



NEWSLETTER NO. 5

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/>.

Action plans and pilot actions

Towards action plans

The main outcome of the project is set to be 7 actions plans prepared by each partner to boost innovation public procurement (IPP) in their respected regions. iBuy consortium has met online to discuss the ideas every partner has for its own action plan as well as provide feedback for the ideas of others.

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Awaiting approval

iBuy partners have submitted their action plans to Interreg Europe's Joint Secretariat and are now waiting for the approval. After submitting the action plans partners have had several interactions with the Joint Secretariat to improve their plans. At the moment, the action plan for one partner, Balearic Foundation for Innovation and Technology, has already been approved. Other plans are expected to be closed by the next 2-3 months.

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3 partners requested pilot actions

In order to test new approaches towards boosting innovation through public procurement three iBuy partners have requested pilot actions regarding PPI/PCP. Lead partner Lithuanian Innovation Centre, as well as two more partners – Balearic Foundation for Innovation and Technology and Ministry of Economics of Latvia have requested to test new approaches in boosting innovation through public procurement in their respected countries.

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Project's recognition

iBuy presented during Interreg Europe webinar

iBuy is making a progress in the area of public procurement of innovation (PPI). Best practice identified by project's coordinator Lithuanian Innovation centre has been selected to be presented in Interreg Europe webinar on PPI. Mantas Vilyys, the director of Lithuanian Innovation Centre, has presented pre-commercial procurement support

iBuy's good practice has been noticed by the EC

One of iBuy's good practices – Ventspils Reiss prior market consultation process – has been selected for the European week of cities and regions in October. Veronika Krumkova from the Latvian Ministry of Economics will present the Ventspils Reiss performed prior market consultation, which has

scheme in Lithuania that provides financial support to the public institutions to procure R&D services and develop innovative products.

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resulted in the development of the prototype by the company, using personal financing.

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Meetings

Preparation of action plans is in action

While the first stage of the project is set to end this November, partners still embrace the potential of learning from each other before setting plans on boosting innovation public procurement (IPP) in the region they come from. Partners have met online for the dissemination event that was supposed to be held physically in Riga this autumn. Unfortunately, due to the outburst of Covid-19 virus and limited travel arrangements, the physical event was replaced with the online one.

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