



EU Green Public Procurement Policy

**LoWaste Conference
6 March 2014**

**European Commission
Environment Directorate-General
Robert Kaukewitsch**



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What is Green Public Procurement?

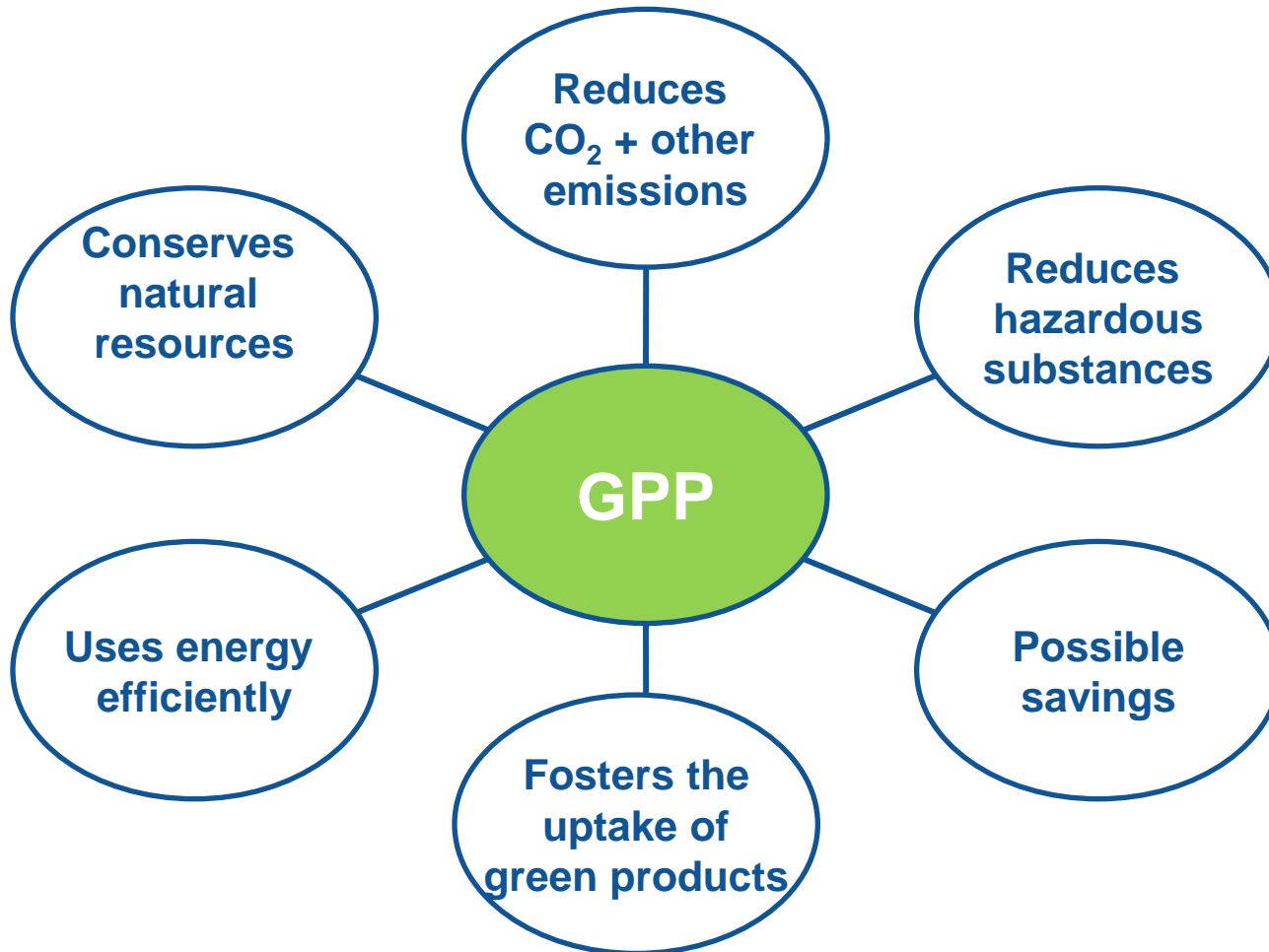
“... a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured.”





