



Interreg
Mediterranean



EUROPEAN UNION



Prominent MED

Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

Prominent MED

Public pROcureMent of INnovation boosting greEN growTh in MED area

Priority axis-Investment Priority - Specific Objective 1-1-1

Priority Axis 1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable
growth - PI 1.b

1.1 To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED
area

Deliverable 2.5.1

Report on Participation to external events

WP2 – Project Communication

Activity 2.5: *Contributing to Programme communication activities*

Partner in charge: SVILUPPUMBRIA

Status: Final version

Distribution: Public

Date: July 2020

<https://prominent-med.interreg-med.eu/>

Sommario

Introduction	2
Main events	2
Croatia	2
Energy days of Primorsko Goranska County	2
CEPPI “Energy efficiency through innovation procurement” project peer learning workshop	3
Nearly Zero- Energy Buildings (nZEB) events	4
Croatian Green Building Council conference.....	5
Project eCentral - <i>Energy Efficient Public Buildings in Central Europe</i> – peer review workshop	6
Fedarene General Assembly	7
3rd PPI2Innovate Days – International Conference	8
2 nd International Conference On Public Procurement	9
Implementing Smart Specialisation in Energy through Innovation Procurement #EURegionsWeek.....	10
Spain	11
BIOSFIRA. Alzira avança per una societat sostenible	11
Jornada de Compra Pública Innovadora i Responsable - Aplicació de criteris mediambientals i socials a les contractacions públiques	12
Innovative approaches to accelerate energy renovation of buildings	13
Jornada Compra Publica de Innovacion como mecanismo de desarrollo en el ayuntamiento de Alboraiia	14
Jornada de Presentación Estrategias de Compra Pública de Innovación en el ámbito Municipal	15
Transnational Learning Event: Local & Regional Best Practices: Green Public Procurement (GPP) and participatory	16
Italy	17
Choosing the route to Energy Efficiency in public buildings in the Med area: A pathway to policies and practices	17
Conference on Innovation Procurement “Eafip toolkit and how to implement a PCP or PPI in a hands-on way”	18
Eafip workshop on innovation procurement in public construction	20
Green manufacturing: Opportunities, challenges and impacts on citizens' lives	21
Portugal	22
WEAR Sustain (Wearable technologists Engage with Artists for Responsible innovation) open call	22
Interreg MED ADVOCAY BOOTCAMP	23
MED for YOU: Unfolding a strong narrative for policy change	24
Other events	25
Moving from Green Public Procurement (GPP) to Public Procurement Innovation (PPI): The Sustainability path	25
International Conference: Creating policy instruments for the support of innovation procurement	26
Conclusions	27

Introduction

The report on participation to external events presented the main events in which Prominent MED has been promoted and disseminated by all the project partners, at national and international level, even outside the MED area.

The main objectives of this activity were:

- ✓ Spread the knowledge of public procurements of innovation (PPI)
- ✓ Exchange best practices and expertise with professionals working in the field and with other funded project representatives
- ✓ Increase the skills of small local authorities in the MED area
- ✓ Create the basis for possible project follow up
- ✓ Get in contact with policy makers to consider a wide application of PPI

