaches,
- A **Market Lounge** designed to facilitate face-to-face discussions on key topics, receive expert advice and learn about innovative products and services.



To register for the conference and see the latest updated programme please visit the conference website at www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009. Or contact the organisers at: ecoprocura2009@iclei.org.

2. Project News

SMART SPP goes online



In February 2009 SMART SPP will launch its website. Public purchasers and suppliers of innovative and sustainable solutions in the field of lighting systems, electric vehicle fleets and heating and cooling systems for buildings will find this new web-portal a valuable source of information on pre-procurement and

innovation.

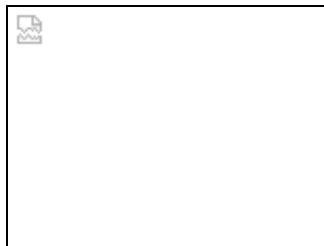
The SMART SPP project will promote the introduction onto the market of innovative highly energy efficient products and services that are in the last stages of development. This will be done through encouraging early market engagement between public authority procurers and suppliers in four European countries (Denmark, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom) using the pre-procurement phase.

The new SMART SPP website will be announced on the Procura+ website - www.procuraplus.org and the Procura+ exchange mailing list once it is launched.

Sustainable public procurement in Brazil: Training for the State of Minas Gerais

On the 21st November 2008, a training on sustainable public procurement was held in the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais as a part of the "CPS - Brazil: Fostering Sustainable Public Procurement in Brazil" Project.

The training gathered close to 150 representatives from almost all of the State's departments. The event was organised by the State's Secretariat of Planning and Management (SEPLAG), in partnership with the Centre of Studies on Sustainability of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (GVces) and ICLEI's Project Office for Brazil.



At the opening, the State Secretary of Planning and Management, Renata Vilhena, emphasised the importance of co-operation between different government levels to bring transparency and efficiency to procurement processes. ICLEI-Latin America and Caribbean Secretariat Director, Laura Valente de Macedo, introduced the concepts of sustainable development and sustainability, while the event's trainer, ICLEI's Brussels representative Peter Defranceschi, illustrated the various aspects and phases of sustainable procurement. Luciana Stocco Betiol, Researcher at GVces, presented the legal aspects of the issue to the audience, as well as existing barriers to sustainable procurement and solutions that could be implemented.

Further presentations from ICLEI and GVces offered participants a better understanding on how to effectively make a sustainable purchase. The training was financed by the British Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) with support from the British Embassy in Brazil.

For more information please see the ICLEI- Latin America and Caribbean Secretariat website at: www.iclei.org/index.php (in Portuguese) or contact Peter Defranceschi at: peter.defranceschi@iclei.org.

Promoting the use of the EU Ecolabel within green public procurement



A workshop held in Brussels on the 14th October 2008 brought together public procurers, suppliers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss appropriate approaches for promoting the use of the EU Ecolabel within green public procurement.

The event took place as part of a project undertaken by ICLEI for the European Commission to promote the use of the EU Ecolabel criteria by public authorities and their suppliers across the EU. The Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) together with Bio Intelligence Service are project partners.

One of the strongest recommendations to come out of the event was the need for much closer communication and dialogue between procurers and the market – informing the market early of future public procurement requirements, and discovering what alternative approaches the market may be able to deliver.

For more information see ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm.

ICLEI supplies technical support on green public procurement to Ihobe

During 2008, ICLEI collaborated with Ecoinstitut Barcelona on a service contract for Ihobe, a publicly owned company that works in the field of environmental protection and management in the Basque Country (Spain).

Since 2006, Ihobe has been working on the development of tools and the provision of assistance to public authorities in the Basque Country for the implementation of green public procurement (GPP) through ongoing annual work programmes.

As part of this work, a service contract for Ihobe, co-ordinated by Ecoinstitut Barcelona, was completed in 2008. The contract consisted of several tasks including:

- the development of GPP criteria for 14 product groups which include more than twenty products and services;
- the development of a manual on GPP;
- direct assistance to large and small-sized Basque public authorities;
- training on GPP for public servants; and
- communication and recognition.

ICLEI collaborated on this contract by preparing monthly reports on GPP at the European and international level and by disseminating the activities developed within the Ihobe GPP Programme internationally.

Local authorities and businesses have been involved in the implementation of these tasks from the very beginning through working groups and discussion forums. Since 2006, more than 50 good case studies from different Basque public authorities have been identified.

