

**United Nations Environment Programme and
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Pan-European Regional Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement

*19-20th of March 2019
Room XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland*

Background

Public spending has tremendous purchasing power - accounting for an average of 12% of GDP in OECD countries and up to 30% in other countries. [Sustainable Public Procurement](#) (SPP) is defined as a "*process whereby public organizations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life cycle basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organization, but also to society and the economy, whilst significantly reducing negative impacts on the environment*"¹. Shifting public spending towards more sustainable goods and services not only reduces the environmental footprint of procuring entities, but also stimulates businesses to innovate, promote circularity and improve the social and environmental performance of their products and services. SPP is thus a key policy instrument to support a transition towards sustainable development and an inclusive green economy.

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is one of six [programmes](#) of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production implemented by the One Planet Network, a global initiative, adopted at the Rio+20 summit. The Programme builds synergies between diverse partners to achieve the SDG target on SPP (target 12.7). UN Environment led the One Planet SPP programme from 2014 to 2018 together with the Korean Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI), and the Local Governments for Sustainability Network (ICLEI). UN Environment also developed a [methodology](#) for SPP policy development and implementation. UN Environment approach was introduced in Eastern Europe and the Caucuses, as part of the EaP-GREEN project, since 2013².

Responding to the requests from countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, UN Environment and its partners are aiming to support more countries in implementing SPP as part of the UNDA-funded project "Enhancing sustainable public procurement for the regional transition to inclusive green economy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" (UNDA-SPP project) which is being implemented jointly with UNECE and Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP).

¹ Multistakeholder Advisory Committee of the 10YFP SPP Programme, <http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/10yfp-spp-principles.pdf>

² Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP GREEN project), <http://www.green-economies-eap.org>, funded by European Union, implemented by OECD, UN Environment, UNECE and UNIDO between 2013 and 2018.

Objectives of the Workshop

Building on existing national activities, this first regional workshop will facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in developing and implementing SPP policies and practices. More specifically, the event aims to:

1. Share success stories and challenges among countries at different stages of SPP implementation;
2. Share perspectives of all stakeholders (including ministries, public procurement agencies and the private sector) in designing and implementing SPP; and
3. Connect Pan-European experts for continued exchange on SPP policies and practices.

The workshop is funded by the UNDA SPP project and organized back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (21-22nd of March 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland).

Participants

This workshop will bring together national policy-makers, procurement practitioners, businesses and civil society from across the Pan-European region. Representatives from Western Europe will participate to share their positive experiences and challenges in the field of SPP.

Meeting Agenda (DRAFT)

<u>19 March 2019</u>	
14:45-15:00	Registration of participants
15:00-15:20	Session 1: Welcome remarks and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome and introduction of the meeting objectives (<i>Ms. Sylvie Motard, UN Environment and representative of UNECE TBC</i>)
15:20-16:30	Session 2: Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP): a key policy instrument to support sustainable development and the shift to an inclusive Green Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPP institutional landscape in Europe (<i>TBC</i>) • Introduction to the SPP implementation approaches: policies and tools (<i>Mr. Mark Hidson, Global Director, ICLEI</i>) • Regional analysis paper: overview of the progress of SPP in

	<p>the pan-European region and recommendations about policy design and procedures (<i>Mr. Farid Yaker, UN Environment</i>). Mapping exercise on the countries' SPP progress</p> <p><i>Questions & Answers</i></p>
16:30-16:45	Coffee
16:45-18:00	<p>Session 3: Success stories, challenges and lessons learned on SPP</p> <p>Case studies can be presented in following format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy making and sustainability criteria setting</i> • <i>Procurement practices</i> • <i>Business interests/response</i> <p>Case studies to be chosen/focused on following SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SDG 13: Climate change Renewable energy and energy efficiency for public buildings ○ SDG 10: Reduction of inequalities Social sustainability criteria for SPP
18:30	Reception
<u>20 March 2019</u>	
10:00-11:15	<p>Continuation of Session 3: Success stories, challenges and lessons learned on SPP</p> <p>Case studies to be chosen/focused on following SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SDG 8: Decent jobs How SPP encourages creation of new green jobs? ○ SDG 16: Strong institutions Strengthening inter-ministerial cooperation and stakeholders' engagement for SPP implementation ○ SDG 4: Education Education for SPP: capacity building/training to policy makers, procurement practitioners, and businesses associations
11:15-11:30	Coffee
11:30-12:45	<p>Session 4: Taking action to accelerate the application of Sustainable Public Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPP policy design and procedures • Procurement legislation and regulations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainability criteria/eco-labelling• Engagement of the business associations• Awareness raising activities for relevant stakeholder groups• Opportunities for cooperation and synergy with other related initiatives in Europe and within the countries• Networks of SPP experts, practitioners and policy makers
12:45-13:00	Closing remarks (<i>Ms. Sylvie Motard, UN Environment and representative of UNECE TBC</i>)

You are welcome to register for the *Pan-European Regional Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement* at: <https://bit.ly/2WQ15gA>