Main events

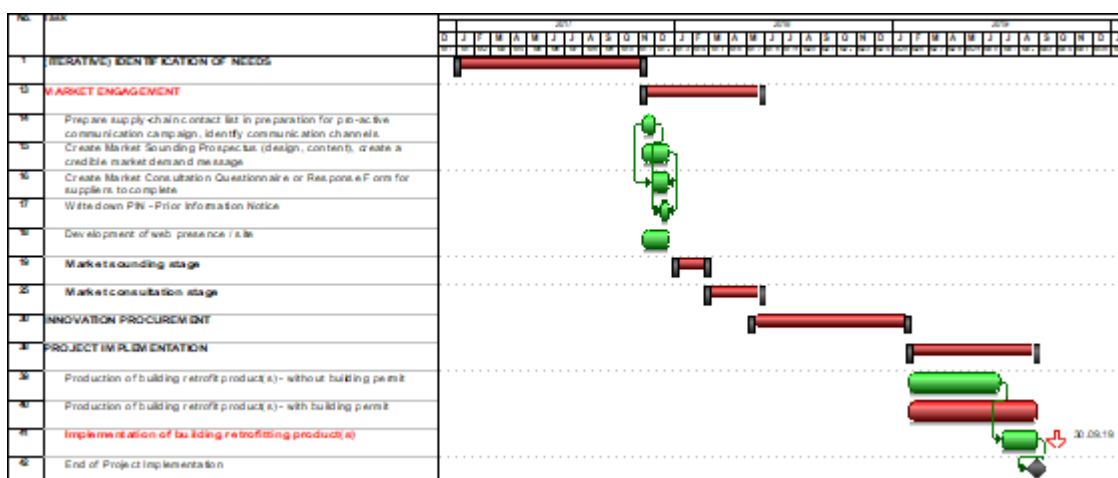
Croatia

Energy days of Primorsko Goranska County

The event, **held in Croatia on 21.06.2017**, was one of the first occasion for the Croatian partners (city of Koprivnica and Regional Energy Agency North) to put the attention of local stakeholders on PPI experience and on the project purposes.

Prominent MED has been the first PPI application on Croatia, thus the level of interest and involvement of participants (local authorities, technicians, experts) was really high.

A specific presentation was made underlying the main steps to be undertaken to perform the PPI implementation, in compliance with the procurement rules and the project timeline.



CEPPI “Energy efficiency through innovation procurement” project peer learning workshop

This event was organized in **Budapest on November 15-16th 2017** by the CEPPI project (financed by Horizon 2020, n.649720). Croatian partners had the occasion to bring the Prominent MED experience in the peer learning experience, exchanging crucial information with universities, local authorities, regional development agencies, EASME representatives and other expertise in the field of PPI, in particular Mrs. Gaynor Whyles from Jera Consulting company that had also an active role as external expert for the proper implementation of our project.



Nearly Zero- Energy Buildings (nZEB) events

Held on February 22nd 2018 and April 20th 2018 in Zagreb, these NZEB events, with more than 200 participants, guaranteed a large dissemination of Prominent MED experience in Croatia.



Prominent MED was deeply analysed in relation to the specific features of the building (kindergarden) that represented the Croatian pilot case for implementing PPI, obtaining important information on possible measures to be taken to improve the building energy performance and respecting nZEB standards.



Requested results

- Improving the environment for learning and playing, including security and comfort
- Introduction of didactic elements as integrated parts of the solution
- Optimizing daylight in the interior space
- Visual connectivity of educators with kids' rooms with a damping option, all with noise protection at the minimum current level
- Energy-Related Requirements: minimum nZEB standard
- Use of natural, recycled and sustainable materials wherever possible
- Respect the principle of circular economy in all aspects of the project
- Stakeholders have expressed the desire to carry out works when the building is empty, ideally during summer holidays (two months) to reduce breaks in work and ensure the safety of children and staff

Croatian Green Building Council conference

Croatia Green Building Council (CGBC) was formed in 2009 by 24 reputable companies and institutions as a non-profit organisation. The association has pursued its goal of being the leader in transformation of the Croatian construction and real estate markets towards sustainability, by promoting green building programmes and technologies, as well as integrating the available and obtained knowledge, experience and insights into design, construction and management of buildings in Croatia.

Croatian partners had the possibility to attract the interest towards Prominent MED project, during the conference held in **Zagreb in March 2018**. More than 40 people participated in the event, expressing their interest on the innovative character of the project and on the possibility to exploit PPI procedures to perform energy intervention in buildings.



Project eCentral - *Energy Efficient Public Buildings in Central Europe* – peer review workshop

The project eCentral was financed by the Interreg Central Europe programme, so it was another occasion to activate synergies among EU financed projects in similar fields of action. In particular, during this event, held on the **20th March 2018 the City of Sveta Nedelja** (HR), Croatian partners were involved in the peer review workshop (joint communication event), where project partners openly discussed results of nZEB feasibility studies and made a decision on the optimal technical solution of the investment, giving important inputs on public procurement of innovation as a tool to perform innovative energy solutions in public buildings.

