

GPP in Italy: a driver for Circular Economy. The Liguria region's experience with the EU CE-PRINCE Project

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MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

SHORT HISTORY OF GPP IN ITALY

- 2016 Legislative decree n. 50, “Public contracts code” article n. 34 “*Energy and environmental sustainability criteria*”:
- ✓ **technical specifications** defined in MEC are **mandatory**
 - ✓ **contract clauses** defined in MEC are **mandatory**
 - ✓ **award criteria** defined in MEC must be **taken into account** when identifying most economically advantageous tenders
- 2023 The new Public Contracts Code (**Legislative Decree No. 36 of March 31, 2023**) confirms in **Article 57** the obligation to apply technical specifications and contractual clauses included in the **MEC**.

These obligations apply to tenders of **any amount**, for the categories of supplies, services and works covered by the MEC adopted under the GPP national plan.



ITALY: SOME DATA FOR 2022

Over 29 billion euros starting bidding values
for tenders subject to MECs

Over 33 thousand tender procedures

MEC CATEGORY	N. PROCEDURES	EUROS
Building construction works	11.764	12.435.718.149
Urban waste management	1.665	4.751.736.651
Vehicles	3.835	3.972.176.392
Food services	1.948	2.258.678.265
Building's cleaning	2.622	2.084.595.219
Public lighting	1.709	873.894.445
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Source: ANAC, <https://www.anticorruzione.it>

HOW ARE THE CRITERIA ADOPTED

1. The Ministry defines a **first draft** of criteria based on life cycle approach:
 - Core and comprehensive criteria of the European Commission's GPP toolkit;
 - Criteria established by environmental labelling schemes (EU Ecolabel, Blauer Angel, Oeko Tex etc.);
 - Single-criteria labels verifying specific environmental requirements (energy labels).
2. The first draft is discussed within an **ad hoc working group** of stakeholders that includes:
 - Ministry of economic development, Ministry for economy and finance;
 - Representatives of trade associations of the specific economic sector and operators of the whole supply chain;
 - Representatives of other relevant stakeholders (environmental and social associations, labelling schemes etc.);
 - Academic and research community, National system of environmental agencies;
 - Representatives of institutions and procurement bodies.
3. **Final proposal** of the working group is shared within the GPP's National action plan Committee.
4. The document is sent to the Minister for **adoption**.



ADOPTED CRITERIA

1. Interior furnishing
2. Urban furniture
3. Adult diapers and incontinence products
4. Footwear and leather products
5. Printing paper
6. Printer cartridges
7. Buildings construction and maintenance
8. Events' organization
9. Lighting sources and public lighting fixtures
10. Public lighting service
11. Road works
12. Textiles renting and cleaning
13. Building's cleaning and disinfection services
14. Urban waste management service
15. Food services
16. Vending machines
17. Building heating and lighting services
18. Printers and printing services
19. Fabrics and textiles
20. Road transport vehicles
21. Public green management



WORK IN PROGRESS

- ✓ Footwear and leather products (update)
- ✓ Printers and printing services (update)
- ✓ Printer cartridges (update)
- ✓ Lighting sources and public lighting fixtures (update)
- ✓ Buildings construction and maintenance (update)
- ✓ Road works (update)
- ✓ Public green management (update)
- ✓ Public transport's services (new)
- ✓ Computers and servers (new)
- ✓ Pest and rodent control services (new)



GPP AND ECODESIGN

ECODESIGN REQUIREMENTS	MECs FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS
Durability and reliability	TS: Requirements on dimensional change after wet washing, color fastness to wet and dry washing, color fastness to perspiration, seam strenght and tear resistance etc.
Ease of upgrading, reuse, remanufacturing and refurbishment	TS: design for reuse of complex clothing articles, bed sheets must be reusable, whenever suitable hospital gowns and coats must be reusable)
Ease of repair and maintenance (spare parts, modularity, compatiplity ecc.)	AC: additional service to maintain and refurbish supplied products.
Design for recycling, ease and quality of recycling	TS: Packaging: minimum recycled content, mono-material, recyclable.
Substances of concern	TS: restriction on the use of substances of concern in the product. AC: Reduced environmental impact of dying processes (no dying, synthetic biological dying methods etc.)
Use or content of recycled materials, recovery of materials, CRM	AC: content of materials from refurbishment and recyding.
Use or content of sustainable renewable materials	AC: content of natural fibers from organic farming.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

CreiamoPA project:

- Monitoring
- Training: distance learning, webinar, thematic workshops
- On the job training

New training modules:

- New contracts code
- Institutional catering
- Waste management
- Textiles
- Road works
- Vending machines
- Energy performance contracts

<https://gpp.mase.gov.it/>
<https://gpp.mase.gov.it/Home/CreiamoPA>



LESSONS LEARNED

The MEC include both strictly **environmental aspects** (such as the presence of hazardous substances) and broader **circularity aspects**.

