



e-NEWSLETTER n°2 – October 2010

New Developments on PUBLIC PROCUREMENT & INNOVATION

European Commission -- DG ENTERPRISE & INDUSTRY - DG INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

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POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Publication on 6 October 2010 of "**Innovation Union**", Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative, (http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm) that includes initiatives **to support Public Procurement of Innovation notably through action n°17**:

"Pre-commercial procurements and public procurements of innovative products and services (including those defined by the Innovation Partnerships, see Section 5). This should create procurement markets across the EU starting from at least €10 billion a year for innovations that improve the efficiency and quality of public services, while addressing the major societal challenges. The aim should be to achieve innovative procurement markets equivalent to those in the US. The Commission will provide guidance and set up a (financial) support mechanism to help contracting authorities to implement these procurements in a non-discriminatory and open manner, to pool demand, to draw up common specifications, and to promote SME access.

In addition, the Commission will offer guidance on implementing joint procurements between contracting entities under the current public procurement directives and use the ongoing general evaluation of the current directives to examine the opportunity to introduce additional rules to make cross border joint procurements easier", refer to http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/innovation-union-communication_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

State of play of the **Danish** initiative preparing a **new government strategy on public private partnerships**; the strategy will touch upon a number of issues in order to further cooperation between the public and the private sector, one issue in fact being how to promote innovation through public procurement. Focusing on that we will one way or the other address SBIR, PCP etc. For more information: Anders Stribolt , Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs: ast@oem.dk

The **Finish Ministry of Employment and the Economy** is developing a programme of public service innovations through networks and partnerships, where procurement of innovation is also involved http://www.tem.fi/files/27547/Framework_and_Action_Plan.pdf. For more information: Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Innovation Department: mikko.martikainen@tem.fi

STUDIES/ REPORTS

Good practice guide published by EuroPROC project (Interreg IVC) on "**SME's access to international public procurements**", in July 2011: <http://www.europroc.eu/en/deliverables/good-practices/4/>

One of the main outputs of EuroPROC is the realization of a Guide of Good Practices on supporting services for SMEs on European and International Public Procurement. The aim of this guide is to provide a source of inspiration





for those Business Support Organisations (BSO) planning to take further steps into providing the SMEs with services on IPP business opportunities. Furthermore, this guide offers clear information on the services that could match the needs of SME and the way to set them up and finance them.
For more information: Nicolas Espitalier: nespitalier@acc10.cat

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In the framework of the revision of the Small Business Act, DG ENTR published a study on "**SMEs access to public procurement**".

European stakeholders were invited to attend a workshop presenting the results of the study and a number of other Commission initiatives. The event will take place on 20 October in Brussels. The agenda is attached.

For more information about the report and the workshop contact: Simeon Chenev, European Commission, DG ENTR: simeon.chenev@ec.europa.eu

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Directorate General for the Internal Market and Services has recently launched a number of **studies to provide detailed information which will feed into an overall evaluation of the public procurement directives**. The studies will investigate how and why the different procurement procedures have been used, the experience of Member States in integrating different policy objectives, such as environmental or social objectives or the pursuit of innovation, within public procurement and also the impact on trade and competition. The findings will help the Commission to draw conclusions about the impact and cost-effectiveness of EU public procurement legislation. The results of the evaluation will be published in June 2011

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The Belgian EU Presidency, (Federal Public Service Economy) organised on September 14th in Brussels a seminar entitled "**From knowledge to competitiveness**" where public procurement of innovation was on the agenda. Please find in attachment the results of the conference that attracted more than 180 participants.

For more information: paul.laurent@economie.fgov.be

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PROJECTS

Results of the RAPIDE project <http://rapidenetwork.eu/>; are now available. After 2 years of work, the "Interreg JVC" fast track project published **recommendations to European and regional policy makers to drive business innovation by increasing public sector demand for innovative goods and services**.

