

Case Study // Round Table SDG 12: Successful approaches to delivering on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2030

Green Public Procurement

Latvia

Level: national

Summary

The regulatory instrument prepared by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development – Cabinet of Ministers Regulation on Requirements for Green Public Procurement and Procedures for Application – came into force from 1st July 2017 and determines the requirements and criteria for green public procurement (GPP) and procedures for application. The purpose is to regulate GPP implementation, monitoring and assessment, by determining the product groups and services where application of GPP is mandatory (annex 1 of the regulation). At the same time, the regulation defines the GPP requirements and criteria for the groups of products, services and works where GPP application is voluntary (annex 2). In addition, annex 3 of the regulation defines the Methodology of Life Cycle Costs for Energy Consuming Products. To facilitate the application of regulatory framework, implementing guidelines for every product group and service has been elaborated.

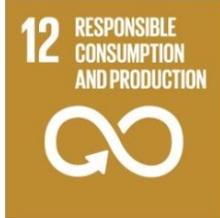
Situation

In 2015, the Green Procurement Promotion Plan 2015–2017 was developed in Latvia, which aimed at contributing to sustainable consumption and production through increasing the proportion of green procurement, especially green public procurement. Since October 2014 in Latvia, application of green public procurement criteria is mandatory in the procurement of food supplies and catering services in state and local government institutions. The regulation extends the scope of mandatory application to an additional six product groups and services. Green procurement is the one of the implementation tools of the horizontal principle “sustainable development” applied to receive assistance from EU financial instruments.

Strategy

Development of mandatory green public procurement for specific product groups – copying and graphic paper, office IT equipment, office furniture, food and catering services, cleaning products and services, indoor lighting, street lighting and traffic signals, as well as several voluntary product groups like office buildings, road construction, transport, etc.

- Develop the “calculator” of life-cycle costs for energy consuming product groups, as well as “calculator” for construction life-cycle cost assessment;
- Develop implementation guidelines of green procurement and green public procurement for certain products and service groups, including core criteria in the procurement tenders;
- Prepare and submit to the Cabinet of Ministers annual reports on the implementation of green public procurement;
- Organize regular methodological workshops and training for operators and state and local government institutions on green procurement and its application in purchases;



- Implement awareness raising activities for stakeholders on green procurement and green public procurement.

Results and impact

Public procurement in Latvia accounts for 20% of GDP. In turn green public procurement in financial terms reached 19% from all public procurements in 2015, however decreased to 13-14% in 2016 and 2017. Statistics on green public procurement are collected annually by the Procurement Monitoring Bureau. The proportion of green public procurement is highly dependent on common procurement contracts for projects financed by EU financial instruments.

Challenges and lessons learned

There is still a perception among authorities that green public procurement is more expensive and complicated and introduction of “green” requirements and criteria will restrict the competition and could result in an appeal of the tender results.

The concept of “greening” of the procurement has to be already at the project planning phase. The addition of “green” requirements and criteria in a preparation of the procurement phase is difficult even impossible and will not correspond to the green procurement principles. The cooperation between project developers and procurement specialists is essential.

The adaptation of the green public procurement requirements and criteria for the product groups and services where is no agreed and scientifically justified criteria (i.e., European Union GPP criteria)

The application of verification and conformity check procedures.

Explanatory seminars and targeted training workshops provide an excellent opportunity, based on practical examples, to show the integration of green requirements and criteria in procurement documents and clarify the uncertainties on the application of the principles.

Potential for replication

We are confident that there is a potential for adaptation of the guidelines, life-cycle costs assessment tools and to introduce the legal obligation to apply green public procurement principles for selected groups of products, services and works.

Contact

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