

Summary report on kick-off meetings in Latvia, Aalborg and Malmö

In the INTERREG Baltic Sea project Circular PP the cities of Aalborg and Malmö and municipalities in Latvia were committing pilots. To assist the people involved in the pilots Rijkswaterstaat provided mentors (work package 3.2). These technical experts could assist with all pre-procurement and procurement activities and overcoming barriers in the procurement process.

The mentoring program consisted of the following activities:

- Identifying and appointing technical experts;
- Organise kick-off meetings (awareness workshops) and circular procurement training with procurement units of municipalities conducting pilots;
- Support organisations to develop and deliver a circular procurement plan;
- Conduct follow-up meetings throughout the procurement process.

Three mentors/technical experts were appointed:

- Aalborg - Ashleigh MacLennan (ICLEI),
- Malmö - Take Padding (PIANOo),
- Latvia - Mervyn Jones (SGR Consultants).

Before starting to work on the pilots an awareness workshop with all relevant stakeholders was organised in Aalborg, Malmö and in Latvian municipalities. In addition, the procurement team received a circular procurement training (find out in the separate summary report on workshops) in order to prepare them for the procurement procedure. The awareness workshop and the training served as kick off meetings for the pilots. As a result the municipalities have developed circular procurement plans. Throughout the pilots mentors have supported the responsible pilot officers.

Further along the line for the pilots circular procurement plans have been developed and follow-up meetings were organised. These will not be part of this report. This short report provides an overview of the kick-off meetings.

Latvia

On 22 November 2017, Latvian Environmental Investment Fund (LEIF) organised the national project kick off meeting, which took place in LEIFs conference room in Riga. LEIF invited its project partner in Latvia – the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as the national furniture association and seven municipalities, interested in participating in the pilots.

The goal of the meeting was to inform the local municipalities about the CircularPP project, its activities, possible support by developing sustainable and circular procurements, possible cooperation in different awareness raising activities, to hear their needs and procurement plans, and to identify the main barriers so far for developing circular and sustainable procurement.

All seven municipalities took part because they were interested in procurement of office or school furniture. During the kick-off meeting project expert Jana Simanovska (LEIF) presented the furniture procurement from Aalborg municipality. The municipalities shared their own experiences and discussed different cases. Also the Latvian Furniture Association explained their possibilities, services and the question why companies sometimes can't deliver specific goods, even if they are willing to.

All municipalities agreed to participate in upcoming mentoring and trainings and showed clear interest to participate in a pilot project and mutual cooperation.

At the kick-off meeting the regional television RE:TV prepared a short TV item about CircularPP project in Latvia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UC56Bipnwk>.

As a follow up LEIF and LCCI have been hosting a workshop to identify potential project pilots (6 March 2018) and a workshop to engage with suppliers (6 April 2018).

The March workshop was delivered by Mervyn Jones (SGR) and Take Padding (Pianoo), through the work package 3.2 mentoring support, to 6 municipalities, 3 associated organizations and the Latvian Ministry of Environmental protection. The aim was to raise awareness of the project and identify municipalities that could potentially act as hosts for pilots under CircPP. The workshop identified leads with municipalities including Liervarde, Garkalne and Plavinas. Further discussions around furniture, schools refurbishment and food catering pilots have resulted.

On April 6th, The LCCI organized a training seminar on the subject Future product and service tendencies: Circular economy and circular procurements. The aim of the event was to provide wider and more practical information to companies about the circular economy, its business models, as well as to inform SME businesses about circular procurement opportunities for suppliers. The businesses had an opportunity to get information from Mervyn Jones (SGR) on circular procurement best practice in other European member states. The workshop closed with a summary by Natalia Cudečka-Puriņa from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, on the development of the national policy for circular economy in Latvia. It was acknowledged that the CircPP pilots play an important role in terms of evidence and in locally demonstrating circular procurement in practice.

Aalborg

On September 25th, the City of Aalborg held a kick-off workshop to introduce the concept of circular procurement to about 30 participants, including project leaders, procurers and environmental experts from several departments within the City, as well as other business and social organisations in the Aalborg area.

The day was introduced by Michael Damm, Environmental Director at the City of Aalborg, who set out the vital role that cities like Aalborg can play in meeting environmental challenges through their public procurement. The Circular PP project and Aalborg's procurement pilots in playgrounds and lifetime extension of ICT were also introduced, followed by a presentation by external experts from ICLEI and PIANOo. These introduced the principles and process for conducting circular procurement, and demonstrated a range of good practices already being implemented. Presentations were also given by legal firm Tolstrup and Hvidsted and the City of Aalborg on how the Danish legal framework and Aalborg's policy framework can be used to support circular procurement.

In addition, in order to prove that circular procurement is already possible in Aalborg, two local businesses – Højer Møbler (a furniture designer and manufacturer) and Aage Vestergaard Larsen (a plastics recycler) – came to share their stories about how they are already making a circular economy a reality in the city, and Aalborg's previous experience in circular procurement through their school furniture purchase was presented. This tender (which was won by Højer Møbler) has since won the IKA (Danish Association of Public Procurement) award for Denmark's Best Call for Tender 2017, is shortlisted for the Procura+ Sustainable Tender of the Year award (announced 4th October 2018) and which was featured as a good practice case study by the European Commission GPP News Alert.

At the heart of the day was an interactive workshop, where experts from Aalborg, ICLEI and PIANOo brainstormed how to take forward circular procurement pilots as part of Circular PP. Opportunities and challenges were identified, current knowledge about the market exchanged, and tactics for moving forward and collaborating with the market and other internal stakeholders discussed. The day was wrapped up with a presentation from the North Denmark EU Office (EENA) on the '7 Step Plan' for increased market involvement – the first step of which had been completed the previous week as a part of Aalborg's Sustainability Festival.

Overall, the day offered many chances to share knowledge and address mindsets around how cities purchase. It also was the first step forward towards Aalborg's goal of conducting two circular public procurement pilots as part of the Circular PP project.

Malmö

Malmö organised two awareness raising seminars. The first awareness raising seminar / kick-off meeting took place on 19 October 2018 in the Panora venue in Malmö. This seminar focused on the concept of Circular Economy and why the shift towards CE is crucial for a sustainable future. The mayor Katrin Stjernfelt Jammeh opened the seminar, and then two speakers inspired the fifty participants. Rustan Nilsson from Sysav, South Scania Waste Company, informed them about the increase of waste in Sweden in the past decades and why this is such a big problem. Then Tobias Jansson, from circulareconomy.se, one of Sweden's leading expert on circularity shared his

knowledge. He introduced the Ellen MacArthur foundation model for CE and gave a lot of examples to the different circular loops that do exists. About 70 employees from the city of Malmö signed up to this seminar, and a total of 60 participated.

The kick-off was followed by a second awareness raising seminar on 5 November 2018 in the city library in Malmö. This seminar focused on the concept of circular business models and how cities can apply CE to their strategies. Moderator to this session was Rustan Nilsson from Sysav. Since he was a speaker at the first session he started by giving a summary of that meeting. Then Karin Kindblom from the city of Göteborg talked about Circular Göteborg which is the strategy that Göteborg is using to support CE. Six companies where invited to talk about their business model as a way of making circular economy and procurement more concrete. The invited companies that presented were; ATEA (ICT), LoopRocks (construction), Repamera (textile), Accus (signs), Malmö Upcycling Service (circular design) and Spill (food/catering). The idea was to show a broad spectrum of different models for different type of products and services. Anout 70 people participated in this meeting.

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