Update on the Global Review on SPP of 2017

The Coordination Desk of the 10YFP SPP Programme is pleased to announce the release of its flagship publication titled “2017 Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement”.

The 2017 Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement examines the state of sustainable public procurement (SPP) policies and practices undertaken by national governments worldwide in the last five years. The 10YFP SPP Programme committed to conducting a regular review of the state of SPP implementation as part of its work plan. Building on the findings of the first edition of the Global Review published in 2013 and on research conducted between 2015 and 2016 among 41 national governments and more than 200 SPP stakeholders, the report tracks the progress made and deepens the collective understanding of the current barriers, needs, opportunities and innovations in SPP.

This research is complemented by the supplement titled “Factsheets on Sustainable Public Procurement in National Governments”, which includes forty country factsheets detailing the SPP policy frameworks, priorities and implementation activities in place in each country. The supplement will be soon available in the Knowledge Hub.

A webinar to present the main findings of the report was held in April and can be viewed on our Youtube Channel. You can also access the PowerPoint presentation here.

For more information, please contact Ms. Claire Thiebault, UN Environment, claire.thiebault@unep.org

New Webinar on SPP-related Activities

10YFP SPP and CI-SCP Programmes-Working Group 4B Webinar
Deforestation, public procurement, and forest certification (May 2017)

This webinar was organised by ISEAL Alliance in the framework of working group 4B on SPP, ecolabels and sustainability standards of the 10YFP SPP Programme and also 10YFP Consumer Information Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CI-SCP).

Protecting the planet’s forests is considered essential for sustainable development. Both governments and businesses are setting ambitious commitments and accelerating their efforts to make sure that deforestation is slowed, sustainable forest management is put into place, and illegal logging is eliminated from global supply chains. One piece of the solution to this complex problem is public procurement, and how procurers can make sure public spending does not lead to further deforestation.

During the webinar, David D’Hollander (ISEAL Alliance), Annie Adams (EFCECA) and John Hontelez (Forest Stewardship Council) spoke about key trends in public procurement and deforestation, forest management and private certification. The power point slides are available here.

The 10YFP SPP webinars are recorded and are accessible in the Library of Webinars on the Global SCP Clearinghouse Youtube Channel.
Update on the Working Groups of the 10YFP SPP Programme

1A–Implementing SPP on the Ground
The working group 1A (WG 1A), led by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, has selected local governments in China and the Republic of Korea to support their procurement of eco-innovative products and services. As well as practical support for procurement, WG 1A aims to build on and strengthen an existing network of local authorities on Green Public Procurement (GPP) in East Asia, and work with the local governments to monitor the impact of GPP.

To date, Guangming New District from China, and Suwon city from South Korea have decided to take part in the working group. ICLEI has already assisted Suwon city in identifying the Recycled Asphalt Concrete (RAC) as the target for their GPP action plan. On June 1, 2017, ICLEI organised a project signing ceremony and a training session on green purchasing of RAC in Suwon City Hall.

On June 17, 2017, ICLEI announced the WG 1A project launch at the GPP session of Eco Forum Global Guiyang Symposium 2017 in Guiyang City, China. The session was co-organized by ICLEI, Eco-forum Global and Guiyang City to convene cities and partners that have shown their interests in WG 1A and to discuss effective ways to utilize the procurement process to enhance local green growth.

The next planned activities are conducting GPP surveys with Chinese local governments to identify their baseline, needs and expectations in GPP development to develop a customized GPP tender implementation action plan.

For more information, please contact Mr. Philipp Tepper, ICLEI, philipp.tepper@iclei.org

4A–SPP and Human Rights
The Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee of the 10YFP SPP Programme has approved the launch of a new working group exploring the linkages between SPP and human rights issues.

The working group will be jointly managed by the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). DIHR and ICAR have together established and jointly lead the International Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights.

This working group will focus on promoting the integration of human rights (including labour rights) considerations into public purchasing. In particular, it will produce a new toolkit for practitioners to operationalise human rights in public purchasing based on practitioners’ expertise from the public and private sector.

Fund raising activities to cover the envisaged scope of the working group are on-going. Organizations interested in providing funding or contributing in other ways, are welcome to contact the lead organizations by e-mailing Ms. Nicole Vander Meulen (ICAR) at nicole@icar.ngo and Dr. Claire Methven O’Brien (DIHR) at cob@humanrights.dk.
4C–Promoting Resource-efficient Business Models and Circular Economy

The key activities of the Working Group 4C (WG 4C) are promoting resource-efficient business models (REBMs) and circular economy, collating best practices from emerging pilots for alternative procurement and collecting cases of business models shifting away from the linear make-use-dispose model. WG 4C has completed the suite of training materials for integrating resource efficient business models and circular economy principles into sustainable procurement.

