



## How Social Economy Enterprises can Benefit from Public Procurement?

Online Event

23 February  
11:30 to 13:00



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## Public procurement is an opportunity for social economy enterprises

**(23 February) 2021) - The #WeBuySocialEU project on socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) was concluded today with a webinar on how social economy enterprises could benefit from public procurement.**

AEIDL co-hosted the event with Social Economy Europe to present the project which aims to promote the use of social considerations in public procurement procedures. #WeBuySocialEU was 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).

Good practices of SRPP were analysed in 22 Members States and 5 non-EU countries and a special focus was made during the webinar on two case studies in Valladolid (Spain) and Kaisiadorys (Lithuania).

The European Commission has been working on using public procurement as a policy tool to help citizens achieve social and environmental goals. A big challenge for SRPP is to ensure the accessibility to public markets of SMEs and social economy enterprises as they are the more relevant stakeholders for SRPP.

Contracting authorities have different instruments to do so such as reserved contracts for specific social objectives, the use of social, employment and training clauses, dividing the market into lots to facilitate the access of SMEs or pre-market consultations to meet potential economic operators and adapt the procurement procedures to their needs and capacity.

The city of Valladolid decided to develop a strategy based on transparency and simplified procedures to have a smarter use of its budget including environment, innovation and social issues. This allowed to improve the percentage of SMEs who were awarded public contracts.

The city of Kaisiadorys developed another approach of SRPP with pre-market consultation to ensure a high proportion of SMEs and social economy enterprises by promoting collaboration between economic operators, in a tender aimed at a support service to promote independent living of people with mental health problems.

The development of SRPP in the European Union relies on raising awareness of the opportunities to transform and improve policies by making better use of public budgets. Contracting authorities lack information on SRPP and should be helped to size all the opportunities linked to public procurement and how to use them.

Reaching out to politicians about the benefits of SRPP could help developing more good practices in the Union. Public procurement is often seen as a very technical matter, but it can also help achieve goals relating to green, social, employment, innovation or gender equality.

Another key point to improve SRPP would be to strengthen the impact assessment of public procurement procedures as it would help raising awareness about its positive social and economic effects and encourage a better access to financial and human resources for such projects.

The situation regarding SRPP varies a lot in the European Union. One reason is the unequal development of and lack of a legal framework for social economy enterprises in Europe. SRPP needs a clear legal framework to define, recognize and classify social economy enterprises as a basis for its development.

A communication campaign on the #WeBuySocialEU project has been launched under its eponym hashtag and DG GROW is currently working on a new guide on socially responsible procurement to be launched in June 2021.

More information about the project can be seen [here](#).



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**#WeBuySocialEU**

Making Socially Responsible Public Procurement Work  
**71** Good Practice Cases  
#WeBuySocialEU May 2020