

Newly updated GPP criteria for Road Transport published by the European Commission

On 18 October 2021 the European Commission published a revised version of the GPP criteria for road transport, updating previous criteria published in 2019. The revision was necessary to adjust to the changes introduced by the Directive 2019/1161/EU on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles ([revised Clean Vehicles Directive](#)). The criteria aim to provide contracting authorities with the necessary guidance to purchase clean and environmentally responsible road vehicles (and related services).

The EU GPP criteria cover five categories: purchase, lease/rental of cars, light commercial vehicles and L-category vehicles (e.g. motorcycles); mobility services (e.g. car sharing, taxi services); purchase/lease of heavy duty vehicles; road transport services (e.g. public transport); and post, courier and moving services. The criteria are split into core criteria, for easy application, and comprehensive criteria, designed to reach a higher environmental performance.



The new criteria address the key environmental impacts during the life cycles of the vehicles/services, paying specific attention to greenhouse gases and air pollutant emissions produced during use and along supply chains (of the energy carriers). They also address environmental impacts related to batteries for electric vehicles and noise emissions produced by vehicles and tyres.

The criteria are currently available in English here ([technical background report](#)), with translations into the other official EU languages to follow soon.



Zoom in on... Webinar on Buildings

On 2 December 2021 (9:30-11:15 CET) the European Commission is hosting a webinar to introduce public procurement professionals to [Level\(s\)](#) - the new EU common language for the sustainability performance of buildings. The webinar will provide EU policy perspectives, experiences from practitioners and will offer opportunities for questions from the audience. The webinar is intended for local, regional and national public authorities responsible for the procurement of buildings. Register your place and see detailed agenda [here](#).



Zoom in on... New GPP guidance in Ireland

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ireland published [new guidance on green procurement](#) in September 2021. Launched at the EPA Circular Economy Conference this is a practical resource tool, designed to assist procurers to build green criteria into public tenders and to check compliance. It covers ten sectors. All are based on the [EU GPP criteria](#) with adaptations to reflect the Irish market and procurement practices.

Interview



Important steps to improving ICT purchases and sustainable procurement generally in Belgium

Jo Versteven works for the [Belgian Federal Institute for Sustainable Development \(FISD\)](#). Since 2004, he has been working on sustainable public procurement (SPP) for the federal government.

What is the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development and how does your advisory work on sustainable procurement benefit the Belgian federal government?

Generally speaking, FISD is responsible for the coordination and planning of several sustainability issues and topics in cooperation with federal government departments and civil society. Green, social and circular procurement is an important topic for FISD,

and we're working on this by helping buyers through delivering training on SPP, providing advice on European directive transposition (for example, the [Clean Vehicles](#) and the [Energy Efficiency Directives](#)), developing effective SPP monitoring systems and procurement criteria, and carrying out studies on the topic.

To read the interview in full, click [here](#).



GPP good practice

Networking for a common goal: a winning strategy to spread the GPP principles and effectively contribute to Sustainable Development (Veneto Region, Italy)

The Veneto Region is the fourth most populous region of Italy being home to around 4.8 million living in 563 municipalities.

The region's policy work on GPP is rooted in the [Italian National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement \(GPP\)](#) (currently in action since 2013 and undergoing revision) - the policy which encourages all Italian public authorities to implement certain actions and comply with its objectives and principles. It encourages local and regional governments to set up local policies or plans, which include specific objectives and approaches to monitoring and implementing green procurement. The regional government of Veneto has been actively supporting GPP since 2015, when it approved its own first GPP Action Plan.

In 2019, a Green Procurement Office was set up with one full-time person (an environmental technician) directly involved in greening tenders and who liaises with other regional departments and territorial stakeholders, such as companies, trade associations, etc., to provide them with the necessary support to facilitate and spread the inclusion of the national (mandatory) GPP criteria into their purchasing procedures. Furthermore, the regional government has in place a Memorandum of Understanding on GPP with local universities, the [Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention and Protection](#) and the [Venetian Chamber of Commerce](#). This serves to create a common focus on sustainability and innovation in procurement across the region and has been operating since 2019.

Download the full case study [here](#).



Wolfgang Moroder / Wikimedia Commons

**Zoom in on... Toolkit for sustainable public meals**

A toolkit to assist procurement practitioners in their provision of meals in the public sector has been developed through the EU-funded [StratKIT](#) project. The toolkit addresses eight main topics: strategies, public procurement, communication and capacity building, organic food, food waste, healthy and plant-based food, resource efficiency and working with farmers.

Environmentally and socially friendly cleaning services - Environment and Resources Authority (Malta)

The Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) in Malta published a tender for green cleaning services in 2019. The ERA has around 220 employees and takes a leading role in advising the national government on environmental policy making at the national level. Malta's National Action Plan (NAP) for Green Public Procurement (GPP), for years 2019-2025, makes it mandatory for all contracting authorities to include GPP criteria in their tenders for cleaning products and services. The criteria are based on the EU GPP Criteria.



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The ERA's most recent tender included a number of environmental and social requirements to also ensure good working conditions for staff employed under the contract for the coming three years. The resulting contract (worth approximately €100,000 annually) is executed using only [EU Ecolabelled](#) cleaning products - such as, all-purpose cleaners, sanitary cleaners and window cleaners. The mandatory status placed on the Cleaning Products Group within the Maltese NAP for GPP has resulted in numerous tenders being issued with more environmentally friendly cleaning products, which reduces numerous hazardous effects, and has generally enabled broader scale implementation of GPP in Malta.

Download the full case study [here](#).

**Zoom in on... Winners of Sustainable Procurement awards in Italy**

At this year's [Forum Compraverde 2021](#) conference (6-8 October), a number of public procurers (cities, regions) were awarded for their outstanding efforts on sustainable procurement. Awards were given for green canteens, tenders, GPP policies and social responsibility. [More information](#) about the winners (in Italian).

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