To date, WG 4C has worked with 540 public procurement delegates, piloting training for 320 policy and procurement practitioners. At the World Circular Economy Forum 2017 in Helsinki, June 2017, the working group hosted a discussion table on next steps in circular public procurement during the 10YFP session.

With WG 4C due to end this year, group coordinator Rijkswaterstaat (Netherlands) is exploring legacy and continuity plans in conjunction with ICLEI. The plan for next steps will be announced at the 2nd Circular Procurement Congress in Tallinn, Estonia on the 19th October 2017.

For more information, please contact Mr. Cuno Van Geet, Rijkswaterstaat, cuno.van.geet@rws.nl or Dr. Mervyn Jones, Sustainable Global Resources at mervyn@sustainableglobalresources.co.uk

4B.2–Supporting SPP Implementation through the Use of Ecolabelling and Sustainability Standards

The working group 4B.2 (WG 4B.2) hosted an in-person meeting on June 27 in advance of the Global Sustainability Standards Conference 2017, June 27-29, a two day international event hosted by the ISEAL Alliance.

Sustainability standards and ecolabels have been useful enabling tools in developing sustainable procurement and consumer information policies, however there is certainly room for improvement. Building on the previous exchanges within WG 4B.2, this half-day meeting brought together experts to share tools, experiences and ideas.

For further information, please contact Mr. David D’Hollander, ISEAL Alliance, davidh@isealliance.org

03 highlights in the regions & countries

EU-Taiwan GPP Seminar Held in Taipei

The 2017 EU-Taiwan Green Public Procurement Seminar, involving 150 participants from Europe and Taiwan, took place in Taipei in late April. Organized as part of the European Business and Regulatory Cooperation (EBRC) programme, experts from the European Commission, the seminar featured EU member states and Taiwan presenting and discussing policies, strategies and best practices for sustainable and circular procurement.

International cooperation on resource efficiency in global supply chains is a trade priority for the EU, and Taiwan is developing a green public...
The BuyZET project is a partnership of cities aiming to achieve zero emission urban delivery of goods and services through changes to their procurement practices. The cities of Rotterdam, Oslo and Copenhagen will study the transportation impacts of different types of procurement activities using methodologies developed within the project. Based on these results, each city will then identify two priority procurement areas to focus on.

For each procurement priority area, the cities will explore potential innovative procurement solutions through market dialogue, engaging with other cities, exploring best practices from across Europe, and forming buyers groups to launch joint or collaborative procurement actions. At the end of this process plans will be developed for each procurement area, to be implemented by the cities in the future.

Outcomes from the project will include new procurement plans for each priority area in each city, a methodology for mapping the procurement transportation footprint, a BuyZET Implementation Handbook and input into EU policy making and relevant working groups.

Southampton and the Brussels Capital Region are also participating as Observer Cities and will aim to implement the project activities as well. The project, launched in November 2016, is co-ordinated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, with the support of Polis and TNO.

For more information, please visit the BuyZET website.

Bio-based Procurement Measures Backed by Cities & Regions

The Committee of the Regions has urged the European Union to support cities and regions in increasing the contribution of bio-based industries to the economy, including through public procurement. Adopted at its plenary session in Brussels on 11 May, the opinion highlights the role the bio-economy could play in fostering independence from fossil fuels, and particularly how cities and regions as “biocommunities” and “bioregions” can be to the forefront of this strategy.

In addition to the EU’s financial commitment of €3.85 billion towards
ICLEI’s European Secretariat hosted a delegation of Korean public sector and development organizations on 14 June to explore Green Public Procurement in policy and practice in European cities and regions. The delegation, organized by the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI), included representatives from Korean ministries, research institutes, city development corporations and several national agencies for tourism and shipping.

The visit focused on various aspects of sustainable public procurement, including GPP target setting, implementation strategies, monitoring mechanisms and the scope and definition of green product and service categories addressed by European GPP criteria. Mark Hidson, Global Director of ICLEI’s Sustainable Procurement Centre, presented ICLEI’s background in sustainable and innovation procurement and exemplified current GPP projects, platforms and initiatives on the European and global levels involving cities and local governments.

