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GPP4GROWTH

e-newsletter on project updates



Project progress & news

GPP4Growth is a European project funded by the INTERREG Europe Programme that aims to create opportunities for public authorities to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP).

Over the last few months, the project partners have advanced significantly with the project implementation, focusing on activities to promote the exchange of experiences between regions and the organisation of meetings at a national level with key stakeholders, who have shown great interest in the project and its objectives. In the following pages, you will find information on the GPP4Growth latest developments and upcoming activities.

Experience visit on GPP processes and results in Ireland

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and Wexford County Council were delighted to host the GPP4Growth project partners in Wexford, Ireland at the start of October, to showcase both local and national case studies of Green Public Procurement.

During the two-day visit project partners participated in workshop sessions and practical demonstrations of green procurement projects. Three case studies were presented to the project partners addressing street lighting conversion, social housing upgrades and the design of flood defence works in Enniscorthy. The case studies demonstrated that greener purchasing decisions can result in significant long run savings for local authorities. Designing and delivering green projects can be an investment in the long term health and prosperity of a locality and doesn't always cost more.

Feedback from the GPP4Growth project partners was very positive and the learning from this trip will feed into the outputs of the project as well as the next 'experience visit' due to take place in Antwerp in 2019. Wexford County Council Chief Executive Tom Enright described the event as a "welcome opportunity for the Council to demonstrate in a very practical way the manner in which green procurement practices can yield substantial rewards for a contracting local authority". He thanked the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment for their championing of GPP, stating "Wexford Council will continue to pursue all opportunities to integrate environmental factors and costs when procuring goods and services into the future – not only does this make environmental sense, but as we have shown here in Wexford, it also makes financial sense".



GPP4Growth partners with DCCAE staff at Wexford County Hall

As a partner of the GPP4Growth project, SZREDA has recommended a change in the legal framework of the Forestry Act to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Executive Agency for Forests. The Recommendation focuses on the application of the international certification standard for FSC forestry holdings and its direct impact on the furniture industry in Bulgaria.

It comes as a result of a case study presented by the Stara Zagora Chamber of Commerce during one of the local stakeholder meetings that took place in Stara Zagora on the December of 2017 within the framework of the project.

Based on the meeting, the SZREDA team consulted with the other project partners and included the topic as a discussion panel of the program at the GPP4Growth interregional workshop, which took place in Stara Zagora in May and brought together experts from all over Europe.

As a result of the event, a recommendation was made to amend Art.115 of the Forestry Act, which was addressed to the responsible institutions.

Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency (SZREDA) made the first proposal on national level to change the regulatory framework in Bulgaria based on the work of the GPP4Growth project.

It is the first recommendation coming from GPP4Growth partners calling for change at the national legal framework regarding GPP.

Project news

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Regional Government of Andalusia (ANDALUSIA) participated in the Series of Seminars: “Waste Management and Circular Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future”

The series of seminars were organized by COAMBA (The Official College of Environmental Sciences of Andalusia) in collaboration with ECOEMBES (a non-profit organization which is dedicated to the packaging recovery in Spain). The themes of the seminars included topics such as Ecodesign and Green Public Procurement, Circular Economy and Municipal Management, Smart Cities, the cities of the future and waste management. In the context of these events, the ANDALUSIA presented the GPP4Growth project, discussed good practices for the sustainable management of waste, as well as the barriers and opportunities related to the inclusion of environmental criteria in public contracts.

Venelin Dobrev (SZREDA, Bulgaria) participated in the demo-day for startup projects in the green and sustainable sector that was organized by Cleantech Bulgaria.

During the 1-day event that took place in Sofia Tech Park on the 6th of December 2018, Venelin Dobrev delivered a presentation on the subject “GPP in the EU - Market Opportunity for Green and Sustainable Solutions”. Venelin outlined that in many cases public buyers have to take out the green criteria from the public procurement, because there is not substantial interest from businesses and the procedure remains unsuccessful. Moreover, small public buyers such as small municipalities have the will to implement more sustainable solutions, but they lack purchasing power to influence the market.



Circular public procurement of ICT

In the first stakeholder meeting in Antwerp, GPP of ICT was suggested as a subject worth elaborating on. Therefore, Province of Antwerp started a project in cooperation with network organization BBL, aiming to increase and share knowledge on circular public procurement of ICT and to develop a ready-to-use model tender. At the 4th stakeholder meeting, Green ICT, circularity and the definition of needs were discussed, by both sustainability officials and ICTers, at the same time ensuring that green public procurement of ICT-material is on the agenda of their organisation. On February 4th the province invited all stakeholders to a buyer meets supplier market dialogue.

Policy brief on stakeholder meetings

Under the GPP4Growth project, each project partner holds one meeting with key stakeholders in their region during each semester. To facilitate the dissemination of the results of such meetings, DCCAE has prepared a policy brief on the first two meetings, including recommendations. The policy brief includes additional information on the methodology that project partners will use to document stakeholders' suggestions and opinions, so that they can inform policy development across the GPP4Growth territories.

Pictures:

- 1: ANDALUSIA in the COAMBA Series of Seminars
- 2: Venelin Dobrev (SZREDA, Bulgaria)

Upcoming events & activities

The next experience visit is planned to take place in Antwerp on March 27-28th 2018

ANTWERP will host the 2-days existing experience visit to share implemented GPP measures and criteria that led to investments in green contracts, organising also meetings with regional beneficiaries to share their experiences. All partners will participate. ANTWERP will prepare the purpose statements and summary report presenting lessons learnt. All partners will organise debriefing meetings to transfer knowledge to relevant colleagues.

Study on Lifecycle costing (LCC) methods for GPP

During the next period, the University of Patras (UPAT) will develop an innovative digital LCC methodology and resources, with the aim to support regions in identifying and calculating the direct and external costs in certain products related to the key sectors of partners' interest.

Interregional workshop on monitoring green contracts performance & compliance indicators, in Latvia, in June 2019

Zemgale Planning Region (ZPR) will develop an input paper to facilitate the organisation and the themes of the workshop on the use of contract clauses that support monitoring, e.g. KPIs for green products, penalties for noncompliance, bonuses for good performance, clear indication of responsibility for reporting. **Also**, ZPR will host the interregional workshop in June 2019 in Jelgava city.

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Partnership



University of Patras (GR)



Lombardy Region (IT)



Lodzkie Region (PL)



Province of Antwerp (BE)



Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Regional Government of Andalusia (ES)



Zemgale Planning Region (LV)



Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency (BG)



Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (IE)



Malta Regional Development and Dialogue Foundation (MT)

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