		Construction and Physical Planning
11:15 - 11:45	Press conference / Coffee break	
11:45 - 13:00	INTERREG innovative low carbon community - Joint communication event	
	Energy management of a public building (Project TOGETHER)	Melita Borić - City of Zagreb
	nZEB energy renovation of schools (Projects FEEDSCHOOLS and TEESCHOOLS)	Sandra Magajne - HEP ESCO
	Revitalising Historic Buildings through PPP - Project RESTAURA	Matea Senkić - The Institute for Development and International Relations
	Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) - PROMINENT MED project	Boris Kuharić - Regional Energy Agency North



Fedarene General Assembly

The 2018 General Assembly in **Tipperary, Ireland, on September 11th**, organized by the European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment, FEDARENE, in partnership with the Tipperary Energy Agency, TIPPENERGY, also included a Project Networking session. The different members of FEDARENE presented various energy projects they were jointly working on. Projects were mostly related to mobility, buildings, energy efficiency, energy poverty, innovative financing and climate. It was confirmed that these projects are the most concrete forms of cooperation between members.

The key point of the workshop was to highlight the inherent knowledge of each project to acquire self-awareness by sharing practices between each other. The participants emphasized the communication potential of FEDARENE and possibilities for promoting ideas and results of different projects and on raising awareness of the need for common work to move forward in the energy transition.

During the networking session, Prominent MED project and its activities were presented to all participants. Afterwards, an informal discussion took place with numerous questions and the identification of possibilities for further cooperation.

The networking session was a good opportunity to start building the common basis for identification of the transversal themes and bringing together projects from different topics and conditions. The main conclusions from the event underlined the potential offered by associations such as FEDARENE and the importance of common engagement on improving collaboration between energy agencies by exchanging best practices and experiences from different projects.



3rd PPI2Innovate Days – International Conference

Organized in **Székesfehérvár (HU) on May 14th 2019** within the PPI2Innovate project financed by Interreg Central Europe Programme, this event aimed to provide a meeting place for public procurers, innovative SMEs, research and development institutions and other relevant stakeholders that are interested in using public procurement of innovation tool - PPI.

The event intended to present public procurement of innovation as a procurement strategy that can be an essential tool for public procurers to boost local innovation. It was highlighted how cooperation between procurers and local suppliers can contribute to innovation. Croatian partners explained how they were dealing with PPI within Prominent Med highlighting their role in the implementation of PPI in school renovations and in promoting PPI among decision-makers.



The event was closed by presentations from pilot projects and a panel discussion by project partners to show to participants what are the challenges and perspectives of PPI in the Central European Region.

LESSONS LEARNED



- The low scale of investment imply the low interest of the market
- Introducing PPI in small municipalities/LA's is a hard job (convincing, explaining, changing mindset)
- PPI = much more time and much more effort needed
- Public procurers = limited resources and knowledge → external technical and procurement consultants
- Listen to the market, understand signals, adapt your expectations (in either way)
- Many project designers don't have deep knowledge about the market
 - used to common approaches
 - easier to convince, but still - effort needed







TAKING COOPERATION FORWARD



2nd International Conference On Public Procurement

Organized in Opatija, Croatia, 23rd May 2019, the International conference on public procurement, was another good occasion to spread the lesson learned from Prominent MED project with the support of the external expert Mrs. Gaynor Whyles, from Jera Consulting company Ltd.



Implementing Smart Specialisation in Energy through Innovation Procurement #EURegionsWeek

How to turn innovative public procurement from an underused option to a powerful boost for innovation in energy?

This question was discussed in a workshop organised as part of the **European Week of Regions and Cities (October 2019)**, by the Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy), a joint initiative of DG REGIO, DG ENER and JRC.

By developing a forward-looking innovation procurement strategy, public procurers can drive the R&D and deployment of innovative energy solutions from the demand side. In line with the Energy Union strategy, innovation procurement can be used as tool to facilitate a quick, clean energy transition, and at the same time create opportunities for local companies.

