



Public Overview on European Networks relevant for Competence Centres

Work Package 5 Deliverable 5.1

WP Lead: ZENIT / Contribution by all Project Partners

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Content

Introduction	7
Part 1 – List of European Service Providers	8
European Networks.....	8
• National Contact Points (NCPs)	8
• Enterprise Europe Network.....	9
• European Innovation Partnerships.....	9
Political Committees	10
• European Research Area (ERA).....	10
• Multi Learning Exercise (MLE) on Innovation Procurement.....	11
• European Innovation Council (EIC)	11
Public (Innovation) Procurement in Europe.....	12
• Public Procurement in EU countries.....	12
• European Central Purchasing Bodies Network (CPBN)	12
EU funded projects on innovation procurement	13
• European Assistance for Innovation Procurement (EAFIP).....	13
• Innovation Procurement Brokers (InnoBrokers)	14
• LEA – Learning Technology Accelerator.....	15
• EU funded projects implementing Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) or Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI).....	15
• Procura+ Network on sustainable and innovation procurement	15
• Some COSME projects dealing with public procurement	16
• PP2Innovate Network.....	16
European (Innovation) Networks – Creation of Synergies	17
• European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP).....	17
• European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)	17

• Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi).....	17
• TAFTIE.....	18
• Science Business Network.....	18
• European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs).....	18
• European Associations of cities and regions.....	19
• EHPPA – European Health Public Procurement Alliance.....	19
• Global Lead City Network (GLCN) on Sustainable Procurement.....	19
• European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and Network.....	20
Part 2 – List of National Service Provider.....	21
AUSTRIA.....	21
• Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria.....	21
• Vorarlberger Gemeindeverband.....	21
• naBe Platform.....	21
• The Austrian Association of Cities and Towns.....	22
• The Austrian Association of Municipalities – Der österreichische Gemeindebund 22	22
ESTONIA.....	22
• Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (AECM).....	22
• Estonian Social, Health and Education Services.....	23
• Estonian Transport Administration.....	23
• Riigi Kinnisvara AS (State Real Estate Company).....	24
• STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE (RMK).....	24
• The State Shared Service Center.....	25
VARIA – Institutions, associations and unions that can help you when doing business in Estonia.....	25
FRANCE.....	26
• RESAH – Réseau des Acheteurs Hospitaliers.....	26
GERMANY.....	27
• EK Unico.....	27

- BME expert councils for the public sector.....27
- GREECE.....29
 - Central Union of Municipalities and Communities31
 - Technical Chamber of Greece31
 - Greek Sustainable Development Solutions Network.....31
- IRELAND.....32
 - Health Service - HSE.....32
 - Dublin City Council - Smart Dublin.....32
 - Procurement Innovation Group (OGP).....32
 - Enterprise Ireland- Enterprise Europe Network33
- ITALY33
 - Ministry of Economy and Finance, CONSIP and the Network System or
Aggregator33
 - AGID – Agency responsible for the Digital Agenda33
 - SOGEI – Società Generale d'Informatica S.p.A.33
- Netherlands.....34
 - Buyer Groups.....34
 - Categories Buyer Groups:.....34
 - Construction34
 - Civil Engineering and Road Construction (GWW).....34
 - Mobility.....34
 - Business Operations.....34
 - Buyer Groups construction34
 - New construction and/or renovation of schools34
 - Renovation corporation homes34
 - Circular new-build homes35
 - Timber construction/wood renovation.....35
 - Circular building materials35
 - Bio-based building materials35

Buyer Groups Civil Engineering and Road Construction (GWW)	36
• Zero emission construction equipment (ZEB).....	36
• Low-carbon concrete	36
• Sustainable road pavement.....	36
• Road signs and signage.....	36
• Circular viaducts and bridges.....	37
• Sustainable dredging	37
Buyer Groups Mobility	37
• Target group transport/regional taxi.....	37
• Clean Vehicles Directive	37
• Zero Emission Procurement.....	38
Buyer Groups Business Operations	38
• IT hardware	38
• Circular textiles	39
• Polymers in wastewater treatment.....	39
• Hiring professionals	39
• Artificial image recognition with drones.....	40
NORDIC COUNTRIES (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden).....	40
• Nordic Cooperation on Emission-free Delivery of Goods and Services.....	40
• Southeast Norway Health Region	41
Portugal.....	41
• Stakeholder group with national networks related or with IPP interest.....	41
• Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste (OesteCIM)	43
SPAIN	43
• INNPULSO network.....	43
• Public Procurement Observatory	43
• Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces	43
• Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSCU).....	43
• Business/professional associations.....	44

AMETIC:.....	44
ASEBIO.....	44
TECNIBERIA:.....	44
COAM:	44
• Technology platforms	44
NANOMED:	44
Spanish technological platform innovative medicines	44
Spanish biotech platform	44
Spanish water technology platform.....	44
Technology platform Biomass for the bioeconomy.....	44
PLANETIC.....	45
Spanish technological platform of the road.....	45
Spanish technological platform of construction.....	45
• Networks / working groups.....	45
RECI.....	45
IGI.....	45
SWEDEN.....	45
• Bebo.....	45
• Belok.....	46
• 4S.....	46
• Welfare Technology.....	46
• Artificial Grass	46
• A Challenge from Sweden.....	47
• Rescue Services	47
• Polluted Areas.....	47
• Social Services	48
• InfraSweden2030.....	48

Introduction

This document is a living document which should be completed by all of the Procure2Innovate Project Partners whenever they identify other partners who could be valuable for the project's work and the services a Competence Centre for Innovation Procurement can offer.

This updated version (April 2022) shows that the change from Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) and COSME programme (2014-2020) to Horizon Europe (2021-2027) had of a lot of consequences for activities, networks etc. which have been mentioned in the last official version from September 2019. These activities, networks etc. often have been finished or are still existing, but often changed under new conditions.

It consists of two parts:

- Part 1: List of European Service Provider, networks and useable EU projects in the field of innovation procurement
- Part 2: List of National Potential Service Provider, Buyers Groups and networks in the field of innovation procurement

Part 1 – List of European Service Providers

The list is divided into different chapters, groups of service providers on different levels:

1. European Networks
2. Political Committees
3. Innovation Procurement Initiatives
4. EU funded Projects
5. European (Innovation Networks) – Creation of Synergies

European Networks

The European Networks listed here build a support structure of all actors interested in dealing with European markets. They are named by the member states and their activities are publicly funded so the support service they offer is mainly for free.

- **National Contact Points (NCPs)**
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

The members of the network are designated by the Member States in Europe and many associated countries of the EU. Their services are publicly funded by the countries. They provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in the current Research and Innovation Framework Programme of the European Commission (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe: 2021-2027).

The NCPs in the Member States (MS) are often also involved in the political work of the MS and the European Commission (EC) to fine-tune the content of the work programmes. They give political advice to their national ministries and share the work in the thematic committees with the EC with their political counterparts in the national governments.

A direct link to this network of NCPs would help to get a better knowledge about activities in the thematic committees of the EU Framework Programme related to innovation procurement.

A close cooperation between NCPs and Competence Centres for innovation procurement (CC) would lead to a better consulting service for public authorities to

apply for EU funding for PCP and PPI projects. It would give the opportunity to combine the knowledge of the NCP about political intentions the EC has with the set-up of calls and the know-how of the CCs on public procurement law and the special requirements needed in EU projects dealing with innovation procurement.

