



Newsletter # 1

May 2017

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Dear reader,

Welcome to the first edition of Newsletter series of the GPP4Growth project!

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 & green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP).

In the following pages, you will find an editorial describing the overall context and objectives of the project as well as information on the latest developments and upcoming events.

The GPP4Growth Newsletters will be published every six months. Through our project website and this periodic newsletter, we will keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes.

The GPP4Growth project team

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PROJECT AT A GLANCE

GPP4Growth brings together nine partners from nine countries, to exchange experiences & practices and improve their capacity on implementing resource efficiency policies that promote eco-innovation and green growth through Green Public Procurement



Environment &
resource
efficiency



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

The GPP4Growth project

The "Green public procurement for resource efficient regional growth - GPP4Growth" project aims at improving policies on resource efficiency and supporting public administrations and businesses to adopt lifecycle cost approaches and improve the overall management of resources and waste, through the use of green public procurement (GPP).

The project will allow the involved public authorities to share practices and experiences (relevant to the benefits and methods for implementing GPP, the use of common GPP criteria for key sectors and the identification of opportunities to apply GPP) and to transfer the lessons learnt into regional policies and action plans.

The project thus addresses the needs of the territories regarding greening their public procurement, in the light of the new EU public procurement system. Europe's public authorities consume 14% of the EU GDP on

goods, services and works of a total estimated value of EUR 1.8 trillion annually. This purchasing power is now anticipated to promote environmentally friendly and resource-efficient goods and services (e.g. energy efficient electronic and electrical equipment supplies, sustainable construction works, low-emission public transport vehicles, etc). GPP4Growth will support public authorities to seize new opportunities for using their purchasing power to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth, mostly by using new award

criteria in calls and tenders that pay attention to environmental considerations. The updated framework that will emerge is anticipated to address the needs of the territories regarding compliance to the new EU public procurement system.

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Project objectives

The project aims to:

- Increase the capacity of regional administrations to effectively implement resource efficiency policies, applying green public procurement.
- Improve the implementation of national/regional resource efficiency policies, providing incentives to businesses to integrate environmental factors and costs when producing goods and/or providing supplies, services and works.
- Unlock regional/national investments on green public procurement to promote

the development of new green products and services.

- Improve regional actors' readiness and create knowledge awareness on the influence of green public procurement on the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns by businesses operating in the region.



EXPECTED 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 of investments unlocked to promote new green products and services development.

Project activities

GPP4Growth brings together nine partners from nine countries, to exchange experiences & practices and improve their capacity on implementing resource efficiency policies that promote eco-innovation and green growth through GPP. Project activities include:

- Analysis of the factors that influence businesses to participate in green tenders and contracts
- Evaluation of existing regional and national policies that promote eco-innovation and green growth through GPP.
- Identification of good practices on GPP methods that led to the implementation of green contracts.
- Development of a digital lifecycle costing (LCC) method and resources for all EU public administrations to harmonise application of LCC.
- Promotion of interregional learning and capacity building through workshops, existing experience visits, and policy learning events.
- 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.

The activities are structured as follows:

1. Joint analysis and peer reviews (thematic studies, guides on relevant policy aspects)
2. Public dialogue (consultation with regional stakeholders on key issues)
3. Interregional learning and capacity building (workshops, policy learning events)
4. Transferable policy methods and resources (digital lifecycle method, policy briefs)
5. Policy impact (joint development of action plans).

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)



Kick-off meeting

The GPP4Growth kick-off meeting was held on 23rd and 24th January 2017, in Patras, Greece, marking the beginning of the five-year INTERREG Europe funded project. Nineteen participants from all nine project partners participated in the event. University of Patras, as the organisation managing the project, orchestrated the meeting.



The meeting was organised in sessions, during which participants delivered presentations addressing all aspects of the planned activities foreseen by the GPP4Growth Application Form. At the end of each session, active discussion took place, enabling participants to achieve a common understanding of the key issues and shape an action list of the work to be completed during the first semester of the project.

The meeting was also an occasion for the project counterparts to discuss and share their experience in the implementation of regional policies to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency & green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP). Moreover, all partners proudly presented their regions using videos, photos and graphs indicating the importance of each region in the country, but also their uniqueness and specialities in specific fields.

The fruits of the meeting have been documented in a twenty-page report with detailed minutes of the sessions and summaries of results.

Upcoming events - Regional stakeholder meetings

Project activity A2.1 includes the organisation of regional stakeholders meetings between partners and the key players that influence policy issues in the GPP4Growth regions, with the aim to receive input for proposed green public procurement policy measures to be planned. All partners will organise one regional stakeholder meeting (per semester) in their own region, and deliver summary reports on the experience gathered and conclusions reached. The purpose of regional stakeholders meetings is to receive input from and ensure the active involvement of stakeholders groups in the implementation of regional action plans. During the meetings, partners will mostly have the opportunity to identify issues to be tackled at the action plans implementation phase (project phase 2), as well as to ensure the involvement of the specific stakeholders' organisations in the preparation of the action plans. For example, the managing authorities of the policy instruments will provide input on their areas' policy priorities, the research institutions on the new research outcomes on green production methods, and the chambers of commerce on the sector's challenges and priorities.

For more information about forthcoming regional stakeholder meetings, please visit our website: www.interregeurope.eu/gpp4growth

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EDITORIAL

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