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GPP benefits





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Achieving different objectives at a time

- By purchasing less polluting buses, you can buy public transport and clean air
- By purchasing renewables, you buy electricity and reduce CO₂ emissions
- By purchasing organic produce, you buy food and reduce pollution and improve animal welfare



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So why don't we do it all? Obstacles to GPP

- Lack of political support
- Green products are perceived to cost more
- Lack of knowledge on how to verify green criteria
- Lack of awareness of the benefits of green products
- Lack of legal expertise

→ *Commission support to overcome these obstacles*





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Communication (2008) Public Procurement for a Better Environment

- Political target: 50% of tendering procedures to be green by 2010
- Common EU GPP criteria for priority products/services
- Legal/operational guidance: GPP Training Toolkit
- GPP National Action Plans





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GPP is voluntary...with some exceptions

- **Energy Star Regulation (2008):** obligation to buy office equipment at least as efficient as the Energy Star
- **Clean Vehicles Directive (2009):** obligation to buy environmental friendly vehicles (taking at least CO₂, PM10, NOx and NMHC), life cycle tool!





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GPP is voluntary...with some exceptions

- **Energy Efficiency Directive (adopted October 2012):**
"soft" obligation to purchase energy efficient buildings and equipment of the highest energy labelling class: *only for central government , purchases above the value thresholds and only "insofar as this is consistent with cost-effectiveness, economic feasibility, wider sustainability, technical suitability, as well as sufficient competition"*.





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20 + EU GPP Criteria

Construction, Electricity, Cleaning Products and Services, **Textiles**, Food and Catering Services, **Furniture**, Office IT equipment, **Paper**, Gardening Products and Devices, Transport, Thermal insulation, Wall Panels, Hard Floor Coverings, Cogenerations (CHP), Street Lighting and Traffic Signals, Indoor Lighting

New: Waste Water Infrastructures, Sanitary Tapware, Toilets, Imaging Equipment





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Criteria under development

- **Buildings**
- Heating Systems
- Electrical Medical Equipment (SEMCo)
- Paints and Varnishes
- **Roads**
- Lighting (office and street lighting)
- Food and Catering
- Cleaning Services





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Two levels of criteria

Core criteria: address the key environmental impacts, designed to be used with minimum additional verification effort or cost increases.

Comprehensive criteria: to purchase the best environmental products available on the market, possibly requiring additional verification efforts or a slight increase in cost compared to other products with the same functionality.



