



The power of sustainable public procurement

AEIDL, in cooperation with [ICLEI](#), organised a workshop at the European Week of Regions and Cities to inspire European, national, regional and local government officials and experts on sustainable public procurement.

By presenting good practice case-studies taken from the report [Making socially responsible public procurement work - 71 good practice cases](#) written by the two organisations on behalf of the European Commission, in the frame of the [#WeBuySocialEU project](#), we wanted to show that it is possible to combine social and environmental criteria in the same public procurement (PP) procedure.

Aline De Cokere, Procurer at the city of Ghent (Belgium), showed how they purchased workwear in a sustainable way. Suppliers were required to use organic and fair trade cotton and recycled polyester, to promote circular end-of-life solutions and to guarantee the respect of human rights throughout the whole supply chains. She also presented the city's [Toolbox](#) for Socially Responsible Work Wear for suppliers and procurers.

Ana Fe Félix Iglesias, Manager at La Encina (Spain), presented how Salamanca, by using the instrument of reserved contracts, is able to offer social and professional integration opportunities to disadvantaged workers and require emission control measures to protect the environment. *"In Salamanca, it has been shown that political consensus, the joint work of the administration with civil society and good practices in public procurement are producing a high social benefit in favor of the most disadvantaged people and the environment"*, she said.

Anna Lupi, Policy Officer, DG GROW, presented the ongoing sustainable procurement actions: Sustainable Procurement Screening (guidance to facilitate attracting public and private investments for large PP infrastructure projects - Green Deal), updated guidance on socially responsible PP and [Big Buyers initiative](#) to promote collaboration between big public buyers in implementing strategic public procurement.

Some take-aways from the session: to better implement sustainable procurement, it is necessary that the European Commission and national authorities better inform contracting authorities about what they are allowed to do, support them in the design of the pre-tendering phase, during which to develop a dialogue with suppliers and end users. At the same time, suppliers should better inform public authorities about what they can offer.

Recording of the EWRC workshop:

<https://euregionsweek2020-video.eu/video/the-power-of-sustainable-procurement>

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