

GPP4GROWTH

E-newsletter on project updates

November 2019, Issue 6

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Project 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).

In the 6th newsletter you may find more detailed information on the GPP4Growth latest developments and upcoming activities.



Ireland's GPP Circular

In October 2019, the Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD; the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton TD, and Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Patrick O'Donovan TD welcomed the publication of [*Circular 20/2019: Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement*](#). The circular demonstrates the Government's priority in promoting Green Public Procurement by asking Departments and Offices to consider the inclusion of green criteria in their procurements and Government Departments will be asked to report on this in 2020. The circular is one of the actions included in our GPP4Growth Action Plan and is also linked in with the Public Sector as a Leader section in the recently published [*Climate Action Plan*](#) for Ireland. The plan requires every public body to have a climate mandate. A key element of such a mandate will be using public procurement to deliver change.



Abby Semple



Mervyn Jones



Joan Prummel



Gijs Termeer

Ireland's GPP Action Plan

Green Tenders
An Action Plan on Green Public Procurement



The first draft of Ireland's GPP action plan has been submitted. The plan focuses on 3 main actions:

1. Development of a National Circular on Green Procurement
2. Development of a National Pilot Training Programme
3. Updating National Green Procurement Guidance

With implementation and monitoring plans and the costs associated with each plan being analysed in detail. The department have requested input from our stakeholders to be included in the final version which is due in December 2019.

7th Conference on Regional Development - "Circular Economy & Sustainable Development" in Patra

On the 20th of September 2019, University of Patras attended the 7th Conference on Regional Development, entitled "Circular Economy & Sustainable Development", represented by professor Christos J. Bouras. Many critical issues were discussed in the event, such as:



- The importance of achieving the UN's sustainable goals at national, European and global level.
- The catalytic role of innovation in addressing the challenges of climate change, through the successful course of EIT Climate-KIC Greece.
- Achieving the necessary synergies at regional and national level to promote the transition to a sustainable economy and society.
- Strengthening regional governance in promoting a holistic sustainable agenda that will have a direct, positive impact on the daily lives and well-being of citizens.

Clauses model tender for circular procurement of IT equipment- Antwerp province

When talking about resource efficient and circular economy, IT is an important product category with a large impact on people and environment. The role of public authorities is undeniable: with their procurement policy they can boost environmental products and services. As large consumers of IT, public authorities have an important impact on IT-companies, by using GPP these are stimulated to structurally improve the sustainability of the production chain. Province of Antwerp and ngo BBL developed a model tender in the frame of the CirculT-project, financed by the Province of Antwerp, to hand local authorities a concrete instrument to manage just that. The model tender includes a collection of feasible and effectual clauses for drawing up a tender for the circular procurement of IT equipment. For each part of a public procurement tender (title, subject, technical specifications, award criteria) several clauses are proposed, which can be adopted literally or with minor adjustment. With each clause directions on how the criterium can be verified are provided. With the CirculT project the Province of Antwerp and BBL intended to raise awareness about the ecological impact of IT equipment and at the same time the leverage function of public procurement. (read it here (in Dutch): <https://www.gemeentevoordetekomst.be/artikel/clausules-standaardbestek-voor-de-circulaire-aankoop-van-ict-apparatuur>)



Interview in Business in the Community - Ireland

(<https://www.bitc.ie/>)

On the 26th of September 2019, Bernie Kiely, assistant principal of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Department of Communications (DCCA) and Dr Irene Cadogan, Higher Executive Officer of the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division of the (DCCA), were recently interviewed for an article for the Business in the Community Blog. The questions asked surrounded Circular Economy and Green Public Procurement. You can read the full interview here <https://www.bitc.ie/newsroom/news/circular-economy-developments-from-the-irish-government/>.



“Circular Economy developments from the Irish Government”

GPP Info Day in Ireland

On the 26th of September 2019, Department of Communications, climate Action and Environment (DCCA) held a national GPP Info Day in **Dublin** entitled ‘Putting Green Public Procurement into Action on Climate’. The programme for the day began with **presentations** from the **Department** and **4 key speakers, Abby Semple, Joan Prummel, Mervyn Jones and Gijs Termeer**. The focus of the day was **putting GPP into practice**

therefore the speaker’s presentations were focused on toolkits and implementation procedures. The speakers also led individual afternoon workshops to delve further into their chosen topics. Joan Prummel and Mervyn Jones focused Green Procurement and the Circular Economy, while Abby Semple focused on the GPP Toolkit and Gijs Termeer on the CO2 Performance Ladder. Each presentation also



GPP Info Day in Dublin

allowed for questions from the attendees. The outcome of the day was on the whole very positive. With many factors indicative of Green Procurement remaining to the fore front of the minds of our attendees.

Regional Stakeholders Meetings of 6th Semester

6th regional meeting - Lodzkie Region

The 6th Regional Meeting with GPP4Growth project Stakeholders in Lodzkie Region was organised within debate titled **“Circular Initiatives for the Sustainable Development of Lodzkie Region”**, held in the Marshal’s Office of the Lodzkie Region, on the 14th of November, 2019. The meeting was attended by the representatives from public, private, academic and NGO’s sector.

The meeting was a great opportunity to discuss the activities relevant to green development in the region at a broader scope. The more so, because -apart from the GPP4Growth project and issues related to the green public procurement- the LCA4Regions project, also co-financed within the INTERREG EUROPE Program and the GREEN HUB project were discussed.

The core issue of LCA4Regions project is to contribute to a more effective implementation of environmental policy instruments by the application of Life Cycle Methodologies, which is an important element of green public procurement. GREEN HUB project (co-financed under the Regional Operational Programme for the Lodzkie Region for the years 2014-2020) aims in enabling enterprises from the Lodzkie Region to create an offer of competitive ecological products, which will contribute to build the green capacity of the suppliers in public procurement. Moreover, the findings from the GPP4Growth project contributed to draft the activities in this project, and planned within **the Regional Action Plan for the Lodzkie Region within GPP4Growth** project actions will be implemented also through them.

The meeting was concluded with a great positive green response for the future!



6th stakeholder meeting - University of Patras

On the 20th of September 2019, University of Patras, the Lead partner, held the 6th stakeholder group meeting of the GPP4Growth project. The meeting commenced with the welcome address from Professor Christos J. Bouras, professor in the Computer Engineering & Informatics Department and scientific coordinator of UPAT for GPP4Growth project who also made a brief presentation of the project outcomes so far. Afterwards, Thomas Stavropoulos, PhD Lawyer in Public Law by the University of Athens and visiting Fellow of the Harvard University, spoke about special legal issues of audit of bids in public contracts explaining in detail the recent changes in the legal framework in public procurement as a result of the new law on PP passed in Greece (N. 4412/2016). Next, Mrs. Maria Diamantopoulou, head of the financial and fiscal control department of Region of Western Greece (UPAT's policy instrument for GPP4Growth) gave a speech concerning GPP in the Region of Western Greece focusing in main initiatives in the Region of Western Greece that aim at energy savings and environmental protection. An open discussion followed, coordinated by Professor Christos Bouras. The final speech was given by Vasileios Kokkinos, postdoctoral researcher and member of the GPP4Growth project team. The main focus of his presentation was the draft version of the action plan developed by the University of Patras as GPP4Growth.



6th Stakeholders meeting - Ireland



On the 6th of November Ireland's sixth stakeholder meeting was held in the offices of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The meeting was held with representatives from the 3 key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Action Plan. The discussion centred on the GPP Action Plan and how to ensure their implementation in Phase 2 of the project.



GPP4Growth Regions Summit on Green Public Procurement Towards improved market availability & potential for green products and services in the EU

On 10th December 2019 procurement officials & regional bodies active on green public procurement gathered in Sliema, Malta for the GPP4Growth Regions Summit.

GPP4Growth subscribes to the viewpoint that public procurement is a key market for the promotion, consolidation and expansion of the green economy. Public procurement is key to the economy in general, as it alone represents nearly 1/5 of the EU's GDP, and by consequence, it constitutes the single largest market and demand factor for products and services in Europe. It can thus be reasonably understood as the main vehicle by which to carry forth the green transformation of the economy.

GPP4Growth seeks to enhance the new EU public procurement reform (2016), i.e. the regulatory framework prepared by the EU to induce eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth, by using new award criteria in calls and tenders that integrate environmental considerations. In particular, the new rules enable and encourage 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.

The GPP4Growth summit provided an organised forum for EU regions to learn from each other on green public procurement practices. In particular, to explore a set of questions turning more broadly towards the market availability and potential for green products and services in the EU.

The summit therefore aimed to provide answers on how the question of market availability and potential for green products can be conceptually and practically approached in a useful manner so as to promote green growth and eco-innovation through improving the sustainability of public procurement.

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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For every info or update about the newsletter please contact:

Ms. Liesbeth Taverniers

liesbeth.taverniers@provincieantwerpen.be