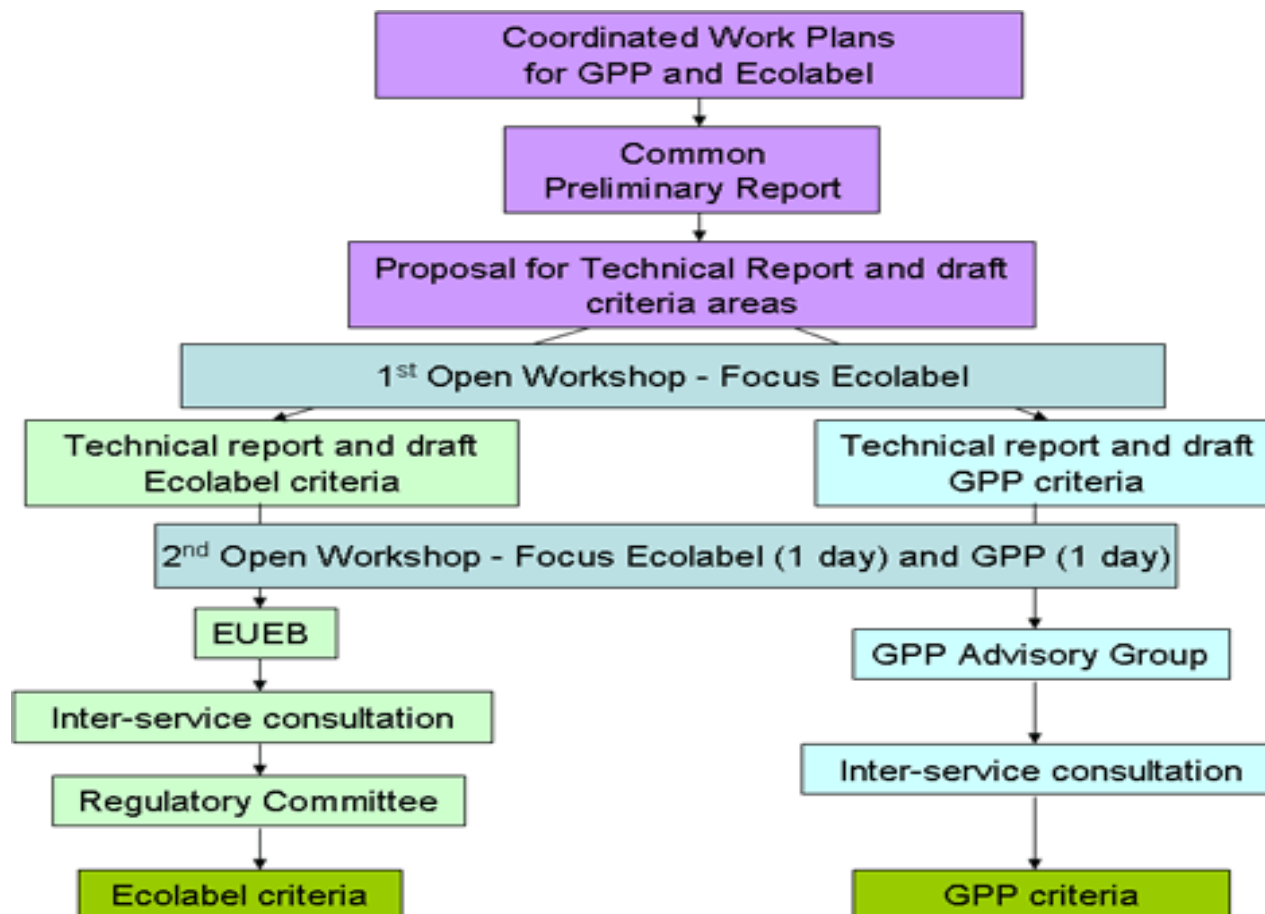
*GPP criteria are largely based on standard Type I ecolabels.
It is however not allowed to ask for products to have a specific label.*



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GPP/Ecolabel development process by the Joint Research Centre and DG Environment





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How much GPP is being done in the EU?

- 2008 study: 50% target more or less achieved in the 7 most advanced Member States for 10 product and service groups
- 2011 Study: 50% target not met across the whole of the EU (26%), but more than 50% of public authorities are doing some sort of green procurement





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The forerunner countries

Large differences between good and bad performers:

- The four top performing countries applied GPP in 40-60% of the cases
- In 12 countries: less than 20%
- Top performers according to different studies: Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, UK





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The forerunner countries

Forerunner countries are usually characterised by:

- Long tradition in GPP
- Targets for achieving certain GPP levels
- Existence of hard or soft obligations
- Developed and institutionalised, proactive capacity-building efforts



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Influence of EU GPP policies on Member States

- Almost all do have National Action Plans in place
- MS often refer to EU GPP criteria in their national policies: 53% of procurers and 50% of policy makers use or recommend criteria w very similar to the EU GPP criteria (public consultation in 2012)
- Increased interest in the GPP Website: site visits increased from 51,000 in 2011 to 157,000 in 2012 and 447,000 in 2013
- The page views increased from 120,000 (2011) to 264,000 (2012) and now 1,041,000 (2013)



Future developments of GPP

March 2014:

Official Adoption of the **Public Procurement Reform**

Early 2015:

Specific guidance on the green elements

7th Environmental Action Programme and European Resource Efficiency Platform Recommendations

- Set up more solid GPP monitoring system
- Evaluate options for further sector specific legislation
- Promote networking of public procurers



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GPP information sources

HELP DESK:

In EN, FR, DE [*gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org*](mailto:gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org)

Newsletter (please sign up!)