The main aim of the workshop was to help public authorities, procurers, policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders harness the power of innovation procurement to support the implementation of their Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) in Energy. Representatives from different regions and organisations, like our Croatian partners, presented interesting examples of innovation procurement initiatives carried out across Europe with ESIF, in the context of smart specialisation. They explained in details the activities carried out, the methodology followed, the obstacles encountered, the lessons learnt, and the support or tools they make available for others (i.e the MED PPI network).

As main result, Prominent MED explained how innovation procurement is a great tool for public authorities, getting innovative solutions that meet their needs, and also to support entrepreneurs. Anyway, with some risks; policy makers need to develop instruments that would ensure a serious uptake of innovation procurement.



Spain

BIOSFIRA. Alzira avança per una societat sostenible

The event, organized in **May 2018**, was a fair organized by the **city of Alzira** that embraced a large typology of activities such as seminars, workshops, expositions, catering related to the promotion of sustainable activities or way of life.

Within that fair framework, Ribera Consortium prepared an exposition about the different services and projects that were being developed at the city of Alzira such a Green Office or Prominent Med project.

Participants were really interested about the different services offered by Consorci de la Ribera through the city of Alzira municipal services and expressed their interest to know about the restoration of 'Magatzen de Cucó' building based on PPI approach.



Jornada de Compra Pública Innovadora i Responsable - Aplicació de criteris mediambientals i socials a les contractacions públiques

The event organized by the city of **València in June 2018** was focused on showing best practices projects related to green procurement and public procurement of innovation conducted at Spain national level and Valencia region. The aim was to present different initiatives that included green/sustainable and innovation criterion at public tenders.

The event was organized in two different time sections. At the morning, the seminar was addressed to green public procurement and some speakers such as legal board members of city of València and Zaragoza explained how they were promoting GPP at their procurement procedures. Some other experts from different entities were also presenting their activities.

In the afternoon, it was time for public procurement of innovation (PPI). During this session, representatives of Region of Valencia Innovation Agency (AVI) and a representation of Gijón city describe PPI features and main action line related to this topic at their own public bodies. The representative of AVI exposed also the funding programme developed to promote PPI.

After those presentation, it was time for a round table where different projects and experiences of local authorities related to PPI were exposed by. During this round table, Prominent Med project was illustrated underlying its main features, opportunities and challenges related to the Spanish pilot case.

