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Project GPP4Growth**

ACTIVITY A3.4

**Existing experiences visits
on GPP processes and results**

**Report on Existing experiences visit
in the Province of Antwerp
27th & 28th of March 2019**

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1 About GPP and GPP4Growth

Green public procurement (GPP) can be defined as “a 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” (European Commission, 2008).

“GPP4Growth - Green public procurement for resource efficient regional growth” is a project funded by the Interreg Europe programme. This programme aims to initiate and advance interregional collaborations among EU regional and local authorities so that best practices can be identified and applied in all EU regions. The GPP4Growth-project intends to locate best practices for integrating green public procurement (GPP hereafter) in regional policy and for supporting public administrations and businesses to adopt lifecycle cost approaches and improve the overall management of resources and waste. The ultimate aim of the project is to improve resource efficiency in European regions.

GPP4Growth seeks to build upon the EU public procurement reform (2016), i.e. a regulatory framework prepared by the EU to create new opportunities for public authorities to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth, by using new award criteria in calls and tenders that pay particular attention to environmental considerations. Specifically, the new rules enable public authorities to setup, publish and manage calls and contracts that require businesses / bidders to:

- comply with environmental obligations,
- integrate environmental costs in their offers based on a lifecycle cost approach, and
- deliver goods fulfilling the requirements of environmental labels, reducing at the same time administrative burden.

This is particularly important for the local /regional public authorities in order to achieve regional green growth and respond to current and future environmental and economic challenges, through the adoption of GPP. Spending 2 trillion Euros each year (19 % of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)) on goods, supplies, services and works, Europe's public authorities can use their purchasing power to choose environmentally friendly goods and services, including efficient electronic & electrical equipment, electricity from renewable energy resources, sustainable construction works, low emission public transport vehicles etc., promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in their territories. Herby directly reducing their environmental impact and indirectly greening the market. GPP4Growth aims to facilitate EU regions to apply the EU public procurement system via the identification and exchange of best practices for GPP.

GPP4Growth brings together nine partners from nine countries, involving the managing authorities & regional bodies influencing regional and national policy instruments, to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth by promoting GPP. The GPP4Growth partnership consists of the organisations set out in Table 1.

Table 1: List of Project Partners and Project Instruments

No.	Partner Name	Acronym	Policy instrument addressed	Country
1	University of Patras (EL)	UPAT	Operational Programme of Western Greece 2014-2020	Greece
2	Lombardy Region (IT)	Lombardy	ERDF Regional Operational Programme Lombardy	Italy
3	Lodzkie Region (PL)	Lodzkie	Regional Operational Programme Łódź province	Poland
4	Province of Antwerp (BE)	Antwerp	Flemish Public Procurement Plan 2016-2020	Belgium
5	Ministry of Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and sustainable development, Regional Government of Andalusia (ES)	Andalusia	Andalusia ERDF 2014-2020 Operational Programme	Spain
6	Zemgale Planning Region (LV)	ZPR	Operational programme “Growth and Employment”	Latvia
7	Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency (BG)	SZREDA	Operational Programme “Environment” 2014-2020 (OPE)	Bulgaria
8	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (IE)	DCCAE	Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (BMW ROP)	Ireland
9	Malta Regional Development and Dialogue Foundation (MT)	MRDDF	OPI – Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges – 2014-2020	Malta

To support public administrations and businesses to adopt lifecycle cost approaches and improve the overall management of resources and waste, GPP4Growth includes a wide range of activities, focusing on promoting the interregional learning process and the exchange of experience among regional authorities. Project activities include:

- Analysing the needs of GPP4Growth regions in Green Public Procurement.
- Identification of successful green public procurement cases.
- Evaluation and analysis of existing policies, plans, and criteria for GPP in the key GPP4Growth sectors.
- Analysis of the factors (barriers and enablers) that influence businesses in key GPP4Growth sectors to get involved in green tenders and contracts.