In order to further strengthen the ecological transition through the tool of public procurement, it is necessary to:

- **Enhance the integration of criteria** aimed at closing material and energy cycles within the CAM;
- **Strengthen the technical capacity of contracting authorities** on topics such as procurement procedures involving economic operators and preparatory activities for drafting tender documentation;
- **Enhance the technical capacity of economic operators**, including certification tools and compliance verification methods;
- **Promote the sharing of best practices** and reward contracting authorities that implement the best **Circular Public Procurement (CPP) / Green Public Procurement (GPP)** practices;
- **Develop monitoring activities** of MEC's implementation.



CE-PRINCE PROJECT INFORMATION

Name:	CE-PRINCE
Project ID:	CE0200688
Starting date:	1 st June 2024
Duration:	30 months >> 30 November 2026
Partners:	10 partners from 7 Central European countries: Italy, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Poland & Germany
Lead Partner:	Liguria Region
WP structure:	3 WPs: Governance, Public and Private

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CE-PRINCE

GPP in Liguria Region

- Liguria Region has been active on GPP since 2007, when it was still voluntary, by **promoting and disseminating informative/educational events** on GPP and criteria application for regional public procurers and enterprises
- **2 Triennial Regional GPP Plans** already concluded (2017-2019 and 2022-2024)
- In the process to approve the forth Regional GPP plan (2025-2027)



The project

CE-PRINCE project aims to support the transition to Circular Economy in Central Europe leveraging on Circular/Green Public Procurement to improve companies' circularity while reinforcing the public sector capacity to publish tenders containing elements of circularity.

No common standards exist so far and requirements for incorporating circular criteria into public tenders vary from country to country.

PRINCE steps in to standardise circular procurement approaches and standards across central European countries and industries, through the definition of a joint strategy.



CE-PRINCE main activities for Public demand - public authorities

1. Transnational Action Plan to enhance Circular market leveraging GPP practises

2. Pilot action - Nurturing public authorities' technical ability for Circular GPP

3. Capacity Building to match Circular Economy with Green Public Procurement

4. Peer- to -Peer exchange and Demand-Supply Symposia on C/GPP

Development of at least one set of **circular environmental criteria** covering 4 key economic sectors (agri-food, manufacturing, construction, tourism) and **testing them in tenders in each country** through the **application to real cases of public purchases** that may occur during the project implementation.

Stimulating procurers and decision-makers' **capacity building and soft skills** in terms of knowledge about C/GPP, through **at least 5 initiatives in each partner country** (training sessions, exchange of experiences, webinars)

Peer to peer (public to public and private to private) interactive meetings gather different experiences and practices to further deepen Circular Economy in CE

CE-PRINCE main activities for Private supply - enterprises

1. Transnational Action Plan to increase companies' circularity

Based on the findings of the Initial assessments the TAP for companies will support the increase of their circularity.

2. Pilot action: building solutions for enterprises to enhance circularity and compliance to GPP

Through a **call for expression of interest**, a sample of enterprises within the four key economic sector will **test the suggested solutions** to improve their initial circularity index and compliance to GPP criteria

3. Capacity Building to enhance circularity and skills to comply to C/GPP criteria

Increasing enterprises' knowledge and technical skills on circularity and GPP through training sessions, seminars and webinars organized at sector level and on a country basis

CE-PRINCE: Expected results

- Improvement in circular economy policies and practices related to public procurement
- Spread of a new vision on the GPP levers to force accelerating the transition of the circular economy
- Strength of cooperation between public and private sector
- Reduction of the barriers that hinder the matching between the demand of circular services/goods (from the public sector) and their supply (from private companies)
- Increased capacity of public procurers to include circular economy requirements into public tenders
- Enhancement of sectoral ability to respond to tenders

Central Europe Green PRocurement and Innovation Network for Circular Economy

CE-PRINCE PROJECT

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/ce-prince/>

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