

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT ONE TENDER AT A TIME

Local government spending is a key focus of a new European green public procurement project, designed to improve environmental outcomes, climate action targets, drive innovation and job creation. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment is a key partner of the GPP4Growth project along with eight public authorities across the EU member states.

In 2016, the Irish Government spent close to €9 billion on goods and services, giving the public sector procurement significant purchasing power in the market. Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process whereby public authorities seek to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact.

By purchasing more green goods and services local authorities could play a key role in achieving our climate action targets and reducing waste. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) has become a partner in this new Interreg Europe project GPP4Growth – along with eight other public authorities across the EU member states.

Over the next two years the project will help to identify best practice, improve training and raise awareness to help increase the green spend.

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Denis Naughten, TD, has welcomed his Department's involvement in the pan-European project to promote Green Public Procurement (GPP) as a means of driving green growth and eco-innovation.

Minister Naughten said: "Our transition to a sustainable way of life requires that we use every tool available to ensure a positive impact on our climate and environment. Green public procurement is widely recognised as a key lever in stimulating



Denis Naughten TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.

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)

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



the design, supply and purchase of goods and services with green credentials. Specify 'Green' and the market will respond."

KEY OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED

As part of this project, two events were held in 2017, which saw procurers from local authorities across the country learn more about green procurement and identify key opportunities to drive increases in more sustainable and innovative purchasing across the state.

A key element of the process is to find ways to support public procurers to identify and utilise new opportunities to leverage their purchasing power to stimulate green growth.

Speaking about potential outcomes of the project, Bernie Kiely, Assistant Principal Officer in the Waste Policy and Resources Efficiency Section of the Department, said: "We want to find the best ways to support public authorities to seize new opportunities to stimulate green growth, including the increased use of 'green' award criteria in calls and tenders."

The key result of this will be the inclusion of environmental and social elements in public tenders which has the potential to drive



FACTFILE ON GPP4GROWTH PROJECT

GPP4Growth will support public authorities to seize new opportunities for using their purchasing power to stimulate green growth, mostly by integrating new award criteria in calls and tenders with particular attention to environmental considerations.

The updated framework that will emerge is anticipated to address the needs of the territories regarding greening their public procurement, in the light of the new EU public procurement system.



Project Objectives

- 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.

Main Project Activities

- 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 allow harmonised application of LCC.
- Promotion of interregional learning and capacity building through workshops, existing experience visits, and policy learning events.
- Joint development of regional action plans.

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 investments unlocked to promote new green products and services development.
- Increased knowledge awareness of over 1,000 stakeholders on the influence of GPP on the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns by businesses.

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“This year the Department will hold more stakeholder events similar to the GPP4G Project meeting in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, in October 2017, across the country, and will also host a study visit for all project partners focusing on best practice examples of GPP in Ireland.”



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
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sustainability, increase resource efficiency and create innovation with the market.

Minister Naughten has highlighted how “public bodies could specify electric vehicles; lighting services not light fittings; non-toxic cleaning products; catering contracts that include vegetarian options; and equipment that can be repaired easily or at least recycled. These can all make a difference to our environmental footprint and are readily-doable”.

This year the Department will work on the key priority areas outlined and hold more stakeholder events across the country. It will also host a study visit for all project partners focusing on best practice examples of GPP in Ireland.

For further information visit www.interregeurope.eu/gpp4growth

At the GPP4Growth stakeholder event in Portlaoise in October 2017, key priorities were identified such as:

- Identifying Green Procurement Champions.
- Identify leaders in GPP implementation.
- The creation of a support network, support materials and sharing of best practice case studies.
- Identify training needs and increase education opportunities for procurers
- Increase public support from senior public officials.
- Consider updating the action plan and the Irish guidance documents.
- Potential pilot on data collection.