

Sustainable Procurement Update

Winter 2007 Edition



The Sustainable Procurement Update is a bimonthly newsletter providing information on the ongoing activities of the Sustainable Procurement team at ICLEI's European Secretariat.

RESPIRO conference creates a momentum for Socially Responsible Procurement



Over 100 delegates from 17 countries from across Europe gathered in Lille, France, to exchange on the latest information and experiences concerning socially responsible purchasing practices in European cities and countries. The conference brought together representatives from local governments, trade unions, procurement regulators, companies, national governments, NGOs and certification bodies.

After several months of intensive preparation, including four European Expert meetings, the European Responsibility in Procurement (RESPIRO) Guides on both construction and textiles and clothing were officially launched at the conference. Many of the issues, which pioneer cities and companies practising socially responsible procurement consider

fundamental, were presented and discussed. Key speakers included Guylaine Gouzou-Testud, Vice Mayor of the City of Lyon; Danielle Poliautre, Deputy Mayor of Lille; Simone-Astrid Scharly, Conseillère Communautaire and President of the Sustainable Development Commission, Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine and Cornelia Petzold-Schick, Mayor of the City of Ettlingen. The presentation on the Xertifx label on stones without child labour was among the highlights of the conference which raised immediate interest from several public authorities.

The Guides that were officially launched at the conference practically address social responsibility issues in procurement for building construction works and textiles and clothing. European purchasers are now better equipped to be courageous with their procurement actions and make a significant contribution to making our cities more socially responsible and at the same time improving their image towards the global community.

The RESPIRO project, which is cofunded by the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, aims to encourage an exchange of experiences on social and ethical requirements in procurement actions between public and private sector purchasers and potential suppliers. The RESPIRO project partners included: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (Project Co-ordinator), EUROCITIES (main partner), European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), European Federation of Building and Wood Workers (EFBWW), European Trade Union Federation of Textiles, Clothing and Leather (ETUF – TCL) and European Apparel and Textile Organisation (EURATEX).

The guides are available in English, French and German, they can also be downloaded at: www.respiro-project.eu. The outcomes of the conference, including presentations and pictures are available in English and French are also available on the project website.

For more information please contact Amalia Ochoa, email: amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org

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Biofuel Cities European Partnership officially launched



After several months of intensive preparation, the Biofuel Cities European Partnership was officially launched on the 8th November 2007 at the Clean Vehicles and Fuels (CVF) Symposium in Stockholm, Sweden. Ms. Alexandra Langenheld of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Transport and Energy officially inaugurated the Biofuel Cities European Partnership, which is a forum for the application of biofuels, open to all stakeholders in the area of biofuels for vehicles. 400 delegates, from 25 countries, representing all links in the biofuel chain attended the launch at the Biofuel Cities stand at the CVF symposium. The realisation that both our climate and energy supplies are coming under pressure has reached across society and answers and solutions are needed. Biofuels can make a contribution to this.

With its aim of promoting the broadscale, yet sustainable, use of biofuels for transport, Biofuel Cities creates a platform, in which stakeholders from the entire biofuels chain are represented. The platform enables them to come together to form new partnerships for projects, engaging in dynamic networking and together find solutions to common problems.

For more information visit www.biofuel-cities.

Guidance on purchasing Fair Trade – now available in Catalan and Spanish

The English European public procurement guide for Fair Trade, developed in the BUY Fair project has now been translated into Catalan, Spanish and Slovenian. The Spanish and Catalan was done in co-operation with the Diputació de Barcelona (Provincial Council of Barcelona) in Spain. These guides are available as a pdf file from the project website www.buyfair.org and hard copies are also available. The Spanish/Catalan guide has been distributed to more than 150 city councils in the province of Barcelona and has been well received.

The Catalan/Spanish, German, Slovenian and English versions of the Buy Fair Guide are available to be downloaded from the Buy Fair project website: www.buyfair.org.

