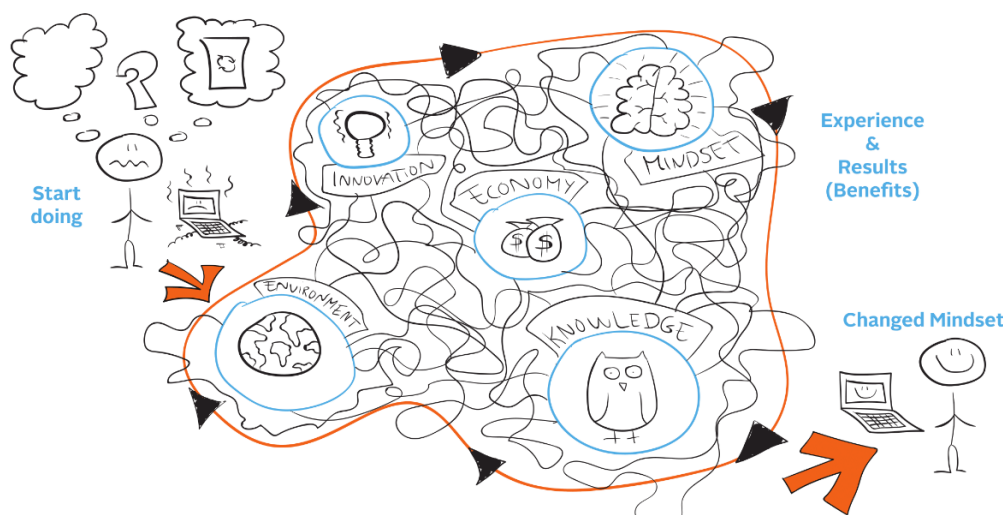


Dear readers

Welcome to the first issue of the CircularPP project newsletter. We will try to introduce you to the subject of the Circular PP project and present some actions that have already been taken within the project area. Enjoy reading!

The road to Circular Public Procurement



A part of something bigger

[Circular Public Procurement](#) (Project Acronym: CircularPP) is a 3 year project (2017-2020) supported by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

The aim is to address the societal challenge of resource efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region, by considering innovation from a multidimensional perspective, and by building capacity among all stakeholders of the value chain (namely procurers, suppliers and policy makers). Through innovative thinking, change of mindset and new points of view on the existing reality, a 'getting-more-by-using less' approach will be introduced. This change of paradigms in the current way of using resources will be to introduce the principles of circular economy thinking to the market, to the public procurement strategies and to the practices of partner cities.

What is Circular economy?

A circular economy approach is an alternative to the "make, use, dispose" model, which aims to keep products and materials in the value chain for a longer period and to recover raw materials after the lifetime of the products for their next use.

What is Circular procurement?

Applied to public procurement, it is known as a different way of acquiring goods and services that promotes consideration of the whole lifecycle of products throughout their supply chain. By experimenting with non-conventional business models, circular procurement aims to lead the way to a circular economy.

One of the key observations from the growing European work on circular economy is the gap in realizing the opportunities identified at transnational and national level, in practice within public organizations. Circular PP will contribute to this goal and will improve the current knowledge on what is needed to encourage a higher uptake of circular procurement. Another contribution is on what the main transnational barriers are, that procurers and suppliers across Europe face when looking to purchase or deliver circular products and services.

Partners in the project

Ten partners from seven countries take part in the project:

-  DENMARK: [City of Aalborg](#) (AAL)
-  SWEDEN: [City of Malmö](#) (MAL)
-  DENMARK: [Aalborg University](#) (AAU)
-  RUSSIAN FEDERATION: [Saint Petersburg Campus of National Research University Higher School of Economics](#) (HSE)
-  LATVIA: [Latvian Environmental Investment Fund](#) (LEIF)
-  POLAND: [Rzeszów Regional Development Agency](#) (RARR)
-  NETHERLANDS: [Rijkswaterstaat – Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management](#) (RWS)
-  FINLAND: [Finnish Environment Institute](#) (SYKE)
-  LATVIA: [Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) (LCCI)
-  DENMARK: [North Denmark EU-Office](#) (EENA)



As a part of the Circular PP project, 21 [associated organisations](#) from seven countries have stated their interest in supporting and making use of the capacity building activities that will be provided through the project.

What roles do the partners have?

The partners all have different roles and planned activities in regards to the different [work packages](#).

