

EU agrees on new sustainable and circular batteries regulation

On 9 December 2022, the European Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement to make all batteries on the EU market more sustainable, circular and safe throughout their entire lifecycle. The new regulations will establish a framework that fosters the development of a competitive sustainable battery industry and supports Europe's clean energy transition.

Once entered into force in Q3-2023, the law will gradually introduce sustainability requirements on carbon footprints, recycled content, performance and durability from 2024 onwards while a more comprehensive regulatory framework on Extended Producer Responsibility will be applied by mid-2025. Additionally, higher collection targets will be introduced over time, all collected batteries will have to be recycled and high levels of material recovery are expected to be achieved. Furthermore, companies placing batteries on the EU internal market will have to demonstrate that the materials used for manufacturing were sourced responsibly.



The European Parliament and Council must formally adopt the new regulation before it can enter into force, which is expected to take place over the summer of 2023. The framework will require more detailed delegated and implementing regulations to be adopted from 2024-2028 to be fully operational. The law promotes the EU's circular economy and zero pollution ambitions, thus marking a key achievement under the European Green Deal.

Find out more about the new regulation [here](#).



Zoom in on... Zoom in on... SAPIEN'S Advance training courses

The Sustainability and Procurement in International, European, and National Systems (SAPIENS) Network develops and offers Advanced Training Courses for early-stage researchers and practitioners.

These trainings aim to build a new generation of sustainable public procurement research specialists through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral experience.

Recordings of these courses are online for anyone interested in learning about this topic. SAPIENS also offers an introductory open-source course on SPP law.

More information can be found [here](#).

Interview



Life Care4Climate project and its GPP activities

Tatjana Orhini Valjavec has worked at the Ministry of the Environment in Slovenia for more than 20 years. Recently, her work has concentrated on the circular economy and green public procurement (GPP). These topics are actually strongly connected with the Life IP project Care4Climate, which features GPP as a major activity.

How did the LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE project come about and whom are the partners involved?

The project idea started with a few colleagues discussing how to improve the overall awareness and activities to reduce Slovenian GHG emissions. Climate policy and action seemed so far away from the everyday life of many. Policies so extensive and goals so hard to achieve that most people did not even feel capable or obliged to step in. There were nevertheless numerous projects going on

in Slovenia and other European Union (EU) Member States whose implementations were not coordinated and whose results were not orchestrated in some kind of synergy.

The Life programme offered a perfect solution to these challenges when it started to finance so-called integrated projects which implement climate action plans, strategies and roadmaps on a large territorial scale.

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



Zoom in on... Integrating sustainability criteria into public procurement: an overlooked booster for clean technologies adoption

The integration of green criteria in sustainable public procurement processes has the potential to create favourable markets for the adoption of clean technologies or services and to generate economies of scale that will drive down prices.

But in order to design purposeful GPP criteria, cities should clarify environmental objectives, consider the whole-life cost of procurements and engage with suppliers to inform them of their needs and ambitions.

Read the full article [here](#).

GPP Good Practice

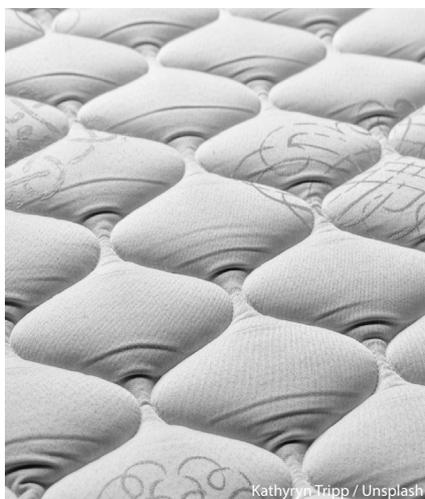
Social and environmental criteria in Irish Prison Service's mattress recycling initiative (Ireland)

The Irish Prison Service (IPS) operates 12 prisons across the country and must remove approximately 1,200 mattresses from its vicinities every year. Sending these mattresses to landfill has a significant environmental impact.

In 2021, the IPS sought to divert such waste through a low-value tender process for the removal and recycling or repurposing of discarded mattresses. In addition to its environmental requirements, the tender also required the selected contractor to employ former offenders as participating in the workforce has been shown to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. The introduction of social clauses in contracts of the criminal justice sector was a new and innovative approach taken by the Department of Justice, the Probation Service, and the IPS. The overall aim was to increase the social impact of collective purchasing power, regardless of the contract size.

In the end, two social enterprises were chosen for the contract, both of whom met the tender's environmental and social criteria. The environmental impact was immediately realised as 100% of mattresses were diverted from landfill and 80% of the mattress' components were able to be recycled. Furthermore, the procurement generated additional social, financial and local economic benefits.

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



Zoom in on... New supply chain law

On December 1st, EU ministers agreed on a negotiating position for the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

The CSDDD will oblige large companies to respect human rights and environmental standards when supplying goods to the internal market. Thus, the principles of the social market economy will now also apply to third parties.

This will assist the EU to transition towards a more climate-neutral and green economy.

Read more about it [here](#).

'Oxygen' project: planting 6 million trees, one tree for each inhabitant of Lazio Region (Lazio, Italy)

Lazio Region, in Italy, launched the 'Oxygen' project' whose objective is to promote the region's environmental heritage and its quality and, at the same time, to enhance its public use. In this context, the Region launched an open public procurement procedure aimed at awarding Framework Agreements for the supply and planting of new trees and shrubs in the territory of the Region, including transport, delivery and guarantee of engraftment.

The tender documents included a combination of green criteria in the technical specifications and in the award criteria. The procedure was divided into six (6) lots on a geographic basis. Contracts were awarded to the tenderers with the most economically advantageous tender, determined on the basis of the best price-quality ratio which was weighted 20/80.

The sustainability considerations included in the award criteria covered the possession of environmental certifications, water saving, substrates with reduced peat content, organic production, renewable energy sources, a phytosanitary management plan, solutions to reduce the environmental impact, and valorisation and management of residual material.

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



Zoom in on... Barcelona: Agreement to include social clauses in public procurement

On December 3, the city of Barcelona, through the Directorate-Administrative Contracting Coordination and the Municipal Institute for Persons with Disabilities, together with the Forum for Socially Responsible Procurement, signed a collaboration agreement to promote the inclusion of new social clauses in public procurement that encourage accessibility and the social and labour integration of people with disabilities.

The city seeks to strengthen its commitment advancing equal opportunities.

Read more about it [here](#).

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Editor: EU GPP Helpdesk
Email: gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org

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