- **Enterprise Europe Network**

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is the worldwide largest network for technology transfer and helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions to innovate and to grow on an international scale. The EEN has regional partners in more than 60 countries around the world. More than 3,000 experts offer information and consulting services to all kind of actors, esp. SMEs, to be successful in R&D as well as in commercial partnerships in international markets. The new EEN period started the 1 January 2022 with a stronger focus on sustainability, digitalisation and resilience.

The EEN is organised in different Sector and Thematic Groups where experts from regions come together who are strong in one sector, hence are specialised in thematic areas like public procurement or access to finance.

The two P2I project partners ZENIT and ANI are regional partners in the EEN. With respect to innovation procurement, the EEN can help to optimise the access to industry, esp. SMEs, for public institutions. It is a good starting point for a market research and dialogue in an innovation procurement process.

- **European Innovation Partnerships**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/past-research-and-innovation-policy-goals/open-innovation-resources/european-innovation-partnerships-eips_en

European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) was in Horizon 2020 a challenge-driven mechanism across the entire research and innovation chain. EIPs brought together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional level.

From the former five EIPs of the Horizon 2020 period (see the link above) only two are still active under Horizon Europe:

- EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA)
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eip-aha>
- EIP for Agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI)
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/>



Political Committees

- **European Research Area (ERA)**

The Lisbon Treaty defines the European Research Area (ERA) as a unified research area open to the world and based on the Internal Market. The ERA enables free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology.

The implementation of the European Research Area is also part of an Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, endorsed by the European Council. The European Union and its Member States are also called upon to strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their competitiveness and their capacity to address grand challenges collectively.

ERA was launched in 2000 and a process to revitalise it began in 2018. The new ERA is based on excellence.

The new ERA will

- prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation
- boost market uptake
- strengthen mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology
- improve access to excellence

The reason for the new ERA is that the European Union is facing enormous societal, ecological and economic challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic (started beginning of 2020) is still not over and there is a need to build back better, achieving the green and digital transition. These new requirements need new responses, which is why the process to renew the ERA was started.

How will the new ERA do this?

1. Establishment of a new ERA governance
2. Adoption of a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe
3. An ERA Policy Agenda with concrete actions



More information about ERA strategy 2020 - 2024 please see:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/era_en

More Information about the European Research Area and Innovation Committee can be found here:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/european-research-area-and-innovation-committee-erac/>

- **Multi Learning Exercise (MLE) on Innovation Procurement**

<https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/mle-innovation-related-public-procurement>

From 2015 till 2020 a MLE on innovation-enhancing public procurement has been existing. The purpose of this MLE was to set up an EU knowledge-sharing service on innovation-enhancing public procurement, encouraging mutual-learning, identifying good practices and providing advice in the field. The MLE aimed to support Member States in designing, implementing and/or evaluating different policy instruments in relation to innovation-enhancing procurement.

Within the MLE five reports have been produced, which are still relevant and can be downloaded here: <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/mle-innovation-related-public-procurement>

- **European Innovation Council (EIC)**

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en

After a pilot phase 2018-2020 within Horizon 2020 the European Innovation Council (EIC) has been established under the EU Horizon Europe programme. The EIC aims now to identify and support breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations to create new markets and scale up internationally. It has a budget of €10.1 billion to support game changing innovations throughout the lifecycle from early stage research, to proof of concept, technology transfer, and the financing and scale up of start-ups and SMEs.

Public (Innovation) Procurement in Europe

- **Public Procurement in EU countries**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/public-procurement_en

In many European countries competence centres on innovation procurement are set-up in order to foster the use of innovation procurement activities in public administrations within the countries.

The European Commission made an overview of the contact points and portals for public procurement information in EU countries.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/public-procurement/tools-public-buyers/public-procurement-eu-countries_en

The European Commission set-up in 2014 a webpage with links to these initiatives, actors in different countries. The webpage is now unfortunately only existing as archived, but it is still interesting as background information:

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20170112124450/https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/innovation-procurement-initiatives-around-europe>

- **European Central Purchasing Bodies Network (CPBN)**

This informal network of central purchasing bodies in Europe (CPBN) meets twice per year to share experience in the field of centralized public procurement, exchange best practices, builds knowledge on trends and future of public procurement, cooperate in joint cross-border procurement. The CPBN is currently managed by Slovenia.

There is no website of CPBN, but here are some information:

- <https://contratacioncentralizada.gob.es/en/ambito-internacional>
- <https://lobbyfacts.eu/representative/1359bb8aa0ff4b5bba6894c0356a70f1/central-purchasing-bodies-network>
- <https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/ministries/ministry-of-public-administration/about-the-ministry/public-procurement-directorate/>

The members in the informal CPBN are:

- Bundesbeschaffung GmbH (Austria)
- Service Public Federal (Belgium)
- Ministry of Finance (Bulgaria)

- State Office for Central Public Procurement (Croatia)
- SKI (Denmark)
- Hansel (Finland)
- UGAP (France)
- General Directorate for Public Procurement – CPB (Greece)
- Ríkiskaup (Iceland)
- Consip (Italy)
- OGP (Ireland)
- Difi (Norway)
- Espap (Portugal)
- Public Procurement Directorate (Slovenia)
- General Directorate for Procurement, Rationalization and Centralization (Spain)
- Staten Inkopscentral - Kammarkollegiet (Sweden)
- SKL Kommentus Inkopscentral (Sweden)
- Cabinet Office / CCS (UK)

EU funded projects on innovation procurement

Since 2009 the European Commission funds project on innovation procurement from different sources (e.g. Lead Market Initiative, 7th EU Framework Programme for Research (FP7), Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), HORIZON 2020 and since 2021 Horizon Europe).

Some of them are mentioned here, because they are offering support services to public institution in order to facilitate innovation procurement:

- **European Assistance for Innovation Procurement (EAFIP)**
<https://eafip.eu/>

The European Assistance for Innovation Procurement initiative (EAFIP) initiative supports public procurers across Europe in developing and implementing innovation procurement.

The aim of the EAFIP initiative is to promote good practices and reinforce the evidence based on completed innovation procurements across Europe and to encourage other public procurers to start new PCP and PPI procurements.

The EAFIP initiative was launched 2015 by the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG Connect).

For the period of 2021-2022 EAFIP is led by Corvers Procurement Services supported by subcontractors Vtrek, IrRADIARE and Universidad Zaragoza, as well as several external experts.

For the period 2021-2022 the following activities take place within EAFIP:

- Assistance to newly selected ICT-related innovation procurement projects. Free of charge technical and legal assistance will be provided to public procurers in the preparation and implementation of their project. New calls to apply for assistance will be launched every three months.
 - A series of webinars and workshops will be organized to explain the EAFIP methodology for innovation procurement, highlight the benefits of innovation procurement as well as lessons learned, success stories and best practices.
- **Innovation Procurement Brokers (InnoBrokers)**
<http://innovation-procurement.org/innobrokers/>

The Innovation Procurement Brokers project (2018-2020) was funded by COSME and aimed to facilitate the procurement of innovative goods and services by strengthening the links between public buyers on the demand side and innovative companies on the supply side. Public buyers have been supported in the identification of their needs and, once ready, connected with SMEs and start-ups able to develop innovative solutions responding to their requirements.

