



Summary report work package 3.1 State-of-the-art workshops

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This summary report has been made as a result of the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region project Circular Public Procurement. It reflects what has been done in the state of the art workshops under work package 3.1 of the CPP project, as well as the training part of work package 3.2 (mentoring).

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Introduction

The circular economy is new. This means that procurement within a circular economy will be different as well. Circular procurement requires behavior change in organisations, not only among (public) procurers but also among suppliers and final users of the products. For this purpose it was decided that within the Circular Public Procurement project several capacity building activities are needed. These activities build upon the research conducted in the project and the experience of Rijkswaterstaat with circular procurement in several national and international projects. The knowledge and experience from the capacity building activities will be used within the pilots in the Circular PP project. All capacity building activities are part of work package 3.

Within the capacity building some activities are directed towards all partners in the project, some towards the pilots and others to either public procurers in general, students or suppliers. One group of activities are the state of the art workshops (work package 3.1). The aim of these workshops was to provide a common understanding to all project partners and associated organisations of:

- the main benefits that can be achieved through circular procurement;
- how circular procurement can support involvement of SME's in public tenders;
- areas and supply chains that can have a higher impact;
- available tools.

In 2017 and 2018 Rijkswaterstaat organised two workshops for the project partners. Next to these workshops a training was provided specifically as part of the mentoring for the pilots (work package 3.2), but many of the other project partners took part in this training:

- introductory workshop in Aalborg on 27 September 2017
- CPP training in The Hague from 23-25 January 2018
- advanced workshop in Arnhem on 2 October 2018

In this report we briefly summarise the program and the results of both workshops and the training. In the annexes powerpoint presentations can be found and a list of participants.

1. Introductory workshop

The introductory workshop took place during the first partner meeting of the CPP project in Aalborg (Denmark) on 27 September 2017. About 25 persons from the partner organisations were present. The workshop was organised by Rijkswaterstaat and given by Cuno van Geet (Rijkswaterstaat), Take Padding (PIANOo, the Dutch Public Procurement Expertise Centre) and Mervyn Jones (Sustainable Global Resources).

The aim of the workshop was to provide all partner organisations with a basic understanding of circular economy and procurement principles and practice. The information was based on the experience gathered during past years by Rijkswaterstaat in several projects. The practical insights and knowledge were needed for Aalborg, Malmö and Latvia municipalities to start up their own circular procurement project (tender) in the pilots. The workshop gave them the ability to actually start the project in their own organisation, to determine the right product group and take first steps by developing an action plan.

As a result of this workshop, partner municipalities could develop an action plan with all necessary first steps required in the pilots. The action plan can be seen as drafts of a more detailed plan to be developed with support from their assigned mentors. The action plans contain:

- 1) the selected product group or product groups, and the arguments why this product group is chosen;
- 2) opportunities and challenges for this tender in the specific organisation; the first steps to take by the cities and municipalities, depending on the chosen product group and organisation.

The introductory workshop consisted of several elements:

- an introduction to circular economy, circular procurement and practical examples;
- several exercises about circularity, the maturity matrix, stakeholders and impact;
- discussion between the participants.

One of the main conclusions was that circular economy and circular procurement have several faces and that there are many definitions. None is wrong but for our project we need a working definition on what we consider as circular procurement. This definition was later on developed and can be found in appendix A.

After the workshop as homework the pilot cities Aalborg and Malmö and Latvian LEIF started making action plans in which they describe their circular ambitions and choices.

Slides of the introductory workshop can be found in appendix B.

2. CPP training

As part of work package 3.2 (mentoring) Rijkswaterstaat and the mentors are supposed to provide a training for the pilots in Aalborg, Malmö and Latvia. This training had to be organised for the relevant stakeholders in the pilots to teach procurers about circularity. Rijkswaterstaat chose to have a central training for all pilots in the Netherlands. Also other project partners participated in this training. The training took place in The Hague from 23-25 January 2018.

The aim of the training was to get all involved procurers at a similar level of understanding and gain deeper understanding of circular economy and procurement. The training also has a train-the-trainer element. The participants in the training could afterwards act as trainers for other procurers and stakeholders involved in their pilots.

The training was given by Joan Prummel (Rijkswaterstaat), Take Padding (PIANOO, the Dutch Public Procurement Expertise Centre) and Mervyn Jones (Sustainable Global Resources) in cooperation with Godard Croon, Cécile van Oppen and Sybren Bosch (all working for Copper8 consultants). Also practical case studies were presented by guest speakers from Rijkswaterstaat and the city of Amsterdam. About 15 people took part in the training.

