



Buying for Social Impact

Making socially responsible public procurement work

The Buying for Social Impact (BSI) project has published a collection of good practices showing how the social aspects of the new public procurement Directive 2014/24/EU can be implemented in practice across the EU member states.

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The [publication](#) gathers 22 examples of good practice from 12 EU Member States. The examples concern public procurement procedures, policy initiatives and support structures (i.e. strategies, networks of facilitators, capacity-building projects or programmes, databases, etc.). This reflects one of the key findings of the project, namely, that legal frameworks must be coupled with initiatives to increase knowledge and build capacity among public authorities and economic operators (including social economy enterprises) in order to ensure sufficient implementation of socially responsible public procurement (SRPP).

Accompanying the good practices, BSI has also published a [brochure](#) of the project with some recommendations on how to address key challenges of socially responsible public procurement. The main recommendations drawn from the project are:

- European Commission to keep an active role in guiding Member States on how to promote and increase the use of social provisions included in the Directive.
- Promote knowledge of the provisions made available by the Directive through capacity building actions, training and support structures that provide advice and disseminate good practice.
- Overcome difficulty implementing social provisions by encouraging governments and contracting authorities to develop strategies on SRPP, promoting a clear understanding of the meaning of 'disadvantaged workers', establishing interfaces between employment services and procuring bodies, and creating enabling frameworks for reserved contracts.
- Develop ecosystems that promote increased access to public procurement by social economy operators.
- Increase public sector knowledge of social economy enterprises and their potential to take part in procurement procedures.

Buying for Social Impact (BSI) is a project commissioned by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and the European Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) to promote the use of social considerations in public procurement procedures. The project ended in January 2020.

AEIDL led a consortium of partners active in the promotion of local development and social economy enterprises; the [European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy \(REVES\)](#), [DIESIS COOP](#), [Social Economy Europe \(SEE\)](#) and the [European Network of Social Integration Enterprises \(ENSIE\)](#).

During the implementation of the BSI project it became clear that exchanging information and disseminating good practice examples across countries is extremely helpful for contracting authorities, as they can learn and be inspired by what happens elsewhere.

A new project “[Collecting good practices and raising awareness on social procurement](#)”, funded by EASME in the frame of the COSME programme, is taking a similar approach. Running from September 2019 to March 2021, AEIDL is a partner in this new project led by [ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability](#), and in cooperation with Social Economy Europe (sub-contractor).

More information:

[Brochure with main recommendations from the project](#)
[BSI library](#)

[Legal analysis of the transposition](#)

[Mappings of social economy enterprises ecosystems](#)

[National awareness raising events](#)

[Good practice from around the EU](#)