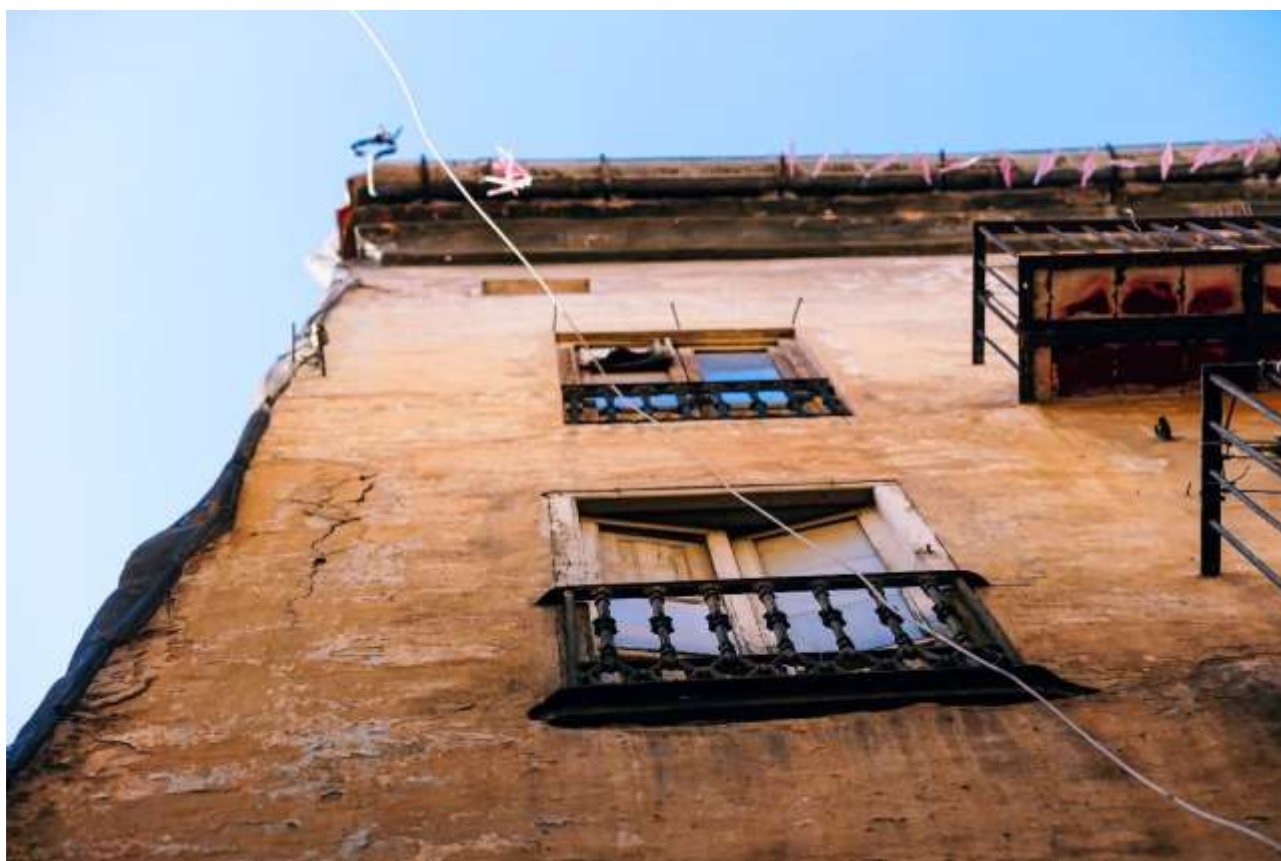


Innovative approaches to accelerate energy renovation of buildings

The event, organized by **Valencia** Institute of Building (IVE, Valencia Regional Government) in **October 2018**, together with international partners, was a workshop on the retrofitting of public buildings.

This workshop aimed to enable sharing and learning from other experiences, good practices on the energy renovation of buildings, and discussions on the need of specific platforms and tools to boost the energy renovation of public buildings, as well as green procurement guidelines.

The workshop was due to EU-PUBREP, a Climate-KIC project, which is aligned with and supported by LoCaL (Low Carbon City Lab) flagship programme. It was organized in two different time sections: after an introduction about the state-of-the-art of energy certification of buildings at Spain and the new regulations related to energy demand calculation for new/renovated buildings, it was time to present PUBREP Project-Climate KIC. The second part of the workshop were dedicated at other projects or experiences focused on buildings renovation topic: Prominent MED project, and the Spanish pilot case, were presented, having the occasion to exchange experience with other organization working in similar initiatives.



Jornada Compra Publica de Innovacion como mecanismo de desarrollo en el ayuntamiento de Alboraiia

This seminar aim, held on **December 2018**, was to present the public procurement of innovation preliminary stages carried out by the municipality of Alboraiia. Besides the presentation of this municipality identification of need results, some other public bodies such as Ribera Consortium showed up the projects (in that case, Prominent Med project) and activities developed in that action line.

The main aim was to explain the main steps of a PPI implementation process in order to promote the use of PPI and to foster the innovation at local level.



Jornada de Presentación Estrategias de Compra Pública de Innovación en el ámbito Municipal

The event organized in **Alfàs del Pi in June 2019** by Red Innpulso and the Valencia Innovation Agency (AVI, Valencia Regional Government) was aiming to spread the public procurement of innovation (PPI) among local authorities and investigation centers. Red Innpulso is the network of Spanish cities promoting the innovation at local level This network is funded by Spanish Ministry of Science. Valencia Innovation Agency (AVI) is an agency depending on Valencia Regional Government whose aim is to design and coordinate the Comunitat Valenciana innovation strategy and to promote the development and strengthening of the Valencian Innovation System as a whole.