More information on the resources developed through this project can be found on the Ihobe [website](#).



For more information about the project please contact the project co-ordinator Bettina Schaefer at bettina.schaefer@ecoinstitut.es.

3. Procura+ Campaign News

Three new public authorities join the Procura+ Campaign



ICLEI is pleased to announce the participation of three new public authorities in the Procura+ Campaign: the City of Helsinki (Finland), the City of Marcoussis (France), and the National Management of Public Contracting (DNCP) of the Republic of Paraguay.

 The  Procura
+ Campaign is an initiative designed to help support public authorities
across Europe in implementing Sustainable Procurement – and help promote their achievements.

For information on the participants or on Procura+ please visit www.procuraplus.org

Outcomes of the Procura+ Seminar in Birmingham

An energy-efficient future was on the international agenda when Birmingham played host to the Procura+ Seminar on "smarter engagement with the market" on 6th - 7th November 2008.

More than 50 Procura+ participants, business representatives and other interested experts on sustainable procurement gathered to discuss the future of sustainable public procurement and how early market engagement works in practise.



"Procura+ gives most value for money and offers great networking possibilities, combined with new and interesting information on latest approaches such as pre-procurement of sustainable innovations." said Collan Murray, Senior Procurement Manager from the Greater London Authority, a participant in the Campaign since early 2008.

The presentations given at the Procura+ Seminar are now available for download at www.procuraplus.org/index.php.

4. Recent Events

SMART SPP presented at major European events

ICLEI representative, Philipp Tepper, recently presented the SMART SPP project at two major European events, the Sustainable Manufacturing Summit Europe (19th-20th November 2008, Brussels, Belgium) and the biennial Information and Communication Technology (ICT) event of the European Commission (25th-27th November 2008, Lyon, France).

The Sustainable Manufacturing Summit Europe brought together Europe's policy makers and business leaders to provide both practical and strategic information to manufacturers facing sustainability challenges. Presentations from the summit are available for download at: www.greenpowerconferences.com/corporateclimateresponse/smseuro_dl.html.

The ICT Event was an important forum for discussing research and public policy in information and communication technologies at the European level. The event was aimed at researchers and innovators, policy makers and businesses working in the field of information and communication technologies. To find out more about this event see the conference website at: ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008/index_en.htm.

These events provided valuable opportunities to raise the profile of SMART SPP within these industries. SMART SPP is a project which will investigate how sustainable, innovative products and services can be brought onto the market using early market engagement and advanced procurement approaches.

To learn more about ICLEI's activities in advanced sustainable procurement activities, contact Philipp Tepper at: philipp.tepper@iclei.org.

5. Other News

European Commission "Study on Social Considerations in Public Procurement" completed



The European Commission's "Study on Social Considerations in Public Procurement" (the Study), commissioned by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and carried out by the International Training Centre of the International



Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO) has been finalised. The Study is the basis for the future "Guide on Socially Responsible Procurement" (the Guide) that is scheduled to be published by late spring 2009.

An information meeting organised by DG Employment took place in Brussels on the 6th November 2008 to present the findings of this study. Three annexes of the document, including

6 case studies and legal and policy reviews for six countries were made available to participants. The European Commission decided not to make the Study or draft Guide available for consultation.

ICLEI representative, Peter Defranceschi, urged the European Commission to consider ease of verification when developing the Guide as it is very challenging for most local governments to verify compliance with social criteria when tendering for products.

As a partner in the "Public Affairs: Mobilising action for Fair Trade Public Procurement" project ICLEI also encouraged the European Commission to consider an increased focus on fair trade within the Study and Guide. This would be consistent with the European Parliament resolution calling upon the European Commission to provide guidance on fair trade in public procurement.

DG Employment is accepting contributions to the Guide through an [online consultation](#).

For additional information, please contact Peter Defranceschi at: peter.defranceschi@iclei.org

European Commission "Green Public Procurement Toolkit" to be translated

Following considerable interest in their "Green Public Procurement (GPP) Training Toolkit", the European Commission is currently translating it into all official EU languages.

The Toolkit, developed by ICLEI together with Ecoinstitut Barcelona, contains introductory and advanced purchasing criteria for 10 high-priority product groups, together with modules providing guidance on managing the implementation of green public procurement and the legal framework.

The translated versions are scheduled to be completed in April and will be available from the Commission's GPP website at: ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp.

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: Amalia Ochoa (responsible) and Marta Anglada.

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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