- Promoting public dialogue and consultation process to build consensus and ensure the successful implementation of regional action plans, through the support and participation of key regional stakeholders.
- Fostering interregional learning and capacity building through workshops, study visits, and policy learning events.
- Development of transferable tools & resources to promote benchmarking and policy learning, and transfer knowledge and lessons learnt beyond the partnership.
- Joint development of action plans to promote the improvement of the policy instruments addressed by the project.
- Increasing awareness, promoting and disseminating the project results and knowledge beyond the partnership.

Finally, GPP4Growth will utilise all the above activities to achieve the following results:

- Over 7% increase in the number of businesses in partners' regions, integrating environmental factors and costs when producing goods and/or providing supplies, services and works.
- Increased capacity of 200 staff of public administrations to effectively implement resource efficiency policies, applying GPP.
- 10 million of Euros investments unlocked to promote new green products and services development.
- Increased knowledge awareness of over 1000 stakeholders on the influence of GPP on the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns by businesses.

2 Purpose of the Existing Experiences Visit

During the course of the GPP4Growth project all the project partners meet for two 'existing experiences visits' to provide an opportunity to share examples of existing GPP procedures, measures and criteria that have led to investments in green contracts, to acknowledge problems that are shared by Project Partners and to build upon the work of the project (which has outlined key barriers and enablers) in order to identify specific strategies to drive the GPP4Growth Project forward. As part of the project two 'existing experience visits' were planned to take place, one in Ireland and the second in Belgium.

The format of the visits was based on the results of the reports A1.2 and A1.3 which were completed by Zemgale (A1.2) and UPAT (A1.3). These reports were based on the following themes of the project;

- A1.2 - Identifying successful green public procurement cases
- A1.3 - Analysing existing policies, plans and criteria for GPP in the key GPP4Growth sectors.

An input paper was also designed to facilitate the visits and guide the transfer of knowledge and experiences exchange by;

- a) Identifying the most relevant issues to be discussed and addressed by regional authorities during workshop sessions (based on the most prevalent needs and challenges of the partners as identified in the reports A1.2 and A1.3)
- b) Developing the purpose statements, guidelines and directions for the facilitation of the discussions to take place during the visit.

As outlined in the input paper, a report and list of action points for the development of GPP will be established to help each partner and the overall project to increase uptake and engagement with GPP.

The report of the visit to Wexford, Ireland on the 3rd and 4th of October 2018 was finalised in December 2018.

It was planned to complement the first experience visit covering construction and energy, in Antwerp through demonstrations of projects concerning other products and services (furniture, ICT, fleet management, office supplies and catering, ...) and to devote some time to the features of an organisation that facilitate implementing GPP successfully such as a political and administrative commitment to GPP, the relationship between the procurement and sustainability office, monitoring, communication, ... taking into account alternative strategies to speed up green procurement in society and key constraints and enablers (Box 5) already identified within the project.

This report summarises the visit to the Province of Antwerp, Belgium which took place in Antwerp and Mechelen on the 27th and 28th of March 2019.

3 Agenda Existing Experiences Visit in Province of Antwerp

During the 'existing experiences visit' the partners took part in two days of activities. The first day practical demonstrations of green public procurement projects of the Province of Antwerp as well as the City of Antwerp were presented, complemented with site visits. This was followed on day two by presentations on other local and national level case studies and site visits and a workshop session, also facilitating the sharing of experiences, best practices and knowledge between the partners.

AGENDA – Day 1

Antwerpen, Wednesday 27/03

Cases City of Antwerp

address: Digipolis , Klein auditorium, Generaal Armstrongweg 1, 2020 Antwerpen

8:45 - 9:15 Registration - Reception

9:15 - 9:30 Official welcome by Province of Antwerp (Jan De Haes, Deputy)

ICT

9:30 - 10:20 Digipolis' GPP of ICT experience and Cooperation with suppliers and repair services (Tanja Van Genechten, Digipolis and Gunter Meynen, Essec)

10:20 - 10:35 Project CircuIT (Charlotte Dewilde, BBL)