The programme had, clearly, two different typologies of sessions. The first one was addressed to present the public procurement of innovation (PPI) basis and the supporting programs at regional and national level.

The second one was the time to expose different experiences of PPI carried out by local authorities from the Region of Valencia. During this second part, Plàcid Madramany presented the Prominent Med project and activities implemented at Alzira 'Magatzem de Cucó' building.



Transnational Learning Event: Local & Regional Best Practices: Green Public Procurement (GPP) and participatory

Organized in **Valencia in June 2019**, the event organized by the Ribera Alta Association of Municipalities was focused on showing local and regional best practices addressing Green Public Procurement (GPP) projects.

It was a two-day workshop by which Spanish institutions shared and presented best practices in the area of Green Public Procurement (GPP). GPP-stream project (acronym of *Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming*) is an Interreg Europe project that aims to improve the management, implementation and monitoring of policy instruments that integrate GPP approaches so as to ensure that resource efficiency gains can be maximized and that resource efficiency objectives are institutionalized through GPP.

For Prominent MED, it was once again the occasion to establish synergies with other EU financed project and to promote our tools and network (i.e MED PPI Network on Procurement Forum and on LinkedIn) with a specific focus on the pilot case implemented in Spain.



TRANSNATIONAL LEARNING EVENT
16-18 April 2019 - Alzira (SPAIN)

Tuesday, 16 April 2019 – Local and regional best practices: GPP and participatory processes	
9h45-10h00	Registration of participants at the venue: Mancomunidad de la Ribera Alta. C/ Naranja 116. 46600 Alzira (Valencia).
10h00- 10h15	Welcome and presentation of the agenda Mr. Txema Peñáz Palazón, President of Mancomunidad de la Ribera Alta
10h15-11h00	Presentation: Manual of processes and procedures of the Regional Government of Valencia, intermediate body of the ERDF Region of Valencia Operational Program, 2014-2020. Red2Red Consultancy
11h00-11h30	Coffee break
11h30-12h15	Presentation: Green Public Procurement in the Region of Valencia. Participatory processes. Mr. Andreu Irujo Navarro Director General of European Funds.
12h15-13h00	Presentation: Prominent Med Project. Innovative Public Procurement. Ms Pàcid Medramany, Head of Energy Department of Consorci de la Ribera
13h00-13h30	Questions&Answers
13h30-15h00	Lunch
15h00-16h00	Presentation: Local Green Public Procurement. Good Practice Mr. Ambrosio Ferrer Portillo, Alzira City Hall
16h00-17h00	What lessons for GPP-STREAM partners and stakeholders? Working groups

Italy

Choosing the route to Energy Efficiency in public buildings in the Med area: A pathway to policies and practices

Prominent MED, Lead Partner, participated to the event held in **Nice, 4-5 October 2017**, organized by the project MEDNICE, leader of the Efficient Buildings Community. The EB Community has the ambition to provide useful and meaningful answers to issues faced by public organizations in the field of energy efficiency in public buildings. During this first Annual Congress, the results of 10 modular project, like Prominent, has been presented, shared and promoted, by providing them opportunities to increase their impact on public policies and to exchange with relevant actors in private and public sectors, in short by empowering this wide network of actors.

The first day was dedicated to present and capitalise the results of the modular projects. The second was devoted to a roundtable with EU high-level actors and to training sessions.

PROMINENT MED was presented by Sviluppumbria Project Manager and a total of 18 representative of European, local authorities, organizations and enterprise associations joined the table.

The specific theme of the innovation procurement attracted a lot the interest of the participants who asked specific information on the following items:

- Tendering procedure
- Integration with existing financing scheme
- Specific object of the 4 pilots tender
- Main difficulties raised

All the participants asked to be informed about both project activities and outcome and also to be make aware regarding the next events organized by the project.

