

What is GPP?

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is the process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life-cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured.

What is GPP4Growth?

GPP4Growth brings together the experience and practices of nine public bodies from across the EU in a bid to improve those public bodies' capacity to implement policies that promote eco-innovation and green growth through 'Green Public Procurement' (GPP). 14% of the EU's total GDP is consumed by Europe's public authorities. This public expenditure on goods, services and works has a total estimated value of €1.8 trillion annually. This substantial public authority 'purchasing power' can be utilised to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth by promoting environmentally friendly, resource-efficient goods and services.

Summary of Workshop on Different GPP Approaches



Executive Summary

This policy brief presents the results and key conclusions of the Workshop on Different GPP Approaches in the context of GPP4Growth activity A3.1. The workshop was organised and hosted by Lodzkie Region in Poland, of Łódź on the 14th and 15th of November 2017 with the participation of all project partners and invited stakeholders.

Significant examples of successful GPP application in Poland were demonstrated, alongside several general policy instruments that might be used to facilitate GPP. During the event, the participants presented the factors, problems and challenges in the reference to the implementation of various types of green public procurement in their home regions and institutions.



Generating Discussion and Sharing Experiences

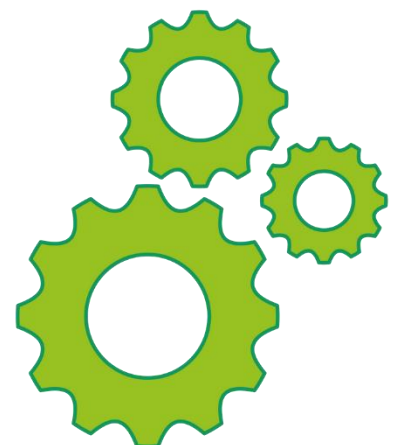
During the workshop representatives from the partner organisations and invited experts presented and analysed cases of GPP implementation from across the partner territories. Key topics covered were:

- Definitions and legal background of GPP implementation.
- Issues related to the application of different GPP approaches in partnership regions.
- Problems and challenges in reference to GPP implementation in their home regions.
- Ways of implementing green aspects into procurement procedures.

Key points of discussion during the event

The participants of the workshop agreed that the key determinants of all types of efficient GPP implementation are the following:

- Institutionalisation of the necessary regulatory framework capable of promoting and endorsing efforts to voluntarily or obligatorily apply GPP. What this entails primarily is the formulation and adoption of criteria other than price in public procurement procedures so as to achieve the intended result, e.g. social, environmental, innovative. Furthermore, it is necessary to develop a catalogue of best practices, specifications, evaluation criteria & GPP notices that will have to be followed in GPP procedures and tender documentation. In addition, the inclusion of environmental clauses in budget preparation for the coming years should become compulsory. This catalogue, clauses and criteria should be embedded in a number of national or regional strategies and regulations that acknowledge GPP as a tool for sustainable development and as an indicator for balancing the development of cities and regions.
- Development of an efficient monitoring system of:
 - Changes in regulations on the course of procurement procedures, expectations and problems signaled by the participants. This will allow for in-depth analysis of current needs, barriers and limitations, will provide information to design the development of the public procurement system, among others in legal, organizational and educational aspects.
 - The value of the public procurement market, including taking measures aimed at limiting expenditures outside the rigors of the Public Procurement Law, and the control of the correct use of ordering entities by excluding the obligation to apply the provisions of the Public Procurement Law.
- Initialisation of a number of 'soft' actions aimed at raising awareness of and training stakeholders, public sector employees and the general public. This includes actions such as improving internal communication between the people who prepare the order and supervise their implementation, promoting environmental solutions in institutions at national, regional and local level, raising knowledge and awareness of potential entrepreneurs (including in particular SMEs), organizing diversified information and education activities aimed at those involved in the procurement process, continuing promotional and educational activities aimed at popularizing GPP, and finally, engaging in open dialogue with representatives of different backgrounds (including researchers, legal advisers, contracting authorities, contractors) on the design of new products.



Policy Recommendations

- Assess regional needs in the light of potential environmental impacts and define green procurement policies for the institution.
- Clearly defined environmental clauses in tender procedures will facilitate their application.
- In order to avoid any doubts regarding the use of GPP, start with the implementation of tested and legal solutions.
- Nominate a person responsible for coordinating green procurement.
- Increase knowledge of green procurement among employees at various levels responsible for the process of implementing the public procurement procedures.
- Increase the knowledge of the contracting authorities about the use of environmental clauses in public procurement.
- Collaborate with outside entities with knowledge of green procurement.
- Contact an external unit specialized in consulting on the use of GPP.
- Make changes in the legal status of GPP.
- Introduce GPP as a mandatory element of procurement in the legislation system.

Workshop Outcomes

The workshop on different and diverse GPP approaches organized by the Lodzkie Region managed to highlight key aspects of successfully implementing GPP, such as the importance of setting clear and precise green criteria for a multitude of green products and services, the advantages of their compulsory implementation and the significance of increasing awareness for the benefits of GPP. The provision and presentation of specific examples from Poland helped partners and stakeholders understand the details of implementing GPP in a specific institutional environment, so as to locate similarities with their territories and regulatory frameworks.

More Information

This policy brief is provided by Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment of the Republic of Ireland / Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil, and is based on a summary report of a project partner workshop on 'Different GPP Approaches'. The event was hosted by the Lodzkie Region, Poland a GPP4Growth partner. The report of this event was also prepared by the Lodzkie Region called 'Summary Report and conclusions: Workshop on Different GPP Approaches' is available on request.

Visit www.interregeurope.eu/gpp4growth for more about GPP4Growth.

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