Fleet Management

- 11:00 - 11:30 City of Antwerp' Green fleet management experience: footprint vs. use of different types of fuels (Geert Bieseeman, Fleet Centre, City of Antwerp)
- 11:30 - 11:45 GPP of provincial fleet (Laurens Smaers, Province of Antwerp)
- 11:45 - 12:00 Round-up - Exchange of experience EU-partners and stakeholders

Cases Province of Antwerp

address: Provinciehuis, Provincieraadzaal, K. Elisabethlei 22, 2018 Antwerpen

- 13:45 - 14:05 Short screening the new office building of the Province (Daniel Verheyen, program manager new House of the Province)
- 14:05 - 14:25 Environmental management system ISO14001 and GPP at the Province (Liesbeth Taverniers, Environment Department)
- 14:25 - 15:30 GPP of catering, cleaning and sanitary dispensers by Province of Antwerp (Laurens Smaers, Logistics/Facility Department)
- 15:30 - 16:30 Guided tour of the new House of the Province

AGENDA – Day 2

Mechelen, Thursday 28/3

Cases of Flemish and local authorities

address: OVAM, Stationsstraat 110, 2800 Mechelen

Cases Flemish authorities

- 9:00 - 9:15 Registration - Reception
- 9:15 - 9:50 GPP by OVAM: office furniture and flooring & Flemish Green Deal Circular Procurement (Katrijn Siebens, team Flanders Circular, OVAM)
- 9:50 - 10:10 Sustainable office supplies for the Flemish administration – growth through partnership (Procura+ Award winner 2018)' (Alexander Lemmens, Agency for Facility Management, Government of Flanders).
- 10:10 - 10:40 GPP of green energy for local authorities (An Brouns and Elise Steyaert, Flemish Energy Organisation (VEB))

Cases local authorities

- 10:55 - 11:25 GPP of circular lighting: project light as a service City of Mechelen (Natacha Dierix (Sustainable Development and Energy service, City of Mechelen)
- 11:25 - 12:00 GPP of work clothing for the healthcare sector (Christiane Klewais, ZORG Leuven, Public Welfare Association, Public Social Welfare Centre Leuven and City Leuven)

Workshop and other activities

address: De Foyer van 't Arsenal, Hanswijkstraat 63, 2800 Mechelen

- 13:15 - 14:00 Short visit to MOS & UNESCO-school: energy-efficiency modifications (Steven Van der Taelen)
- 13:15 - 14:00 Short GPP4Growth Steering Group Meeting
- 14:00 - 16:30 Participative workshop addressing GPP barriers. European regulation for public procurement offers several instruments for greener procurement which can be easily used as shown by the GPP-practices touched upon during the existing experiences visits. What is holding back the use of GPP?

4 Cases

A number of examples of GPP in action were demonstrated on both days of the experience visit.

4.1 Public Procurement – IT & Sustainability: Digipolis’ GPP of ICT experience + Cooperation with suppliers and repair services

Speakers: Tanja Van Genechten (Digipolis) and Gunter Meynen (Essec)

Digipolis: The Innovative Procurement Squad of Digipolis (association providing IT-solutions for the Cities of Antwerp and Ghent) was challenged to integrate ecologic and environmental topics in Digipolis’ tenders. Since IT is their core business, this was a challenge indeed. To honor the ‘Innovative’ in their name, they organized brainstorm sessions. These led to the definition of parts of the process they could influence, and they chose to start to integrate these in their procurement process. Therefore, they used tender procedures where they could negotiate and interact with potential suppliers. This strategy provided them with nice solutions and a set of guidelines that can be used in future tenders. In their presentation they highlighted two contracts where they make a difference in sustainability, durability and circular economy.

Essec: Essec sees itself more as a partner than as a supplier, thinking about solutions and making efforts where they can make a difference. Their collaboration with Digipolis is on a level where they can introduce ideas and thoughts and actually make a difference. As a supplier they can help with the need for durability and decrease the ecological footprint together with their customers. They do more than just moving boxes, they actually do all repairs of the smartphones and tablets they sell in-house, guaranteed by the manufacturer as they are licensed to repair the major brands. They also give advice on how to increase the durability of the mobile devices and look for developments on the market to tackle those needs

4.2 Project CircuIT: Participatory trajectory for the development of a model tender for circular public procurement of IT.