Furthermore, the following organization asked more detailed information on the theme of the project (innovation procurement) and on the specific pilot cases which are developing in the four engaged countries:

- CEATECH
- Informest
- APE Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Entreprises Generales de France
- Italian National Research Institute
- Province of Treviso



Conference on Innovation Procurement “Eafip toolkit and how to implement a PCP or PPI in a hands-on way”

The Conference on Innovation Procurement took place under the Estonian EU presidency **on 17th and 18th of October 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia**. The Conference also served as the 3rd annual Major eafip Event.

The conference programme included:

- Innovation procurement experiences in Europe
- EU Member States’ policy and support framework for innovation procurement
- Economic impact of innovation procurement
- HORIZON 2020 calls supporting innovation procurements
- 2017 Procura+ Awards Ceremony on Sustainable and Innovation Procurement

Prominent MED had the opportunity to disseminate the project experience in a selected target audience and to establish synergies and contacts for further collaboration and events participation.



The target audience for the two-day conference was policy makers, public procurers and innovators. Its aims were capacity building, experience sharing and networking about major ICT-related innovation procurement initiatives across Europe and to facilitate networking between stakeholders to discuss new ideas, initiatives and funding opportunities.

The event was co-organised by the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (MEAC) and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT) of the European Commission (EC). The conference was supported by the European Union Regional Development Fund. The 2017 Procura+ Awards were supported by the EU's Horizon 2020 Programme, and co-ordinated by ICLEI.



Eafip workshop on innovation procurement in public construction

The eafip Workshop on innovation procurement in public construction was open to all public procurers (ministries, regional and local authorities, agencies, public utility entities, etc.) and was held in the **Prague New City Hall (Nová radnice), Czech Republic, on 14th November 2017**.

The aim of the workshop was to highlight the benefits of innovation procurement of ICT solutions through the Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) and Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI) approaches across Europe, with a particular focus on construction.

The workshop featured:

- Presentations / networking discussion on the EU funding opportunities for PCP and PPI (in the framework of the Horizon 2020 calls);
- Presentation of case examples and lessons learned; and
- Presentation / networking discussion on the eafip Toolkit (aimed to support you in preparing your innovation procurement).

The workshop was open to public contracting authorities who had a unique chance to openly discuss unmet procurement needs, innovation concepts, project ideas, and much more. All procurers had the opportunity to briefly present their ideas / plan / projects in the parallel sessions.

Prominent MED was presented by the Project Manager of Sviluppumbria in the part related to case examples and lesson learned. The project has been described in its main features and then a specific focus on the Italian pilot case has been made. Also in this case, the event was a good opportunity to share knowledge, to activate synergies and to increase the skills on public procurement of innovation.



Green manufacturing: Opportunities, challenges and impacts on citizens' lives

In the framework of programme INTERREG MED and of the project GREENOMED, the conference, organized in **Thessaloniki on March 7th 2018**, aimed at raising awareness about green manufacturing and its opportunities and impacts on citizens' lives through implementing green innovations in manufacturing industry. In particular, the first GREENOMED conference targeted general public aiming to make aware normal citizens on their role in enhancing sustainable innovations and green technologies.

The conference was organized into two parts: plenary morning sessions, and parallel sessions in the afternoon. The first morning session focused on the reasons why circular economy and green manufacturing could enhance a better quality of life investigating the impacts on the everyday life of citizens. The second morning session focused on the social and economic impacts that green manufacturing can bring to the society. In particular, the opportunities for job creation and local development as well as the skills and competencies were the main topics of discussion during the second plenary session.

