



Socially responsible public procurement

71 good practices

The European Commission has just published a report collecting 71 good practice cases on how public buyers have implemented socially responsible public procurement (SRPP), in order to promote employment opportunities, decent work, social inclusion, accessibility, ethical trade, design for all and seeking to achieve wider compliance with social standards.

Under the title [‘Making Socially Responsible Public Procurement Work: 71 good practice cases’](#), the document aims to inspire public buyers around Europe to buy social.

SRPP asks procurers to look beyond the price and the quality of the products or services they want to acquire, and also consider how a product/service is produced and sourced. The 71 cases in the SRPP report show that those public buyers who want to use their procurements to strategically deliver positive social outcomes have wide range of applications, mechanisms and opportunities to choose from.

The report, written by ICLEI and AEIDL with the support of Public Procurement Analysis, Dialog Makarna and Social Economy Europe, compiles cases from 27 countries, 22 EU Member States plus 5 non-EU.

The cases address a diverse selection of products and services, encompass all phases of the public procurement process, and include a broad range of public buyers, ranging from local and national governments, to public hospitals.

The report also shows that SRPP is possible in a wide array of sectors, including construction, food and catering, furniture, gardening services, healthcare, ICT, social services, transport, mobility, and waste.

Socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) is about achieving positive social outcomes in public contracts. Procurement affects a large number of people, whether as users of public services, those involved in production and delivery, or staff of the buying organisation. Beyond those directly affected, SRPP has the potential to influence the broader market on both the demand and supply sides.

By purchasing wisely, public buyers can promote employment opportunities, decent work, social inclusion, accessibility, design for all, ethical trade, and seek to achieve wider compliance with social standards. For some products, works and services, the impact can be particularly significant, as public purchasers command a large share of the market in sectors such as construction, healthcare and transport.

Public buyers are major investors in Europe, spending 14% of the EU's gross domestic product. By using their purchasing power to opt for goods and services that deliver positive social outcomes, they can make a major contribution to sustainable development. Increasingly, the need to address all three pillars of sustainability (social, environmental and economic) in procurement is recognised by both the public and private sectors.

The 2014 Public Procurement Directives make it clear that social aspects can be taken into account throughout the procurement cycle, from preliminary market consultation, through to the use of reservations and the light regime, and to social award criteria and contract performance conditions.

Public buyers across Europe are starting to take advantage of these opportunities and demonstrate real social impact in their purchasing. Despite this, Member States are not yet fully exploiting the possibilities of public procurement as a strategic tool to support social policy objectives.



[Download the report](#)

SRPP: work done by AEIDL in the [Buying for Social Impact project](#)