



NEWSLETTER NO. 4

When it comes to innovation in many countries within Europe, public sector is often perceived as a regulator of the field, maybe throwing one or two incentives for the private sector to take part in it, but not overindulging in the action itself. This assumption is misleading as public sector can play an active role in acquiring possible innovative solutions from businesses or research institutions for challenges that otherwise could not be effectively solved by traditional methods. All it needs is an open minded and enthusiastic spirit within the different levels of the authority institutions, better understanding and applicable skills of public procurement procedures and instruments that would reduce the inherent risks of innovations.

This is why we created iBuy – an international network of public institutions, innovation and procurement experts along with business support organizations that have achieved reasonable success in the area to share their experiences and provide support to the less advanced ones. It aims at convincing policy makers and other relevant stakeholders in different countries to enhance the culture of inventiveness in the office, make innovation public procurement part of the agenda and provide measures for civil servants and businesses to engage in the process of innovating.

Consortium acts within the framework of 2014-2020 Interreg Europe programme and is co-financed by the European regional development fund. It consists of partners from Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Romania and Greece and is set to act from 1 Jun 2018 to 30 Nov 2022 with the budget of 1,470,100.00 Eur. All information regarding consortium activities, meetings and outcomes could be found on its website at <https://www.interregeurope.eu/ibuy/>.

Fostering IPP/PCP in public sector

Online library on IPP/PCP is ready!

4-topic based online library on issues related to IPP/PCP has been prepared by seven project partners in accordance to the context of their region, aiming at fostering the knowledge of their stakeholders on the matter. Materials include managerial, administrative and financial concepts to properly develop or improve IPP/PCP programmes in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Romania and Greece.

[Read more](#)

Lithuania will award for IPP/PCPs

Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation has launched an award for the most innovative and effective public procurement. The ministry invites public sector institutions to enter the competition with their best practices in acquiring public services in three major categories: the most innovative procurement, the most sustainable procurement and the smartest procurement. The winners of the competition will be given an award in autumn 2020.

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PPI goals for 2020

2020 will be a year full of many different aims: examining the concept of Public Procurement of Innovation in greater depth and providing more clarifications; defining the goals and necessary procedures in greater details; designing new paths to make solution and support instruments feasible.

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Public sector can innovate too

Both, public and private sector, have a potential to be an active instigator of innovation. However, currently only the private one is perceived as actively pursuing this role while the public one is mostly depicted as constrained and uninventive regulator of public life.

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COVID-19 reactions

Will the quest for IPP increase?

In Japanese the word “crisis” poses two meanings within: “danger” and “opportunity”. The same sentiment can be applied towards the COVID-19 pandemic’s effects on innovation public procurement (IPP). The virus has threatened everyday routine of public institutions, including the public procurement activities. Yet, it also paves the way for IPP to be more widely accepted and utilised in the aftermath of the crisis.

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IPP during the COVID-19 in Finland

In the situation on COVID-19, the public procurement units are strategically in very important position and they can support the regional and national economy and business with their procurement actions, including the ones related to innovation. This attitude towards public procurement and innovation public procurement (IPP) can be witnessed in Finland, which is one of the partner countries in iBuy project.

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Spanish media emphasizes PPI's role

Major Spanish newspaper, called La Vanguardia, has published an article on how technological companies have been raising against the coronavirus. The article stresses the importance of promoting innovative policies towards these companies during the pandemic crisis, as they belong to a sensitive sector that has not completely recovered from the previous financial crisis.

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Portugal launches R&D tender to fight COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 outbreak Portugal launches a tender to facilitate and stimulate R&D&I projects that respond to the instant needs of the National Health Service. Although it was not specifically designed to encourage public buyers to launch innovation acquisition contracts, it allows for the development of the innovative offering to be guided in this direction.

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Meetings and study visits

It's all about the attitude

Success of the implementation of PPI/PCP in public sector primarily depends on the attitude not regulation – study visits in Lithuania showed.

Institutions that are prone to business-thinking, are open to new ideas and have a proactive management look for opportunities within the legal framework rather than restrictions and this allows them to succeed in bringing innovation to the sector.

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Romanian stakeholders view on PPI/PCP

Local meeting in Bucharest has revealed that in order to move forward and develop PPI/PCP for a broader use in the Romanian procurement system it is important to have a well balanced mix of legislation, policies and strategies overlooking both public and private sector, well-trained staff and constant awareness-raising activities regarding the benefits of using PPI/PCP.

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