



European NGO Network on Green Public Procurement

European NGO Network on GPP – Introductory session

26 January, Szentendre, Hungary

Venue: Ady Endre ut 9-11, 2000 Szentendre

Overview of the day

Welcome and Introduction of all members

Peter Szuppinger from REC welcomes all present NGOs and asks all participants to introduce themselves and their current experience on GPP.

Panel presentations

- Introduction to the network and to the role of NGOs in GPP - *Simon Clement & Estela Grana, ICLEI*. The network and its main functionalities are officially introduced together with some facts and figures.
- EU framework and benefits of green public procurement - *Enrico Degiorgis, European Commission*. A short introduction to GPP, the support available from the EC and the main available tools and guidance.
- GPP in practice – *Livia Mazzá, Ecosistemi*. Introduction of what a NGO can do on GPP working together with Public Authorities.
- How an NGO (Bellona Foundation) has helped with our implementation of GPP – *Flemming Idsoe, Omsorgsbygg, Oslo*. Omsorgsbygg is a public housing entity that succeeded implementing ambitious GPP criteria in construction sites and used the support of a NGO to exploit the results.
- Working on GPP as an NGO: challenges and opportunities – *Luf Lafosse, Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen*. The experience of BBL working on GPP for the past years is explained in detail, including conducted activities and how the approach was developed and changed during the years, depending on the needs of their target groups.

Legal and practical dimensions of GPP

Presentation: Implementing GPP: Practical and Legal considerations - *Abby Semple from Public Procurement Analysis*.

During this session the basic legal aspects of Public Procurement were explained, including:

- Objectives and framework for GPP, including a GPP definition and what it implies.
- Procurement basics and relevant law
- Reform of procurement rules
- Treaty principles and Effect of ECJ case law
- Selection criteria and Exclusion grounds
- Technical specifications, including different types and use
- Award criteria (including life-cycle costing)
- Means of proof (including labels)



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- Contract performance clauses

The session was very interactive with many questions coming from NGOs on legal aspects, court cases and technical aspects in the preparation of procurements.

Available Resources

Presentation: Available Resources on GPP – *Simon Clement, ICLEI*

Simon Clement from ICLEI presented the resources that are available on GPP such as:

- Buying Green guide
- EU GPP criteria
- GPP case studies
- NGO Brochure, which will be circulated shortly

NGOs were offered the possibility to promote their local work on GPP in the Sustainable Procurement Platform or the GPP News Alerts from the European Commission.

Action Areas and Next Steps

Presentation: What can the Network do for your organisation? – *Estela Grana, ICLEI*.

Estela Grana presents the activities that have been planned in the following months and the support that the Network can offer all NGOs that would like to work more actively on GPP, including:

- 1) Capacity building activities -GPP introductory & advanced training sessions
- 2) Follow up planned activities and support with goal setting
- 3) Engage network participants with GPP policy making
- 4) Provide technical assistance (helpdesk service)
- 5) Identification of potential tenders for GPP
- 6) Support in the organisation of awareness raising workshops and translating/printing training material
- 7) Providing support to mainstream current NGO activities to GPP

NGOs that would like to get more support to carry out any of the above mentioned activities should develop an Activity Plan, explaining what goals want to be achieved and what actions will be taken.

Limited funding has been made available for these activities, which will take place on a *first come first served* basis.

SWOT Analysis exercise – NGOs were asked to conduct their own SWOT analysis to identify Strengths and Weaknesses to implement GPP in their organisations and to identify and discuss both the Opportunities and Threats.

A summary of the identified actions took place after the exercise.

[PHOTO – SWOT ANALYSIS]

Activity Plan exercise – NGOs were asked to fill in a template with the main goals that will like to be reached during the next two years, identifying which actions would be necessary to carry out and the support needed for them.

Closure

The next steps are discussed and the meeting ends.

Next steps:

- Discuss activity plan in your organization and submit it to the Network secretariat
- First newsletter with news and related information on GPP will be published on March
- One page report with Instructions on identifying specific tenders to include GPP criteria will be released in the first semester of 2017
- Advanced training session to take place in June 2017