Speaker: Charlotte Dewilde (BBL)

The project CircuIT, a collaboration between Bond Beter Leefmilieu (ngo) and the Province of Antwerp in the frame of GPP4Growth, tackles the problem of the need for up-to-date knowledge on the best possible –realistic and ambitious– sustainability criteria through the development of a standard tender for circular public procurement of data processing devices, servers and network infrastructure. The flexible character of the tender facilitates the adaptation to different organisations specific needs. To ensure the effective use of the standard tender, sufficient support –both internal and external– is crucial. The project is based on a participatory trajectory involving public authorities like the Province of Antwerp, municipalities and Flanders, Bond Beter Leefmilieu, sustainability advisors, experts in public procurement law and IT. The market is involved eg through a buyer meets supplier. The project does not only focus on circular procurement, but also on circular management of the

existing IT-equipment (e.g. the obligation to take over old devices). In general, the project aims to set out a long-term strategy and to take a leading role in circular public procurement. Lessons learned will be communicated broadly. After the termination of the project, the effectiveness of the standard tender will be evaluated.

4.3 Green fleet management experience: footprint vs. use of different types of fuels

Speaker: Geert Bieseman (Fleet centre, City of Antwerp)

Today the fleet of the city of Antwerp counts approximately 1100 vehicles. This number is dynamic and includes passenger cars, vans, trucks, street sweepers, refuse trucks etc. Based on the quantity of fuel used for the vehicles, we can calculate the carbon emission. There is a clear downward tendency the carbon footprint of the fleet. This is mainly caused by the substitution of older diesel vehicles over the past years. 60.8% of the fleet is now powered by diesel. 32.9% of the fleet uses other fossil fuels as petrol, CNG or is hybrid. 6.3% vehicles are electric. Since 2011 the city procures electrical vehicles where possible, eg unless the requested range necessary for the task cannot be guaranteed. 19% of the trucks are powered by CNG, which still is a fossil fuel but emits a significant lower quantity of fine dust and nitrogen oxide in comparison to a diesel truck. This summer the city expects 15 CNG refuse trucks. They are looking forward to ultimately switch to bio methane –a non-fossil fuel for all their CNG vehicles. Furthermore, the city of Antwerp takes the leadership in Flanders to participate in a European project testing fuel cell technology with hydrogen as range extender. Once the permit for the refuelling station is granted, they hope to operate and test 2 hydrogen refuse trucks. For a complete green fleet, one needs a scalable solution for its energy demand. Today and tomorrow –not taking into account budget– Antwerp cannot implement a 100 % green fleet because nor the supply of certain vehicles nor the delivery of green energy is available in the right amounts. Therefore a roadmap has to be defined in terms of both time and technology to anticipate a zero emission situation in the coming decades.

4.4 GPP of the provincial fleet

Speaker: Laurens Smaers (DLOG, Logistics/team public procurement, Province of Antwerp)

Like almost every public organisation, the province of Antwerp has a green policy regarding purchasing vehicles. Considering the obligations from higher governments and the very interesting Ecoscore-method, every provincial institution is required to consider certain regulations when buying or leasing a new vehicle: a minimal ecoscore depending on the type and the use of TCO.

4.5 Short screening of the new office building of the province of Antwerp

Speaker: Daniël Verheyen (program manager new provincial office building)

Still in the works, a carbon neutral office building with high architectural ambitions is in its final stage of construction. With the ambition of achieving a Bream Excellent score, the new

House of the Province in Antwerp sets new standards of a modern office building. The site which exceeds more than 22.000 m² also takes the lead in giving new green space to the city: all existing trees are preserved; the green quality and soil permeability are maximized. The building itself is very compact, with a small ground surface. To meet the required E-level, façade perforations are limited to 40%, but daylight is still optimized by the shape of the windows. The workstations are also adaptable and flexible because of the open plan and the broad selection of workplaces that are available. Group functions such as a restaurant, archive and library are strategically integrated into the complex. A wide range of technical features optimize the overall sustainability of the building: local air handling units, night purge, thermal mass, high heat and cold recovery via heat pumps, geothermal heating and cooling, green roof ...

