

	<p><b>Project Acronym:</b> GPP-STREAM <b>Project Title:</b> Green Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming <b>Program:</b> Interreg Europe <b>Topic:</b> Environment and resource efficiency <b>Specific Objective:</b> 4.2. Improving resource-efficient economy policies <b>Subsidy contract no.:</b> PGI05251 <b>Starting date:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 <b>Ending date:</b> 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022</p>
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# GPP-STREAM



## Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

### ACTIVITY B19: PARTICIPATION IN THIRD PARTY EVENTS

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## 1. Introduction

By selecting and purchasing goods and services that respect the environment, public and private buyers can give an important contribution to sustainable development. Green Public Procurement (GPP) is defined in the Communication (COM (2008) 400) "Public procurement for a better environment" 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."**

Green Public Procurement is one of the main tools that public authorities (PAs) can use to influence the market, and stimulate the development of eco-innovative products and services with the ultimate aim to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy, in particular the promotion of more resource efficient economies. This role is highlighted in the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (2011) that aims to "strengthen the requirements on GPP for products with significant environmental impacts; assess where GPP could be linked to EU funded projects".

There are still some large areas for improvement in the adoption and management of GPP in relation to EU funds, in the undertaking of the tool by beneficiaries and in the monitoring of GPP implementation, hence in the evaluation and mainstreaming of its benefits. GPP toolkits, common environmental criteria, training materials and help desks have been developed throughout Europe, mainly targeting public buyers and purchasing bodies. Limited experience is yet available on how to include environmental criteria into financing instruments and in the implementation of sectoral plans. In fact, this implies involving internal and external actors in the process of GPP implementation that may be different from those ones traditionally targeted by GPP policies and action plans. In order to ensure that environmental criteria are included not only in tendering processes linked to the acquisition of ordinary goods, services and works, but also in the procurement processes linked to the implementation of specific policy instruments, public managers of these instruments must be involved in planning the phases of intervention, in identifying specific procurement areas, in understanding how available guidance can be adapted to the specific situations and made coherent with management rules of the policy instruments.

## 2. GPP-STREAM consortium

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, NGOs and local energy agencies. Together we represent varied views across a range of

stakeholders and interests providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, eco-products and policy design.

All partners have had previous experiences of participating to EU projects and have acquired relevant experience in the importance of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation issues and the added benefits for the resolution of common issues across European Countries. All partners have established strong networks of contacts either at the regional, national or international level.

The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering five nations within the Interreg Europe Programme area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries. Interregional cooperation will allow exchanging experiences, knowledge and tools to integrate existing policy tools and establish action plans that guarantee that the lessons learnt can be used for: including GPP in all phases of a policy implementation; identifying and engaging all stakeholders; monitoring GPP implementation and effects.

*Table 1 Project Partners*

	Official name of partner	Acronym	Country
1.	Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Lead Partner)	FVG	Italy
2.	Lazio region	LAZIO	Italy
3.	Ecosistemi Foundation	ECOSISTEMI	Italy
4.	Ministry of Environment	MMEDIU	Romania
5.	North-East Regional Development Agency	ADR NORDEST	Romania
6.	Municipality of Gabrovo	GABROVO	Bulgaria
7.	Centre for Sustainability and Economic Growth	CSEG	Bulgaria
8.	Association of Municipalities of Ribera Alta Region	MANRA	Spain
9.	Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment	AURAE	France

### 3. Project objectives

The project aims to improve the management, implementation and monitoring of policy instruments that integrate green public procurement approaches so as to

ensure that resource efficiency gains can be maximised and that resource efficiency objectives are institutionalised through GPP. The overall objective is to support the GPP-STREAM partners to transfer the lessons learnt to all implementation phases of the policy instruments addressed and to create a community of stakeholders that can mainstream GPP practices. The project sub-objectives include:

1. Identify, collect and share best practices and support tools for the adoption of green public procurement oriented towards resource efficiency within the responsible bodies of the policy instruments;
2. Improve the integration of GPP objectives and actions within the funding programmes and sectoral / development plans;
3. Improve the capacity of national, regional and local administrations to align their actions in order to enhance GPP implementation;
4. Improve the capacity of monitoring GPP implementation triggered by the implementation of specific policy instruments and plans;
5. Stimulate the adoption of green demand for goods and services along all phases of policy instruments' implementation, including those that are affected but not directly managed by the authorities that developed the instruments.

