



UNIVERSITY OF
PATRAS
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ

ACTION PLAN FOR THE REGION OF WESTERN GREECE

OCTOBER 2019



GPP4Growth
Interreg Europe



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Abbreviations

GPP	Green Public Procurement
AP	Action Plan
GPP4Growth	Green Public Procurement for resource-efficient regional growth
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
EU	European Union
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises

Introduction

The University of Patras, in particular the "Distributed Systems & Telematics Laboratory" is participating in the "Green Public Procurement for resource-efficient regional growth (GPP4Growth)" project as a lead partner. This project involves 9 partners from 9 European Union countries (Greece, Italy, Poland, Belgium, Spain, Latvia, Bulgaria, Ireland, Malta). The project is part of Interreg Europe and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Through the exchange of experiences and practices, the main objective of the project is to improve and implement policies that promote eco-innovation and green development through Green Public Procurement (GPP). The ultimate goal of the project is to increase by 7% the number of businesses in the regions of partners incorporating environmental criteria in the production of goods and/or in the supply of supplies, services and works.

Produced by each region, the action plan is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within that region. The minimum information to be provided per action includes the way the action is linked to the project, the nature of the activities to be implemented, their timeframe, the stakeholders involved, the costs and funding sources. If the same policy instrument is addressed by several partners, only one action plan is required. The action plan should also include actions that may have already been initiated in Phase 1.

General Information

Objectives and main issues addressed

The new European Union (EU) public procurement system, effective since April 2016, creates 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: a) comply with environmental obligations, b) integrate environmental costs in their offers based on a lifecycle cost approach and c) 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 to achieve regional green growth and respond to current and future environmental and economic challenges, through the adoption of – what is called Green Public Procurement (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, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in their territories.

As regards the strategies to spur resource efficiency and green growth, the GPP4Growth regions face the following challenges in adopting GPP: (a) Lack of legal clarity and expertise in applying environmental criteria, (b) Lack of similarity between GPP procedures & criteria across the EU, which results in increased administrative costs for bidders, (c) Limited awareness of benefits, misperception of the extent of costs, (d) Modest high level political support which results in a lack of resources for GPP, (e) Lack of information & tools for GPP, (f) Narrow knowledge on the potential of green products in the market, (g) Inadequate training structures for public authorities.

Taking into account the different pace and conditions among the GPP4Growth regions in the setup and management of GPP, and the different approaches followed to foster green growth through GPP, interregional cooperation will allow exchange of experiences and information on environmental criteria to be used to improve the implementation of resource efficiency policies, thus saving thus time and effort. Interregional cooperation will allow integration of lessons learnt into policies, such as green criteria in tendering, monitoring green contracts' performance and market availability of green products, with the aim to support the least-favored regions to integrate GPP and reduce disparities.

GPP4Growth aims to improve the addressed policies on resource efficiency that stimulate resource efficiency and green growth through the promotion of GPP, incorporating green public procurement to support public administrations and businesses to adopt lifecycle cost approaches and improve the overall management of resources and waste. The project will allow the involved public authorities to share practices and experiences relevant to the benefits and methods for implementing GPP, use of common GPP criteria for key sectors and identification of opportunities to apply GPP to achieve green growth based on regional conditions and challenges. The overall objective is to support the GPP4Growth partners to transfer the lessons learnt into regional policies and action plans.

Activities and Results

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

- Analyzing the needs of GPP4Growth regions in GPP.
- 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.

GPP4Growth will improve 9 policy instruments, relevant to the abovementioned policy areas, targeting to achieve:

- 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.

Operational Programme of Western Greece 2014-2020

The preparation of the Five-Year Operational Programme 2014-2020 for the Region of Western Greece is foreseen by the decision of the Minister of Internal Affairs 35829/22.9.2014 (Government Gazette 264 of B/6.10 2014) on «Content, structure, submission, drafting, audit and evaluation bodies, the process of preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the 5-year Operational Programmes of Local Government Organizations for the period 2014-2020». The Five-Year Operational Programmes have a unified structure, structure and logic that governs all the administrative and geographical sub-divisions of the region and include: a) Strategic Plan, b) Operational Plan, c) Five-Year Action Plan and Financial Program and d) Performance and Monitoring Indicators.