4.6 GPP and environmental management system ISO14001 at the Province

Speaker: LiesbethTaverniers (DMN, Environment Departement, Province of Antwerp)

Province of Antwerp is a textbook example of a public authority with decentralised procurement. This has its advantages, but it does hamper the uptake of GPP in the organisation. Several approaches have helped conquer this. The rollout of the ISO14001 environmental management system has helped to get every entity in our organisation on board, to follow up on the set sustainable procurement goals, and to monitor through audits. Obligations were created, while making meeting them as easy as possible, eg through the creation of guides for sustainable procurement of different product groups, on-demand advice, ... Structural consultation, engaging different players in sustainability and procurement, makes sure the central administration's procurement walks the talk. Sensitisation and training remain necessary. Through actions like the participation in the Green Deal Circular Procurement, or the start of CirculT-project, or joint procurement, opportunities for enquiries and innovation are created.

4.7 GPP of catering, cleaning and sanitary dispensers by Province of Antwerp

Speaker: Laurens Smaers (DLOG, Logistics, team public procurement, Province of Antwerp) and LiesbethTaverniers (DMN, Environment Departement, Province of Antwerp)

The province of Antwerp has been practicing GPP for well over 10 years and has developed guides on GPP for 28 product groups. These guides contain tips and information, but also obligations which every provincial organisation and domain is obliged to follow.

In 2018, the central administration moved to the new office building and therefore it was convenient to renew some contracts like catering and cleaning. These cases contain some interesting green aspects:

- In the catering contract, the focus is on the use of products with a low impact on the environment. The contract was awarded using the competitive procedure with

negotiation, so the companies had the possibility to improve their offers during the tender procedure.

- The new office building is being cleaned with the use of a select group of specific positive working micro-organisms. This new method of cleaning, supported by new and better knowledge of micro-organism's lifecycle, works on both visible and invisible pollution and creates a healthy balance without the use of harsh chemical products. It does not only have a curative but also a preventive effect.
- In the sanitary spaces, the province chose to buy sustainable dispensers: both the dispenser and the toilet paper are C2C certified, making it one of the most sustainable washroom concepts in the world.

4.8 Tour of the House of the Province

Guides: Daniel Verheyen / Nele Steelandt

Where the former central office building 'The Tower' stood, today one can discover the new landmark of Antwerp. Ending at the top floor visitors got a glimpse of the new provincial headquarter. The tour included a first inside look of the conference center (opening at the end of the summer), the new, flexible workspaces, the library and meeting rooms. At the top floor amazing 360° views of the city of Antwerp is an extra.

Following examples of GPP in action were demonstrated on the second day of the experience visit:

4.9 Flemish Green Deal Circular Purchasing & GPP by OVAM: office furniture and flooring

Speaker: Katrijn Siebens (OVAM - team Circular Flanders)

OVAM is the Public Waste Agency of Flanders, the principal authority in the Belgian region of Flanders for sustainable management of waste, materials and soils. OVAM uses its expertise on waste, materials and soils worldwide to help shape international policy. Together with citizens, companies and fellow governments, OVAM has turned Flanders into a leading region when it comes to the sustainable management of waste, materials and soils in the last several decades. To maintain this leading position, OVAM is now moving up a gear, with expanding the circular economy in Flanders, in which a sustainable management of waste, materials and soils provides new resources, materials and space.

Circular purchasing is a new way of purchasing for companies, with people, planet and profit in mind. It is a process where you 'buy change', for example by opting for reusable materials, by choosing bio-based or biodegradable materials, by pooling products and resources or sharing them with other organisations, or by buying the use of a product instead of the product itself.

Circular Flanders, The Shift, VVSG, and Bond Beter Leefmilieu jointly set up a 'Green Deal Circular Purchasing' project in 2017 because DOING is better than talking about it. More than 100 organisations have committed themselves to set up two circular purchasing projects in

the coming two years. Around 50 supporting organisations also put their expertise to use to help the buyers in these experiments and to share what is learned with other buyers.

