



GPPinfoNET The Green Public Procurement Information Network



LIFE07 INF/IT/000410

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

General information

Coordinating beneficiary: Province of Cremona (Italy)

Associated beneficiaries: Region Liguria, Region Sardegna, Italian Local Agenda 21 Association, Ecosistemi-SDI Group

Starting date: 1 February 2009

Duration: 36 months

Field of intervention

The overall scope of GPPinfoNET is to improve information and raise public authorities awareness on *green public procurement* (GPP), so that such tool becomes more widely applied and sustainable production and consumption objectives are achieved.

Public authorities spend around 16% of the European Union's gross domestic product. By using their purchasing power, they have the potential to not only improve the environmental performance of their consumption activities, but they can also influence the market supply side for 'greener' goods and services and stimulate the diffusion of environmental technologies. Nevertheless, only a small minority of public organisations systematically considers environmental criteria when selecting suppliers, service providers and contractors.

The two main barriers to GPP wider implementation are:

- the lack of awareness of public administrators about the role that this tool can play within strategies for sustainable development and for the achievement of sector environmental protection objectives;
- the lack of information among public procurement officers on possibilities to include environmental requirements into tendering procedures.

Project actions will directly tackle such barriers and will closely follow the indications and guidance given by the European Commission through several acts:

- the Communication on Integrated Product Policy –Building on Environmental Life Cycle Thinking (2003);
- the Communication on Stimulating Technologies for Sustainable Development: An Environmental Technologies Action Plan for the European Union (2004);
- the Report of the Implementation of Environmental Technologies Action Plan and the European Parliament Resolution An Environmental Technologies Action Plan for the European Union (2005);
- the Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006);
- the Communication on the Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy (2008);
- the Communication on Public procurement for a better environment (2008).

Objectives

The overall objectives of the Green Public Procurement Information Network are:

- 1) Reducing resource consumption and pollution resulting from public procurement
- 2) Preparing the ground for the introduction and implementation of National Plans for GPP;
- 3) Promoting the implementation of GPP at national and European level.

Project's specific objectives are:

- 4) Raising the awareness about the role of GPP for the implementation of strategies for sustainable consumption and production, including the promotion of environmental technologies;
- 5) Overcoming the information gaps that hinder the implementation of GPP

Means and Actions

Core of the project will be the creation of *regional networks for GPP* in six Italian Regions (Campania, Liguria, Lazio, Lombardia, Sardegna and Sicilia) and in three European regions.

The regional networks will be organised following the successful example of the National Working Group on GPP established within the Italian Local Agenda 21 Association and coordinated by the Province of Cremona.

The national working group was set up with the following objectives:

- identifying and sharing the obstacles to the adoption of environmental and social criteria by PAs;

- defining and sharing tools, hence solutions, for overcoming the obstacles;
- enhancing the exchange of best practices and experiences in the field of green and sustainable procurement.

Over its first year of activity (March 2005-March 2006), the working group saw the participation of 71 representatives of regional and local authorities, NGOs, Environmental Protection Agencies, the Ministry of Environment and Territory. Today it counts more than 190 members, whose activities are supported by the Technical Secretary (Ecosistemi) that is in charge of: drafting the by-monthly newsletter GPPinfoNET, organizing meetings; disseminating information among members; editing the technical works realised; promoting working group's activities at national and European level.

Main products realised by the Working Group have been so far:

- 1) the database of green calls for tender;
- 2) the CD-Rom “*Open Book Green Public Procurement: obstacles, tools and solutions*”;
- 3) The Technical Positioning Documents that analyse issues such as the use of ecolabels in tenders, monitoring of GPP activities, local products.

The actions foreseen in the GPPinfoNET project are:

- Translation and adaptation of materials produced by the Working Group on GPP of the Italian Local Agenda 21 Association (**information on European best practices will be collected and included in the CD-Rom**)
- Organisation of regional seminars in Italian regions
- Set up of Italian regional networks
- Regional newsletters
- Organization of national GPP days
- Interregional meetings for exchange of good practices
- **Creation of regional networks for GPP in European regions**
- Communication and dissemination activities (two European conferences, website, brochure, DVD)

DETAILS ON EUROPEAN REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR GPP

Regional networks for GPP will be created in three European target regions to be selected on the base of shows of interest by the end of April 2009.

The Italian regional networks will be used as sample experiences for the set up of regional networks in European regions, foreseen at the beginning of year 2010.

Regions or their representing bodies will not be asked to participate with financial resources in the implementation of the network.

Each European region involved will identify a contact point for the creation of the regional network. The contact point will act as technical secretary of the regional network and will be provided with detailed guidance on how to proceed for the constitution of the network and with informative material to be distributed to network participants.

Specifically, technical secretaries of regional networks set up in European regions will receive operational and technical support by the project's technical secretary (Ecosistemi-SDI Group).

Network activities

- One seminar for the presentation of the network and its objectives;
- Exchange of information through newsletter;
- Technical meetings.

Advantages of setting up a GPP regional network within the GPPinfoNET project

Regional networks set up within the GPPinfoNET projects will benefit from:

- Support in network organization and promotion among local authorities;
- Provision of operational tools and guidelines for implementation of green public procurement;
- Update on European policies and legislation on GPP;
- Diffusion of best practices on GPP among local authorities in the region;
- Visibility at European level through project's website;
- Possibility of participating in interregional meetings for exchange of experiences with other European regions.

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