

# SwitchMed and Public Procurement



Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) can be considered as a process whereby public organizations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life cycle basis. This means generating benefits not only to the organization, but also to society and the economy, whilst avoiding or significantly reducing negative impacts on the environment. SPP initiatives aim at pointing out the importance of the public sector and government in creating a push and a demand for and from local markets for green and sustainable products. By acting as a role model in creating a mechanism for purchasing sustainable goods and services, other market stakeholders can be directly and indirectly influenced to join in promoting sustainable procurement and purchasing.



The One Planet network has formed to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which supports the global shift to SCP and the achievement of SDG 12. The One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Programme is a global multi-stakeholder platform that supports the implementation of sustainable public procurement around the world. The Programme builds synergies between diverse partners to achieve the SDG target on SPP.



## Why implementing SPP can make a difference?

Public spending, which accounts for an average of 12% of GDP in OECD countries and up to 30% in developing countries, wields enormous purchasing power. Shifting that spending towards more sustainable goods and services can help drive markets in the direction of innovation and sustainability, thereby accelerating the transition to a green economy.

## Benefits of Sustainable Public Procurement:

Sustainable procurement allows governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve resource efficiency and support recycling. Positive social results include poverty reduction, improved equity and respect for core labor standards. From an economic perspective, SPP can generate income, reduce costs, support the transfer of skills and technology and promote innovation by domestic producers.

## SwitchMed and SPP

Under the SwitchMed project Sustainable Public Procurement activities were implemented in **Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia**.

**Egypt:** SPP is one of the priorities in the Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan of Egypt. Several activities were developed to promote sustainable public procurement practices and foster the switch through concrete actions and tools (Sustainable public procurement assessment study, national sustainable public procurement manual, national sustainable public procurement roundtables and trainings).



SwitchMed Programme  
is funded by the European  
Union



SDG  
12



4  
SwitchMed  
Countries



8  
Green  
Products  
sheets

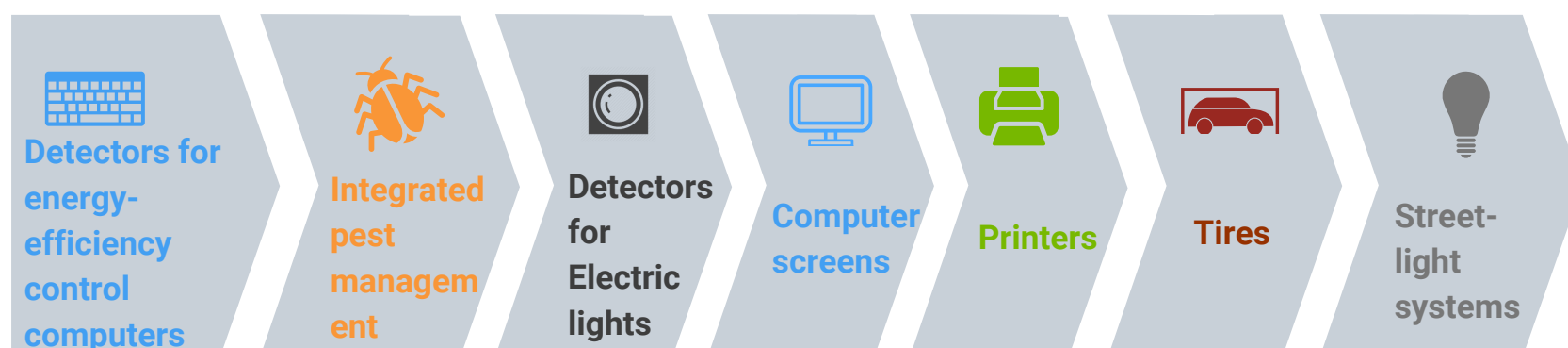


100  
Practitioners trained



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**Israel:** The share of public procurement in GDP in Israel is high (10.24 per cent), and the public sector has been recognized as a key player in catalyzing the demand for green products and services and for serving as an example of sustainable consumption. The Ministry of Environmental Protection, with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s support has developed several SPP tools and methodologies (mapping and identification of relevant tenders, guiding documents and training sessions for local authorities, a green public procurement web portal and green products sheets.



**Morocco:** A national Sustainable Procurement Strategy was developed and is being implemented in Morocco. The strategy aims to provide to the public sector a clear orientation on how to switch towards sustainable public procurement mechanism and support the establishment of an appropriated institutional framework (strong national ownership and leaderships, verification mechanisms such as ecolabels and reinforcement of the legal framework).

**Tunisia:** The Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment finalized a revision of their national sustainable procurement national action plan elaborated in its first version in 2012. Clear suggestions to adjust the national level regulating public procurement were proposed, focusing on sustainability aspects in the public procurement process through technical specifications (labeling, evaluation and implementation criteria, product and service lifecycle). A national SPP training programme for civil society and private sector actors is planned for 2020.



## SPP: MAKE THE SWITCH



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### UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. [www.switchmed.eu](http://www.switchmed.eu)