The outcomes have been:

- 1 combined InnoBrokers model for future activities
- 5 market engagement events
- 5 needs assessment workshops
- 20 public buyers engaged with the network
- 40 suppliers engaged with the network

Project partners have been: AAC Agencia Andaluza del Conocimiento (ES), AIT Austrian Institute of Technology (AT), GATE 21 (DK), ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (DE), OOE Land Oberösterreich (AT), PTI Procurement Transformation Institute (IE), ZENIT Zentrum für Innovation und Technik Nordrhein-Westfalen (DE)

- **LEA – Learning Technology Accelerator**

<http://www.learntechaccelerator.org/>

The Horizon 2020 project LEA – Learning Technology Accelerator aimed (2018 - 2020) to accelerate knowledge transfer, dialogue and awareness raising of innovative procurement within the learning technology sector.

To support LEA's objective of forming a critical mass of procurers of education, a LEA Network (LEA-N) of procurers have been formed, willing to merge efforts and resources to present a set of common challenges and needs to the supply side of learning technology solutions.

- **EU funded projects implementing Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) or Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI)**

The EU's research and innovation programmes FP7, CIP, Horizon 2020 have been funding and Horizon Europe is funding projects in which groups of procurers from different countries around Europe are jointly implementing Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) or Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI), as well as coordination and networking projects that prepare the ground for future PCP or PPI.

The best way to find the EU funded PCP/PPI projects or projects including "Public Procurement" is to use CORDIS of the European Commission, where you find all EU research results since 1990. By using the following link and selecting as framework programme "H2020", setting the filter "projects" and then in the "search terms" area writing Public Procurement you will get about 277 results, putting PCP 76 results and with PPI 95 results. This means that the user will find all EU funded PCP/PPI related projects: <https://cordis.europa.eu/projects/en>

- **Procura+ Network on sustainable and innovation procurement**

<http://www.procuraplus.org/>

Procura+ is a network of about 50 European public authorities that connect exchange and act on sustainable and innovation procurement. Its combined knowledge and experience allows it to provide advice, support and publicity to any public authority that wants to implement sustainable and innovation procurement.

Procura+ activities include: Interest Groups, where public authorities work together to develop policy and criteria; seminars and webinars and study exchanges aimed at building procurement capacities, and; the Procura+ Awards, recognising outstanding achievements in sustainable and innovation procurement.

- **Some COSME projects dealing with public procurement**

This list is a summary of service providers in the field of HORIZON 2020 and innovation procurement who offered services especially to SMEs in order to have better access to public tenders. All following projects are finished, but the activities and results can be still interesting:

- SESAM (Improving SMEs' Access to Cross-Border Public Procurement)
<http://sesamproject.eu>
- PPACT (Public Procurement And Cross-border Tendering)
<https://consultingireland.org/references/projects/public-procurement-cross-border-tendering/>
- IPPON (Innovative Public Procurement Opportunities and Networking)
<http://www.ipponproject.eu/>
- Tenderio (Improving SMEs access to public procurement)
<http://www.tenderio.com/>

- **PP2Innovate Network**

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/PP2Innovate.html>

The PP2Innovate Network (2016-2019) was funded by INTERREG Central. It targeted directly public procurers on all administrative levels in Central Europe with the aim to build regional capacities in PPI, to change attitude towards PPI, to strengthen linkages among relevant stakeholders in regional innovation systems and to finally boost usage of PPI. On the webpage the interesting results of the project can be found.

European (Innovation) Networks – Creation of Synergies

- **European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)**

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/>

The mission of the ECCP is to be the European online hub for cluster stakeholders (cluster organisations, policymakers and other related stakeholders from the cluster ecosystem) and the reference one-stop-shop for stakeholders in third countries aiming to set up partnerships with European counterparts. The objective is to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of Europe's economy and industry, particularly SMEs, improving their performance in terms of productivity, innovation, internationalisation and resource efficiency.

- **European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)**

<https://errin.eu>

ERRIN is a Brussels-based platform of around 120 regional stakeholder organisations from more than 20 European countries. It focusses solely on research and innovation policy and funding programmes, as well as project development. Its members are mainly regional authorities, universities, research organisations, chambers of commerce and clusters. They develop the agenda and priorities of the network through 13 working groups: energy & climate; smart cities; transport; bioeconomy; blue growth; innovation and investment; opening science; policy; smart specialisation; health; design and creativity; tourism; and ICT.

- **Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi)**

<http://www.guninetwork.org/>

The GUNi is an international network created in 1999 and supported by UNESCO and the Catalan Association of Public universities (ACUP) which hosts its secretariat and presidency.

The network currently gathers 250 members from 80 countries, including higher education institutions, UNESCO Chairs and research centres.

It facilitates dialogue and ideas of emerging issues on higher education and its impact on society, contributing to the renewal of visions and policies of higher education across the world from a perspective of public service, relevance and social responsibilities.

- **TAFTIE**

<https://taftie.eu/>

TAFTIE is the European Association of leading national innovation agencies with 34 members from 28 countries. Its Members make a major contribution to strengthening Europe's economic performance by supporting product-, process- and services innovation by implementing their countries' national and -many times- international Research, Development and Innovation Programs.

- **Science Business Network**

<https://sciencebusiness.net/>

The Science Business Network is a unique forum which brings together leading organisations from the worlds of industry, research, innovation and policy making, both at EU and national levels. The members meet regularly, in public and in private, to discuss latest developments in R&I policy and practice, including the present Horizon Europe programme.

- **European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs)**

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/Pages/welcome.aspx>

The EGTC Platform integrates, through the coordination of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), political and technical representatives of all the existing EGTCs. The Platform aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences on the ground, promoting the EGTC as a tool for territorial cohesion and to give visibility to EGTC projects, while also supporting the consultative works of the CoR in cross-border issues.

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) allows public entities of different Member States to come together under a new entity with full legal personality. The EGTC Regulation was established in 2006 and was the first European cooperation structure with a legal personality defined by the European Law.

It is designed to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation), in view of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the European Union.

- **European Associations of cities and regions**

<http://www.euocities.eu/>

EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. The members are the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. EUROCITIES was founded in 1986 by the mayors of six large cities: Barcelona, Birmingham, Frankfurt, Lyon, Milan and Rotterdam.

Today, they bring together the local governments of over 200 European cities that represent 130 million citizens across 38 countries.

Through a wide range of thematic forums, working groups, projects, activities and events, EUROCITIES is offering its members a platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas and cooperation.

- **EHPPA – European Health Public Procurement Alliance**

<http://www.ehppa.com/accueil.aspx>

An alliance of non-profit Group Procurement Organisations which aims to pool expertise, leverage performance and provide its members with a strategic position in the European health procurement market. Founded in 2012 EHPPA is a registered association under French law and has its headquarters in Paris.

Members of the network are coming from 10 European Countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and United Kingdom).

- **Global Lead City Network (GLCN) on Sustainable Procurement**

<http://glcn-on-sp.org/home/>

GLCN is a network of 15 cities (6 from Europe) committed to drive a transition to sustainable consumption and production by implementing sustainable and innovation procurement.

The GLCN enables leading cities in the field of sustainable public procurement (SPP) to

- showcase ambitious, quantified targets and achievements in four priority sectors (construction, energy, food & catering, transport)

- meet, share and develop capabilities to implement sustainable purchasing practices,
 - help develop a supportive political framework for implementation,
 - act as global and regional champions of SPP,
 - foster the role of public procurement for global sustainable development.
- **European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and Network**

https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/index_en

The European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) aims to increase Europe's cybersecurity capacities and competitiveness, working together with a Network of National Coordination Centres (NCCs) to build a strong cybersecurity Community.