GPP website of the European Commission:

- Buying Green Handbook
- Full sets of EU GPP criteria and background reports
- GPP Examples
- Information on National Action Plans for GPP
- News and upcoming events

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>



How GPP can support resource efficiency

- *prolonging life-times by durability, reparability, spare part availability and longer warranty requirements*
- *recycled content requirements*
- *take-back schemes*
- *second hand requirement?*

Difficulties

- *verifiability must be ensured*
- *can good take-back schemes be described in a way that will allow procurers to tell the good ones from the bad ones?*
- *Good practices wanted !*



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Is there anything more important than Green Public Procurement?



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Is there anything more important
than Green Public Procurement?

YES!



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Decisive phase before tendering: needs assessment!

Best environmental outcome is not necessarily buying the greener option

A good needs assessment can lead to buying nothing, less or something different.

Questions to be asked before tendering:

Do we really need it? Do we need to own or can we rent?

Do we still have it (maybe in another department)?

Does everybody need his/her own (printer, mobile phone, service car)?

Nice side-effect: €€€

Additional Information

Some EU Projects of interest for GPP

Buy Smart+ offers:

- 15 green procurement helpdesks providing know-how, tools consultation and trainings in national language
- Assistance to green procurement pilot projects
- Monitoring of the green procurement experiences; policy recommendations for the NEEAPs updates in June 2014

18 partners from 15 European countries

March 2012 – September 2014

Internet: www.buy-smart.info

Coordinator:

Vanessa Schmidt, Berliner Energieagentur GmbH

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| | | |
|----|-------------|--|
| 1 | BEA |  Germany |
| 2 | BSU |  Germany |
| 3 | CA |  Germany |
| 4 | CEA |  Cyprus |
| 5 | CONSIP |  Italy |
| 6 | Ekodoma |  Latvia |
| 7 | ENEA |  Italy |
| 8 | Energiaklub |  Hungary |
| 9 | ESS |  Sweden |
| 10 | ESV |  Austria |
| 11 | Icemenerg |  Romania |
| 12 | KREA |  Lithuania |
| 13 | RAEE |  France |
| 14 | REACM |  Greece |
| 15 | REGEA |  Croatia |
| 16 | SEC |  Bulgaria |
| 17 | SEVEn |  Czech Republic |
| 18 | ZRMK |  Slovenia |

Baltic GPP



What is it about?

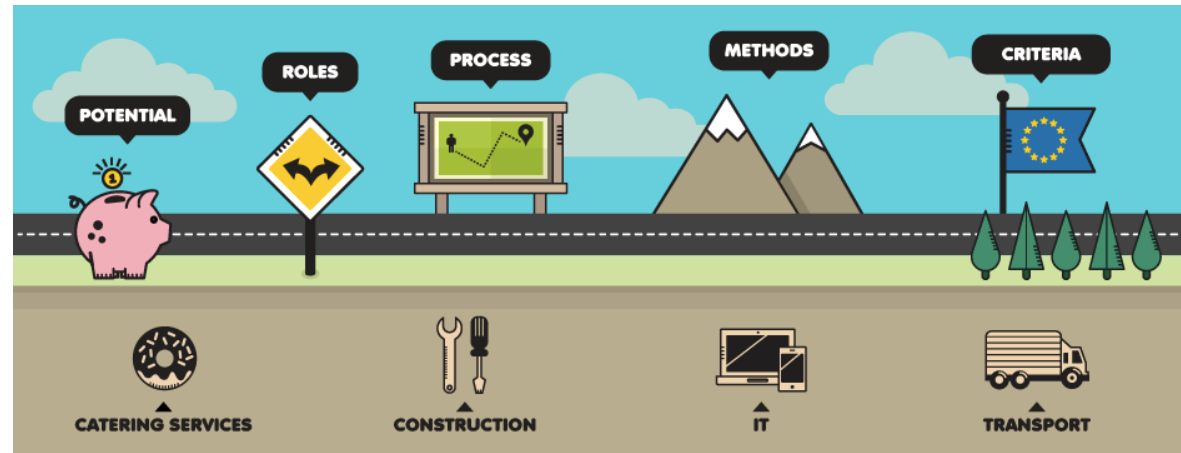
- Web training
- Train-the-trainer seminars
- Success stories