The training consisted of five blocks (with time frames from 3-5 hours). Items which were covered in the training are:

- Introduction to Circular Public Procurement
- Why choose for Circular Procurement
- Selection of high-potential product groups
- Internal co-operation
- External co-operation
- Asking the right question
- Procurement procedures
- Conditions and criteria
- Measuring circularity
- Business models

- Contracting
- Determining impact
- Organisation maturity

As part of the training the participants could work on the action plans, which were mentioned under the introductory workshop. At the end of the training these plans were presented to the group.

Slides of the training can be found in appendix C. The trainers from Copper8 have published with support from Rijkswaterstaat a book on circular procurement. The book in Dutch (Circulair inkopen in 8 stappen) is available in print. An English translation will be available as training material for all participants and stakeholders in the INTERREG BSR Circular Public Procurement project and is part of work package 3.3. For the development of this book knowledge and experiences from the training were used.

3. Advanced workshop

The advanced workshop was organised by Rijkswaterstaat in cooperation with Aalborg University and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) during the third partner meeting of the CPP project in Arnhem (Netherlands) on 2 October 2018. In this workshop results from the scientific research in work package 2 was presented. About 25 people participated.

Katriina Alhola and Hanna Salmenperä of the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE presented their study on the state of the art of public procurement policies and practices in the Baltic sea Region. In this study the current state of procurement policy and practices in the participating countries from the Baltic Sea Region has been analysed. Some preliminary main conclusions were presented. For instance that the level of commitment to circular public procurement, as well as sustainable and green public procurement, varies nationally and locally. National government commitment does not automatically lead to local initiatives, while it is clear that municipalities play an important role in implementation of activities. In Denmark, Sweden and Finland both national and local governments have worked towards sustainable public procurement, while CPP is in policy discussions. Latvia and Poland have started work to promote green public procurement, but circular public procurements is not yet on the national policy agenda. In Russia there is lack of strategic federal concern on the subject of sustainable public procurement. Positive however is that the potential for sustainable procurement is high. In all countries interest among key stakeholders is growing. SYKE has also looked into several procurement cases with the aim to examine to what extent procurement cases support and promote circular economy at this moment. Also here it was found that depending on the country circularity is taken up differently. In many cases the focus was on extension of life time and that in many cases attention was paid to service models. Finally SYKE also investigated criteria which have been used in tenders. Several aspects are most commonly used, such as the use of non-toxic materials, material choice, the use of recycled materials, maintenance and extending guarantee periods.

Alberto Huerta Morales of the Aalborg University presented his study about Business models for circularity. He introduced circular strategies that businesses are conducting in order to realise circular principles. They do this by closing, slowing down or narrowing the material resource loops of a product which increases circulation, recovery and value preservation. In the product life cycle he distinguishes several ways of doing this in the production, the use and the end of life stage (or as was suggested next life). The circular strategies require a circular business model.

After the presentation two group discussions took place, one about business models and one about criteria. In the business models group it was concluded that the role of procurers is key, since they are able to influence all three stages in the life cycle of a product. Also the importance of job creation as an outcome of certain business models was stressed. The criteria group concluded that although criteria are sometimes seen as hindering circular solutions and innovations they are at the same very helpful, since for many procurers circularity is a new area and procurers lack experience and knowledge. Also the importance of market dialogue was stressed, because involving suppliers in the development of criteria can lead to better criteria and feasible solutions.

Overall it was concluded that language is important. To convince decision makers, procurers and suppliers it is important to talk their language (for instance innovations, budget, job creation), find “what is in there for me” and then connect this back to circular economy. Also it was concluded that due to the fact that countries are at different stages in procurement policy and practice a single prescriptive approach will not work across all countries.

Slides of the advanced workshop can be found in appendices D and E.

4. Appendices

Appendix A – The definitions of Circular Economy and Circular Procurement

Appendix B – Circular Public procurement introductory workshop (WP3.1)

Appendix C – Circular Public Procurement Training

Appendix D – State of the art of public procurement policy and practices in the Baltic Sea Region (WP 2.1)

Appendix E – Alternative Business Models for Improved Circularity (WP2.2. Summary)

Circular Public Procurement is a 3 year project supported by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. The aim is to address the societal challenge of resource efficiency, by considering innovation from a multidimensional perspective – including involving products, processes and new business models and by exploiting the synergies between public authorities, research institutions, SMEs and non-profit organisations in this field.

CircularPP