#### **4. Participation at third party events**

As part of its Communication strategy and as defined in project Application form, Activity B19 foresees the active involvement and participation of GPP-STREAM partners in at least 3 third-party events. Summaries of these events, as well as main objectives and attendants are presented below.

##### **4.1. Compraverde Forum, Rome, Italy**

Forum Compraverde Buygreen 2019 – WEGIL was held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 in Rome, Italy. Main stakeholders were public authorities at a national, regional and local level, public and private beneficiaries of both the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The European GPP-STREAM conference called **“Institutions for the ecological transition”** was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 in Rome, at the Forum Compraverde Buygreen.



The main objective of the conference was, in the first session, to explore the general approach adopted by some public authorities at national and regional level to develop GPP policies and promote the competences for the ecological transition of our economy; in the second session, the objective was to explore the approach adopted by some GPP-STREAM project partners to integrate GPP into their sectoral policies and related tenders.



Overall, it was highlighted the key role that capacity building of public officials plays in the promotion of GPP and the greening of public spending in general. It was also pointed out how the creation of networks among universities, citizens, enterprises and public administrators, can significantly accelerate the transition towards a low carbon and circular economy. Indeed, these networks facilitate the transfer of research and

innovation results, thus enhancing the capacity of the market (especially the SMEs) to meet the public demand for greener goods, works and services.



The event was attended by around 30 people who represented local, regional and national authorities, regional development agencies, public, and private EU funds beneficiaries.

#### 4.2. GPP Training Session in Piatra Neamt, Romania

This event was held in the Romanian city Piatra Neamt on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. The program is conducted in the context of a broader approach, through which the European Commission finances the organization of GPP training sessions in 11 European countries, under the coordination of ICLEI Europe. In Romania, the GPP training program is implemented by the Fondazione Ecosistemi, the Ministry of the Environment and the North-East Regional Development Agency, only in Piatra Neamt (for participants from the North-East Region) and Bucharest.



For the first seminar there were studies of the first modules (the legislative part of the GPP) and were discussions related to the integration of green criteria into public

procurements. There was also a presentation of the GPP-STREAM project, within this session and project dissemination materials were distributed to the participants.



#### 4.3. Final Dissemination Event in Peshtera, Bulgaria

The Final dissemination event of the Erasmus+ project “Two and a half minutes to Midnight” was held in the town of Peshtera, Bulgaria on 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. The event involved more than 70 stakeholders from 3 different European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia and North Macedonia. The attendants were: representatives of local and regional authorities from Pazardzhik Province (BG), Province of Varazdin (HR) and Kochani Municipality (MK), as well as NGOs operating in the environment protection and clean energy projects, research and educational authorities.



The project main purpose was to emphasize on climate change issues, protection of environment and sustainable energy and how these contemporary topics can further be deployed in school curriculums. Mr. Georgi Simeonov from CSEG made a

presentation of project activities emphasizing on benefits which can bring GPP for the sustainable development at local level.



#### 4.4. Kick-off conference of VR EDU project in Ludbreg, Croatia

The kick-off conference was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 in Ludbreg, Croatia. There were participants from 4 European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and North Macedonia. The participants were representatives of public authorities, NGOs, and educational sector. The main objective of the project is to raise awareness of students from high schools on topics like climate change issues and protection of environment by using innovative technologies like virtual reality and open educational resources. The project aims also to establish a strategy document for partnership between the 4 participating regions.



Project GPP-STREAM was presented by Mr. Simeonov from CSEG. Main purpose of the Bulgarian partner is to integrate into the Strategy document of VR EDU project a

chapter dedicated to opportunities and benefits which may bring the larger deployment of green public procurement thus leading to a sustainable development of the participating regions.