The Strategic Plan:

- depicts the characteristics of the region's geography, the characteristics of the region itself and its legal people, as organizations, and evaluates the current situation.
- defines the development vision of the region and the guiding principles that should govern how the region operates and how regional affairs are managed.
- defines the strategy of the region in order to achieve its vision.

The Operation Plan:

- identifies the development priorities under which the Five-Year Operational Programme is structured, taking into account national (sectoral and regional) development priorities and spatial planning tools and promoting macro-regional strategy. The region's development priorities are set out in the form of axes which further specialize in measures.
- specifies each measure to its objectives. In order to achieve the objectives of each measure, each agency is responsible for drafting action plans. The actions may be project categories or large projects or repetitive functions of departments and bodies.
- defines actions of transnational significance and promoting interregional and interdisciplinary partnerships, while safeguarding the principles of multilevel governance.

The Five-Year Action Plan and Financial Program:

- groups and monitors actions to achieve the objectives of each measure.
- prioritizes, plans actions and sets timetable for their implementation.
- links the actions to financial resources and a relevant planning form is completed.
- records the total resources available per source of funding and the conditions of abstraction as calculated during the period of preparation of the business plan.
- summarizes the operating and investment costs of the program activities for each five-year period.
- creates the program financial tables for each year and source of funding.

Performance and Monitoring Indicators:

Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators are used to monitor the Five-Year Operational Programme, which are divided into Input, Output and Outcome Indicators. Indicators are used to quantify goals to make them measurable. Each Indicator is assigned a target value for each action.

Contact Details

Project	Green Public Procurement for resource-efficient regional growth - GPP4Growth
Partner organization concerned	University of Patras
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NUTS2 region	Region of Western Greece
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Policy context

<p>The Action Plan aims to impact:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investment for Growth and Jobs programme <input type="checkbox"/> European Territorial Cooperation programme <input type="checkbox"/> Other regional development policy instrument
<p>Name of the policy instrument addressed</p>	<p>Operational Programme of Western Greece 2014-2020</p>
<p>Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:</p>	<p>The Action Plan will include specific actions and initiatives to be implemented, the timing of their implementation, the people involved, the costs and funding they will need (if needed) and what improvements they are expected to bring to the policy instrument. The selection of actions was mainly based on interregional learning during Phase 1 of the project, which highlighted the successful approaches to GPP undertaken by the participating regions. We also took into account the opinions expressed by the stakeholder representing our policy instrument, who had a continuous involvement in the project activities.</p> <p>In addition, once the O.P of Western Greece 2014-2020 ends in 2020, we must face the difficulties caused by time constraints and the already decided allocation of funds. The actions envisaged are generally aimed at the public authorities, who will decide to include them in the original or future policy instrument.</p> <p>The action plan is expected to be completed in October 2019 and, after undergoing the approval process by the Interreg Europe Managing Authority, will be sent to the Region of Western Greece and begin monitoring its implementation in January 2020. The end of the monitoring phase and the evaluation of the degree of implementation will be completed in the second half of 2021. Of course, many factors can influence the implementation, such as elections and leadership change, overall allocation and allocation of business plan money. The monitoring phase will last for 2 years (from 2020 to 2021) and will record any issues that arise and adjust the action plan to the changes. The extent of the adoption of the AP depends entirely on our region. Of course, the action plan is not binding, but the greater the degree of its approval and acceptance by the region, the more likely it is that the proposed actions will be implemented without of course changing the nature of the option.</p>