Website:

- www.balticgpp.eu

Partners:

- Denmark, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Norway



The project is funded by the Baltic Sea Region Programme



Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund)

Project aim: To assist public authorities and fleet operators with the procurement of clean and energy-efficient vehicles and the implementation of the Clean Vehicles Directive

How to benefit/participate:

- Receive free support in vehicle procurement
- Participate in workshops, trainings and online discussion (first European workshop on buses in Bremen Dec 11/12)
- Guidance, fact sheets, case studies and training material being developed



www.clean-fleets.eu - Funded by
Intelligent Energy Europe



INNOCAT – Procurement of eco-innovative catering



Aim: To encourage and facilitate procurement of eco-innovative products/services in the catering sector by public/private procurers. INNOCAT is financially supported by the European Commission (DG ENV)

How to benefit/participate:

In the process of reviewing school or hospital catering contract?

Or considering purchasing a low-carbon vending machine?

Join the extended **Buyers Group** and benefit from advice or coordinated procurement

Join the **Sustainable Catering Forum**

The above activities are at their initial stages. Contact

innocat@iclei.org if you are interested in finding out more.



CITTA' DI TORINO



Johnson Matthey



GPP 2020 aims to mainstream low-carbon public procurement across Europe in support of the EU's goal to achieve a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% increase in the share of renewable energy and a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

- More than 100 GPP tenders for energy related products, services and works carried out (investments: about 3,500 Mio. EUR, CO₂-savings: close to 1 Mio. tons CO₂e
- 13 train the trainer seminars and 36 training seminars for procurers reaching 700 participants
- Permanent GPP support functions (e.g. helpdesks) in eight countries established or supported



The Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign



Procura+ is an initiative designed to offer direct **support** to public authorities in **implementing** sustainable procurement, facilitate **exchange** and **promote** achievements internationally

www.procuraplus.org





8 new networks of European Public Procurers of innovation covering the following fields

- 1/ Combating climate change:** Innobuild (Lyngdal Kommune (NO))
- 2/ Improving care for senior citizens/active aging:** EcoQuip (Business Innovation and Skills (UK)), **Happi (Réseau achats hospitaliers d'Ile de France (Paris, FR))**
- 3/ Fostering energy efficiency:** Pro-LIGHT (Transport for London, UK, city of Bremen DE), Fired-up (London Fire Brigade, UK), Spea (Barcelona city, SP)
- 4/ Supplying better mobility infrastructure:** **Syncro (Conseil Général de l'Isère (Grenoble, FR))**
- 5/ Creating more healthy working conditions:** Innobuster (Austrian central purchasing authority AT))



“The Innovation Procurement Forum”



Project leader: **ICLEI**, European platform of sustainable cities (Freiburg in Breisgau, DE) contact: marlene.grauer@iclei.org

Future activities for 2012 – 2016

1. Development of an innovation procurement database
2. Maintenance and development of a European user-friendly and interactive website: www.innovation-procurement.org (+900 members) & of a forum <https://www.procurement-forum.eu>
3. Representing the European Innovation Procurement Community
4. Development of personal exchange and joint training activities on PCP and PPI
5. Drafting and compilation of guidelines on innovation procurement
- 6. European award** for the best innovation procurements (launch October 2013) more info @ <http://www.innovation-procurement.org/award/>



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Thank you!

Questions? Please contact:

robert.kaukewitsch@ec.europa.eu

GPP webpage: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>