



Sustainable procurement



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Social, economic and environmental considerations  
in public procurement

Turin, Italy



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## Social, economic and environmental considerations in public procurement



### Introduction

Procurement is called sustainable when organisations put in place processes whereby they meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves "value for money on a whole life basis" in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

Recently public procurement has become increasingly in focus as an instrument of public policy in addition to its traditional role as a cornerstone of good governance. Sustainable Procurement (SP) takes centre stage as a key indicator of governments' commitment to sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development in practice requires that economic growth supports social progress as well as respect for the environment, that economic performance reinforces social equity, and that environmental policy is cost effective without compromising the livelihood of future generations. Governments should consider how to make better use of procurement to reach sustainability objectives through balancing the social, economic and environmental outcomes of public procurement practices and decisions. In other words, they need to engage in "Sustainable Procurement".

Whilst these issues have, to some extent, been addressed by private sector organizations with an interest in 'corporate social and environmental responsibility' as well as by some public-sector organizations, yet the knowledge and expertise within the wider national purchasing and supply communities remain relatively limited. Therefore, by incorporating sustainable procurement considerations, governments can raise the bar and act as a "role model" for the private sector to replicate.

This one-week workshop designed by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) in collaboration with the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) aims to fill this knowledge gap by presenting a comprehensive international comparative survey of sustainable procurement policies and best practices. It also explores the key concepts for sustainable procurement and explains how these can be applied in order to impart competence to the participants in using the potential of procurement for the achievement of sustainable development objectives.



### Objectives and contents

The objective of this workshop is to contribute to improved capacity in the conceptualisation and implementation of environmental and social considerations in procurement, in line with internationally-accepted principles and practices.

The following topics are addressed:

- definition and key concepts for SP;
- the potential of SP for promoting sustainable development and realizing its benefits;
- international regulatory framework for SP, including:
  - international environmental and labour conventions/agreements
  - international trade agreements and regional economic integration schemes
- national frameworks for SP;
- products/services prioritization strategies at the organizational level;
- the integration of sustainability considerations in the procurement cycle: procurement planning, requirement definitions, sourcing, standard bidding documents, evaluation and award and compliance monitoring;
- main barriers and opportunities for SP;
- action plans for the implementation of SP at organizational level;
- the role of the civil society and the private sector.



## Participants

This course targets participants who are directly involved in procurement management and oversight, as well as those involved at a more strategic/policy level within procurement organisations of international development institutions and national government entities.

Candidates are expected to be currently engaged in the procurement policy formulation and procurement management. Previous knowledge or work experience in procurement management in the public or private sector is an asset.

The course is delivered in English and the participants should demonstrate adequate level of proficiency in the English language.



## Course methodology

The course is delivered by senior procurement specialists, labour-standards and environmental specialists and consultants from ITC-ILO, UNEP and other internationally-recognised institutions. The course is conducted using a highly-participative training delivery methodology through a combination of interactive presentations by subject-matter specialists followed by group discussions and exercises. Ample opportunity is provided to explore and discuss benefits and constraints related to the introduction of SP considerations in the entire procurement process. Case studies at national and international level will demonstrate examples of best practices in this field and provide a practical orientation for the participants as to the application of sustainable procurement principles.

Each participant is encouraged to bring along a copy of the procurement act/manual of its organisation/country for reference throughout the course.



## Cost of participation

The cost of participation in this one-week programme is Euro 2,000 payable in advance by the participant's sponsoring organisation. This covers:

- **tuition fee**, which includes the use of the Centre's training facilities and associated support services, books and training materials;
- **participant fee**, which covers:
  - accommodation and full-board at the Centre,
  - routine medical care and insurance.

Main travel between the participant's home country and Turin is not included.

Fellowships for training programmes conducted by ITC-ILO generally become available through the training allocations of development projects financed by International Financial Institutions or by United Nations' agencies, bilateral technical co-operation agencies, governments and/or private enterprises. Candidates are encouraged to contact these organisations and agencies in their countries to enquire about the availability of funds for sponsorship of their participation.



## The ILO Turin Centre's facilities

Located in an attractive park on the banks of the River Po, the Centre's campus provides a congenial environment in which to live and study.

It contains 21 pavilions with fully equipped modern classrooms, conference halls and meeting rooms fitted out for multilingual simultaneous interpretation, a computer laboratory, and a computerized documentation centre linked to various data banks.

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, telephones and cable television. It also has:

- a reception desk open 24 hours a day;
- a restaurant, a self-service canteen and a coffee lounge, all catering for international dietary needs;

- a bank;
- a travel agency;
- a laundry service;
- a post office;
- an internet point;
- a recreation room;
- facilities for outdoor and indoor sports;
- an infirmary.

Social events are regularly held both on and off campus, so that participants from different cultural backgrounds can make the most of the stimulating international climate.

## For further information, please contact:

International Training Centre of the ILO  
Sustainable Development and Governance  
Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10  
10127 Turin (Italy)

Phone no.: +39 011-693 6512

Fax: +39 011-693 6351

E-mail: [proc-promo@itcilo.org](mailto:proc-promo@itcilo.org)