After a sketch of this initiative, OVAM has briefly explained two successful circular purchases: office furniture and carpet:

- Office furniture: the new tender for sustainable office chairs contained criteria for sustainability, guarantee and a repair service. The new chairs are more expensive to buy, but the lifespan of the new chairs is much longer, since there is a warranty period of 12 years. The total cost of ownership is therefore reduced, and the life for the organization is made more easier since the maintenance and repair services are included in the purchase. After using the chairs, 96% of the parts are recyclable and can be reused in a new cycle.
- Carpet: the tenderer had given a fixed price per m² per month for the total content of this contract: removing existing tiles, clean up, process broken tiles into new products, supply new tiles, taking care of the maintenance, The contract also contains a take back system.

4.10 Sustainable office supplies for the Flemish administration – growth through partnership (Procura+ Award winner 2018)

Speaker: Alexander Lemmens (Agency for Facility Management – Government of Flanders)

The Agency for Facility management won the Procura+ sustainable public procurement of the year award in 2018. The presentation explained the essentials of this award-winning framework agreement for sustainable office supplies. The framework agreement contains some extensive sustainability criteria in the technical specifications, the award criteria and the execution clauses. In addition to these common sustainability criteria, the Agency for Facility Management incorporated a clear strategy, some smart clauses (options, discounts, ...) and a partnership to lift this contract to the next level. The goals were increasing the number of sustainable products offered, sustainable transportation, reducing waste and raising awareness and inducing behavioral change among the buyers.

With this framework agreement, the Agency for Facility Management created a solid and comprehensive approach that incentivizes the market and favors the most sustainable products and practices. The system of an inventory with mandatory and sometimes optional sustainable equivalents is thought out well and leads to the broadest offer of sustainable products possible, without giving rise to irregularities among the received bids and without impeding competition. The use of a framework agreement (large quantities) in combination with a volume discount ensures the economic performance and thus the popularity of the contract with our customers. This in turn raises the leverage on sustainable products on the market.

4.11 GPP of green energy for local authorities

Speaker: An Brouns and Jonathan Saelen (VEB)

The Flemish Energy Company (VEB) (created by the Flemish government) offers energy supply and energy services to the public sector. In 2015 VEB started its first business unit, energy supply. Today, it supplies 4 TWh natural gas and 100% green electricity to Flemish and federal public organisations, altogether 50,000 connection points. VEB does this as a purchasing center. This means that public organisations are exempt from public procurement and are in compliance with legislation.

The VEB customer base includes provinces, cities & municipalities, the central Flemish government, utilities, ... All entities subject to public procurement law.

VEB's goal, just like in its other services, is to unburden the public sector and to simplify their internal processes related to energy supply. That is why VEB ensures transparency, insight into all invoice elements, annual budget preparation, help simplifying the approval process, a clear customer portal, the right products in line with the strategy of the government organisation, etc.

VEB is developing an energy service contract for green energy supply. Instead of tendering the installation of renewable electricity production like solar or wind, a long-term power purchase agreement is tendered whereby the building owner is provided of the production of renewable energy on his premises with a fixed cost per locally consumed kWh. An ESCO will design, build, maintain and finance the installation, so the client can carelessly enjoy his renewables. Moreover, the client can choose to share the revenues with citizens, employees and neighbours by letting them invest in the ESCO via equity or debt.

4.12 GPP of circular lighting: project light as a service

Speaker: Natacha Diericx (City of Mechelen, Sustainable Development and Energy service)

Mechelen has included sustainability in its policy for more than 20 years and was one of the first cities in Belgium to hire a sustainability officer. Mechelen wants to become a carbon neutral city. The first green public procurement for LED lighting as a service was published for 3 office buildings. But the ambition to go further was still there.

In 2017 the city of Mechelen submitted a subsidy file for the call of the Province of Antwerp for innovative climate subsidy and Mechelen became laureate and received a subsidy for the innovative project 'Leenlicht'.

