

'Partners in Eco Innovation through Public Procurement'

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'Partners in Eco Innovation through Public Procurement' uses Public Procurement (PP) to drive demand for Eco Innovation, while at the same time improves the level of public services. The key strategy is to promote and diffuse eco-innovation. Our priority actions include:

1. An Integrated Communication Strategy - turning information/ knowledge into practice.
2. Education and Training - turning procurement authorities into knowledgeable customers.

CEC has identified the potential of PP for encouraging the market uptake of environmental technologies (ET), and promoting eco innovation through PP procedures. PP can support the uptake of eco innovative products, works and services. PP can help establishing more favorable conditions for the creation of new markets, in particular in areas of public interest. 'Partners in Eco Innovation Through Public Procurement' will help identify how governments can facilitate competitive market demand for eco innovation.

Governments can secure the best available solution in the marketplace and encourage innovation at the same time. For example, by using clear and robust output specifications, government purchasers can leave companies the room to propose eco innovative solutions. This gives firms strong incentives to maximize the efficiency and performance of the products and services they offer, which in the end should benefit the public. The issue of how to encourage eco innovation through PP therefore comes down to how to do procurement in such a way as to encourage and have easy access to eco innovative solutions. CEC partner projects will source and share eco innovations in an open and transparent manner, using the latest technology for quick and structured information provision and sharing.

CEC will support procurement authorities and decision makers who want to develop and implement a PP programs and policy that promotes eco innovation. Each project will build upon concrete examples that have been identified by practitioners and widely discussed with public and private experts. They reflect the current state of information on PP practices that need to be adapted to national and local conditions by the relevant authorities at that level and to be implemented accordingly. In this respect, 'Partners in Eco Innovation Through Public Procurement' should be considered as a first step towards more favorable conditions for eco innovation through PP, requiring a continuous exchange of practical experience, information exchange, and full political commitment.

CEC will develop and deliver an integrated web-based communication portal offering further scope for training and implementation, creating a network of excellence between practitioners, sharing experiences and creating common services. The topics will be further developed and also communicated through a user friendly web based portal. In addition, CEC will identify how governments can stimulate eco innovation by making reference to standards in their tenders. More of such practical steps are needed to fully exploit the possibilities of PP to contribute to achieving the objectives of Eco Innovation as part of the growth and jobs strategy.