

## Strategic exchange on GPP through European project between Italy and Romania

Running until mid-2018, the European-funded [GPPBest project](#) provides a means for structuring exchange of best practice experiences on green public procurement (GPP) and strategic tools aimed at improving the governance of procurement policies and competences for their implementation. The project is a partnership between three Italian regions (Basilicata, Lazio and Sardinia) and the Romanian Ministry of Environment.

The start of the project saw internal GPP working groups set up in each administration to bring together the most suitable 'activators' to promote and anchor new approaches to procurement. Training, technical workshops and a European roundtable have taken place in Romania, while a number of workshops, roundtables and study visits have been carried out in Italy.

With the role of sharing good practice, but also improving [current procedures](#),

the Region of Sardinia is in the process of adopting its updated Regional Action Plan on GPP (2017-2020), whose implementation shall be reinforced through EU structural funds. In Romania, the project's activities are supporting the Ministry of Environment in its design and promotion of its GPP policy and operational tools. This year will see the Ministry setting out a National Action Plan on GPP targeting various stakeholders, in order to increase awareness about GPP, and facilitate the uptake of tools under development. Based on Sardinia's experiences, the Region of Basilicata has developed a Regional Action Plan for GPP, while Lazio is now better equipped in involving and supporting regional bodies and agencies in their adoption of GPP approaches. In addition, a [Catalogue of GPP Best Practice](#) has been published whilst a number of other practical resources will be produced before the project's end.

## Green Procurement of cleaning products by the City of Ghent (Belgium)

With an annual purchasing budget of 14.4 million euro on cleaning products and services, the City of Ghent has spent the last 10 years progressively greening their approach to cleaning to achieve the use of 100% environmentally sound products. The city administration purchases products meeting the European Ecolabel criteria, as a minimum, and was the first city to use Cradle-to-Cradle Certified products through their contracted cleaning services for all of its buildings and facilities.

In their latest procurement of cleaning products, Ghent required only biodegradable products that also met the criteria of the European Ecolabel, and gave clear signals to the market of their commitment to sustainability by awarding contracts based on sustainability criteria, in addition to price. A significant number



of points (30% of the total) were given to those companies which could demonstrate sustainability in terms of deliveries, waste prevention and minimisation and any further innovative approaches or goods. The four-year framework contract has an estimated value of 400,000 euro a year.

Download the full case study [here](#).



### Zoom in on... Circular Procurement Congress, 19 October 2017

Mainstreaming circular procurement is the broad aim of this year's Circular Procurement Congress, taking place in Tallinn (Estonia) on October 19th. The event is co-organised by the [European Commission](#), the [Estonian Presidency of the EU](#), the [Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and the Environment](#), and [ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability](#). The Congress will be held back-to-back with the [Conference on Innovation Procurement](#) (17-18 October) to facilitate interaction between the Innovation Procurement and GPP communities. Registration will open in May.



### Zoom in on... Competition for best sustainable and innovative purchase

Following up on the success of the 2016 awards, entries are now being accepted for the 2017 edition of the Procura+ Awards. The awards seek to showcase excellence in sustainable and innovative public procurement. Entries should also have a strong potential for replication and scaling up. The Procura+ Awards are organised as part of the European Sustainable Procurement Network. Entries for this year's awards need to be received by 30 June 2017.

[More information...](#)



## Linking Environmental NGOs to Green Public Procurement



*Carsten Wachholz is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the [EU Circular Economy Action Plan](#) at the [European Environmental Bureau \(EEB\)](#). He campaigns for stronger action on resource efficiency, with ambitious proposals in the areas of eco-design, GPP, labels, and related fields of product policy. Set up in 1974, the EEB is Europe's largest coalition of grassroots environmental organisations.*

### What specific activities does the EEB conduct on GPP and how do you support your member organisations on this topic?

The EEB has always supported an integrated approach towards EU product policy. GPP is one of the instruments to be utilised on a larger scale by all EU Members. We strive for standardising what is green and what is not in the world of public spending. The EEB began its involvement in this process in 2009 and aims to challenge the ambition level of the European Commission in the development of guidance and non-binding [GPP criteria](#) for different product categories.

We also encourage our members to advocate for more binding rules on the use of GPP criteria in their home countries. The EU provides a comprehensive set of background information on market and technology development, environmental life cycle assessment and two ambition levels for GPP criteria that are ready to be adapted and implemented by national or local governments. The EEB offers advice and support to its members to use and apply the EU GPP work. We also ask them for their expert opinion in order to provide feedback to the Commission in the respective criteria development processes.

### You are involved in the coordination of the European NGO network on GPP. What have been the main findings from the exchange in the Network so far?

Environmental NGOs usually develop their work programmes along thematic priorities such as climate change, waste prevention or biodiversity. Sustainable consumption and production has a

crosscutting implication on the success of all our NGO work in these areas. That's why there is a growing interest amongst NGOs in using GPP to promote resource-saving business models, energy efficient products and sound environmental management measures and practices through green criteria in public tenders.

Therefore, NGOs need to develop the capacity to understand the legal framework and relevant procedures before their efforts can effectively have an impact on the implementation of public procurement. As many NGOs are organised in local groups, they are well positioned to influence local decision makers on how to procure goods and services in an environmentally responsible way.

### What do you see as the main opportunities for NGOs on GPP?

At the national level, NGOs can push for more stringent implementation of GPP for public entities. Italy recently decided to make GPP criteria mandatory for a certain set of product groups, becoming the first EU Member State to do so. At local level, there is a role for public awareness-raising on how your municipalities should spend their money.

Through proximity to politicians and decision makers in an administration, it is also possible for NGOs to increase the pressure on public authorities to adopt greener procurement practices, whilst at the same time advising how to do it. Providing access to guidelines and criteria for implementing GPP call for tenders would be an asset for NGOs, especially if they can build on existing EU work. Easy wins for NGO advocacy work could be requiring the purchase of products matching the highest efficiency class on the EU energy label, or following other EU GPP criteria for specific product groups such as paper, furniture or food.

To read the interview in full, click [here](#).



### Zoom in on... Waste for roads

Every year 4.7 million kilometres of new roads are built and rehabilitated. Recycling and re-using waste material could play a major role in the construction of roads in Europe, bringing both environmental and economic benefits, and fostering a circular economy, with results of a [new study](#) supporting this premise. The European [GPP Criteria for road design, construction and maintenance](#) provide guidance on how recycled and re-used content can be required in public tenders, and are available in 23 EU languages.



### Zoom in on... Global Procurement

The goal of the [2nd Global Procurement Conference](#) (Rome, 4-5 July 2017) is to raise awareness of the planetary implications of joint decisions regarding what is purchased, how and for whom in the public domain. The programme will see experts from international financial Institutions and regulatory bodies, public procurers, policy-makers, economists, lawyers engage in debates related to innovation, competitiveness, sustainability and regulation in procurement worldwide.

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