Details of the actions envisaged

Action 1: Creation of templates with predefined green criteria for a specific range of products	
1.Relevance to the project	<p>Many partners have already introduced mandatory green criteria, because the results of individual initiatives were not desirable. In addition, many times during the interregional meeting, the lack of capacity to select the right criteria and the lack of a clear legal framework are reported as serious obstacles to the promotion of GPP. The choice of adopting templates with predefined green criteria eliminates or reduces the effect of the above parameters, increasing the number of bids applied by the green criteria.</p>
2.Nature of the action	<p>The product categories should represent the common and frequent needs of the region and the selection of green criteria should come from the European Commission's proposed list (key category) and after a brief telephone investigation of market responsiveness.</p> <p>How the policy instrument will be affected by this action concerns neither the creation of new projects, nor changes in policy instrument management (improved governance), nor changes in the strategic objective of the policy instrument (structural change). The creation and use of templates will help in future competitions for product categories that will include default green criteria and will be a cost-effective tool in the hands of the region.</p>
3.Stakeholders Involved	<p>Public Authorities (Regional and Local), Business Support Organizations (Chambers) and SMEs.</p>
4.Timeframe	<p>Initially, the ecological criteria for product categories will be selected on the basis of the EU criteria for GPP developed by the European Commission and from a rapid exploration of the market's ability to respond to new conditions. We estimate that the above will take 3 months. Creating bidding templates in the procurement department is foreseen to take 2 months, while for the first calls for bids and evaluation of results we estimate that it will take 10 months. If all of the above goes according to plan, we will consider extending the use of standards to two further categories.</p>
5.Costs	<p>Indicative cost: 0 € (to be implemented by the relevant department of the region).</p>
6.Funding sources	<p>The specific action will be implemented by the relevant department of the Western Greece Region (i.e. the Supply Department), by its own staff members. Therefore, there is no need for any funding sources. If needed, a dedicated GPP expert will be provided that will assist in the templates' creation.</p>

Action 2: Installation of Photovoltaic Systems in Public Buildings.

<p>1.Relevance to the project</p>	<p>The idea behind this action was born after the publication of two similar best practices by the Polish partner, using photovoltaic panels in public buildings. One of these good practices incorporates the innovative Solar Cool system into public kindergartens, where a solar collector is installed and operates on the air conditioning system cooling in the buildings, minimizing the energy costs used for lighting and aiming for additional absorption of solar radiation. The other good practice involved installing renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and photovoltaic panels, with the ultimate goal of converting buildings into energy efficient buildings.</p> <p>Investing in ecology is essential and has proven to work. The modern technologies used in existing buildings are an inspiration to other public and private entities. It is not only an investment in ecology, but also in meeting the expectations of society and its professional service. According to EU Directive 2010/31, by the beginning of 2021, all new installations in EU countries put into operation should be buildings with almost zero energy consumption. Therefore, it is good practice for the whole country and the EU countries, where they will be able to better prepare for these new regulations.</p>
<p>2.Nature of the action</p>	<p>It is envisaged that a study will be carried out by the relevant department of the region (Technical Projects Department) for the installation of photovoltaic systems in public buildings to meet their energy needs. Public buildings will include, but will not be limited to, schools, museums, privately owned buildings and hospitals and will be identified in the first steps of the action. The region will need to work with the relevant municipal technical services to transfer knowledge, methodology and experience of the process through seminars, workshops and meetings between the departments involved.</p>
<p>3.Stakeholders Involved</p>	<p>Public Authorities (Regional and Local), Business Support Organizations (Chambers) and SMEs.</p>
<p>4.Timeframe</p>	<p>Initially, there will be an assessment of the current situation in the integration of photovoltaic technology in public buildings in the Region of Western Greece. The evaluation is expected to take 4 months. Immediately afterwards, the technical service will be mobilized to prepare the corresponding report for the cost estimation, the appropriate technologies, the annual savings and the payback time, a process that we estimate will take 6 months. Subsequently, tender supplies and their installation are expected to last 7 months. The exchange of knowledge between the technical services and procurement services of the Region of Western Greece and the municipalities is estimated to (similarly) take 7 months.</p>
<p>5.Costs</p>	<p>Indicative cost: € 3m (depending on the type of buildings and their number).</p>
<p>6.Funding sources</p>	<p>This action relates to a new project envisaged from the Region of Western Greece that will be funded from the O.P of Western Greece 2014-2020, or its successive operational program for the period 2021-2027.</p>




Action 3: Changing public lighting with LED lamps.

<p>1.Relevance to the project</p>	<p>We planned this action from the presentation of a similar best practice during our visit to Ireland, which outlined the long-term benefits of such an approach (such as annual savings and reduced ecological footprint). Green public lighting was also presented during a meeting in Latvia. Green and efficient lighting has also been mentioned in good practice research, as it combines environmentally friendly results with economic benefits.</p> <p>The ultimate goal, if this action is fully implemented, will be to install 'green' light bulbs in the region of Western Greece, including local roads and municipalities. Depending on the rate of adoption of such a measure, reduced electricity bills will be combined with significant reductions in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Investing in ecology is essential and has proven to work. The modern technologies used in existing buildings are an inspiration to other public and private entities. It is not only an investment in ecology, but also in meeting the expectations of society and its professional service. According to EU Directive 2010/31, by the beginning of 2021, all new installations in EU countries put into operation should be buildings with almost zero energy consumption. Therefore, it is good practice for the whole country and the EU countries, where they will be able to better prepare for these new regulations.</p>
<p>2.Nature of the action</p>	<p>It is envisaged to carry out a study by the responsible department of the region (Technical Projects Department) to replace the older energy-efficient light bulbs with efficient LED lamps, as well as a study to extend green approaches through GPP that come with economic benefits and other benefits (e.g. air conditioners in public buildings). The study will highlight both environmental and economic benefits by calculating the total cost and the annual profit after the estimated time period. The Regional Department is expected to cooperate with the relevant technical services of the municipalities to transfer knowledge, methodology and experience of the process through seminars, workshops and meetings between the departments involved.</p>
<p>3.Stakeholders Involved</p>	<p>Public Authorities (Regional and Local), Business Support Organizations (Chambers) and SMEs.</p>
<p>4.Timeframe</p>	<p>Initially, there will be an assessment of the current state of incorporation of LED technology into public lighting in the region of Western Greece. We have already asked stakeholders who have mentioned that there are sections of new roads already using this approach. The evaluation is expected to take 4 months. Immediately afterwards, the technical service will be mobilized to prepare the corresponding report for the cost estimation, the appropriate technologies, the annual savings and the payback period, a process that we estimate will take 6 months. Subsequently, tender supplies and their installation are expected to last 7 months. The exchange of knowledge between the technical services and procurement services of the Region of Western Greece and the municipalities is</p>

	estimated to (similarly) take 7 months.
5.Costs	Indicative cost: € 1m (depends on the new road sections to replace the energy-saving light bulbs with LED technology).
6.Funding sources	This action relates to a new project envisaged from the Region of Western Greece that will be funded from the O.P of Western Greece 2014-2020, or its successive operational program for the period 2021-2027.

Organization Signatures

The organization below agrees to support and promote the implementation of the actions listed above. The signatory confirms that he has the authority required to do so and that the approval process required by the organization has been successfully completed.

Date	09/03/2020
Organization Name	UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS
Name of Legal Representative	 PROF. DEMOSTHENES POLYZOS
Signature of Legal Representative	
Stamp	

The organization below agrees to support and promote the implementation of the actions listed above. The signatory confirms that he has the authority required to do so and that the approval process required by the organization has been successfully completed.

Date	03/02/2020	26/02/2020
Organization Name	Region of Western Greece	Region of Western Greece
Name of Legal Representative	Zaimis Fouion	Panagiotis Sakellariopoulos
Signature of Legal Representative		
Stamp		