

Analysis report of procurement standards and procurement praxis in Latvia

Introduction

Public procurement law in Latvia is in force since May 1st, 2006. Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC are included not only in the Public procurement law, but also in Law on the procurement of public service providers which aim is to ensure transparency of the procurement process, free competition of suppliers and effective use of the resources of public service providers and public persons.

Current national procurement legislation

Public Procurement law amended on August 1st, 2012. The law is favorable towards green procurement and defines ways how a procurement maker may obtain both environmentally friendly, sustainable, and best economic offer through introduction of environmental criteria. According to the Law, environmental criteria can be introduced as a part of technical specifications, tender documentations, or criteria for selection of the best economic offer.

Current national / regional practice

Still application of environmental criteria is offered on a voluntary basis which leads to situation when they are not used often.

Recognised barriers

- Since 2004 when EC public procurement directives were adopted, different promoting activities are carried out but still there are specific barriers that have prevented the dissemination of Green Public Procurement in Latvia – informational, economical, technical and organizational barriers.
- Even though a state institution has been appointed to develop recognition and improve promotion of green procurement among state institutions, there is no binding legislation or standards has been developed neither for state institutions nor for private companies that could accelerate the process of integration of green purchase process into regular purchasing processes.
- Low level of understanding the benefits of green purchase among private companies, i.e. understanding of life cycle costs, better social image, and other economic and social aspects.
- Strong purchasing habits.
- Lack of governmental support on incentive and motivation level.

Opportunities

- To reduce informative barriers, in year 2008 The Ministry of Environment has introduced green public procurement as one of its tasks and has developed a set of recommendations for facilitation of application of green procurement in Latvia:
 1. “Recommendations for promotion of green public procurement in state and municipal institutions”. This document includes a strategy for green public procurement introduction, description of legislative framework, and environmental criteria for six groups: office paper, cleaning supplies and services, office appliances, vehicles, office furniture, and food products and catering.
 2. “Recommendations for promotion of environmentally friendly construction”. This document describes environmental criteria and ways of their introduction into three stages: design, construction works, operation of the site, and demolition process. Criteria can be applied for energy consumption, use of RES, characteristics of materials and products used for construction works, and waste and water management, and other aspects.
- Cooperation of legal authorities and private and non-governmental organization in promotion of green purchase approach. Common promotion of green purchase instruments.
- Constant update of environmental criteria and facilitation of green purchase instrument application by state and private institutions.
- Permanent positioning and marketing of green purchase system among potential users.

Relevant sources of information

Link to the Green Public Procurement documentation developed by the Ministry of Environment (available in Latvian language):

http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/darbibas_veidi/zalais_publicais_iepirkums

There you can also find recommendations mentioned before.

In the European Commission’s website the Second Edition of *Buying Green! – A Handbook on green public procurement* is available in Latvian:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/buying_handbook_en.htm