

EcoProcura 2014: placing sustainable procurement at the heart of strategic decision making



The City of Ghent offered inspiration to policy-makers, public procurers and others alike at the [EcoProcura 2014 conference](#), with the host City drawing on its experience as a leader in sustainable and innovative procurement. Ghent's procurement team outlined how the City employed a combination of overarching and detailed mechanisms to implement SPP and PPI.

The importance of using procurement as a strategic tool to encourage innovation and embed sustainable development goals

was emphasised, as was the use of market sounding and engagement to maximise the potential of businesses to provide new, low environmental impact and socially responsible solutions.

The first [European PPI Award](#) was presented to Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, for its environmentally efficient robotic washing facility, used to clean the hospital's 70,000 beds and mattresses. It reduced cleaning costs by 35% and the CO₂ footprint by 65%.

The event saw the signing of Ghent's new SPP Strategy, which aims to achieve the reduction of environmental impacts and the growth of the local and social economy. The City's Innovation Charter commits 10% of its ICT budget to procuring innovative products and services or using advanced approaches such as [PCP](#) and living labs.

Presentations from all EcoProcura sessions are available [here](#).



Zoom in on... 15 years of ÖkoKauf!

The City of Vienna's programme for ecological public procurement, "ÖkoKauf Wien", is celebrating its 15 year anniversary by holding a Smart Public Procurement Lab (SPPL). There is an opportunity to discuss various themes prior to the event through the SPPL [online platform](#). The SPPL itself will take place on 15 October 2014 in Vienna's City Hall featuring a series of expert talks and workshops on topics including demand behaviour and the new EU procurement directives. The event is free and will be held in German with simultaneous translation into English.

[More information...](#)

Empowering local authorities to engage in SPP



Mark Hidson is Deputy Regional Director of ICLEI Europe and Global Director ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Centre.

How does ICLEI support the implementation of SPP? ICLEI fortifies links between those who are committed to sustainability so that they may learn from one another. It offers direct support, facilitates city-to-city cooperation, and provides a unified voice for public authorities on the international level. With an increasing number of organisations becoming involved, enough momentum should be built for SPP to become widespread throughout Europe.

What is the state of SPP in the European local government sector? SPP has shifted

from a secondary consideration to one of the primary focuses of the new Directives, meaning that there should be an increased impetus amongst a wider spectrum of public entities. It will require clear guidance and/or legal interpretations so that procurers feel more comfortable using SPP criteria regularly.

How can this be used to create stronger commitments to SPP implementation?

A strategic commitment to SPP is key, as is relevant staff training. More attention must also be paid to the professionalisation of procurement. Market intelligence and dialogue are essential components too. In terms of concrete initiatives, perhaps local governments could commit to SPP specific targets. A "Covenant of Mayors" for SPP could be an effective approach.

To view the interview in full, click [here](#).



Zoom in on... Mandatory GPP/SPP for the Belgian public sector

In May this year, a circular was published to assist Belgian federal departments to interpret and integrate GPP/SPP criteria. The document was signed by 7 federal ministers, including the Prime Minister and 4 Secretaries of State, and introduces a mandatory SPP policy for the federal government, which incorporates social clauses, obliges public procurers to take into consideration SPP criteria at the preparation phase, and makes public contracts more accessible to SMEs. Further details are provided in both French and Dutch.

[More information...](#)



environment

GPP examples

Greening urban development projects and industrial buildings

SPRILUR S.A. is a public authority, which is integrated in the Department of Economic Development and Competitiveness of the Basque Government. It was established in 1995 to create employment and enhance economic competitiveness. SPRILUR leads and participates in a number of projects related to energy, eco-innovation and sustainable development. For each SPRILUR tender for construction, restoration and/or design projects, from tendering for architectural services at the design stage to the execution of works, the tender documents require bidders to submit an assessment of the environmental quality of the proposed design, restoration or construction proposal.

For the assessment, bidders have to use two documents specified in the tenders and available on-line on SPRILUR's website. The guides contain good practice measures to reduce the impacts in a number of key environmental impact areas. The guidelines and method are increasingly used by other public authorities in the Basque Government, which further increases the positive environmental impact of SPRILUR's approach.

Download the full case study [here](#).



Image: Galarreta Urban Development, Science & Technology Park, Gipuzkoa



Image: iStock.com

Zoom in on... UK Plan for Public Food Procurement

The UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) launched a plan in July 2014 for public sector food procurement, which will be implemented using a 'balanced scorecard' approach. This evaluation method balances standard criteria such as cost against more complex quality aspects. It also allows priority themes such as farm assurance and food waste management to be built into procurement decisions alongside well-established criteria, such as animal welfare and energy management.

[More information...](#)

ESCO services cut energy use in municipal buildings

The City of Vantaa is the fourth biggest in Finland with a population of just over 200,000. It is part of Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

It is now using Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) services to maximise the energy efficiency of public buildings in order to help meet CO₂ reduction targets. The combined energy cost of the 14 municipal buildings is €1.3 million per year. The €1.5 million cost of implementing energy saving measures is funded over time by the contracting authorities through realised energy savings, which are guaranteed by the contracted Energy Service Company (ESCO).

Vantaa decided to pilot ESCO services on 14 buildings over an eight year time period. Before publishing the actual procurement notice, the City carried out a stakeholder engagement exercise. Procurement objectives were defined ahead of time and the energy-saving targets set were both clear and realistic. Vantaa chose to use a four-stage negotiated procedure as the best option to utilise market potential and explore available options.

The target of the contract period is to achieve savings of up to 30,100 MWh in heat and electric energy, which will cut 7500 tonnes CO₂ eq. emissions. This means annual savings of over €200,000, which is 15% of the energy costs. The long-term plan is to roll out EPCs for further municipal buildings if energy saving measures prove successful.

Download the full case study [here](#).



Image: City of Vantaa



Image: Flickr

Zoom in on... Croatian Buying Green! Guide

Following Croatia's succession into the European Union last year, relevant guidance documents to support public authorities have been translated into the Croatian language, the most recent of which is the 2nd edition of 'Buying Green!' This European Commission's Handbook on Green Public Procurement is a useful reference for policy makers and businesses responding to green tenders and includes guidance for the public sector on how environmental considerations can be included at each stage of the procurement process.

[More information...](#)

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Previous News Alerts are available [here](#).

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