Part 2 – List of National Service Provider

The list is a collection of service provider, buyer groups and networks in different European countries. They have been identified by the national competence centres because they are active in the field of (innovation) procurement.

It is sorted in alphabetic order by country.

AUSTRIA

- **Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria**
<https://www.enu.at/english>

The Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria supports and shapes the state's goals, provides answers to ecological challenges of our times, gives impulses for sustainable action and achieves these through innovative projects. The experience and know-how of the employees feed into many initiatives.

- **Vorarlberger Gemeindeverband**
<https://www.gemeindeverband.at/>

The Vorarlberger Gemeindeverband supports public procurers in Vorarlberg regarding the conducting and handling of tender procedures.

- **naBe Platform**
<http://www.nachhaltigebeschaffung.at/>

The Sustainable Public Procurement (naBe) - Platform, was launched in September 2019 at the Austrian Federal Procurement Agency (BBG) in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK). It is the central point of contact for all questions concerning Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) in Austria. The platform promotes and reviews the criteria of the Austrian National Action Plan on SPP and offers strategy-workshops and different types of events. Thereby the platform assists and brings together different stakeholders like suppliers, associations and public customers. Finally, the naBe-Platform also collaborates with the internal departments of the BBG, trying to foster sustainability criteria for public tenderings.

- **The Austrian Association of Cities and Towns**
<https://www.staedtebund.gv.at/index.php?id=8504>

The principal task of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns is to represent the interests of local government in negotiations over the sharing of budgetary funds and taxing rights between the federal government, the provinces and local authorities (revenue sharing). The Austrian Association of Cities and Towns is involved in the preparation of legislation and, among other things, comments from the point of view of local government on some 100 federal regulations every year as the cities and municipalities see it. Representatives of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns are moreover active in a number of advisory bodies in such fields as the environment or welfare. Representatives of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns participate both in the meetings of the EU's Committee of Regions and the meetings of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (The Congress) at the Council of Europe.

- **The Austrian Association of Municipalities – Der österreichische Gemeindebund**
<https://gemeindebund.at/>

The Austrian Association of Municipalities represents the interests of the Austrian municipalities. The Association of Municipalities is organized according to the principle of federalism and consists of ten regional associations. Vienna does not have its own regional association, while Lower Austria and Burgenland each have two for historical reasons. Its work therefore focuses on representing municipal interests in front of the legislative and executive bodies of the provinces, the federal government, and the European Union.

ESTONIA

- **Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (AECM)**
<https://www.elvl.ee/web/eng>

The Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (AECM) is a voluntary union established for representing the common interests and arranging co-operation of cities and rural municipalities. Ensuring development of local governments through joint activities is the main goal of the AECM. At present, 77 municipalities out of 79 are the members of the association.



Responsibilities of the AECM are among others: Arranging co-operation between local governments, their associations and unions; enhancing co-operation and twinning with local governments and their associations abroad as well as with international organisations.

- **Estonian Social, Health and Education Services**

Estonian health, education and social services are provided and managed by different organisations and this area is expecting some consolidation of organisations in the near future (especially in health sub-sector).

Major organisations acting in this field are:

Ministry of Social Affairs - <https://www.sm.ee/en>

Social Insurance Board – <https://www.sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/en>

Health Insurance Fund - <https://www.haigekassa.ee/en>

Estonian Hospitals Association - <https://haiglateliit.ee/en/>

Ministry of Education and Research - <https://www.hm.ee/en>

Education and Youth Board - <https://harno.ee/en>

- **Estonian Transport Administration**

<https://www.transpordiamet.ee/en>

The Estonian Transport Administration (ETA) was created on 1 January 2021 by merging the Civil Aviation Administration, the Road Administration and the Maritime Administration, this becoming their legal successor. The Estonian Transport Administration will be a competence centre uniting all modes of transport and a developer of a safe, comfortable and fast traffic environment. ETA cooperates with several international organisations in the field and is one of the Estonian's bigger buyers in terms of number of public procurements.

GOALS of ETA:

- improve availability of convenient services and destinations;
- smarter usage of land, air and water routes;
- healthier and eco-friendlier traffic;
- design smart mobility solutions and implement policies and projects covering all modes of transport.

- **Riigi Kinnisvara AS (State Real Estate Company)**

<https://rkas.ee/en/company/about-us>

Riigi Kinnisvara AS (RKAS) is a real estate development and management company established for the efficient management of state real estate in 2001. The company is 100% owned by the Republic of Estonia and its shares are controlled by the Ministry of Finance. RKAS cooperates with several international organisations in the field and is one of the Estonian's bigger buyers in terms of number of public procurements.

RKAS provides real estate services to exercisers of state authority. RKAS is the preferred partner and centre of excellence for the Government and state authorities in the development, management and maintenance of real estate objects necessary for the performance of state functions and provision of public service.

The implementing role of RKAS in state real estate management has expanded compared to its original purposes (office buildings) and now includes:

- schools;
- buildings and facilities intended for special purposes;
- other.

- **STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE (RMK)**

<https://www.rmke.ee/en>

RMK manages Estonian state forests. RMK's forestry duties include the growing and guarding of the state forest, planting and growing of new forest, organising forestry works and sale of timber. RMK maintains forest roads and drainage systems and monitors fire hazard in the state forest. The centre is one of the Estonian's bigger buyers in terms of number of public procurements. RMK's operating areas are:

- land use management;
- forest management;
- forest survey;
- timber marketing;
- visitor management and nature education;
- nature conservation;
- seed and plant management.

- **The State Shared Service Center**

<https://rtk.ee/en>

The State Shared Service Center (official abbreviation SSSC) is a government agency under the administration of the Ministry of Finance. SSSC provides various support services to the central government agencies that have entered into an agreement on the provision of support services and performs the function of the managing and paying authority for the European Union structural funds and cross-border programs; The Liaison Office for Financial Mechanisms in Norway and the European Economic Area; and, where specified by law, the tasks of the implementing entity.

SERVICES OF SSSC:

- personnel and payroll accounting
- personnel development (organization of central training across the public sector)
- financial accounting
- preparation of consolidated state accounts
- organization of public procurements
- management of Public Law claims
- organizing the use of grants

VARIA – Institutions, associations and unions that can help you when doing business in Estonia.

<https://investinestonia.com/useful-links/>

incl.

- Chambers of commerce
- Government institutions and services
- Industry unions and associations focusing on different business sectors
- Universities and research institutions in Estonia

FRANCE

- **RESAH – Réseau des Acheteurs Hospitaliers**
<http://www.resah.fr/> (in French)

RESAH is a central purchasing department: Centralized purchasing services

With a central purchasing office, Resah has developed a centralised purchasing service offer that meets the main needs of the GHTs and is accessible in two distinct ways that are easy to use and adapted to the constraints of each:

The collaborative procurement platform when the institution wishes to participate in the co-construction of the call for competition and its conduct in order to benefit from the contract awarded on the date and for the duration of its choice.

Direct access to a wide range of products and services selected for their performance by the RESAH purchasing teams.

Their 10 purchasing channels are:

- Health products
- Biology
- Biomedical engineering
- Patient environment
- Hotel business
- Buildings
- Energy
- General services
- Information system
- Intellectual services

GERMANY

- **EK Unico**
<https://www.ek-unico.de/> (only in German)

EK-UNICO GmbH is the purchasing association of twelve German university hospitals. With a purchasing volume of over 1.4 billion euros, EK-UNICO GmbH is one of the leading purchasing associations in Germany. EK-UNICO GmbH aims to be the market leader in the university maximum care segment.

- **BME expert councils for the public sector**
<https://www.bme.de/netzwerk/sektionen/>

Direct access to sections is only available in German.
There are more than 25 sections grouped in three categories organised for the members of BME:

- Purchase
- Logistics
- Public Procurer

The main sections are named here:

- **Public Procurement**
Participants are developing strategic approaches to professionalize procurement, which can be used to increase significant efficiency reserves. Procurement law supports this and offers opportunities for innovation-oriented procurement. They discuss how potential for cost reduction and quality improvement can be identified and realized.

Overview of related subjects

- Implementation of a strategic procurement
 - Positioning of the procurement and improvement of its place in the enterprise organization
 - KPIs of the procurement organization
 - Supplier management
 - Innovation-oriented procurement
- **Procurement in hospitals**
The group's aim is to drive the development of procurement in hospitals in order to expand its mandate and reach. The structures and processes are illuminated



to identify best practices and to tap further optimization potential. For this purpose, regular comparisons are made with processes and approaches from other sectors and industries, without, however, disregarding the separate framework conditions in the hospital.

Overview of related subjects

- Structure and integration of the procurement department
- Measurement and presentation of the success
- Logistics
- E-procurement
- Supplier management

- **Procurement in universities**

The increasing professionalization, the strategic orientation and the special requirements of public procurement in German universities and research institutions are highlighted in order to develop approaches for a strategic orientation of the procurement office. Centralization in the procurement fields is examined, where it is necessary to bundle competences and to directly strengthen the business processes.

Overview of related subjects

- Business process optimization / digitization
- Qualifications in procurement
- Communication
- Economy / lifecycle cost analysis

- **Procurement of facility management services**

Facility management today is a complex and sometimes cross-divisional matter that goes far beyond the original building management. In order to define the complexity and structure of the industry, the panel should deal critically with the topic and jointly develop solution approaches and work aids.

Overview of related subjects

- Organization and definition
- Operational and strategic procurement of FM services
- Innovation management
- Process optimization
- Tools

- **Procurement of IT and telecommunications services**

The aim of the group is to shed more light on the increasing professionalization and special features of IT and telecommunications procurement and to develop suitable strategies and best practices together with the respective buyers.

Overview of related subjects

- Structure of IT and telecommunications procurement
- Service Management
- Contract and license management
- Procurement processes

GREECE

- **Union Of Hellenic Chambers Of Commerce**

<https://www.uhc.gr/>

In its current form, the Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce was established in 1992, by virtue of law 2081/ 10-9-92 on regulating the Chamber institution.

The latest Law 3419/ 2005, regulates the current legislative framework, and stipulates the creation of a Central Administration for the General Trade Register within the UHCC.

The UHCC's main concern is the attempt to expand its role, as well as that of Chambers, as authentic spokespeople of the business community, mainly through taking up new initiatives in support of the country's economic growth, by participating as implementation agencies for development projects and strategic services. Chambers and the UHCC can manage development projects better and more effectively, since they possess both the necessary means and the required experience.

- **The Association of Greek Regions (EN.P.E.)**

<https://enpe.gr>

The Association of Greek Regions (EN.P.E.) is the representative body of the thirteen (13) Regions Greece.

It was implemented in 2011 by the Presidential Decree no 74/2011 aimed at permanent structured cooperation, promotion and representation of all Greek regions. It is about a legal entity of the private law which is directly supervised by the Minister of Interior and in fact has replaced the Union of Prefectural Authorities of Greece

(E.N.A.E.), keeping all the aims, the legal obligations and the responsibilities. The Association of Prefectural Authorities of Greece has been established by the Presidential Decree no 369/1995.

The Association of Greek Regions according to the Presidential Decree of its establishment has mainly the following purposes:

- The cooperation of the Regions/Members of the Union
- The promotion of the institution of the Regions
- To conduct researches and studies on issues related to the local authority and the regional development.
- The gathering and processing of data and information concerning general or specific issues about the mission and the work (actions) of the Regions.
- Promoting and encouraging initiatives for the peace, the culture, the balanced social growth and economic development, the alleviation of regional inequalities and unemployment.
- The coordination of the Regions for taking preventive and repressive measures against the climate change and its consequences and the environmental protection always in cooperation with competent bodies of the government and the European Union.
- The update and the continuous training of regional staff and the elected representatives as well.
- The cooperation with the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, the Regional Unions of Municipalities and other bodies of the local authorities with a view to providing the institution of the intergraded cooperation and the promotion of issues related to the local authority.
- The cooperation with relevant international and European institutions and bodies of the local and regional authority.
- The cooperation with public and private entities on topics relatives to the regional policy, the decentralization and the growth.
- The representation of the regions at all the institutions and the bodies in accordance with the relevant provisions.
- Planning, coordinating and supporting actions that upgrade the statutory position of the regional staff as well as members of the elected bodies and make more efficient the function of their business sectors.

Furthermore, the Union of Greek Regions

- Formulate opinions on Bills (draft government regulation) concerning the regions

- Publish books and schedules relevant to issues of the regional authority.
- **Central Union of Municipalities and Communities**
<https://kedke.gr/>

The Central Union of Municipalities and Communities is a national network, which connects the 333 municipalities of Greece.

- **Technical Chamber of Greece**
<https://web.tee.gr/>

The Technical Chamber of Greece was founded in 1923, is a Legal Entity under Public Law with an elected Administration. According to the rules of the Hellenic State, as a legal entity under public law, it is formally supervised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport.

The Technical Chamber of Greece aims to promote science in the fields related to the specialty of its members, technique and technology in general and their utilization for the economic, social and cultural development of the country within the principles of sustainability and protection of the environment.

Full members of the Technical Chamber of Greece are all Greek graduates of the National Technical University of Athens, the polytechnics of the country and the equivalent schools abroad. Prerequisite for the registration of a member in the Technical Chamber of Greece is the possession of a license to practice engineering.

- **Greek Sustainable Development Solutions Network**
<http://www.unsdsn.gr/>

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) set up by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012, promotes practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by the United Nations.

Through a growing number of National and Regional Networks, SDSN supports the localization and implementation of SDGs, develops long-term transformative pathways for sustainable development, promotes education around Agenda 2030, and launches solution initiatives.

The Greek SDSN has been included in the SDSN network and is co-hosted by ICRE8: International Center for Research on the Environment and the Economy and the Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab. It is co-chaired by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri and Prof. Andreas Papandreou, aiming to contribute to achieving the goals of the SDSN network.

SDSN GREECE Thematic priorities:

- Sustainable Shipping, Ports and Marine Resources Management
- Sustainable Water-Food-Energy Nexus
- Sustainable Tourism and Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Circular economy and Sustainable cities

IRELAND

Networks

- **Health Service - HSE**
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/>

The HSE provides all of Ireland's public health services in hospitals and communities across the country.

- **Dublin City Council - Smart Dublin**
<http://www.smartdublin.ie/>

SmartDublin works to future-proof the Dublin region by trialling and scaling innovative solutions to a wide range of local challenges.