In 2018, a law firm was called upon to draw up a new and more extensive set of specifications for light as a service, but now with more buildings from different legal entities of the Mechelen group. The choice was made for a new green public procurement with a 2-step procedure: selection phase and an award phase. The award phase is still ongoing and has not yet been approved, but this presentation discussed the award criteria, the mandatory site visit and the delivery of the dialux study. Throughout the process a number of points of attention and lessons learned were already drawn.

4.13 GPP of work clothing for the healthcare sector

Speaker: Christiane Klewais (Zorg Leuven - Public Welfare Association, Public Social Welfare Centre Leuven and City Leuven)

Zorg Leuven (CARE Leuven) is a welfare association established by the Public Social Welfare Centre Leuven and the city of Leuven. When Flanders launched a call for a Green Deal Circular Purchasing in early 2017, the central purchasing department saw an opportunity to gain experience in integrating circularity in purchasing projects and in contributing in putting ZORG Leuven on the map as a sustainable organisation.

The framework agreement for sustainable rent and maintenance of linen and work clothing was chosen because, from the point of view of the organisation, it had potential and sufficient impact in the realisation of circularity.

The preliminary phase was crucial. Through strategic workshops the purchasing team and stakeholders were able to determine the sustainable and circular impact they wanted to achieve throughout the entire life cycle of work clothing and linen. This exercise was necessary to determine the focus. Circularity is a broad concept. Looking at the strategic map of the Circular Purchasing Green Deal, the team had numerous options. In choosing carefully, Zorg Leuven took into account the existing knowledge of the market, the possible impact on costs and the priorities of the operational services.

The dialogue with internal stakeholders provides part of the necessary input, but the decision on the circular objectives in the specifications was only taken after a thorough consultation of the market. Through a Request for Information, Leuven has challenged the market to respond to a number of circular issues ranging from the choice of materials to advice on extending the lifespan of the products to understanding the following loops.

Only after this reality check on the market the contract requirements and the technical specifications could finally take shape. This required a review on the one hand of purchasing principles and on the other hand an assessment against the possibilities the procurement legislation offers. The procedures are ongoing and there is great hope they will be successful also in the field of circularity.

4.14 Energy efficiency modifications @ school - short guided tour of MOS & UNESCO-school

Speaker & guide: Steven Van der Taelen (GO! Busleyden Atheneum Campus Pitzemburg)

In 2015, as a UNESCO school, the school included the realisation of the sustainable development goals in the school's pedagogical project. Within the framework of SDG 13 'climate action', the school participated in a subsidy competition 'ready for the climate' of the city of Mechelen. With its second participation the school received a subsidy of 35,500 euros and invested a total of 120,000 euros in relighting, attic floor insulation and double-glazed windows. They involved all stakeholders through information evenings and crowdfunding. One year later, the school received 75,000 euros from the Province of Antwerp, which enabled

it to install a new central heating system and to equip all radiators with a thermostatic valve. A condition for receiving this subsidy was working with disadvantaged groups. They started working with organisations that work with poverty and residents of a retirement home. All investments were tested against the three-step-plan 'trias energetica': 1) limit energy consumption; 2) use renewable energy sources; 3) make efficient use of finite energy sources.

Currently a request has been made to install solar panels and in May the school will submit a new subsidy file to replace single glazed windows again and install smart LED fixtures. The total investment amounts to 500,000 euros.

At the moment, students are appointed on a voluntary basis as 'energy responsible'. They address their classmates and their teachers when appliances are switched on unnecessarily, when windows are still open at the end of a school day, when radiator valves are not in position 3 or when lights remain on when a room is not being used. The aim is to reduce power consumption by at least 10% through a change in mentality.

5 Participative workshop addressing GPP barriers

The visit was concluded with a workshop for partners to share their experiences and pending topics. European regulation for public procurement offers several instruments for greener procurement which can be easily used as shown by the GPP-practices touched upon during the existing experiences visits.

The workshop started with a discussion about topics that the participants have suggested in advance. Key topics discussed were:

- What is holding you/your organisation back from using of GPP (again)? In general? What makes it hard to convince your organisation of GPP? In which concrete cases did you experience problems? ...

More specific, these factors have shown to be problematic in introducing GPP:

- the weight of price in purchase decisions.
 - o After discussion: the weight of price does not mean green issues can't be considered, because one can introduce more ambitious green technical criteria in tenders, and because price can include TCO and LCA (chairs, cars, price end of life). The spending budget may seem higher initially, but this often proves not to be true in the long term. An example of this were the office chairs of OVAM.
- The workload. Time schedules and lack of capacity often result in procurers inevitably just copying the previous tender instead of considering GPP and new options to answer needs.
 - o This can be countered by joint procurement: if smaller tendering authorities work together, more time can be addressed to implementing GPP. Extra advantage can be that if the scale of a tender is bigger, companies will put more effort in realizing the (green) suggestions in the award criteria.

- Internal cooperation with eg the environmental department can also facilitate the work.
- The strong emphasis of inspection bodies on cheapest. This should be ‘the most economically advantageous’.
 - When using green criteria in the technical criteria, even the cheapest will have to meet these. Award criteria have to be formulated correctly in the tender.
 - When the use of EU GPP-criteria becomes mandatory in regulation, inspection bodies will of course accept these as well.
- resistance of SMEs against demanding labels.
 - Market knowledge is very important: when the intended market is not ready, don’t ask.

The workshop also included a practical exercise: all participants were given a simulation of a tender for office furniture. Based on the tender document and the two offers that were handed out, they were asked to score both offers on the award criteria.

Conclusion of this exercise can be that:

- Arguing award criteria is not very easy, but the quality of the tender document is crucial: the offers must be comparable, so it is best that both technical specifications (eg material used) and award criteria are well defined. (It’s easier to score with very specific criteria to be delivered in a specified format, than with award criteria like ‘all green aspects of the furniture will be scored’.)

6 Summary and Conclusions

The existing experiences visits in the frame of the GPP4Growth project offered an opportunity for all the project partners to share examples of existing GPP procedures, measures and criteria that have led to investments in green contracts, to acknowledge shared problems and to build upon the work of the project (which has outlined key barriers and enablers) in order to identify specific strategies to drive the GPP4Growth Project forward.

The second existing experiences visit in Antwerp complemented the first experiences visit (covering construction and energy) in Wexford, through practical demonstrations of GPP-projects of the Province of Antwerp, the City of Antwerp and other local and regional public authorities and institutions, concerning other products and services. On the agenda were ICT, fleet management, building, catering, cleaning, sanitary, furniture, flooring, office supplies, energy, lighting, work clothing, ...). Some time was also devoted to the Flemish Green Deal Circular Procurement and to the features of an organisation that facilitate implementing GPP successfully such as a political and administrative commitment to GPP, the relationship between the procurement and sustainability office, monitoring, communication, ...

The cases presented in the Province of Antwerp demonstrated different strategies, measures and approaches to overcome constraints and seize enablers, like optimal use of the negotiation procedure, partnership with the suppliers, joint procurement, central purchasing bodies, long term procurement strategies, incremental approach, comparing tools (ecoscore), mandatory criteria, certification, subsidies and other incentives, model tenders, learning networks, pilot projects, internal cooperation, demanding labels, functional criteria, circularity criteria, buying services instead of products, including maintenance and guarantee.

In the workshop, a number of shared problems and examples of approaches that have helped overcome were discussed:

The weight of price in purchase decisions can be bypassed by the introduction of more ambitious green technical criteria in tenders, and the use of TCO and LCA.

Joint procurement and Internal cooperation can reduce the workload.

When inspection bodies emphasize the cheapest, instead 'the most economically advantageous', the answer might lie in prescribing green requirements in the technical criteria, or in regulation for mandatory environmental criteria in public procurement.

Award criteria should be very well-defined.

Market knowledge is very important.

The discussions in the frame of the presented cases and the workshop allowed the partners to share their common problems and examples of approaches and measures that have helped overcome some of them.

The cases presented in the Province of Antwerp also testified to the importance of taking the plunge, try new approaches and learn from the procurement process. Learning by doing pays off in GPP.