



Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

A project labelled by the UfM



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



GRASPINNO

Transnational model, strategies and decision support for innovative clusters and business networks towards green growth, focusing on green e-procurement in EE/RES for energy refurbishment of public buildings



Countries:

Bosnia Herzegovina,
Cyprus, France, Greece,
Italy, Spain, Slovenia

Target Groups:

Public Authorities (PAs)
and Small and Medium
Enterprises (SMEs)

Theme:

Eco-Innovation

Keywords:

Energy Efficiency, public
building refurbishment,
green technologies,
e-procurement

Starting and Ending Dates:

November 2016 -
October 2019

GRASPINNO provided innovative green e-procurement solutions supporting energy savings and the efficient refurbishment of public buildings to sustain the emergence of Mediterranean smart cities and communities. The project improved public PAs' capacity to manage the energy efficiency of public buildings and strengthened SMEs' capacity to enter the green energy market. It also aimed at ensuring the replicability, transferability and leverage effect of **GRASPINNO's** results to provide smart, low-cost and sustainable

solutions to public authorities and SMEs in the whole MED region by:

- Supporting green energy and eco-innovation networks and clusters to increase their business and research & innovation capacities and reinforce transnational co-operation.
- Supporting PA's in adopting green public procurement through knowledge bases, decision support tools, and validated state-of-the-art e-procurement systems.

GRASPINNO paved the way for wider electronic green public procurement implementation by public authorities in the MED area through common strategies and tools based on project results and collaborative innovative structures such as its Living Labs

GRASPINNO Pilot Projects



Challenges

The MED area faces a transnational challenge due to the number of its older, energy inefficient public buildings. Public buildings are the second main energy consumer for European municipalities. Generally speaking, buildings consume around 40% of European

energy consumption and account for 36% of the EU's CO2 emissions. PAs and SMEs in the MED area need support in acquiring the know-how and tools necessary to design and participate in eGPP, thereby stimulating green growth and eco-innovation.

The InterregMED Green Growth Community

Green Growth is a thematic community that promotes sustainable development in the Mediterranean within the framework of the Interreg Med Programme. It supports the sound management of natural resources by enhancing cross-sectoral innovation practices through an integrated, territorially-based cooperation approach.

The community supports its projects in communicating and capitalising on their results to increase their impact at the policy level and ensure their potential transfer into other territories.

Visit our website:

green-growth.interreg-med.eu

Join the Green Growth Capitalisation Platform:
interregmedgreengrowth.eu

Further Information:

GRASPINNO Website:

graspinno.interreg-med.eu
graspinno.eu

Contact:

Yorgos Stephanedes
e: ystephanedes@upatras.gr

Social Media Channels:



Solutions

GRASPINNO'S overall methodology is replicable to other types of buildings, not only public ones. It comprises the following solutions:

- Databases that strengthen PA's capacity to set quality green energy requirements, and SME's ability to propose solutions to implement them.
- eGPP support tool for PAs to implement green criteria in tenders with green products and services.
- Life Cycle Costing calculating tool (LCC) for PAs to use as decision-support tools for evaluating green products and services.
- Transnational Mediterranean Network (TMN) for both public and private parties, allowing them to interact with and learn from each other.
- Integrated transnational innovative solutions with practical recommendations to EU decision makers for their effective policy mainstreaming across the MED.
- GRASPINNO Living Labs (LLs) collaborative methodology for transferring project results. The project designed 7 LLs in 6 countries, covering a range of eGPP themes. All parties gained knowledge on GPP, funding and mentoring, energy consumption control, help desks, mechanisms to remove energy refurbishment obstacles and better energy efficiency and renewable energy sources governance.

Green Growth and the EU Green Deal

Mainstreaming solutions for energy efficiency in the built environment is key to achieving the targets of the [EU Green Deal](#) and the [EU Circular Economy Action Plan](#). 80% of the EU's buildings in 2050 already exist now, which is why boosting their energy efficiency and supplying them through renewable energy sources is a key step towards achieving these EU targets. Including energy green criteria

in the tendering process is essential for reducing life-cycle costs and using resources in an optimal and responsible way. By engaging both PAs and SMEs on the crucial topic of green public procurement, **GRASPINNO** further aligned public and private sector efforts to innovate for energy and resource efficiency. This is especially relevant for achieving the EU's climate neutrality goal by 2050.

