



## Big Buyers Working Together Annual Event

*Public Buyers driving a more sustainable, social and innovative Europe*

24-25 March 2024, Helsinki, Finland

### About the project

[Big Buyers Working Together \(BBWT\)](#) is a European Commission project, launched in March 2023, to support collaboration between public buyers with strong purchasing power and promote the wider use of strategic public procurement for innovative and sustainable solutions.

The project strongly believes that by working together and pooling their resources, cities, central purchasing bodies, and other major public buyers can maximise their market power and impact. Ten Communities of Practice (CoPs) were created in the framework of this project, allowing public buyers to explore different sectors, such as zero emission construction sites, heavy-duty electric vehicles, circular construction, sustainable solar panels, mobility, digital, socially responsible public procurement, the New European Bauhaus, healthcare efficiency and sustainability.

The annual event aims at bringing CoP members and relevant stakeholders together to connect on the work of the past year and to propose discussions on where strategic public procurement in Europe is heading. The event will facilitate collaboration and interactions among members from different CoPs and it will give the possibility of sharing challenges and good practice. It will also allow individual CoPs meetings to continue the momentum amongst each group.

## Agenda

### Day 1 - Monday, 24 March 2024

Day 1 is reserved for CoPs meetings only. The detailed agendas will differ based on the objectives and activities of each CoP and they will be shared with the relevant attending members.

### Day 2 - Tuesday, 25 March 2024

Location: Helsinki City Hall, Event Square, Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13, Sofiakatu 1, 00170 Helsinki, Finland

| Timing        | Session title   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00   | <b>Registrations and coffee</b>   |
| 9:00 - 9:30   | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Danko Aleksic, BBWT Project Coordinator, Eurocities</li><li>• Jorma Lamminmäki, Procurement Director, Helsinki City Executive Office</li><li>• Blagoy Stamenov, Project Advisor, EISMEA, European Commission</li></ul>   |
| 9:30 - 10:45  | <b>Panel Discussion on how Public Buyers can drive a more sustainable, social and innovative Europe</b> <p>This panel discussion will engage CoP members to dive into the role public buyers cover in driving a more sustainable, social and innovative Europe. It will be an opportunity to discuss the work done in this regard throughout the project's communities of practice.</p> <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sami Aherva, Unit Director, Stara, City of Helsinki (FI)</li><li>• Rita Campos, Director of the Department of Management and Urban Planning, Municipality of Horta (PT)</li><li>• Valentina Schippers-Opejko, Coordinator Urban Agenda Partnership on Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement, City of Haarlem (NL)</li><li>• Ioanna Palaiofanou, Public Procurement Economist - Department of Procurement, Athens University of Economic and Business (EL)</li><li>• Sophie Carlier, Head of European and Transformation procurement programs, Digital &amp; Innovation Department, UniHA (FR)</li></ul> <p>This panel will be moderated by Anita Poort, Innovation procurement Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission.</p> |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |

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|-----------------------------|---|
| <p><b>11:15 - 12:30</b></p> | <p><b>The future of the Public Procurement Landscape</b></p> <p>This interactive session aims to gather feedback by the audience for policy makers in light of the revision of the Directives.</p> <p>Abby Semple, a public procurement legal expert, will do a presentation about the functioning of the current Directives and predictions/proposals for the future.</p> <p>The presentation will be followed by an interactive session with attendees, breaking into small groups to consider the biggest challenges they face, and the proposals for how these can be overcome.</p>   |
| <p><b>12:30 - 13:30</b></p> | <p><b>Networking Lunch</b></p>  |
| <p><b>13:30 - 15:00</b></p> | <p><b>Capacity Building &amp; Interactive session on the role of Market Dialogues</b></p> <p>This session will be led by Eeva-Riitta Högnäs, Senior Legal Counsel of the Association of Finnish Municipalities and it will be split into two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Capacity building</b> (30 mins) on the role of market dialogues and how to best carry them out.</li> <li>● <b>Interactive Session</b>, where the audience will be divided into groups. Each group, in 15 mins, will have to design the best possible market dialogue for procurement, following the themes provided by the expert. Each group will have one scribe who will remain in place. After about 15 min, the groups change places, the scribe stays, and the scribe tells their new group what was discussed in the group and the new group continues to develop the idea. There will be three rounds. For the remaining 15 mins, the scribes will present to the audience the main solutions from their groups.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>15:00 - 15:15</b></p> | <p><b>Wrap-up, conclusions, closing of the event</b></p> <p>The closing words will be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dominique Sandy, Head of Sustainable and Innovation Team, ICLEI Europe</li> <li>● Ivo Locatelli, Senior Expert, DG GROW, European Commission</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>15:15 - 17:30</b></p> | <p><b>Study Visits</b></p> <p>Following the annual event, three study visits will be conducted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. From Kalasatama to Pasila tram line and Closing Loops Storage Building.</li> <li>2. Nordic Ecolabelled Kindergarten Soittaja.</li> <li>3. The Olympic stadium and Circular Economy of Artificial Turfs by PlastLIFE Helsinki.</li> </ol> <p><i>You can learn more about the study visits in this <a href="#">article</a>.</i></p>   |