

## **EE-08-2014: Public procurement of innovative sustainable energy solutions**

**Amount: 1/1,5 million euro**

**Co-funding rate: 100% of direct eligible costs + 25% for indirect costs**

**Type of action: coordination and support**

**Partnership requirements: at least three partners from three different Member states**

**Deadline: 05 June 2014 17.00 (Brussels time).**

### **Background and objectives**

Every year, European public administrations spend 19% of GDP for buying products and services. Public procurement can drive production and consumption towards a more green approach. Public administrations can create or widen products and services markets which are less dangerous for the environment; they can also increase the development of green technologies by enterprises. A more sustainable use of natural resources, raw materials and especially of energy support not only environment but also the overall economy, and it offers opportunities for the strengthening of emerging green economies.

The call "EE-08-2014 - Public procurement of innovative sustainable energy solutions" is aimed to address the following challenge: *"Considering the large volume of public spending (19% of EU GDP, or roughly EUR 2,200 bn in 2009), the public sector constitute an important driver to stimulate market transformation towards more sustainable energy products, buildings and services. To this regard, the recent Energy Efficiency Directive requires for instance that central governments purchase only products, services and buildings with high energy-efficiency performance. However, there are many operational barriers related to sustainable energy public spending such as the lack of knowledge, practical training and tailored guidelines; the lack of willingness to change procurement habits; or perceived legal uncertainties"*.

Against this background, the project proposal presented by Promo PA Foundation and partners aims at improving the capacity of public authorities and purchasing organizations at local, regional and national level through tools and initiatives on the technical and organizational side as well as from a cultural and training point of view.

The project proposal covers the first Scope of the call: *"Proposals improving the capacity of public authorities and national/regional/local procurement authorities in purchasing best available sustainable energy products, buildings or services. Project proposals should address the lack of professional procurement training, the lack of experience in implementing sustainable procurement practices and strategies, and/or the lack of sharing and co-operation among procurers. They should where appropriate rely on the use of cost – benefit analysis (e.g. using a life-cycle approach). Actions should include sharing of best practices and involve large multipliers such as central purchasing organizations"*.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Creating a cooperation platform among European procurers at local level, supported by some central purchasing bodies, that improves knowledge and know-how on the theme of sustainable energy public spending and develops new operational tools in order to increase the skills of contracting authorities in launching calls regarding green procurement. The project has two main focus of action:

- 1) On the one hand, to provide contracting authorities at locale level (NUTS 2 e NUTS 3) with the competences and tools necessary to a better governance of public procurement in the field of sustainable energy;
- 2) On the other hand, to disseminate knowledge about green public procurement opportunities towards the main stakeholders, citizens and companies in order to create a better consciousness and a more sensible market for public authorities.

The first objective acts on the demand size; the second on the supply size

## CONCEPT AND GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The project will last 24 months logically divided in three steps:

### 1. First Step - 6 months - Analysis and recognition of strategic issues

- *Target*: contracting authorities at local level: public administrations, local agencies, public services providers, municipalities, etc. In this first phase the survey will involve a wide range of bodies, even with different mission and nature.
- *Work Package 1*: Web Surveys
- *Deliverable* (month 6): a) survey results, data and statistical output, b) first draft of guidelines for contracting authorities

### 2. Second Step - 12 months - Field activity

- *Target*: the core activities of the project will be mainly addressed to the contracting authorities which, following the results of the survey, are weaker than others in the field of green procurement for sustainable energy
- *Work Package*
  - Work Package 2*: Training
  - Work Package 3*: Eco desk
  - Work Package 4*: Community on line
- *Dissemination*
- *Deliverable* (month 18): a) second draft of guidelines for contracting authorities

### 3. Third Step – 6 months: Monitoring and check up

- *Target*: contracting authorities which have been involved in the field activities and in the dissemination programme
- *Work Package 5*: support to contracting authorities to start new procurement procedures with the new guidelines, impact analysis
- *Dissemination*
- *Deliverable* (month 24): Final Guidelines

## DESCRIPTION OF WORK PACKAGES

### 1. WEB SURVEYS

The survey will be divided in two parts:

**1a.) First survey on the contracting authorities of the Member states of the partners for:**

- a) finding out the state of art in sustainable public spending, with a particular focus on local authorities;
- b) finding out the level of awareness of public buyers about market trends and technical development in the field of sustainable energy;
- c) identifying the issues that hindered the demand side (from a Legislative, technical, cultural and economic point of view);
- d) finding out the issues in writing the calls, such as the lack of shared technical standards;
- e) identifying market failures of sustainable energy products and obstacles on the supply side.

**1b.) Second survey on the business associations of the Member states of the partners for:**

- 1) finding out how and to which extent companies and their representatives are working to develop towards public administration technology innovation in the field of sustainable energy
- 2) giving public buyers useful directions and suggestions to improve their GPP policy

### 2. TRAINING FOR CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES AT LOCAL LEVEL

The WP aims at organizing training courses for the purchasing bodies of partners' Member states. The courses will be mainly addressed to the local authorities, which need to be trained more than central institutions. Training aims at giving buyer the framework of overall opportunities of innovative sustainable energy solutions.

Training could start from what University of Tor Vergata and Sardegna Ricerche achieved during last years.

Training will provide local buyers with a double set of competences:

- a. **Legal competences:** regulation at European and national level, GPP criteria, EU policy strategy on green public procurement and sustainable energy;
- b. **Industrial competences :** markets trends, strategic industrial aspects, innovative products for public bodies.

### 3. ECODESKS

The WP aims at creating Ecodesks in each partner member state. Eco desk should be virtual and material contact points able to:

- a. offer technical assistance to the purchasing bodies for rationalizing consumptions and buying;
- b. writing guidelines for launching green calls to buy energy products and services;
- c. establishing standards for the drawing of calls and technical documents;

d. organizing info days, networking and promotion.

The aforementioned activities can be grounded on what already realized by Sardegna Ricerche (procurement desks and energy desks) and Regione Sardegna (ecodesks).

#### **4. ON LINE COMMUNITY**

The WP aims at spreading knowledge and best practices, not only by the project portal but through a content sharing platform to exchange best practices and the rest. The platform should include an impact simulator so to calculate the potential positive effects of sustainable call launching in real contexts.

#### **5. SUPPORT IN STARTING NEW PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES**

The WP aims at: 1) supporting public authorities in starting new procurement procedures based on guidelines and results of the project, 2) ex post analysis of project results.

**Points of Strength** of the partnership:

2. leading Italian central purchasing organizations in the sector of green procurement, especially of energy products and services;
3. the opportunity to spread and share best practices that already worked in Regione Sardegna (enterprise procurement desks, energy desks, ecodesks, green procurement programme);
4. the opportunity to channel skills and knowledge from academic partners with a long-standing experience on public and green procurement to purchasing bodies;
5. the expertise of Promo PA Foundation in networking and cooperation among procurers, built over research projects and data analysis at national level and technical assistance to public and private bodies.