In the afternoon, some parallel workshops were foreseen where citizens directly interacted with different stakeholders (NGOs, companies, other modular projects, etc.) discussing about green manufacturing from different perspectives including:

- Green entrepreneurship and innovative ideas
- Urban waste management and strategy
- Innovation public procurement for green manufacturing
- Reducing carbon footprint of food manufacturers



Interreg Mediterranean Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
 GREENOMED
"Green manufacturing: Opportunities, challenges and impacts on citizens' lives"
 7th of March 2018
 Thessaloniki
 Aristotle University
 Research Development
 Centre

09.00 – 09.30 Registration
09.30 – 10.15 Opening session
 Green manufacturing and sustainability in the Region of Central Macedonia *Mr. Anastasios Gioufokas (Vice-Governor of Development and Environment of Region of Central Macedonia)*
 MED programme - promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth *Ms. Evangelia Vidali (MED programme - Greek National Contact Point)*
 GREENOMED: Mediterranean trans-regional cooperation for Green manufacturing innovation *Mr. Giacomo Copani (ITA - CNR)*
 The importance of creating a "green industrial cluster" in the Region of Central Macedonia: current situation and future prospects *Prof. George Zafiris (I-BEC)*

10.15 – 11.30 Plenary session 1
Circular economy and green manufacturing for a better quality of life
 Circular economy: How to close the loop? *Mr. Kyriakos Liotakis (President of Greek International Business Association)*
 Role of manufacturing in sustainability and its impacts on everyday life *Ms. Konstantinos Karapouras (FLUREDA)*
 Companies challenges for green manufacturing *Ms. Galina Pevkubalshina (ITA - CNR)*
 Green technologies for smart cities: enriching LEED-ND sustainability principles *Prof. Nicos Karamiras (GREENO Research, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)*

12.00 – 13.15 Plenary session 2
Green manufacturing: social and economic impacts
 Green Manufacturing and Smart Specialization Strategy *Mr. Constantinos Michaelides (Independent Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support of Region of Central Macedonia)*
 Green manufacturing and urban waste management in the European Regions *Mr. Michalis Genova (President of Regional Association of Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia, FODSA)*
 Green jobs: Opportunities for job creation and local development *Mr. Athanasios Savvakis (President of Federation of industries of Northern Greece, SBBG)*
 Skills and distinctive competencies for circular economy and green manufacturing *Mr. Dimitris Stefanidis (FranklinCovey)*

13.15 – 14.15 Networking lunch
14.15 – 15.45 Parallel sessions
 Green entrepreneurship and innovative ideas *Mr. Panagiotis Koutoulas (Institute of Entrepreneurship Development)*
 How to engage citizens in innovative circular economy policies? *Ms. Isabelle Rivreau (INTERREG MED SHINGO Horizontal project, Fondation Ecosystem)*
 Improving the environmental performance of the Hellenic Food Industry *Ms. Fotini Saita (Federation of Hellenic Food Industry)*
 Innovation Procurements: benefit and opportunities for citizens, enterprises and public authorities: The experience of PROMINENTMED project *Mr. Digeni Moutafis (Shilappambirta SPA)*

Prominent MED project manager presented the project experience through an intervention titled *“Innovation Procurements: benefit and opportunities for citizens, enterprises and public authorities: The experience of PROMINENT MED project”*, underlining how public procurements of innovation can improve the quality of services offered to citizens by a small MED local authority through a qualified dialogue with enterprises and SMEs.

Portugal

WEAR Sustain (Wearable technologists Engage with Artists for Responsible innovation) open call

On December 6 and 7th, 2017 was held in Guimarães, Portugal, the WEAR Sustain (Wearable technologists Engage with Artists for Responsible innovation) open call event.

The event aimed to involve the co-design and co-development of a new generation of wearable technologies and smart textiles in order to influence change in the industry in the context of the circular economy. Thus, the project aimed to bring together artists, designers and professionals of the textile industry with engineers and programmers who, in partnership, address this challenge in order to reach their potential for success.

The launching session introduced the project to all participants, followed by a framework of what is the reality, activity and importance of the textile industry in Guimarães. The event also provided sessions of co-work, co-thinking and co-development between artists/designers and engineers/technologists with the aim of reaching innovative and sustainable wearables.

IrRADIARE participated in one of these sessions presenting the Prominent MED project and the added value of public procurement for innovation and the way to introduce PPI in new processes namely the added value in what regards new technologies.

The event was an opportunity to convey the idea and values of co-working, knowledge sharing and innovation and also to look towards the future of cooperation. