**Sustainable Consumption 2008 Conference**
**Budapest, 8th October 2008**

# The status and review of national Green Public Procurement (GPP) action plans in the new EU Member States

József Szlezák - Péter Szuppinger – Ana Popovic
**Regional Environmental Center**

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Content

- Definition, policy background
- Background of the research and methodology
- Review of NAPs
- Conclusions

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Regional Environmental Center

- established in 1990 by EU, USA, Hungary
- its Charter is signed by 27 countries
- 190 employees in 17 countries
- more than 100 projects / year, yearly budget around 10 M €

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Definition

Green public procurement (GPP) is a concept according to which public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their full life cycle.

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## What has happened so far?

| Policy document | Main elements with relevance to GPP |
|---|---|
| IPP (2003) | Status quo survey; Handbook on GPP; National Action Plans |
| ETAP (2004) | Life-cycle costing; performance-based definition |
| New procurement directives (2004) | Established the legal background of GPP |
| Renewed SD Strategy (2006) | aiming to achieve by 2010 an EU average level of Green Public Procurement (GPP) equal to 50% |
| SCP Action Plan (2008) | Communication on GPP |

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Identified success factors

In the GREEN-7 countries:

- Strong political drivers, national guidelines and programmes for GPP
- Public information resources via websites and eco-labels
- Use of innovative tools like life cycle thinking and green contract variants in procurement procedures
- Frequent implementation of environmental management systems (EMS) by purchasing authorities

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Identified barriers

| Main barriers | Potential solutions |
|---|---|
| Perception that environmentally friendlier products would be more expensive | Information on life-cycle costing |
| Low awareness of the benefits of environmentally friendly products and services | Coordinated exchange of best practice and information between regions and local authorities |
| Lack of knowledge about the environment and how to develop environmental criteria | Using Eco-label criteria |
| Lack of management support (including money and time), strategic focus and organisational policy strongly promoting GPP | National Action Plan with strong commitments from the governments, setting examples |
| Lack of practical tools and information (e.g. handbooks, internet tools) | GPP Toolkit (published in 2008) |
| Lack of training for public procurement officers | NAPs should include training elements |

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Background of the research

**Project:**

*Raising awareness of the EU Ecolabel Brand amongst Procurement Practitioners in the Member States and promoting the use of the EU Ecolabel criteria throughout the procurement lifecycle*

Partners: ICLEI, Bio Intelligence Services and REC

One element: analysing existing Action Plans from the ecolabel point of view

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Methodology of the review

•Desk research (language barriers)
•Diect contact to relevant government officials
•Interviews with government officials and procurers

The review of GPP action plans is being carried out along eight main themes/aspects, which are as follows:

•Overall goals of national action plans and defined implementation periods
•Responsibilities for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of action plans
•Product groups in focus
•Indicators and targets
•Training and dissemination
•Criteria for GPP and the reference / planned use of the EU Eco-label criteria
•Involvement of the business sector
•Financial resources assigned to the implementation of action plan

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Status

| Country | Status of action plan | Date of approval | Implementation period |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Bulgaria** | No action plan yet[1] | N/A | N/A |
| **Czech Republic** | Under preparation[2] | N/A | N/A |
| **Estonia** | Approved by government[3] | February 2007 | 2007-2009 |
| **Hungary** | Advanced draft, under consideration by the government[4] | February 2008 | 2008-2012 (planned) |
| **Latvia** | No action plan yet[5] | N/A | N/A |
| **Lithuania** | Approved by government [6] | August 2007 | 2008-2011 |
| **Romania** | Advanced draft, under consideration by the government [7] | Expected to be adopted by end of 2008 | 2008-2013 (planned) |
| **Poland** | Approved by government[8] | January 2007 | 2007-2009 |
| **Slovakia** | Approved by government[9] | November 2007 | 2007-2010 |
| **Slovenia** | Under preparation[10] | Draft is expected to be finalised in October 2008 | N/A |

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Product groups in focus

| Communication on GPP | Hungary | Lithuania | Poland |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Construction** | X | X (partly) | No |
| **Food and catering services** | - | - | |
| **Transport and transport services** | X | X | |
| **Energy** | - | - | |
| **Office machinery and computers** | X | X | |
| **Clothing, uniforms and other textiles** | - | - | |
| **Paper and printing services** | X | X | |
| **Furniture** | - | - | |
| **Cleaning products and services** | X | X | |
| **Equipment used in the health sector** | - | - | |
| - | - | Event organization / services | |

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Targets and indicators

| | GPP Commu-nication | Hungary | Lithuania | Poland |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indicators defined | Number and value of green contracts | Number of green tenders | Number of green contracts | Percentage of contracts integrating environmental considerations |
| Targets defined | 2010 50% | Different by product groups and by sector, in central purchasing is between 80-100%, in the whole PP between 45-90% | 2008 10% 2009 15% 2010 20 % 2011 25% | No targets were defined in the action plan |

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Training and dissemination

- All reviewed documents plan with training activities
- Target audience of trainings are, naturally, public procurement practitioners
  - but also: high level officials, students, business
- Dissemination: website, guidebooks, conferences are general
  - most innovative the Polish NAP: catalogue of products, database of criteria, best practice collection, yearly GPP Conference

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Criteria development and ecolabels

- In Poland and Hungary criteria are developed by the national ecolabel competent body, in Lithuania by the Minsitry of Environment;
- In all the three countries ecolabel criteria are the primary sources for developing the criteria;
- Hungary: it also clearly defines how ecolabel criteria could be directly used in public procurement procedures

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## General conclusions

- Most of the New Member States are committed to make a NAP
- On general they are in line with EU principles
- Plans are more addressing the barriers than the success factors
- Eco-labels are generally referred in the action plans and criteria development is or will be based on them.

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Specific conclusions

- among product groups: energy and food and catering are not involved although they are „hot issues"
- environmental management systems are mentioned in the action plans but generally no strong commitments can be seen;
- Targets are very different
- More innovative approaches will be needed in the next planning periods in order to achieve the real benefits of GPP

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Thank you ☺

Contacts:

Tel.:+36-26-504-000

email:

jszlezak@rec.org

pszuppinger@rec.org

apopovic@rec.org

**http://www.rec.org**

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER