



**Project GPP-STREAM “Green Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming”**

**ACTIVITY B11 REALIZATION AND PUBLICATION OF AT LEAST 5 INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDERS – REPORT ON INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

Author: PP7 Centre for Sustainability and Economic Growth /CSEG/



## **Introduction**

The aim of this report is to provide information on the level of understanding of GPP on the part of GPP-STREAM project stakeholders and to give feedback on their attitude and opinion in relation to GPP implementation into the local policy and the importance of interregional cooperation. The report is based on a questionnaire, completed by 5 stakeholders in 3 partner countries – Italy, Romania and Spain.

### **Current situation:**

The GPP-STREAM project foresees the realization of 15 interviews with stakeholders, 5 of which should be made during the second semester.

In regards to realization of B11, project partnership decided on 18.04.2019 during a face-to-face steering committee meeting in Alzira, Spain, that the following project partners will perform interviews with at least one of their stakeholders that were present at the event concerned:

- PP1 Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia - x2 (this partner will interview two stakeholders)
- PP2 Lazio region
- PP5 North-East Regional Development Agency
- PP8 Association of Municipalities of Ribera Alta Region

As a result there are no interviews with stakeholders from France and Bulgaria, but there are 3 stakeholders' interviews from Italy, 1 from Spain and 1 from Romania.

CSEG issued a methodology and instructions on how to progress with interviews and created an example questionnaire on the level of understanding of GPP and its importance for local policies and interregional cooperation. It is divided into two parts, so that CSEG receives as much relevant information as possible. The first few questions are mostly for quick presentation of the stakeholder and then the questionnaire goes into details on GPP approach and final recommendations. What follows is a summary on the respondents' replies, recommendations and personal attitudes.

### **Questionnaire findings:**

Most of the stakeholders noted that the transnational learning event in Alzira, Spain was a worthwhile and helpful experience. All of them gave a positive feedback on the event and it received a high evaluation in regards to knowledge update and exchanging views on GPP implementation and promotion. Additionally, the current state of the environmental criteria and their level of implementation in partners' policies were also pointed out as beneficial information. Another good point on the part of the stakeholders was the importance of circular economy and its connection with GPP mainstreaming.

The study indicates that none of the stakeholders has marked a level of GPP knowledge as very good, which suggests a place for further improvement, learning, and an opportunity for raising awareness and knowledge on the subject.

All of the stakeholders involved, feel that interregional cooperation is beneficial for the diffusion of GPP. Sharing good practices and knowledge, different level of GPP implementation, exchanging experience and various approaches are just a few of the points that stakeholders mention as an advantage of transnational partnership.



Comments from respondents suggest that calculating expenditures based on product life-cycle and building a circular economy present a main challenge in front of stakeholders.



*Photo: Spanish stakeholder is being interviewed by PP8 MANRA*

## **Conclusions**

It was generally felt that the application of the environmental criteria was seen as a difficult and challenging task. The similarity of these criteria is pointed out as being of prime importance as it comes to single market formation and keeping competition. The study indicates that relying on common criteria reduces administrative burden for economic operators and public administrations. Besides, the feedback from participants was that exchanging ideas, best practices and sharing common problem solutions is beneficial for interregional cooperation and GPP implementation.

The report hereby, together with all 5 questionnaires and the initial instructions will be uploaded on the project website, so that it can be easily accessible at any time. What follows is Annex A – Instructions for completing the questionnaire and Annex B – Questionnaires on the part of stakeholders.



**ANNEX A**

**Project GPP-STREAM “Green Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for  
Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming”**

**B11, B15, B22. REALIZATION AND PUBLICATION OF AT LEAST 5 INTERVIEWS  
WITH STAKEHOLDERS – QUESTIONNAIRES**

Author: PP7 Centre for Sustainability and Economic Growth /CSEG/

**Ver. 2.0, May 2019**



## **PREMISE**

The GPP-STREAM project foresees the realization of 15 interviews with stakeholders that should elaborate on various themes connected with GPP implementation and promotion. The final aim is to issue a summary report on the interviews, that can be easily reached by the public via the project website and social media channels of GPP-STREAM. The ultimate objective of activities in the First Phase of the project (including interviews) is to involve stakeholder groups into action plans' implementation and sustain their interest in implementing the improvements envisaged for each policy instrument also post project. In fact, stakeholders have to be part of the community for GPP mainstreaming and for this they need to be highly motivated throughout the project and encouraged to full commitment to GPP and resource efficiency goals.

CSEG, together with the support of all project partners, will prepare dissemination materials like newsletters, leaflets, infographics, which will be uploaded onto the project communication channels and will sustain the process of interviews.

## **OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE AND CONTENTS**

### *SECOND SEMESTER:*

5 Interviews with GPP-STREAM stakeholders should be realized. The interviews will promote the role of GPP for resource efficiency and a summary report will be uploaded on the project website and social media channels. CSEG should coordinate the realization of the interviews in correspondence with Activity B11. Each of the partners should contribute. In regards to realization of B11, project partnership decided on 18.04.2019 during a face-to-face steering committee meeting in Alzira, Spain that the following project partners will perform interviews with at least one of their stakeholders:

- PP1 Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, responsible person: Mr. Giuseppe Cane; x2 (this partner will interview two stakeholders)
- PP2 Lazio region, responsible person: Mrs. Maria Roselli;
- PP5 North-East Regional Development Agency, responsible persons: Mrs. Ramona Tanasa and Mrs. Georgiana Nedelea;
- PP8 Association of Municipalities of Ribera Alta Region, responsible person: Mrs. Laura Bas

### *THIRD SEMESTER:*

5 interviews with stakeholders should be realized – one from each country. The interviews will analyze the role of GPP toolkits and a short report will be promoted on the project website and social media channels of GPP-STREAM. CSEG should coordinate the realization of the interviews in correspondence with action B15. Each of the partners should contribute.

### *FOURTH SEMESTER:*

Again 5 interviews with stakeholders from each country are expected to be realized and a brief description on the main findings and lessons learnt should be published on the project website and social media channels of GPP-STREAM. The interviews will analyze the purpose of the Action Plans and the role played by the stakeholder in their implementation. CSEG should coordinate the



realization of the interviews in correspondence with action B15. Each of the partners should contribute.

### ***Questionnaire***

The questionnaire that we propose covers the experience and knowledge on GPP of stakeholders that **participated in the second transnational learning event held in Alzira, Spain**. It is divided into two parts, so that we receive as much relevant information as possible. Initially, a quick presentation of the stakeholder will be highly appreciated and then he/she can go deeper into sharing his/her understandings and experience in GPP. Questions in the first part are mostly closed questions type as they allow respondents to fill in information quickly and easily. The final part of the questionnaire is mostly descriptive that aim at raising awareness and brainstorming ideas. Answers should be completely in line with stakeholders' experience and understandings.

The sample questionnaire is just a ground to step on. It can be modified, so that it suits best the background of the stakeholder and his/her experience in GPP implementation. Any interesting best practice or personal opinion will be of great value and much appreciated. Stakeholders should be aware of the challenges that they must face when implementing GPP, so sharing them or shortly describing them could also be a valuable point in the interview.

This questionnaire is a sample and can be given away to as many stakeholders as you like. However, **once the questionnaires are collected, the above mentioned partners responsible for Activity B11 must prepare a short summary of the interviews highlighting the main outcomes and lessons learnt from the interviews. Summaries of the interviews must be prepared in a publishable format, because they will be uploaded onto project website and all social media channels of GPP-STREAM.**



**ANNEX B: Questionnaires**

Name of organization: FURNITURE AND HOME SYSTEM CLUSTER FVG

1. In which country is your institution situated?

Italy

France

Romania

Bulgaria

Spain

Other: .....

2. Type of organization and authority /more than one option is possible/:

Public organization

National authority

Non-profit, NGO

Regional authority

Profit organization

Local authority

other, please specify: .....

3. Name of organization (optional):

...FURNITURE AND HOME SYSTEM CLUSTER FVG.....

4. Did you find out any new useful information/topic/aspect during the transnational learning event in Spain?

No

Yes: IT WAS USEFUL TO BE UPDATED ABOUT THE STATE OF ART OF GPP IMPLEMENTATION AND TO SHARE OPINION AND EXPERENCE AMONG THE EUROPEAN PARTNER

5. How would you rate your knowledge on Green Public Procurement?

Poor

Fair

Good



Very good

6. Did you improve your knowledge/experience on GPP by attending the transnational learning event in Alzira, Spain?

Yes

No

7. Do you consider interregional cooperation as a value added to your work and to the diffusion of GPP in your region?

Yes BECAUSE I NEED TO KNOW THE EUROPEAN APPROACH IN ORDER TO BETTER THE HELP WE GIVE TO COMPANIES THAT NEED TO COMPLY WITH GPP

No

8. What was the most important thing you learnt at the transnational meeting in Alzira, Spain?

Please, explain.

I UNDERSTAND HOW IT'S IMPORTANT THE NEED OF SHARIG INFORMATION TO UNIFY GPP IMPLEMENTATION

9. Do you have any suggestion for the future of GPP in your region/at EU level?

TO REMEMBER ALWAYS TO KEEP ATTENTION TO THE STATE OF ART ABOUT COMPANIES COMPLIANCE, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE RISK TO HAVE PROCUREMENTS WITHOUT BIDDERS

10. Any further recommendations/suggestions will be warmly appreciated:

TO ALIGN GPP CRITERIA AMONG EUROPEAN STATES NOT TO CREATE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE INSIDE THE EUROPEAN MARKET

### Summary of the interview:

Please, **summarize** the main findings and lessons learnt from the interview (please, note that these summaries will be officially published on all communication channels of GPP-STREAM project):

SINCE FURNITURE AND HOME SYSTEM CLUSTER MANAGES SERVICES TO THE COMPANIES THAT NEED TO COMPLY WITH GPP, IT WAS REALLY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHICH ARE THE DIFFERENCES IN GPP APPLICATION AMONG THE EUROPEAN STATES. ABOVE ALL, IT SUGGESTED TO TAKE CARE OF THE COMPANIES STATE TO COMPLIANCE, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE CREATION OF TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE OR TO HAVE PROCUREMENTS WITHOUT BIDDERS.



Name of organization: FVG Region – Production activities Central Directorate

1. In which country is your institution situated?
  - Italy
  - France
  - Romania
  - Bulgaria
  - Spain
  - Other: .....
  
2. Type of organization and authority /more than one option is possible/:
  - Public organization
  - Non-profit, NGO
  - Profit organization
  - other, please specify: .....
  - National authority
  - Regional authority
  - Local authority
  
3. Name of organization (optional):  
FVG Region – Production activities Central Directorate
  
4. Did you find out any new useful information/topic/aspect during the transnational learning event in Spain?
  - No
  - Yes: circular economy topic and the introduction of innovative processes for the recycling of products and waste (Please, explain)
  
5. How would you rate your knowledge on Green Public Procurement?
  - Poor
  - Fair
  - Good
  - Very good
  
6. Did you improve your knowledge/experience on GPP by attending the transnational learning event in Alzira, Spain?
  - Yes
  - No
  
7. Do you consider interregional cooperation as a value added to your work and to the diffusion of GPP in your region?
  - Yes (Explain briefly) it allows to compare different regional system and learn through the experience exchange
  - No
  
8. What was the most important thing you learnt at the transnational meeting in Alzira, Spain?



Please, explain.

The most common problem in the direct application of environmental principles is the availability of documents that certify the conformity of the application. The lack of practical knowledge for the application of environmental criteria emerges among the recorded case studies.

9. Do you have any suggestion for the future of GPP in your region/at EU level?

A location easier to reach.

10. Any further recommendations/suggestions will be warmly appreciated:

**Summary of the interview:**

Please, summarize the main findings and lessons learnt from the interview (please, note that these summaries will be officially published on all communication channels of GPP-STREAM project):

It let to analyze and give a better frame of the topics discussed during the transnational learning event held in Alzira.

Name of organization: Local Action Group “Terre di PreGio” – Lazio, Italy

1. In which country is your institution situated?

- Italy
- France
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Spain
- Other: .....

2. Type of organization and authority /more than one option is possible/:

- Public organization
- Non-profit, NGO
- Profit organization
- other, please specify: .....
- National authority
- Regional authority
- Local authority

3. Name of organization (optional):

Local Action Group “Terre di PreGio” – Lazio, Italy

4. Did you find out any new useful information/topic/aspect during the transnational learning event in Spain?

- No



Yes: new information and tools to improve the awareness on adoption of environmental criteria in the instrument policies.

5. How would you rate your knowledge on Green Public Procurement?

- Poor  
 Fair  
 Good  
 Very good

6. Did you improve your knowledge/experience on GPP by attending the transnational learning event in Alzira, Spain?

- Yes  
 No

7. Do you consider interregional cooperation as a value added to your work and to the diffusion of GPP in your region?

Yes: opportunity to learn good practices, to discuss directly with project partners and acquire knowledge to make effective the regional actions in the local area

No

8. What was the most important thing you learnt at the transnational meeting in Alzira, Spain?  
Please, explain.

Simple and practical ways to integrate the environmental criteria into public tenders

9. Do you have any suggestion for the future of GPP in your region/at EU level?

Encouraging synergic information and training actions for public officials in the administration and for private business organizations

10. Any further recommendations/suggestions will be warmly appreciated:

none

#### **Summary of the interview:**

Please, summarize the main findings and lessons learnt from the interview (please, note that these summaries will be officially published on all communication channels of GPP-STREAM project):

Improve the competences of the Administrations in order to increase the implementation of GPP.

Provide and encourage the implementation of green technologies and solutions in policy instruments. In particular, we will train the local public administration on GPP approach, and in particular on green tenders oriented to the efficient use of resources.



Name of organization: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania

1. In which country is your institution situated?

- Italy
- France
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Spain
- Other: .....

2. Type of organization and authority /more than one option is possible/:

- Public organization
- National authority
- Non-profit, NGO
- Regional authority
- Profit organization
- Local authority
- other, please specify: .....

