

Events draw attention to progress, challenges for GPP



A series of year-end events have showcased the GPP work undertaken in 2011, and identified areas for further action. In Warsaw, the GPP Advisory Group meeting and [5th International Conference on Sustainable Public Procurement](#) took place from 1 - 2 December. In the context of the modernisation of the EU procurement directives, the gathering of national representatives was timely.

Initial results were presented from the GPP monitoring exercise undertaken by the Commission in 2011 – in which almost 1,000 authorities reported on over 1,500 contracts (the results will be presented in the next News-Alert). The 2012 work programme for

the development of EU GPP criteria was also discussed with participants highlighting the need to prioritise the main procurement impacts in times of economic crisis.

The conference on 2 December saw presentations from Polish, UK, Swiss, Dutch and Austrian authorities about their GPP/SPP experiences. From building a sports hall meeting passive house energy standards, to carrying out cost/benefit analysis on a range of sustainable procurement criteria, significant steps have been taken in 2011. Many presentations also focused on the social aspects of SPP.

Meanwhile in Brussels on 6 December a meeting was held on the implementation of the [Clean Vehicles Directive](#). Perspectives from industry, cities, fleet operators and the European Commission were presented. The need to support both procurement processes and technical progress to ensure the Directive achieves its aims was highlighted.

Bulgaria's National Action Plan for GPP



*Interview with Miglena Pavlova,
Executive Director, Bulgarian
Public Procurement Agency*

*Bulgaria has just adopted its first
National Action Plan for GPP,
covering the period 2012-2014.*

What new measures does the NAP introduce?

GPP is currently mainly implemented in terms of energy efficiency requirements, construction of landfills and purchase of recycled paper. The NAP provides for the share of green procurement to increase gradually but significantly during the period 2012-2014. Targets are set for seven product groups, ranging from 100 percent for office IT equipment, lighting and air conditioners, to 50 percent GPP for cleaning products and services by 2014. The targets are mandatory for central government, and recommendatory for other authorities.

How will these measures be implemented and the challenges addressed?

Training by experts from the Public Procurement Agency and Ministry for Environment and Water will help build the administrative capacity to reach the targets. International cooperation is also playing a role, through the presentation of good practices at conferences and seminars.

What approach is taken to monitoring?

A monitoring system has been developed by adapting the forms used to record all public procurement procedures. These now include fields to detail whether the contract is "green" within the scope of the NAP or beyond it, and at which stage of the procedure criteria have been introduced. This will allow both the number and value of green contracts to be monitored.

Access Bulgaria's NAP [here](#). (In Bulgarian)

Zoom in on... Greening COP17



More than 25,000 people from 200 countries attended the recent COP17 climate change conference and related events in Durban, South Africa. To minimise the event's ecological footprint, a comprehensive Greening Programme was adopted, including:

- Guidelines on resource efficiency, waste management and green procurement
- [ISO 14001](#) certification for the main conference venue
- The provision of public transport and bicycles for attendees

[More information...](#)
Results of the [conference...](#)

Zoom in on... Launch of Resource Centre for Sustainable Procurement



An online Sustainable Procurement Resource Centre was launched on 12 December. It brings together in one place criteria, policies and strategies, guidance, tools and good practice examples on SPP.

Procurers can search by topic for the resources which will help them to implement SPP. The Centre is free to access and is maintained by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Users are invited to submit their own resources for inclusion.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... Product Environmental Footprint



A product environmental footprint is a way of measuring the environmental performance of a good or service over its life-cycle. It aims to give an account of the most relevant impacts of that product, based on scientific information.

A draft [methodology](#) has been prepared by the Joint Research Centre and a workshop was held from 29-30 November. Pilot tests are underway in a number of sectors, including construction, chemicals, ICT and food. Final guidance will be published in 2012.

[More information...](#)

Image: Kyoto Song

GPP examples

Cleaner vehicles and electricity in Slovenia



Slovenia's newly established public procurement agency has been busy implementing green criteria for a number of key product groups. In two recent tenders – for electricity and vehicles – it has been able to achieve impressive results by including green criteria.

For electricity (meeting the needs of 120 authorities across Slovenia), a minimum of 30 percent of the delivered amount was required to be from renewable sources or high-efficiency cogeneration. By rewarding higher percentages in the award criteria, a total of 60 percent was offered by the winning bidder.

For vehicles a similar approach was applied, with minimum specifications on energy consumption and emissions complemented by an operational lifetime costing model, based on the Clean Vehicles Directive. Year-on-year reductions in emissions have been noted for all classes of vehicle included in the tender.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

City of Wiesbaden greens its office stationery (Germany)



Wiesbaden's central procurement office is responsible for sourcing office stationery and other products for 190 offices in the city. It seeks to combine economic efficiency with the inclusion of green and social criteria – and is starting to see some results.

In a framework agreement covering over 200 different items of office stationery (pens, hole punches, envelopes etc) 75 percent of all products now have environmentally-friendly alternatives. These alternatives are marked with the word "Öko" ("Eco") in the digital catalogues operated by the Central Procurement Office.

Eco-alternatives are promoted through trainings, newsletters and e-mail-updates for the city's procurers. The criteria applied relate to the use of recycled paper and restriction of hazardous substances, amongst other considerations.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Zoom in on... Belgian SPP conference



On 1 December the Belgian Ministry for Sustainable Development hosted a one-day conference on SPP. The programme brought together speakers from Belgium, France and the Netherlands to debate strategies and share good practice.

A series of workshops in the afternoon addressed life-cycle costing, supplier reactions to GPP, pre-procurement techniques and legal issues linked to environmental and social criteria. The presentations are available online.

[More information... \(In French\)](#)

Image: Dreamstime