- **Procurement Innovation Group (OGP)**
<http://etenders.gov.ie>

Established by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment, the Procurement Innovation Group has representatives of industry, academia, government departments and State agencies to raise awareness of the benefits of using public procurement to stimulate research and innovation.

- **Enterprise Ireland- Enterprise Europe Network**
<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com> (<https://www.een-ireland.ie/>)

Enterprise Ireland are partner in the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) as well as the host of National Contact Points for EU funding programs like Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe.

The EEN Ireland is a partnership between Enterprise Ireland, Cork Chamber of Commerce, Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the Local Enterprise Office.

ITALY

- **Ministry of Economy and Finance, CONSIP and the Network System or Aggregator**
https://www.acquistinretepa.it/opencms/opencms/soggetti_aggregatori_new/

Started in 2014

Organizer. Ministry of Economy and Finance and CONSIP (Central Procurement Body of Italy)

Funding Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance

Rationalisation of Public Spending for goods and services, especially in the health sector.

- **AGID – Agency responsible for the Digital Agenda**
<https://www.agid.gov.it/it/agenzia/appalti-innovativi>

Started in 2012

Innovation in the field of Research and Innovation (art. 19 D.L. 179/2012) connected to the implementation of the Digital Agenda.

- **SOGEI – Società Generale d'Informatica S.p.A.**
<https://www.sogei.it/it/sogei-homepage.html>

Started in 2019 in force of the DL 16 luglio 2020 n.76, art. 31 with the role of innovation broker in the ICT sector.

Netherlands

- **Buyer Groups**

Public clients work together with a Buyer Group to accelerate social challenges and transitions, such as climate change and circularity. Together they arrive at an ambitious market vision and procurement strategy that the participants apply in practice.

The Buyer Group program originated from the National Plan MVI (Socially Responsible Procurement, in short SRI). This is an initiative of the Ministries of Infrastructure and Water Management and the Interior and Kingdom Relations, carried out by PIANOo and Rijkswaterstaat. The Buyer Group program is now working for several ministries and on various social issues, such as the SRI themes of circularity, diversity and inclusion, chain responsibility, climate, environment and social return, as well as in the field of digital innovation, like AI image recognition with drones.

Categories Buyer Groups:

- Construction
- Civil Engineering and Road Construction (GWW)
- Mobility
- Business Operations

Buyer Groups construction

The Construction category has 6 Buyer Groups.

- **New construction and/or renovation of schools**
In addition to good education, the new construction or renovation of schools can also contribute to making operational management and objectives for the built environment as a whole more sustainable. In the Buyer Group circular schools, various schools and municipalities are working together on a market vision and strategy to optimize and realize the effect on circularity, energy use and climate in 2021.
- **Renovation corporation homes**
Various sustainability initiatives are underway at housing associations. For example, the municipality of Amsterdam has launched a competition that challenges construction companies to come up with a circular renovation



solution. There is also a national initiative to open up existing circular renovation concepts regionally. In the Buyer Group renovation of housing association housing, 8 housing associations take the step towards sustainable project realization and perpetuation.

- **Circular new-build homes**
With the Buyer Group we support circular new-build homes agreements on circular new-build homes in Woondeals. In the residential area of Arnhem-Nijmegen, for example, there are ambitions that the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations wants to realize partly through this Buyer Group. The ambitions within this group focus on circular and conceptual (modular/factory) construction.
- **Timber construction/wood renovation**
The application of biobased materials such as wood in (house) construction is becoming increasingly popular. However, concrete application in construction is still limited. In the Wood Construction Buyer Group, housing associations are exploring what vision and strategy are needed to request a wood construction project, what the environmental impact is, and how this can become a feasible business case through smart tendering and the same tendering method.
- **Circular building materials**
How can you, as a collective of property owners, share knowledge and learn how to steer the procurement of circular product alternatives for (major) maintenance, renovation, new construction and transformation of real estate? In this Buyer Group circular building materials you work together on drawing up a shared market vision and strategy for the most common products/product groups in (major) maintenance, sustainability and mutation maintenance. You will test this shared market vision and strategy in practice, with the market and the internal organizations of the participants in the Buyer Group.
- **Bio-based building materials**
Regular raw materials have a major negative impact on the environment. With biobased alternatives it is possible to significantly reduce this impact. It is already technically possible to use residual flows from agriculture and horticulture and other biobased raw materials as a basis for building materials, interior design and infrastructure. In practice, it turns out not to be easy to find enough buyers who actually want to use these raw materials. Organizations that want to become more sustainable can work together in this Buyer Group and receive support to request biobased alternatives or to apply them in their projects.

Buyer Groups Civil Engineering and Road Construction (GWW)

The Civil Engineering and Road Construction (GWW) category has 6 Buyer Groups.

- **Zero emission construction equipment (ZEB)**
In civil engineering and B&U projects, such as mowing, dredging, earthmoving during dyke improvements and construction work, the equipment causes significant emissions of CO₂ and nitrogen. That is why the Buyer Group for zero-emission construction equipment encourages the accelerated application of zero-emission construction equipment (ZEB). Together with public clients (water boards, municipalities and provinces) we formulate criteria for the use of ZEB equipment. We are collaborating with the Transitiepad Bouwplaats and Bouwlogistiek and are investigating connections with the big buyers' initiative of the European Commission and the Nordic Alliance (Sweden, Norway and Finland).
- **Low-carbon concrete**
Immediately replace at least 5% of the total volume of aggregates with concrete residual flows, and a 30% CO₂ reduction and 100% high-quality reuse of released concrete by 2030. This is what the parties in the Concrete Agreement are committed to. In order to include the market in this development, this Buyer Group wants to create sufficient concrete mass and a clear demand for low-carbon concrete. In addition to signatories to the agreement, we are also looking for other public clients such as housing cooperatives and private developers to create scale and impact.
- **Sustainable road pavement**
From materials to transport and the use of heavy equipment: the possible CO₂ savings are enormous. Through collaboration, the Buyer Group wants to make sustainable road surfacing innovation and smarter agreements about the total chain approach to sustainable road surfacing. For example, we investigate solutions in the form of policy and concrete agreements with the market and clients. This includes a clear market vision and specific tenders. The current collaboration is in line with Buyer Groups' principles and is in line with one of Rijkswaterstaat's transition paths.
- **Road signs and signage**
The public clients in this Buyer Group road signs and signage work together to make road signs and signage more sustainable. In monthly sessions, the clients

share knowledge and experiences and work together on a single sustainable market vision and strategy. Participants apply this strategy in their own projects.

- **Circular viaducts and bridges**
Rijkswaterstaat and PIANOo are starting a Buyer Group for circular viaducts and bridges. With this Buyer Group, Rijkswaterstaat will explore, together with other public clients, how best to purchase circular viaducts and bridges. Market parties are also expressly involved in this exploration. For example, we are working on a good match between supply and demand and the best way of tendering.
- **Sustainable dredging**
The public clients in the Buyer Group for sustainable dredging work together to make dredging more sustainable. The aim is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and nitrogen during dredging and to use the dredged material (sediment) as a raw material with the highest possible social value. This concerns greenhouse gases released by the use of the equipment and by the dredging itself. The Buyer Group wants to achieve the sustainability of dredging by focusing as much as possible on a joint working method to realize the ambitions through tenders.

Buyer Groups Mobility

The Mobility category has 3 Buyer Groups.

