



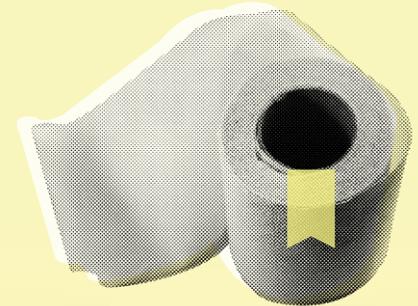
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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



Sustainable Public Procurement

in Georgia



Action implemented by:



Why should SPP be implemented in Georgia?

1. “The Power of the Purse”: public authorities wield great purchasing power in Georgia:

- Public procurement expenditure accounts for a large part of Georgia’s GDP: **12% in 2020** (World Bank)

2. “The multiplier effect”: Sustainable public procurement (SPP) represents a great opportunity to drive markets towards innovation and sustainability and move towards a green economy:

- SPP fosters job creation
- SPP boosts the production and consumption of greener products

Why should SPP be implemented in Georgia?

3. “SPP is good public procurement”: SPP has value as an instrument to to further economic, social and environmental development by bringing a wide variety of benefits in all three areas.
 - Purchasing organizations are uniquely positioned to **demand transparency** about the upstream and downstream impacts of goods and services.
 - SPP is about buying better products from better companies.

Trajectory of SPP implementation in Georgia

Since 2019, Georgia has been introducing SPP and eco-labelling within the framework of the **EU4Environment** programme.

Georgia has been improving its legislation regarding SPP policy, and the progress is notable:

- Concrete SPP legal provisions and articles to amend the Georgian **Public Procurement Law** have been introduced, ensuring that the law supports the implementation of SPP at each stage of the public procurement cycle.
- Relevant **bylaws to introduce newly developed SPP legal provisions** into the secondary legislation were elaborated.
- **Manuals and guidelines** to adapt and implement the newly developed SPP primary and secondary legal provisions have been produced.

Also, SPP training material has been prepared and a series of training workshops organized to address consultation on legal provisions, product group prioritization exercises, and market readiness.

Priority product groups for SPP Implementation

- Supported by several international donors and organizations and following UNEP's Approach to SPP, Georgia conducted an analysis to identify the products most purchased by state organizations. The study involved:
 1. Reviewing the availability of greener products and services on the market.
 2. Reviewing the readiness of the market (including small and medium-sized businesses) to produce and offer more environmentally friendly and resource-efficient products.
 3. Prioritizing those product groups where greener alternatives are already available for SPP pilot tenders.
 4. Analyzing the environmental risks of these products and services.
- The priority product groups identified for SPP pilot tenders in Georgia are:
 - Consumables and cleaning products
 - Imaging equipment, printers, plotters and cartridges

Priority product group: cleaning services and materials

Cleaning services and materials is one of the prioritized product groups for SPP implementation in Georgia. This product category includes:

- *cleaning products* (all-purpose cleaners, sanitary cleaners, hand soaps, etc.)
- *cleaning accessories* (cloths, mop heads, tissue paper, etc.)
- *cleaning equipment* (e.g. vacuum cleaners)

SPP of cleaning products and materials that respect environmental and social criteria could:

- Ensure environmentally friendly and resource-efficient cleaning services in public buildings and facilities;
- Potentially boost production and consumption of greener cleaning products, while preventing health issues from exposure to hazardous chemicals

Environmental impacts of the production, use and disposal of cleaning products

Environmental impacts from conventional cleaning products and materials occur at all stages of the product life-cycle, from production and use to end-of-life disposal:

1. Release of dangerous substances
2. Greenhouse gas emissions
3. Energy and water consumption
4. Water contamination
5. Solid and liquid waste generation e.g. from packaging and non-recyclable material

What are the benefits of sustainable procurement of cleaning services and material?

1. **Improved environmental and social performance** by ensuring fair working conditions and helping Georgia transition to a green economy.
2. **Reduced risk to human health** from exposure to dangerous substances (e.g. solvents)
3. **Reduced wastewater** from production and use of cleaning material
4. **Reduced electricity use** (e.g. from the use of energy-efficient cleaning equipment such as vacuum cleaners)
5. **Preservation of natural resources** (e.g. through products that are biodegradable and solvent-free)
6. **Reduced solid waste generation and end-of-life costs** (e.g. less packaging, more availability of refill packs)

SPP is not a stand-alone practice

SPP is much more effective if a **favourable procurement framework** is in place. This entails several elements, including:

- A transparent public procurement system
- Skilled and trained personnel
- Strategic evaluation of procurement bids (not only by lowest price)
- A legal framework with direct reference to SPP
- Clear communication of environmental, social and economic criteria for bidders
- Shared values and environmental consciousness among personnel

For more information

- “Second Edition of UNEP’s Sustainable Public Procurement Guidelines”. UNEP, 2021. <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/second-edition-uneps-sustainable-public-procurement-guidelines> [16.11.2022].
- “EU GPP Criteria: Cleaning products and services”. European Commission, 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/eu_gpp_criteria_en.htm [16.11.2022].
- “Green products and public procurement”. EU4 Environment, n.d. <https://www.eu4environment.org/areas-of-work/green-products-and-public-procurement/> [16.11.2022].
- “Case Studies on Sustainable and Circular Procurement”. ICLEI Sustainable Procurement Platform, n.d. <https://sustainable-procurement.org/case-studies/> [18.11.2022].



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