



CIRCULAR PUBLIC PROCUREMENT – WORKSHOP REPORT

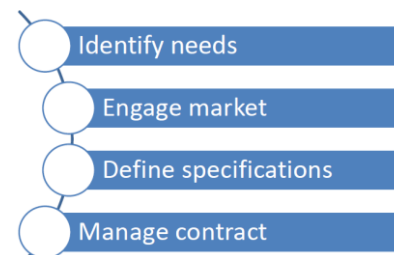
Taking place in JDE60 of the EESC during the second session of workshops, approximately 60 people attended the workshop looking at circular economy strategies across Europe – more than expected through the registrations process!

The objective of the workshop was to provide guidance for the implementation of Circular Public Procurement (CPP) in support of a transition to circular economy. Part of this included the showcasing of the innovative "Green Deals" as a replicable framework for circular procurement.

Success Stories

The workshop was led and opened by [Philippe Micheaux Naudet](#), of ACR+ (the Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management), who outlined the REBus project's 4 steps for circular procurement tenders, and the call for a "green deal" approach to CPP.

ACR+ have worked extensively on circular procurement in the last few years, gathering good practices and guidance material for the [Circular Europe Network](#), and through collaborative efforts with [Interreg North Sea Region](#) and the new [NSR CircPro2](#).



Claire Guerin introduced the room to two of [Zero Waste Scotland's circular procurement projects](#) – a National ICT Framework that looked at product design and provided a take-back scheme, and a domestic furniture framework, for the provision of refurbished and new furniture. For both projects, the key criteria for helping to achieve these were life cycle impact mapping, needs analysis and market engagement. For the life cycle impact mapping, there was a specific tool designed to help assess suppliers and contractors and it looked at the impacts of obtaining raw materials, manufacturing and logistics, product/service use and end-of-life and disposal. This helped to determine the actions to take to manage sustainability along the procurement process.

Following an introduction on [Green Public Procurement \(GPP\) criteria](#), Jean-Pierre Schweitzer (*pictured here on the left*) of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) presented an example of an ecolabel in operation. The City of Copenhagen has an ecolabel procurement policy, calling for products that hold the EU Ecolabel or Nordic Swan, as examples, where there are several products available. Where there are too few products with such labels, this then becomes an award criteria. Back to the EU level, and further GPP criteria with more focus on materials are expected throughout 2019 and 2020, covering imaging equipment, computers, transport, office buildings and textiles.



"Learning by doing" is the key success factor for circular procurement, said Joan Prummel (*pictured left*) of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and key facilitator of the Dutch [Green Deal initiative](#). The purpose of the initiative is to sign up to the Green Deal and commit to putting it in action. This is facilitated through a comprehensive approach of learning from each other. This collaborative scheme is growing in popularity and success, with cases from Portugal, France and Belgium being prepared or implemented with frames and objectives inspired by existing practice.

Teresa Jorge, of CCDRC (regional development agency of the Portuguese Centro regio) detailed how her organisation saw circular procurement as a key motivating factor to achieve the regional agenda of moving to a circular economy. Though at an early stage, the Centro Green Deal has already attracted 14 entities to get involved, and they will soon be holding workshops to develop this further before launching the Centro Green Deal.



The experience of France was outlined by Marline Weber (*pictured above to the right of Jean-Pierre Schweitzer*), of the Institut National de l'Economie Circulaire (INEC). INEC worked with the Great Paris Area and the Responsible Procurement Observatory to bring on board 32 voluntary public and private actors to circular procurement. This included providing technical expert advice and experience sharing, focusing on how to use procurement to support a circular economy.

This is echoed by Veerle Labeeuw (*pictured above left*), of Circular Flanders, who detailed the success of the Green Deal in the Flanders region of Belgium. Since June 2017, the region has signed up over 100 participants to the Green Deal, and looked at over 100 purchasing processes covering construction, food, infrastructure and electronics, to name a few. This was achieved through Inspiration Days, an online Learning Platform, access to tools and instruments, Meet the Buyer days and sharing experiences.

New Challenges

There were some new challenges, and some old challenges, raised during the workshop discussions, falling in to both the practice and the policy fields. These include:

- There was often a lack of knowledge for the users of framework contracts as to what was possible, for example, with take-back schemes put in place
- Often, suppliers continued to use traditional methods of supply and disposal, rather than take-back schemes available
- In addition, suppliers and framework users, may be geographically isolated – it is important to address how to bring these together and develop initiatives
- For the Green Deals initiative, the challenge is to connect the points of the network, and create an "umbrella network" for all the Green Deals and their participants
- Another challenge for the Green Deals initiative, and applicable to all CPP and GPP, is that it can often be difficult to assess the effect, or impact – data collection to create new indicators will be key
- Circular procurement needs to gain critical mass before it can have more impact, and there is still the issue of GPP criteria remaining voluntary



What's Next?

- ACR+ plans to mainstream the Circular Europe Network roadmap on public procurement, an ECESP workplan activity, to further build the capacity of local and regional authorities
- Through **Circular Procurement: accelerating circular economy through procurement power, alliance- and capacity building** ACR+ will develop a Procurer-to-Procurer Learning and Action Programme, CPP expert task forces and transnationally & cross-industry communities of practice
- The **Procura+ Awards** give visibility to the most dynamic and innovative public authorities by highlighting initiatives that deliver sustainable procurements and tenders. Applications for 2019 are open until March 31st
- A **combined preparatory study** by the Joint Research Centre, looking at PV cells and covering different product policy instruments: eco-design, energy label, EU ecolabel and GPP criteria was started in October 2017 and is expected to be finished in 2019
- Coming soon! The launch of the **Centro Green Deal**, along with workshops to help bring the Green Deal to Portugal

Want to keep the conversation going? Contribute your good practice on circulareconomy.europa.eu, join the online forum or drop us a line: CEStakeholderEU@eesc.europa.eu