- **Target group transport/regional taxi**
The Buyer Group zero-emission target group transport/regional taxi connects municipalities and provinces, whereby everyone has the opportunity to realize their own ambitions. Together the participants develop a market vision and strategy with which good ideas and high goals have a chance of success. This also leads to mass and thus offers an interesting perspective for the market. In this way we not only realize zero-emissions transport for target groups, but we also develop the necessary knowledge to ensure that many more organizations can take these concrete steps.
- **Clean Vehicles Directive**
From 2 August 2021, the requirements of the so-called Clean Vehicles Directive, also known as the EU Clean Vehicles Directive, must be taken into account in new European tenders. This concerns both the purchase of vehicles and a number of vehicle services. Representatives of all contracting authorities are welcome to jointly define and implement a concrete strategy in the Buyer Group Clean Vehicles Directive. All practical challenges in the implementation of the



directive such as charging infrastructure, financing and tender texts are discussed. Obviously, a lot of attention is paid to approaching the market, since thousands of vehicles are involved.

- **Zero Emission Procurement**
A group of 30-40 municipalities is actively contributing to the objective of the Climate Agreement by introducing a zone for zero-emission city logistics (ZES). An important lever for the support and realization of this ZES zone is the municipality's own purchasing. Delivery of office supplies to the town hall, the municipality's own vehicles, the multi-year maintenance of the street lighting, the construction of a new road, etc. The transport must take place without emissions within the ZES zone. In addition, it is important that contracts that the municipality now concludes with market parties do not conflict with a traffic decision for the ZES zone from 2025. The municipality must already take this into account in the purchasing process.

In the Buyer Group zero-emission purchasing, much attention is paid to the translation of policy into tenders via concrete steps. There is also cooperation with the other Buyer Groups in the field of zero emissions and mobility.

Buyer Groups Business Operations

The Business Operations category has 5 Buyer Groups.

- **IT hardware**
ICT has become an integral part of our daily lives. Where would we be without our cell phones and our computers? At the same time, this industry is responsible for 2% and growing to 8% of all global CO2 emissions (and that's more than aviation!). The sector is also the largest consumer of 14 of the 17 critical raw materials. The current process of mining, producing and disposing of these raw materials has a major impact on our environment and human rights. Limiting CO2 emissions and the use of primary raw materials and improving human rights are high on the agenda worldwide. Taking steps towards more sustainable procurement of ICT is a major step in the right direction. In the Buyer Group ICT hardware, a perspective for action is developed together with purchasing organizations that are in line with the harmonization of (international) standards and criteria.

- Circular textiles

Textiles are one of the most polluting industries in the world, responsible for 1.3 billion tons of CO₂ per year and enormous water consumption. The impact of CO₂ is mainly in the chain and reuse/circularity is essential to reduce these emissions. Governments are important users of workwear. This makes government procurement a driver for making broader ambitions for textiles possible. A concept for including recycled fibers in workwear and improving return logistics has now been tested, and the ambitions are slowly being increased. Cooperation for scaling up is sought with the police, Staatsbosbeheer and the fire brigade. In the Circular Textile Buyer Group, we are expanding cooperation, taking bigger steps and motivating the market to innovate.

- Polymers in wastewater treatment

Water boards, but also drinking water companies use polymers in the purification process of waste water. The polymers account for approximately 10% of the measured CO₂ emissions from wastewater treatment, i.e. approximately 35,000 tons of CO₂ per year. By applying CO₂ pricing, we can aim to reduce CO₂ emissions during the delivery of the polymers. The Buyer Group polymers is intended for water boards that want to make sustainability ambitions concrete when purchasing polymers.

- Hiring professionals

Together with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, PIANOo is starting a Buyer Group for Hiring professionals. In the Buyer Group, representatives of various public organizations will investigate how diversity and inclusion can be questioned in collaboration with the market when hiring professionals with a HBO/WO background.

As a public sector, diversity and inclusion are of paramount importance. We would like to see this reflected in, among other things, the hiring of professionals. Whether it concerns permanent employees or hiring, it is precisely the differences in ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical limitations or socio-economic background that together ensure an organization that performs better. Diversity ensures that you as a company attract more customers, and as a government agency, diversity helps you perform better on your policy objectives. Within the Buyer Group Hiring Professionals, public and private clients work together on a shared market vision and strategy.



- Artificial image recognition with drones

This buyer group is an initiative of the Dutch AI Coalition in collaboration with PIANOo. In the buyer group, public organizations reinforce each other by translating shared needs for AI image recognition into a joint market approach to be able to procure and apply responsible smart digital solutions. Collecting information from images has potential for social challenges and for improving public services. Smart image recognition technology has potential for all kinds of issues and for improving public tasks. In practice this can include:

- Scanning/observing an area, in order to obtain information and to gain insight into the developments therein. For instance: measuring (urban) areas, recognizing landscape elements, monitoring biodiversity in a specific area, capturing flood plains, detecting and analyzing objects (such as illegal fish harming), mapping pollution, have an overview in a (calamity) situation, detecting drowning people at sea.
- For inspection and maintenance of objects, one can think of: more accurate dike maintenance, safer bridge inspection, predictive building maintenance, mapping railroad infrastructure.

In addition to various applications for deploying AI image recognition via drones, a number of digital aspects are involved. Artificial intelligence (AI) and robotized camera systems (such as drones) are two different technologies in which a number of aspects are relevant. Think of public values and ethics, cyber security, safety of drones (in the air, over land, underwater), data enrichment, system interoperability, data sharing, the quality of data and algorithms. As well as other dimensions, such as skills that are needed within an organization.

NORDIC COUNTRIES (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden)

- **Nordic Cooperation on Emission-free Delivery of Goods and Services**
<https://innovativeanskaffelser.no/about/>

The Nordic Council of Ministers has initiated a Nordic market dialogue. Difi and the National Supplier Development Program have experience with innovative procurement and have been commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers to lead the work. Large cities and municipalities in the Nordic countries are invited to collaborate on a Nordic market dialogue for emission-free delivery of goods and services. The aim of the project is to enable the clients to carry out their own market dialogues. The Nordic market dialogue is executed by:



Identifying and agreeing on common needs and challenges for the market

Having a dialogue with companies, entrepreneurs, research communities, experts on how this can best be solved and facilitate innovation cooperation.

The dialogue establishes the basis for joint and / or individual acquisitions that contribute to a green transition in the Nordic countries.

Partner:

- Difi (Norway); Christine.Kihl@difl.no
- The National Program for Supplier Development (Norway); idaskaaret.laustsen@nho.no
lead the work and receive questions about the project.

The steering group is the Nordic Working Group on Circular Economics (NCE). The project group:

- Motiva (Finland), contact person: isa-maria.bergman@motiva.fi
 - The contracting authority (Sweden), contact person: johanna.enberg@uhmynd.se
 - Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Denmark), contact person: jenno@mst.dk.
- **Southeast Norway Health Region**
<https://www.helse-sorost.no/>

Established in June 2007, Southeast Norway Health Region is the largest of four health regions in Norway. It covers 56% of Norway's population, providing healthcare for 2.7m people. The organisation is made up of 75,000 employees and has a procurement spend of over 8bn euros (NOK 74 billion) per year. It is also a participant of Procura+

Portugal

- **Stakeholder group with national networks related or with IPP interest**

Portugal has already established an IPP stakeholder group with an advisory function which meets regularly. The stakeholder group is now formed by 16 entities (representatives of CPB's, Clusters, Research institutes & Universities, Local,

Regional, Central authorities, Funding entities):

- Associação Portuguesa de Administradores Hospitalares – APAH
- Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM)
- Cluster Aeronáutica, Espaço e Defesa (AED)
- CCDR-Centro
- CCDR-Alentejo
- Cluster Habitat Sustentável
- Câmara Municipal de Lisboa (CML)
- Câmara Municipal de Vila Nova de Famalicão (CMVNF)
- Câmara Municipal do Porto (CMP)
- CIM Tâmega e Sousa
- COMPETE
- Direção-Geral das Políticas do Mar (DGPM)
- Direção-Geral das Autarquias Locais (DGAL)
- Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)
- Faculdade de Engenharia do Porto (FEUP)
- Health Cluster Portugal
- Instituto dos Mercados Público, do Imobiliário e da Construção (IMPIC)
- Imprensa Nacional Casa da Moeda (INCM)
- Infraestruturas de Portugal (IP)
- Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia (LNEG)
- LARUSDESIGN
- Marinha
- Plataforma das Indústrias de Defesa Nacionais – IdD
- Polícia Judiciária
- PAVNEXT
- Revista SMARTCITIES
- Revista Ntech.news
- Serviços Partilhados Ministério da Saúde (SPMS)
- Sociedade Transportes Coletivos do Porto (STCP)

- **Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste (OesteCIM)**

<http://www.oestecim.pt/>

West Intermunicipal Community (Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste – OesteCIM) is a public, collective organisation in Portugal, representing the common interests of 12 member municipalities. Its mission is the promotion of sustainable development and improving the quality of life of their members, focusing on innovation and efficiency. It is also a participant of Procura+.

SPAIN

- **INNPULSO network**

<https://redinnpulso.net/>

Formed by an important number of cities and town halls in Spain for general innovation aims, offers some consultancy services to those municipalities for coaching them to define their IP needs.

- **Public Procurement Observatory**

<http://obcp.es/>

Meeting place for professionals in the field. Apart from the discussion and analysis of the novelties introduced in the legal system, their purpose is to realize new proposals for action for the modernization of public procurement and materialize in it the principles of efficiency, integrity and good administration. Promotion of Innovation Procurement is one of their main activities.

- **Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces**

<http://www.femp.es/>

Spanish association of local entities that groups municipalities, provincial councils and island councils, totalling 7,364 entities.

- **Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSCU)**

www.csuc.cat/en

Group of 10 universities, which share academic and management services in order to create economies of scale, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of services.



- **Business/professional associations**

AMETIC: Represents the digital technology industry sector in Spain. Associates are companies of all sizes and include large global IT, Telecommunications, Electronics, Digital Content and Services companies, leading companies in digital transformation, as well as, industry associations. <https://ametic.es/es>

ASEBIO (Spanish Association of Biotechnology Companies): Represents the interests of companies, associations, foundations, universities, technological and research centres that develop activities in the field of biotechnology in Spain. <https://www.asebio.com/>

TECNIBERIA: Spanish association of engineering, consulting and technological services companies, national employers of the Engineering sector, with sector organization through the Commissions of Civil, Industry and Energy, Environment, Building and Urban Planning and Technological Services) and transversal structure in Committees, Among those that stand out International, Innovation and Training. <https://tecniberia.es/>

COAM: Official College of architects. <http://www.coam.org/>

- **Technology platforms**

Health sector

NANOMED: Spanish nanomedicine platform. <https://nanomedspain.net/>

Spanish technological platform innovative medicines.
<https://www.medicamentos-innovadores.org/index.php>

Spanish biotech platform (led by ASEBIO).
<http://www.mercadosbiotecnologicos.com/es/index.cfm>

Environmental sector

Spanish water technology platform <http://www.plataformaagua.org/index.php>

Technology platform Biomass for the bioeconomy. <http://bioplat.org/>

ICT sector

PLANETIC. Spanish technology platform for the adoption and dissemination of electronic, information and communication technologies. <https://planetic.es/>

Others

Spanish technological platform of the road. <https://www.ptcarretera.es/>

Spanish technological platform of construction. <http://plataformaptec.es/>

- **Networks / working groups**

RECI. The Spanish Network of Smart Cities (RECI) began to take shape in June 2011 with the signing of the 'Manifesto for Smart Cities. Innovation for progress', whose commitment was to create an open network to promote the economic, social and business progress of cities through innovation and knowledge, based on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

<http://reddecidadesinteligentes.es/>

IGI. Cross-platform group of smart cities. <http://www.qici.eu/>

SWEDEN

Please note: not all websites listed here are available in English!

- **Bebo**
<https://www.bebostad.se/in-english-dold-sida>

Started in 1989

Organiser: SCC/WSP

Funding Source: Swedish Energy Agency

Network for residential property owners committed to energy efficiency. The network focuses on procurement for deep renovation for multi-dwelling buildings and new technologies.

- **Belok**
<http://belok.se/>

Started in 2001
Organiser: SCC/CIT
Funding Source: Swedish Energy Agency
Network to drive development to reduce energy use in properties with premises.
- **4S**
<https://www.4sledningsnat.se>

Started in 2012
Organiser: Stockholm Water and Waste
Funding Source: Member fees
Network to for development of material issues and repair methods linked to water, wastewater and sewage networks.
- **Welfare Technology**
<https://skl.se/integrationsocialomsorg/socialomsorg/digitaliseringinomsocialtjansten/valfardstekniksocialomsorg/bestallarnatverk.11553.html>

Started in 2016
Organiser: Stockholm Water and Waste
Funding Source: Member fees
The network aims at increasing the ability of Swedish municipalities to make good purchases of welfare technology and other digital solutions in the healthcare sector.
- **Artificial Grass**
<https://bekogr.se/>

Started in 2017
Organiser: Culture and Leisure Management Association
Funding Source: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Works to reduce the environmental and health impact of artificial grass and similar surfaces, where microplastics are spread. The focus is on improving the quality of public procurement by jointly building up knowledge and collaborating on requirements and methods.

- **A Challenge from Sweden**

<http://challengefrom.se/> (in English)

Started in 2017

Organiser: Sustainable Innovation

Funding Source: Swedish Energy Agency

Promotes challenge-driven innovation to support public and private organisations. The goal is to accelerate the shift towards a zero carbon, growth economy.

- **Rescue Services**

<https://winguard.se/> (in English)

Started in 2018

Organiser: WinGuard

Funding Source: Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

The mission is to speed up the change within public safety innovations and create business opportunities.

- **Polluted Areas**

<http://www.renaremark.se/>

Organiser: SGU (Geological Survey of Sweden)

Funding Source: SGU / Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Promotes the development of soil and water pollution treatment.

- **Social Services**

<https://skl.se/integrationsocialomsorg/socialomsorg/digitaliseringinomsocialtjansten/bestallarnatverksocialtjansten.24311.html>

Started in 2018

Organiser: SKL (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency)

Funding Source: Vinnova (Sweden's Innovation Agency)

Supports municipalities in their work to modernize their operating systems and increase digitalisation in social services.

- **InfraSweden2030**

<https://www.infrasweden2030.se/english/>

Started 2021

Organiser: InfraSweden2030,

Funding source: Strategic innovation program, Vinnova (Sweden's Innovation Agency)

Contribute to reducing climate and environmental impact from construction, operation and maintenance.



PROCURE2 INNOVATE

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