ICLEI and KEITI are partners in the Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement – 14 cities that act as ambassadors for sustainable procurement, working towards the ultimate goal of a resource efficient, low carbon and socially responsible society. They also cooperate with UN Environment on the 10 Year Framework Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production.

For more information, please visit the ICLEI Sustainable Economy and Procurement and KEITI websites.

Rijkswaterstaat from the Netherlands Joins Procura+ Network

The Procura+ Network is pleased to welcome Rijkswaterstaat as a participant. Rijkswaterstaat (RWS) is a government agency owned by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. RWS has a long history of developing and managing the national infrastructures for roads and waterways. Since 2013 it has taken the lead in implementing national and international policies for environmental protection and sustainability, including policies on waste management, resource efficiency and public procurement.

To implement these policies, RWS works with governments involved in public-private and international partnerships, offering products and services in the following areas: facilitating, building and maintaining knowledge networks; acquiring and disseminating knowledge; monitoring; developing policy instruments; counseling on policy and...
The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has launched the first global standard for sustainable procurement, ISO 20400, which establishes guidelines for companies and procurers to make supply chains more ethical and sustainable. 38 participant countries and 14 observers currently recognize ISO 20400, representing 65% of the global population and 73% of total carbon emissions. The standard, which has been under development for four years, covers social and economic sustainability in addition to environmental sustainability.

The focus is on mitigating the various risks associated with poor supply chain management, and the strategy does not propose certification for compliant companies like many other ISOs. Instead the standard is aimed at generating consensus around improvement of supply chains and enhancing the ethical standards underpinning global purchasing.

ISO 20400 will complement existing standards (e.g. ISO 26000 on social responsibility) and increase dialogue on ethics and sustainability between buyers and suppliers worldwide. For more information and to see the full text of ISO 20400, visit the ISO website.

The InnProBio project, which focuses on how procurement of bio-based goods and services fit into the circular economy, recently published a new factsheet. Titled “Bio-based Products and Services in the Circular Economy”, this factsheet addresses the question: does encouraging the public procurement of bio-based products contribute to fostering a circular economy? The factsheet also serves as an introduction to the circular economy and circular procurement in broader terms.
The bioeconomy uses renewable resources (that is, biomass, such as plants, trees or animals) instead of fossil resources, and can provide products that contribute to the enhanced circularity of our current economic model. The factsheet gives special attention to bio-based plastics and recycling, exploring what end-of-life options are available for a variety of products.

It is the fourth in a series of factsheets published in the framework of the European InnProBio project which includes: ‘What are bio-based products?’, ‘Sustainability of bio-based products’, and ‘Biodegradability: Exposing some of the myths and facts’.

For more information and to download the factsheet, visit the InnProBio website.
The SPP Regions project, which promotes SPP and PPI in European regional networks of municipalities, has released its Best Practice Report on Performance/Output Based Specifications. The report explores and explains Performance/Output Based Specifications (POBS) for Performance Based Contracting, reporting successful practices and outlining benefits and potential challenges.

Focusing on examples of best practices, the report exemplifies Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital Trust (UK) procuring an energy performance contract; the Danish Municipality of Hedensted procuring efficient heating and ventilation solutions and a London Fire Brigade (LFB) partnership with the City & Fire Brigade of Ghent in Belgium on the environmental performance of fire vehicle fleets.

The report also explores the key steps necessary in order to execute a POBS based tender, including a 12 step checklist to follow and potential challenges of a POBS approach.

For more information, please visit the SPP Regions website.

Upcoming Webinar & Events on SPP & 10YFP

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The report identifies that sustainable procurement could be a priority area for future Nordic cooperation, and points to potential opportunities and future challenges for Nordic countries in each of the sectors addressed. It argues that a successful Circular Economy approach will require strategic thinking and cooperation at all levels of government, and that continuous market dialogue between public administrations, business and other economic actors is required to promote circular procurement.

The study was jointly carried out by the Finnish Environment Institute, the Swedish Environmental Research Centre and the Copenhagen Resource Institute.

For more information, please visit the Copenhagen Resource Institute’s website.

Publication

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For more information, please visit the SPP Regions website.
For more information on the programme, please visit the 10YFP SPP Programme website.

For more information on the lead and co-leads of the programme, please visit:

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To learn how to get involved in the 10YFP SPP Programme, and to share your activities related to SPP please contact Mr. Farid Yaker, Programme Officer, UN Environment Economy Division, farid.yaker@unep.org