More under: http://rapidenetwork.eu/downloads/policy_recommendations.aspx

RAPIDE also suggests how scarce public funds can be used more effectively. "Digital Storytelling to bring innovation to finance/market" instead of conventional application forms brings the selection criteria of public and private funds much closer together. More information is available at:

http://rapidenetwork.eu/downloads/methodological_pitching_tool.aspx; For more information: Benjamin Kuscher, benjamin.kuscher@kwi.at

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Results of the EU-project Pro-EE, with a manual on "Joint Green Public Procurement - A Guide for Public Authorities": http://www.pro-ee.eu/fileadmin/pro_ee/inhalte/dokumente/PROEE_Manual_en.pdf and "Guidelines for Sustainable Public Procurement": http://www.pro-ee.eu/fileadmin/pro_ee/inhalte/dokumente/materials_guidelines.pdf and a leaflet on: "Sustainable Public Procurement in European Municipalities": http://www.pro-ee.eu/fileadmin/pro_ee/inhalte/dokumente/proEE_Leaflet_en.pdf

Please find at <http://www.pro-ee.eu/events.html> the invitation to the international public procurer meeting and the final conference of EU-project Pro-EE. A conference that has been very successful with 100 international and national public procurers on the 7th Oct. and 200 international, national and regional public procurers on 8th Oct. All presentation can be downloaded at <http://www.pro-ee.eu/dissemination.html>; For more information: hannes.poecklhofer@ooe.gv.at

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State of play of the 3 Lead Market Initiative-Public Procurement Networks

LCB-HEALTHCARE

The network (www.lowcarbon-healthcare.eu) was officially launched at a European conference of health property professionals in Stockholm in May 2010 and stakeholders consultations commenced at the European Congress on Healthcare Planning and Design in June 2010. A wide variety of stakeholders, from different countries, have already registered on the website and a survey of barriers to investment in low carbon solutions was launched in August. This, and the initial lessons that are being learned from the national pilots, will help inform a European state-of-the-art report that is planned for publication before the end of 2010; Contact: info@lowcarbon-healthcare.eu or Gaynor Whyles gaynor.whyles@jeraconsulting.com

ENPROTEX

The Network of Public Procurement Organisations for Protective Textile and PPE, seeks to: spark innovation through public procurement to meet future needs of fire services; develop cooperation among public procurers; provide an interface to both end-users and manufacturers. The project aims to provide industry with forward commitments for the procurement of protective textiles products. Website: <http://www.enprotex.eu/index>; Contact: joshua.osifeso@firebuy.gov.uk

SCI-Network

The Sustainable Construction and Innovation through Procurement Network connects European public authorities working to find new, innovative and sustainable solutions for their construction projects. It is part of the Lead Market Initiative targeting the sustainable construction sector, and the network also includes experts working in this field.

Six working groups have been established within the network, based on the activities and interests of the public authorities participating. The working groups are dedicated to:

1. Sustainable renovation - innovative approaches
2. New technical solutions - innovative solutions for energy efficient buildings
3. Procuring innovation - procedures and methods
4. Developing a business case for sustainable construction, life-cycle/whole-life costing
5. Financing & contracting sustainable buildings; innovative solutions
6. Environmental standards - applications in construction procurement

Public authorities who are interested in participating in the online working groups should send an e-mail to sci-network@iclei.org address to: simon.clement@iclei.org

NEW CALLS FOR TENDERS/ PROPOSALS, RESULTS – COLLECTION OF BEST PRACTICE

The evaluation of the DG ENTR study on a "feasibility study on future EU support to public procurement of innovative solutions" http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/ce/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4318&lang=fr has been completed. 12 proposals of high quality were presented. More information will be given in the next e-newsletter.

DG INFSO, PCP

New call for proposals on pre-commercial procurement

The guide for applicants and preproposal-check are now available for the new PCP call for proposals that just opened in FP7-ICT-2011-7. This call offers now for the first time the opportunity to consortia of public authorities from around Europe to apply for **EC funding for undertaking a pre-commercial procurement jointly**. Call 7 that is currently open (until 18 January 2011) calls for such cross-border pre-commercial procurements in the areas of ICT for health and ageing well. The grant for the latter type projects will combine a reimbursement of max 100% of the eligible costs for the activities linked to the preparation, management and coordination of the joint PCP call for





tender, plus a reimbursement of maximum 50% of the costs for the development of the new ICT solutions procured through a PCP.