To obtain a hard copy of the Guide, in Catalan, Spanish, German or English, or for more information on the project, please contact Peter Defranceschi, email: peter.defranceschi@iclei-europe.org.



Developing sustainable procurement guidelines for UNEP Office IT equipment

The assessment on sustainable procurement policies and practices within the United Nations system carried out in 2006 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlighted the need for clear guidelines and other tools, by product category, to identify more sustainable options.

ICLEI will develop the UNEP guidelines for office IT equipment, covering computers, monitors and imaging devices that will practically support the work of procurers to make their purchasing more sustainable. The guidelines will include technical specifications, provide a justification for the choices and address relevant environmental impacts over the whole product life-cycle. A Product Sheet for easy-to-use application in tendering procedures will be developed together with a detailed background report. The guidelines will be produced for 6 regions (Europe, Latin America, North America, East Africa, Middle east and Asia-Pacific).

For more information contact Philipp Tepper, email: philipp.tepper@iclei-europe.org.



New Procura+ participants

We are happy to announce two new Procura+ participants - Craigavon Borough Council, Northern Ireland, and the Europe offices of UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme.

Craigavon Borough Council is a local council in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. The headquarters of the council is in Craigavon, on the shores of Lough Neagh, a town built between Lurgan and Portadown. The council area includes the large towns of Lurgan and Portadown, as well as smaller ones including Waringstown and Donaghcloney. The council budget of £15.5 million provides a wide range of services to over 84,000 people living in the area.

UNEP coordinates the United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and encourages sustainable development through sound environmental practices. For information on the Procura+ website please visit www.procuraplus.org.

Sustainable procurement tender examples now available online!

ICLEI have launched a new section on its website which gives examples of product and service tenders where environmental and social criteria have been included. The following are examples:

- Cleaning products - ESPO, UK
- Cleaning Services – Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain
- Construction equipment – Diputació de Barcelona, Spain
- Green electricity - Water service Belfast, Northern Ireland
- Street lamps - Lille, France
- Sustainable bus shelters - Barcelona, Spain
- Filter particle for trains - Taunusbahn, Germany
- Office material – Spanish Ministry of Environment, Spain



The aim is to increase the number of tender documents and create an online database for local authorities to search and to use as guidance during their purchasing activities. We are always interested in collecting good tender examples to share with others. If you have carried out a successful tendering process including environmental and/or social criteria please email these to procurement@iclei-europe.org and we would be happy to put them in the database!

You can visit the current tender examples at the project website www.procuraplus.org.

Procura+ participants meeting

The second Procura+ participants meeting this year took place on the 4 December in Lille, France. It was kindly hosted by the City of Lille who are also the Chair of Procura+. The meeting was attended by 21 organisations and public authorities. The meeting focussed on public authorities addressing social issues in public procurement. An introduction on addressing child labour through public procurement was given by - Benjamin Pütter, Xertifix and universal access to buildings through “build-for all” by Francesc Aragall, ProAsolutions, Build for All.

Emmanuelle Albert introduced the work she is doing with 40 local authorities in Grand Quest, France. This is a network of public authorities supporting and share information on sustainable procurement. Upcoming projects of interest for the participants were also discussed as was ideas for project proposals.

The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for June 2008 in Zaragoza during or after ICLEI’s membership convention.

If you are interested to take part, please contact Mark Hidson, Director of Sustainable Procurement and Procura+ Manager: email: mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org.



Upcoming Events

ICLEI European Members Convention 2008, 23 – 25 June 2008, Zaragoza, Spain



The next ICLEI European Membership Convention will be generously hosted by the City of Zaragoza, June 23 – 25, 2008. It will be a dynamic event, with workshops, debates, networking events, reports and site visits. This is an opportunity for members to get involved and profit from what ICLEI offers: joint vision, inspiration and encouragement, creativity and innovation - that inspire local governments to achieve sustainable development. Running concurrently to the European Members Convention is the International Expo 2008, the theme of which is "Water and Sustainable Development". 105 countries representing all continents have officially confirmed their participation next to companies, institutional organisations, NGOs. Some programme elements of ICLEI Zaragoza 2008 will take place at the EXPO facilities.

