



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DRAFT AGENDA

“Promoting Innovation Through Public Procurement:
Best Practice & Networking”

Brussels, 23-24 March 2010

Centre Borschette, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

Aim of the conference

In the past three years, the European Commission and several public authorities in Europe have launched a number of initiatives that stimulate the public procurement of innovations and stimulate innovative public procurement itself. These include Green Public Procurement GPP, e-Procurement, social considerations, variants in procurement, technical dialogue or forward commitment procurement methodologies, as well as Pre Commercial Procurement PCP or research oriented public procurements.

Stakeholder and expert communities, training and guidance are being developed. To start building a European critical mass in this field, there is a need to facilitate the networking and exchanging of best practice among public procurers, policy makers and relevant stakeholders. This conference aims to promote a connected community of stakeholders and identify possible joint actions.

Specific objectives are to:

- Clarify the relationships between networks and stakeholders (existing ones and new ones) that can facilitate/ promote public procurement of innovations: innovation agencies, Enterprise Europe Network partners, experts, industry, procuring facilitators
- Identify what tools are best used to help these people and where there is potential for joint actions

Context

Public procurement was identified as a priority for EU innovation policy under the 2006 Broad Based Innovation Strategy. Since then, the Commission has provided guidance on innovation in public procurement, introduced the concept of pre-commercial and launched calls to support trans-national networks of public procurers in the lead market areas¹ and for pre-commercial procurement². In parallel, innovative approaches in public procurement have been already developed.

Despite these policy initiatives, the vast majority of public procurement in the EU does not purchase enough innovative solutions. This is of particular concern with public procurement representing around 17% of EU27 GDP (around 2000 billion euro a year

¹ Refer to: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/lead-market-initiative/public-proc_en.htm

² Refer to: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/pcp/calls_en.html



– DG MARKT 2007 data), the rising pressures on public expenditure and the growing demands for better public services. Access to public procurement remains difficult for many companies, particularly small and innovative ones, and this issue is being considered in the context of the future European Innovation Plan.

Innovation in public procurement can be envisaged from two complementary and interlinked perspectives: 1/ on how public procurers are buying and 2/ on what public procurers are buying.

The “how” is mainly related to innovative methodologies promoted or allowed by the current Directives on public procurement.

The “what” concerns the products or services purchased which are innovative or new by nature. Pre-commercial, research oriented public procurements or SBIR³ type methodologies are particular tools dedicated to the “what”.

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Tuesday 23 March

9:00-9:30 Coffee and registration

9:30-10:00 Introduction: purpose of the conference - what do we want to achieve and short presentation of the European Innovation plan: societal challenges, demand-side approaches...: Mrs Françoise Le Bail

10:00-15:15 PLEARNARY SESSION

10:00-11:00 Procurement encouraging markets for new solutions: knowing the problem, solutions available, but market not developed

- Ø DG ENTR: Lead Market Initiative Public Procurement Networks
- Ø DG TREN: Joint Public Procurement Networks (Directive clean vehicles)
- Ø Innovation in Public Procurement: a Finish example (TEKES)

Debate: What is being done to disseminate and promote best practice in procurement of innovative solutions; how effective is it? Which role for innovation agencies, Enterprise Europe Network partners, experts, industry, procuring facilitators...?

11:00-12:00 Pre-commercial Public Procurement: knowing the problem but not the solution

- Ø DG INFSO: New support mechanism for Pre-commercial Public Procurement
- Ø DG ENTR: Mainstreaming PCP – towards a European approach?
- Ø EIB: Possibilities for EIB loans for joint PCP

³ Small Business Innovation and Research programme developed by the USA and replicated by several European Member States.



- Ø RAPIDE Project (Interreg IVC): Hungarian example on how to setting up a PCP project through cohesion funds?

Debate: Are new supports to PCP (FP7, EIB, structural funds) adequate to mainstream PCP across areas of societal challenges?

12:00-12:15 Coffee break

12:15-13:15 Building platforms for innovative procurement

- Ø How to organise effective dialogue between the public and private sector?: ICLEI
- Ø DG ENV: Green Public Procurement platform
- Ø Best practice on organizing a supply chain: city of Lille, bio products for school canteens
- Ø Joint procurement methodology: PRECO-Eurocities / Compro project

Debate: What kind of support is needed to encourage joint public procurement or procurement platforms?

13:15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-15:15 e-Tools to support innovation through Public Procurement

- Ø Procurers platforms: DG TREN e-platforms
- Ø DG MARKT: European public procurement journal Tenders Electronic Daily
- Ø EU Lab: umbrella network for activities on the field of public procurement
- Ø PEPPOL project: facilitating companies and particularly SMEs to access public procurement

Debate: How to track innovative public procurement in Europe? How e-tools could help?

15:15-17:30 SLOTS OF DISCUSSION

Parallel sessions will be organized, where people will have the chance to tackle more specific issues. The idea is to give the chance for participants (most active/innovative stakeholders on innovation through Public Procurement) to set-up slots on the issue they want to discuss on.

Call for proposal addressed to participants that want to set-up specific slots. They are invited to contact: lieve.bos@ec.europa.eu & bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

15:15-16.15 Round I of slot sessions

- Ø "How motivating/interesting public authorities in pursuing innovation within procurement?" (Chair: ICLEI)
- Ø "Examples of PCP on: ICT for transport, healthcare, energy, e-government" (Chair: DG INFOS)
- Ø "How to bridge the gap between public procurers and innovative SMEs?" (Chair: DG ENTR)

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16.15-16.30 Coffee break and time to move to other rooms

16.30-17.30 Round II of sessions

- Ø "Best practice of Forward commitment procurement methodologies" (Chair: Department of Business Innovation and Skills)
- Ø "How much of procurement budgets for pre-commercial and novel solutions: towards 1%?" (Chair: DG ENTR)
- Ø "Risk management in procurement of innovation" (Chair: DG RTD)

17.30-18.30 PLEANARY SESSION: feedback from round table sessions by rapporteurs and conclusions

19.00-20.30 COCKTAIL RECEPTION

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Wednesday 24 March*

Participants are invited to suggest networking meetings to the organizers: lieve.bos@ec.europa.eu & bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

09:30-11:00 Networking meetings

- Ø LMI-PPN / Enterprise Europe Network meeting
- Ø LMI-PPN / PCP project meeting
- Ø LMI-PPN / DG REGIO networks meeting
- Ø "SMART SPP" projects: ESPO (UK) procuring agency

(...)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Networking meetings

- Ø DG ENTR & EACI: presentation of Network and Working Group organisation. Possible future developments about Public Procurement LMI-PPN: meeting among projects
- Ø PCP projects: meeting among projects
- Ø LMI-PPN: meeting among projects

(...)

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

* Participants are also invited to join the INTERREG IVC "RAPIDE project" conference that will be held in Brussels on 24 March, and dedicated to: "Mainstreaming PCPs in Europe: recommendations from the RAPIDE project". For more information contact: Benjamin Kuscher: bkuscher-rapide@southwestuk.be / www.rapidenetwork.eu

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14:00-15:30 Concluding session

Please register before 25 January 2010 to:
Filomena Russo: filomena.russo@ec.europa.eu
Indicate your slot session (I & II) you want to attend on 23rd March

Contact:

Lieve Bos: lieve.bos@ec.europa.eu & Bertrand Wert: bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

Acronyms and web references:

CIP: Competitiveness and Innovation Programme: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm
DG ENTR: Directorate General Enterprise and Industry
DG ENV: Directorate General Environment
DG INFSO: Directorate General Information Society and Media
DG MARKT: Directorate General Internal Market and Services
DG REGIO: Directorate General for Regional Policy
EACI: Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation:
http://europa.eu/agencies/executive_agencies/eaci/index_en.htm
EEN: Enterprise Europe Network: http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
EIB: European Investment Bank: <http://www.eib.org>
ESPO: Joint Committee of Local Authorities and operates within the Local Government (UK):
<http://www.espo.org>
EU Lab: umbrella network for activities on the field of public procurement:
<https://eulab.viadesk.com/do/login>
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
GPP: Green Public Procurement: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm
ICLEI: Local Government for Sustainability: <http://www.iclei-europe.org>
LMI-PPN: Lead Market Initiative-Public Procurement Networks:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/lead-market-initiative/public-proc_en.htm
MKW: Making Knowledge Work, Interreg IVC project
PEPPOL project: <http://www.peppol.eu/>
PCP: Pre Commercial Procurement:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/tl/research/priv_invest/pcp/index_en.htm
RAPIDE: Interreg IVC project: <http://www.rapidenetwork.eu>
SBIR: Small Business Innovation and Research programme: <http://www.sbir.gov>
SMART-SPP: Innovation through sustainable procurement project: <http://www.smart-spp.eu>
TEKES: Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation: <http://www.tekes.fi/en>