3. Name of organization (optional):

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

4. Did you find out any new useful information/topic/aspect during the transnational learning event in Spain?

- No
- Yes: ..... (Please, explain)

5. How would you rate your knowledge on Green Public Procurement?

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good

6. Did you improve your knowledge/experience on GPP by attending the transnational learning event in Alzira, Spain?

- Yes
- No

7. Do you consider interregional cooperation as a value added to your work and to the diffusion of GPP in your region?

- Yes (Explain briefly)

Interregional cooperation can help mainstreaming GPP policies within the administrations involved.



No

8. What was the most important thing you learnt at the transnational meeting in Alzira, Spain?  
Please, explain.

It was important to me the way that GPPs were introduced into the national law regarding public procurement in Spain;

9. Do you have any suggestion for the future of GPP in your region/at EU level?

There should be more information and awareness campaigns at the local level and updated training of those who promote this concept at national and regional level;

10. Any further recommendations/suggestions will be warmly appreciated

A series of workshops with direct applicability on the subject with stakeholders;

**Summary of the interview:**

Please, summarize the main findings and lessons learnt from the interview (please, note that these summaries will be officially published on all communication channels of GPP-STREAM project):

I have learned that in all public procurement, social and environmental criteria must be incorporated in a cross-cutting and binding manner, provided they are related to the subject matter of the contract, in the belief that their inclusion provides a better quality / price ratio in the contract, a better use of public funds after all;

I also learnt that the basic concept of GPP relies on having clear, verifiable, justifiable and ambitious environmental criteria for products and services, based on a life-cycle approach; But, this criteria used by Member States should be similar to avoid a distortion of the single market and a reduction of EU-wide competition. Having common criteria reduces considerably the administrative burden for economic operators and for public administrations implementing ROP in any country;

**Name of organization: TOWN HALL OF ALZIRA**

1. In which country is your institution situated?

- Italy
- France
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Spain
- Other: .....

2. Type of organization and authority /more than one option is possible/:

- Public organization
- National authority
- Non-profit, NGO
- Regional authority



- Profit organization  Local authority  
 other, please specify: .....

3. Name of organization (optional):

TOWN HALL OF ALZIRA

4. Did you find out any new useful information/topic/aspect during the transnational learning event in Spain?

- No  
 Yes: CIRCULAR ECONOMY (Please, explain)

5. How would you rate your knowledge on Green Public Procurement?

- Poor  
 Fair  
 Good  
 Very good

6. Did you improve your knowledge/experience on GPP by attending the transnational learning event in Alzira, Spain?

- Yes  
 No

7. Do you consider interregional cooperation as a value added to your work and to the diffusion of GPP in your region?

- Yes (Explain briefly) THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPP IN EACH COUNTRY, ALLOWS TO ADOPT SIMILAR INNOVATIVE MESURES IN THIS FIELD IN MY CONTEXT.....  
 No

8. What was the most important thing you learnt at the transnational meeting in Alzira, Spain? Please, explain.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA, SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY IN THE PUBLIC PROCURAMENT. BUT ALSO IN ANY KIND OF PUBLIC PURCHASE

9. Do you have any suggestion for the future of GPP in your region/at EU level?

THE CONVENIENCE OF SELF-PROVIDING OF A SPECIFIC LOCAL RULE, AS A GUIDANCE FOR THE PURCHASES AND PUBLIC PROCURAMENTS OF THE TOWN HALL

10. Any further recommendations/suggestions will be warmly appreciated:

IT'S SHOULD BE SUITABLE TO SET A GENERAL RULE FROM THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, AS A COMPULSORY INSTRUMENT FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION RELATED TO GPP



**Summary of the interview:**

**Please, summarize the main findings and lessons learnt from the interview (please, note that these summaries will be officially published on all communication channels of GPP-STREAM project):**

We must highlight as lessons learned from the interview the importance that the stakeholder has given to the workshops among the partners, in which, the exchange of experiences in relation to the introduction of environmental criteria (GPP) in public tenders has been facilitated, by the different partner countries. This exchange of experiences has made it possible to detect very different levels of implementation or development in the introduction of GPPs. In our region there is no legal framework that includes environmental criteria to be compulsorily included in the preparation of tenders, so this exchange of experience facilitates the development of similar instruments in our region. In this sense, it is worth noting how other countries have environmental criteria categorized according to sectors or areas, specific environmental criteria and determined according to what is intended to buy: furniture, metal, construction, etc. Likewise, the technical difficulty of weighing the environmental criteria introduced, being of note the interest of the stakeholder to have a tool to facilitate this work, such as the one developed by the European project LIFE, called “guftools”. The negative lesson is that companies are not prepared to calculate environmental criteria such as the cost of life of the product, or calculate the emission or reduction of CO2 from their activity, lacking technical training to companies, which, in short, are not prepared for face this challenge.