To read more information on the next European Members Convention please visit www.expozaragoza2008.es.

European Workshop on Fair Trade in Public Procurement in Lyon, 1- 3 February 2008



ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team will be organising a one-day workshop on Fair Trade in public procurement at the first European Fair Trade Fair (EFTF), which takes place on 1-3 February 2008 in Lyon, France. Approximately 150 to 200 participants are expected to attend the workshop. The key objective is to show that Fair Trade in public procurement (FTPP) is possible.

Public authorities and Fair Trade experts from across Europe are invited to attend the workshop and to visit the European Fair Trade Fair which will have 150 exhibitors and 8000 visitors. The workshop will be split into 3 sessions. The first will be about Fair Trade in Catering & Vending machines and will provide good practise examples. The second will show how catering works in practice with the aim of identifying the major legal challenges and to propose ways to minimise legal concerns. Speakers confirmed include representatives from the European Commission (DG Trade), FINE and Stichting Max Havelaar. The latter will talk about a court case from November

2007, where a national court ruled for the first time a positive verdict on Fair Trade in public procurement. The third session aims at discussing proposals on how to keep the momentum and on how to follow up with public authorities interested in tendering for Fair Trade products in the future.

You may also be interested in bidding for the European Award for Professional Commitment to Fair Trade that will be awarded to the most prominent Fair Trade initiatives carried out by professionals. Three different prizes will be awarded: the European Award for Corporations and Enterprises, the European Award for Public Authorities and the European Award for Works Councils.

For information and registration please visit the EFTF website at www.european-fairtrade-fair.org. For more information on the workshop please contact Peter Defranceschi, email: peter.defranceschi@iclei-europe.org.

Recent Events

Green-IT – public procurement of energy efficient IT equipment

On 20 November 2007 over 30 participants of the Heidelberg Workshop on energy efficient IT products discussed the role of public procurement to boost environmental IT solutions. ICLEI presented possible implementation approaches and concrete criteria for office IT equipment and IT server solutions that are practical and easy to implement in European tendering procedures. Experts from IBM and Vossel solutions explained the latest technological advances in the field of energy efficient server systems to public authority representatives and interested private organisations and companies.

The documentation of the workshop will be available soon at:
<http://www.heidelberg.de/servlet/PB/menu/1101075/index.html>.



Systems of Environmental Performance Verification – 3rd international forum engaging the developed world

ADEME and the European Commission, DG Environment, jointly organised the 3rd International Forum on Environmental Performance Verification Systems on November, 28 in Paris within the Pollutec Fair. The focus of the third conference was on the needs of developing countries: how can verification systems address these needs and support the global diffusion of environmental technologies. The systems verifying the performance of eco-technologies aim at facilitating the access to markets for innovative technologies by providing a prior verification of claimed performance.

These systems originate in Northern America (US EPA and ETV Canada) and are disseminating in Europe and globally. Mark Hidson from ICLEI was there to present how technology buyers can better express their needs and requirements on eco-technologies.

1st Green Public Procurement Seminar, Madrid's City Council, 19 November 2007, Spain

ICLEI presented at the First Green Public Procurement seminar organised by the City Council of Madrid which took place in Madrid, Spain (19 November 2007). The seminar constituted a step forward towards implementing good environmental practices in public procurement activities. The seminar, structured in a morning session (addressed to public authorities) and an afternoon session (addressed to the private sector), provided the opportunity for networking and co-operation between the public and private sectors.

Ms. Ana María Botella, delegate of the Environmental Department of Madrid's City Council, opened the seminar and encouraged all participants to introduce environmental criteria in their call for tenders.

The seminar was organised by the NGO Bakeaz, and was hosted by the City of Madrid.

For more information on the seminar in Madrid please contact Marta Anglada, email: marta.anglada@iclei-europe.org or visit: www.bakeaz.org.



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