

Towards Circular Towns and Cities

Promoting Green and Smart Public Services
within Mediterranean Municipalities to move
towards a Circular Economy

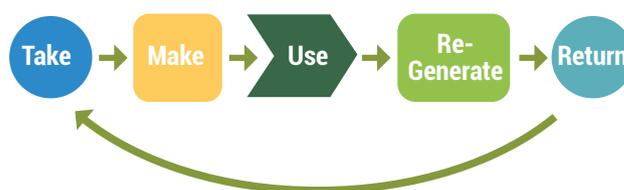
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Project co-financed by the European
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A circular economy is ‘where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimised’.

European Commission 2015



The **Circular Economy White Papers** present the contributions of the Interreg MED Green Growth community and their efforts in transitioning towards a circular economy in the Mediterranean, in the areas of:

- Resource Efficiency
- Green and Smart Public Services
- Waste Prevention and Management
- Competitiveness and Innovation

The **Interreg MED Green Growth** community has created four Thematic Working Groups as a tool for collaboration and communication within its 14 modular projects to aid in the quality, efficiency, scalability and replicability of the project results.

Green and Smart Public Services

The second **Thematic Working Group**, composed of **3 modular projects**, was tasked with promoting **green public procurement** by which public authorities seek to procure goods and services with **reduced environmental impact** throughout their life cycles.

Objective

To examine public procurement in the context of long term impacts, with specific attention paid to the role of public authorities in purchasing goods and services that attempt to close energy and material loops, while also minimising or eliminating negative environmental impacts.

Results

- Calculating the costs of goods and services throughout their life cycle enables both economic and environmental criteria to work cooperatively so that procurement leads to the best value-to-cost ratio.
- Accordingly, the European Commission promotes the principle of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT), into which the aforementioned criteria can be integrated.



- The Modular Projects partnered with over 240 companies to implement 23 pilot applications and case studies specifically aimed at addressing green and smart public services as they pertain to public buildings, public lighting and urban mobility.

Modular Projects:

ESMART CITY, GRASPINNO, GREENMIND

Relevant CE Indicators:

green public procurement

Main Targets:

capacity building of PAs and SMEs, urban ICT

THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 2

Green and Smart Public Services



CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

- Limited integration between environmental and economic criteria in public procurement
- The need for enhanced capacities among private actors related to eco-innovation and green energy to participate in green e-tenders
- A lack of mobility data at the city level due to a reluctance toward data sharing and the high costs for data aggregation and management

CALL TO ACTION

The community addresses both the “pull” and the “push factors” on the market of green and smart public services, by working with public authorities to integrate circular economy considerations into their procurement processes.

In order to reach the full potential of the presented solutions throughout the Mediterranean region, the Interreg MED Green Growth community calls for action in the following aspects:

The European Commission and EU Member States

- To promote the translation and adaptation of existing and emerging tools for the different regional contexts within the Mediterranean
- To promote a systematic use of LCC assessment in GPP as a relevant contribution to the EU’s Circular Economy Action Plan
- To support research-industry collaborations to spark innovations that can lead to solutions that match GPP criteria
- To promote open data and APIs with reference to the

SOLUTIONS PROVIDED BY MODULAR PROJECTS

- An electronic platform that integrates and standardises three existing tools for green public procurement management
- The promotion of open data and infrastructures as a way to help cities address challenges to maintenance and upgrading
- The promotion of “green and smart mobility” as an industry with high growth potential and the ability to drive economic development.

Smart City paradigm in the context of public procurement, so that Smart City related deployments are increasingly vendor independent, more open and enabling new services on top of them.

Regional and local authorities in the Mediterranean

- Considering the role of the public sector as a catalyst for change, the increased uptake of GPP by authorities at all levels is fundamental for the circular economy transition
- Using LCC as an evaluation tool in order to have a clear and concrete approach to the sustainable development (it also includes a precise evaluation in terms of circular economy through the product lifespan and disposal costs/resale value)

SMEs

- To invest in innovation for green and smart services and products and make use of support services targeted at companies and clusters on green and circular economy issues.
- To participate in green public procurement processes to support public authorities in their efforts towards a green and circular economy at local and regional levels.

European Commission (2008). *Public procurement for a better environment.*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0400:FIN:EN:PDF>

European Commission (2015). *Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015DC0614>

European Commission (2017). *Public Procurement for a Circular Economy. Good Practice and guidance.*

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European Commission (2018). *Monitoring framework for the circular economy.*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&uri=COM:2018:29:FIN>

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Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

September 2019