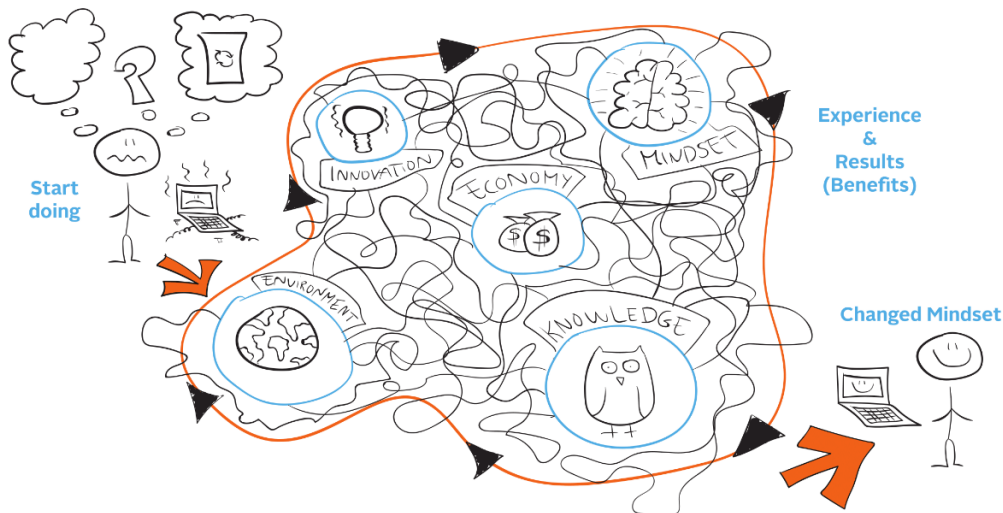


Dear readers,

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

Circular Public Procurement in the Baltic Sea Region



A part of something bigger

Circular Public Procurement (Project Acronym: Circular PP) is carried out from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2020 within the first priority of the INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION Program "Potential for Innovation". It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION.

The focus of the [project](#) is to use public procurement in the Baltic Sea Region as a catalyst to enhance the market uptake of innovative circular products and services, by building capacity among all stakeholders of the value chain (namely procurers, suppliers and policy makers). Being a change of paradigms in the current way of using resources, the aim is to address the societal challenge of resource efficiency,

by considering innovation from a multidimensional perspective.

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 Malmo (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: Rzeszow 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)



There is also an engagement of 21 associated organisations from 7 countries, interested in circular procurement, sought for further exploitation of project outcomes.

What roles do the partners have?

Five pilot procurements are conducted throughout the project: two by the city of Aalborg, one by the city of Malmo 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 Rzeszow Regional Development Agency.

[Click here](#) to read more about the partners.

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.

Issues that got attention were for instance why to start with circular procurement, how to collaborate and many practical issues dealing with how to procure in a circular way. If you want to know more, [click here](#).



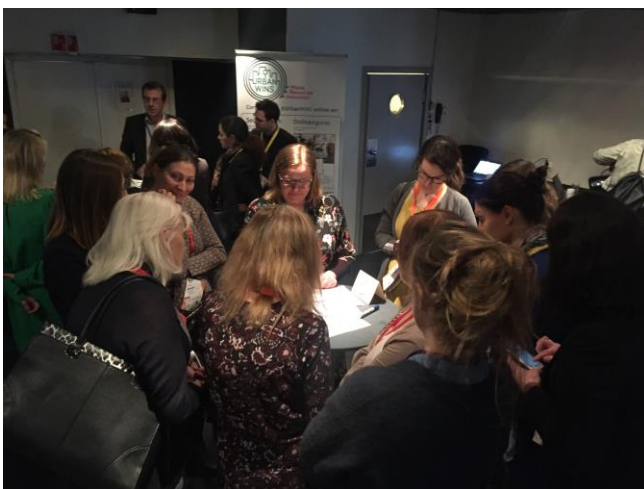
Workshop Riga

The Latvian partners, Latvian Environmental Investment Fund and the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have been hosting two workshops (March 6th & April 6th) with support from [Work Package 3.2](#) circular procurement mentoring.

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? [Click here](#)



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 opportunities 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 knowing [more?](#)

What are we doing in the future?

- Advanced state of the art workshop (3.1) together with the next partner meeting in the Netherlands. The workshop will include presentations of studies conducted in WP2 by SYKE and AAU.
- Mentoring programs (3.2): Malmö are likely having its awareness workshop in September. Aalborg is thinking of having the awareness workshop for relevant stakeholders in June.
- In continuation of the next partner meeting in October, the EcoProcura will take place. This will be a perfect opportunity to promote CPP.


The approach of the Circular PP

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 international 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 in 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 October 2018, in the Netherlands.

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

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

*Next newsletter will be published in September 2018.
Deadline for contributions to the next newsletter will be September 10.*