



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.

Recommendations from the Semester One and Two Regional Meetings with Key Stakeholders.



Executive Summary

Under Activity 2.1 of the GPP4Growth programme, each of the nine GPP4Growth partners will hold one meeting with key stakeholders in their region during each of the first six semesters of the programme.

This policy brief notes the themes of these meetings and the methodology which will record and utilise the suggestions and opinions of stakeholders at these meetings so that they can inform policy development across the GPP4Growth regions. The main policy recommendations gathered from stakeholders during the Semester One and Semester Two sets of regional stakeholder meetings are then outlined.

Regional Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings with key stakeholders are a compulsory activity of Interreg Europe projects such as the GPP4Growth project. One stakeholder meeting will be organised in each of the nine GPP4Growth partner regions every semester during the first six semesters of the GPP4Growth project. The frequent interaction between stakeholders and GPP4Growth partner organisations that this will allow is a prerequisite for close and successful cooperation between all involved.

The completion of all 54 regional stakeholder meetings will promote public dialogue around the GPP4Growth project and help build consensus to ensure the successful implementation of the regional Action Plans which will develop Green Public Procurement (GPP) policy in the partner regions. To ensure that all regional stakeholder meetings are effective in addressing the main areas of concern, each semester's meeting was assigned a theme at the start of the programme. The six themes are as follows:

1. Introductory stakeholder meeting to set the ground for collaboration during and after the project.
2. Factors that affect businesses' involvement in green tenders and businesses' views on implemented green contracts and on cases of GPP implementation by regional public authorities.
3. Eco-labels defined as a method of environmental performance certification.
4. Suggestions on areas to evaluate the lifecycle cost of products and services.
5. Monitoring and assessment procedures for green contracts.
6. GPP4Growth action plan implementation.

After each meeting in their region, each GPP4Growth partner prepares a Summary Report noting the key discussions and recommendations from the meeting.

Outputs of Activity 2.1

General guidelines for all stakeholder group meetings

- Andalusia
- One report with general guidelines
- Semester 1

Meetings with key stakeholders

- All partners organise one per semester
- 54 regional meetings (Nine per semester)
- Semesters 1-6

Summary reports

- All partners draft one per semester
- 54 summary reports (nine per semester)
- Semesters 1-6

Synthesis report

- Andalusia
- One report synthesizing the summary reports' results
- Semester 6

Semester One (S1)
stakeholder meetings

vs

Semester Two (S2)
stakeholder meetings

Number of Attendees

S1 = 235

S2 = 236

**% of attendees from
Public Sector**

S1 = 71%

S2 = 60%

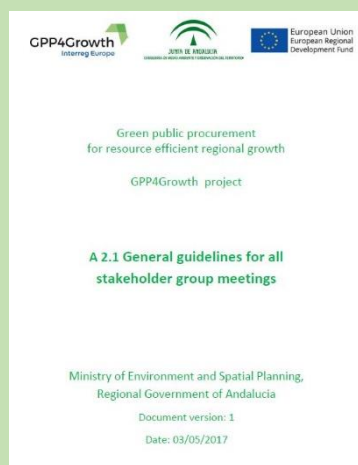
**% of attendees from
Private Sector**

S1 = 29%

S2 = 40%

The graphic above outlines the flow of outputs for Activity 2.1 of GPP4Growth.

After all the 54 regional stakeholder meetings (one in each of the nine partner regions per semester across six semesters) have taken place, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Regional Government of Andalusia will use the Summary Reports drafted after each meeting by the organising partner to create a Synthesis Report. This Synthesis Report will contain the input from stakeholders and will then be used to influence GPP policy across the participating regions by informing the regional Action Plans.



The guidelines which were developed as part of Activity 2.1 to help GPP4Growth partners with their respective regional stakeholder meetings included:

- Methods to identify stakeholders.
- Proposals for the organisational tasks of the meetings.
- Guidelines on the website, invitations, and registration process.
- A template agenda.
- Guidelines on the correct behaviour of moderators during the meetings.
- Guidelines on the correct preparation of summary reports.

These guidelines have aided the organisation of the regional stakeholder meetings held to date. On average, approximately 95% of attendees who completed surveys evaluating the regional stakeholder meetings in Semester One and Semester Two rated the organisation of the meetings as either 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

The final two pages of this policy brief will outline the key recommendations offered by stakeholders during the first two sets of regional stakeholder meetings.