Five pilot procurements are conducted throughout the project: two by the City of Aalborg, one by the City of Malmö and two by Latvian municipalities, supported by the Latvian Environmental Investment Fund.

The Finnish Environment Institute, the University of Aalborg and St Petersburg's Higher School of Economics are responsible for conducting the research activities planned at the beginning of the project. Rijkswaterstaat will among other carry out capacity building activities and the mentoring programme for public authorities.

As the goal of the project is not only to involve the purchasers, but also the suppliers, the partnership has sought the support of organisations working regularly with companies, such as Enterprise Europe Network through the North Denmark EU-Office, the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Rzeszów Regional Development Agency.

Activities in Circular PP

Masterclass for champions

On January 23-25, Rijkswaterstaat provided a three-day 'Circular Public Procurement Training' in The Hague for partners involved in the Baltic Sea CPP project. The training was part of the mentoring program for the people in the responsible units in the cities of Aalborg, Malmö and the Latvian municipalities. For more information, [click here](#).



Workshop Riga

The Latvian partners; Latvian Environmental Investment Fund and the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have been hosting two workshops respectively on March 6th & April 6th.

On March 6th, the aim was to raise awareness for the project and identify potential project pilots. On April 6th, the LCCI organized a training seminar with the aim to engage with suppliers, and provide wider and more practical information to companies about the circular economy. Want to read the full [story](#)?



Marketplace at the Procura+ seminar in Oslo

Procura+ is a network of more than 40 European public authorities that connect, exchange and act on sustainable and innovation procurement. [The 15th Procura+ seminar](#) was held in Oslo 21st – 22nd March 2018.

At the Procura+ marketplace, we had the opportunity to tell about the circular PP-project. There was a lot of interest in the project - some questions were about what circular procurement are and other were about the content of the circular PP-project. Interested in the full [story](#)?



News on the studies

AAU, SYKE and HSE, has analyzed current policies related to circular procurement in Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Poland, Finland and Netherlands. In addition, the study has looked on the public procurement policy in Russia and identified the main differences between EU and Russian policies. The results of this study will point out main existing gaps and the lines of action that are to be set as a priority in the following years. The results will be compiled to a project report, which will be completed during summer 2018. Learn more about the work package [here](#).

What are we doing in the future?

- An advanced state of the art workshop will be provided, together with the next partner meeting in the Netherlands (1-3 October, 2018). The workshop will include a presentation on results from the studies, which Aalborg University and SYKE have conducted.
- Mentoring programs: The City of Malmö are likely having its awareness workshop in September. The City of Aalborg is also expecting to have the awareness workshop for relevant stakeholders in September.
- In continuation of the next partner meeting in October, the 10th edition of the EcoProcura conference will take place in the City of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. This is seen as a perfect opportunity to promote the CPP project.
- Other upcoming events is the BE-MAT 2018 (June 20-22) in Anacapri, Italy and a seminar and matchmaking event on Circular Economy (September 26th) in Oslo, Norway. Check our calendar for more relevant activities and events.

The approach of the CircularPP

For the achievement of developing an adequate framework for circular procurement, the project team will follow a four steps approach:

1. The study of the current state of knowledge on public/circular procurement.
2. Building necessary capacity on circular procurement for all relevant stakeholders.
3. Delivery and Implementation of pilot public procurement programs.
4. Disseminating widely the project outcomes.

Circular PP partner meetings:

The city of Aalborg, Denmark

On September 26-27 2017, the Circular PP Project partners met at the first meeting in the City of Aalborg, Denmark, to discuss the status and subsequent stages of the project and (perhaps most importantly) to get to know each other.

Riga, Latvia

At the beginning of March 6-8, Circular PP's partnership gathered at the second official meeting in Riga. Here the project objectives and the progress of activities taken so far were discussed.

The next partner meeting will take place in Arnhem, the Netherlands (October 1-3, 2018)

Want to know more about the CircularPP project? Please visit our:

- website: www.circularpp.eu
- Facebook profile: https://www.facebook.com/pg/CircularPP/community/?ref=page_internal
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/circular-pp-project/>

Feel free to forward the newsletter to your colleges and friends. We expect the sign-up form for the newsletter to be on our website and ready in mid-June.

Next newsletter will be published in September 2018. Deadline for contributions to the next newsletter will be August 30 - Email: dchwiej@rarr.rzeszow.pl