Partners:





Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

A project labelled by the UfM



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



GRASPINNO

Type of the result:

- Online tool
- Methodology
- Transnational Mediterranean Network (TMN)
- Living Labs (LLs)
- Methodology for selecting green criteria in e-GPP
- Guidelines for the Public-Private partnership to achieve energy efficiency in Public Buildings

Language(s) in which the result is developed:

English

What is the most appropriate level for its use/ implementation?

Local and regional

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS

GRASPINNO offers tools to public administrations (PAs) to facilitate electronic green public procurement (eGPP). These tools provide knowledge and sustainability criteria to support decision-making for selecting the best tenders, products and solutions on offer. GRASPINNO also supports SMEs in submitting offers to GPP tenders.

The project created the **GRASPINNO Unified Platform** that integrates three tools: the GRASPINNO Database, the eGPP Support tool, and the Life Cycle Costing Calculating Tool (LCC); Additionally, the project created the Transnational Mediterranean Network (TMN) tool. These tools present the following functions:

- The GRASPINNO Database strengthens PAs' capacity to set green energy requirements, and supports SMEs in implementing these requirements,
- The eGPP tool offers PAs an easier way to collect green specifications to be used during tender preparation,
- The LCC tool calculates the cost of proposed solutions over their lifetime.
- The TMN offers both public and private parties the opportunity to interact and learn from each other.

The **GRASPINNO Living Lab methodology** is based on seven living labs in six countries which cover a range of areas/scopes within electronic green public procurement. The living labs also offer mentoring and training on green policies and energy refurbishment. About 60 public institutions and business support organisations, and 20 SMEs were involved in the living labs. All parties involved in the project have gained knowledge about green public procurement, funding and mentoring, energy consumption control, mechanisms for removing obstacles for energy refurbishment, and improved governance for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION BY END-USERS

The tools of the GRASPINNO Unified Platform support PAs in the implementation of green public procurement while assisting in choosing products and services for energy refurbishment and the installation of renewable energy sources in their public buildings. The challenges faced by the PAs correspond to the lack of familiarity with electronic green public procurement (e-GPP), and, as a consequence, it implies an increasing of the cautionness to integrate e-GPP procedures.

The GRASPINNO Unified Platform also provides tools for SMEs and enterprises working on green growth initiatives. These tools support SMEs to promote their green products and services to a wide range of public procurers, highlighting their sustainable practices and certifications. The TMN allows SMEs

to communicate with other actors in their area of interest, offering the chance to exchange knowledge and experiences.

The **GRASPINNO Unified Platform** has been tested in 13 pilots, involving 28 public buildings in five countries across the Mediterranean. On average, the pilots' energy consumption it has been reported to be reduced by 10%. Public procurers familiar with the procurement procedure and the terminology can easily use the GRASPINNO platform. The platform can be easily used by Public procurers familiar with the procurement procedure and the terminology. However, specific knowledge may be needed for the use of the LCC tool. In order to solve this, the platform provides user manuals to support all users.

WHAT IS THE TRANSFER POTENTIAL?

The tools of the GRASPINNO Unified Platform can support stakeholders, but it cannot be made compulsory, nor can it replace national/regional policies and official platforms used for public procurement procedures. The GRASPINNO Unified Platform can be used by public procurers when they want to access green products and services for the energy refurbishment of public buildings, and to manage energy efficiency. Public procurers can consult the GRASPINNO databases to search for existing green products and services in the market (along with their specific characteristics).

Public procurers can use the e-GPP tool to prepare documents for the tenders, incorporating the sustainability criteria. However, the tenders' documents cannot be directly published since public procurement must follow the official national procurement procedures. The LCC tool allows public procurers to calculate the life cycle cost of products and services (green or not) either before or after their procurement. Public procurers may use these tools before the procurement process to research existing products and services.

Finally, SMEs can use the databases to advertise their green products and services to potential procurers. SMEs are recommended to regularly update the database, adding new products and services to promote their business.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT REPLICABILITY?

The GRASPINNO Unified Platform and its tools are replicable across different regions. The University of Patras and other partners will maintain the platform for years to come, so the project will have a long-term impact.

WHAT CHALLENGES MAY ARISE?

The main challenge of GRASPINNO methodology involve the PAs. Once the GRASPINNO Unified Platform is used, the PA should adapt their national policies to the results of using the tool, publishing the tender through their official procurement platforms. As some PAs perceive this step as unnecessary work, PAs must take the lead and show the value of the e-GPP tool as guidance for including green criteria in their procurement procedures. Another challenge may be the lack of regional data needed for the implementation of the ex ante LCC tool.