Policy Recommendations from Stakeholders Meetings: Semester One

Semester One Theme:

Introductory stakeholder meeting to set the ground for collaboration during and after the project.

Semester One Recommendations:

- The participants agreed on the necessity for them to be more supported regarding the application of new rules on Green Public Procurement (GPP).
- There is a need to implement training courses.
- Creation of a database of the enterprises participating in procurements to avoid bureaucracy.
- Pilot projects would be a useful way to make progress and spread the message.
- All lights that are purchased and installed in cities should have solar panels that would help reduce the energy consumption.
- The participants asked for greater access to the good practices identified during the project.
- New public procurement law and new regulation and guidelines on GPP as well as existing regulation of GPP in the transport sector and catering would help to implement GPP on the local level.
- More product groups that are important in the local context should be included in GPP e.g. in tenders for the procurement of water for street cleaning purposes.
- The number and diversification of stakeholders needs to be increased to enhance active participation.

Policy Recommendations from Stakeholders Meetings: Semester Two

Semester Two Theme:

Factors that affect businesses' involvement in green tenders and businesses' views on implemented green contracts and on cases of GPP implementation by regional public authorities.

Semester Two Recommendations:

- Workshops (in the stakeholder meetings) showed the possibilities of procurement based on functional needs and specifications instead of product specifications, and the need to define those functional needs including the minimal use of resources and environmental friendliness.
- The starting point should always be quality and considering user needs instead of a 'one-fits-all' maximum performance approach.
- There is a clear need to reduce the multiple sources of 'fear' of implementing GPP within organisations through the promotion of case studies and the organisation of more activities which help take the mystery out of GPP and build confidence amongst practitioners.
- There is a strong need to organise more regional meetings for stakeholders so they can exchange their 'green activities' and their knowledge about the issues.
- Regional authorities can help their stakeholders by providing them with examples of the most popular tender descriptions, so they can use it easily in their procurements.
- Include GPP in operational programs.
- Passportization and standardisation of forestry farms.
- Make it mandatory for municipalities to have a GPP strategy.
- A clear regulatory framework regarding GPP should be put in place.
- The state must provide incentives to the (regional) authorities for the use of green criteria especially when these lead to increased cost. When the long-term cost is smaller, the state should facilitate the increased cost in the short-term.
- The state should provide support regarding the increase in capacity in public authority staff (required by the implementation of GPP).



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Semester Two recommendations continued...

- A common approach to common needs provided through a central system is required so best practices can be easily transferred.
- It is necessary to develop a clearer definition of GPP in order to clarify which are green contracts and which are not.
- More attention should be focused on developing and using meaningful GPP criteria and not only to fulfil legal obligations. When certain GPP criteria are easily met by all tenderers, demonstrate that not all the GPP criteria have the same weight in the tender evaluation process. GPP criteria should be verifiable and be utilised to control the implementation.
- Discuss with the central financing and contracting agency (responsible for the EU funding) to come up with a common understanding regarding GPP and its application for the product groups not covered by (existing) Cabinet regulation.
- Procurers should discuss their needs with the producers and distributors before opening the call for a tender. It is important to check if such a product exists on the market.
- Procurers should register all the cases when companies are not fulfilling their contractual obligation. These acts can be used to break the contract and exclude them from the future tenders.
- For control and supervision mechanisms, procurers could use regulations that specify information on the bill of lading e.g. a car registration number that could be used to check if the delivery car was a Euro 5 or Euro 6 vehicle as specified in the tender proposal.
- Institutions should develop internal GPP instructions which could be then used to justify the use of GPP criteria.
- Italy is one of the first country to have adopted a mandatory law related to GPP, launching an innovative phase in which the green component will be an integral part of public procedures. It is important to spread the awareness of the importance of a full and correct application of the new rules, for the wealth of the territory and all public administrations must be aware of the legal consequences of neglecting the law.
- Enhance the mainstreaming of GPP functions in all government departments.
- Finalise national GPP action plans where applicable.
- Focus on circular procurement and post procurement auditing.
- Train suppliers to follow GPP criteria.

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 the following source documents:

- 'General Guidelines for all Stakeholder Group Meetings' as prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Regional Government of Andalusia.
- Presentations by Raúl Mir (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Regional Government of Andalusia) at the GPP4Growth interregional meetings in Lodz, Poland on 16th November 2017 and in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria on 15th May 2018.

These source documents are available on request.

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