More info on the PCP website (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/pcp/home_en.htm) and the Call 7 website (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=376)

Innovation Flanders

Flanders regions (BE) just launched their second call within the framework of their "Public Procurement of Innovation scheme", inspired by Pre-commercial Procurement, dedicated to: "Infrastructuur & Cultuur Informatie Systeem (ICIS)", more information on the call at: <https://enot.publicprocurement.be/enot-war/preViewNotice.do?noticeId=74939>

Contact: Christophe Veys, Programme co-ordinator: cve@iwt.be; website: www.innovatiefaanbesteden.be

Procurement of Innovation: Case studies compilation

In order to progress in the support of innovation through public procurement, we are compiling case studies. We would be grateful if you could send us any case studies or best practice of procurement of innovation in any EU languages, to: bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

- As example: in the framework of the **UNDERPINN project (FP7)**, Professor Luke Georghiou from Manchester University has been compiling **procurement of innovation examples** produced by various projects; Document attached. Contact: luke.georghiou@mbs.ac.uk
- Also, colleagues from the **Finish Ministry of Employment and the Economy** sent us an interesting **case study from city of Pori**; Document attached. Contact: mikko.martikainen@tem.fi

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS/ SEMINARS (future or past)

"Innovation procurement by SBIR and PCP: Towards a European Collaboration"

2nd international expert meeting.

Type of event: expert meeting

When and where: **20 & 21 January 2011, The Hague, The Netherlands**

Organised by: The Technopolicy Network and various Member States, Innovation agencies

Description: the expert meeting will focus fully on national and European aspects of Innovation Procurement; i.e. to use procurement strategies for catalyzing innovation and supporting SMEs, high-tech companies. The European Commission is preparing a pilot for a European scheme for Innovation Procurement/ SBIR. This is an important development also for Member States/ Regions and gives countries with a running or future program the opportunity to share expertise and views on this future EU program.

Further information and contact: Paul Vulto, p.vulto@technopolicy.net

"How to improve SMEs access to International/ European Public Procurement?"

Type of event: conference

When and where: **20 January 2011 (tbc), Barcelona, Spain**

Organised by: Catalan Business Support Agency, ACC10 (euroPROC Project)

Description: This Conference aims at promoting the debate among the Public Buyers, Private Sector and Policy makers on How to improve SMEs access to International/Public Procurement. During the plenary session, the main topics will be "Supporting SMEs Innovation through Public Procurement" and the "Guide of Good Practices". Afterwards, 4 parallel roundtables will be dedicated to "New Approaches to Public Procurement": e-Public Procurement; Green Public Procurement; Social Considerations; Pre-commercial Procurement

Further information: www.europroc.eu; Contact: Nicolas Espitalier, nespialier@acc10.cat





Procura⁺ Seminar 2010 on: "Innovation through Procurement"

Type of event: seminar

When and where: **11 November, Helsinki, Finland**

Organised by: The City of Helsinki and ICLEI

Description: The Procura⁺ series of seminars provide an opportunity for face-to-face exchange amongst purchasers from all levels of government, suppliers and manufacturers, policy-makers and multipliers. This year's seminar will focus on:

- Construction – how can sustainable procurement be used to find new, innovative solutions for public construction projects;
- SMEs - how public authorities can make contracts more accessible; and
- Supplier engagement – how to get suppliers on board through strategic dialogue.

Participation in the Seminar is free of charge, however, prior registration is essential to ensure you have a place.

Procura⁺ participants' meeting: exchange of best practice

Type of event: meeting

When and where: **12 November, Helsinki, Finland**

Description: This meeting is for the Procura⁺ Campaign participants and public authorities interested in joining or finding out more about the Procura⁺ Campaign www.procuraplus.org

Further information and Contact: Further information and the registration form are available at: www.procuraplus.org/helsinki or contact Franziska Singer, email: franziska.singer@iclei.org.

Enterprise Europe Network Annual conference – Session on "Public Procurement for the EEN Network: SMEs, public procurers and innovation"

Type of event: conference

When and where: **14 October, Antwerp, Belgium**

Description: Following last year's conference, a working group on public procurement has been set up, specific actions have been awarded, contacts with Lead Market Initiative Networks have been taken and the Commission has developed strategies to encourage innovation procurement.

Further information and Contact: Daniel Gassmann (European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation), daniel.gassmann@ec.europa.eu

We will send a regular e-newsletter to update you on European actions in public procurement & innovation. Do not hesitate to send us announcements on policy initiatives, conferences/ workshops and new projects on that filed at: bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

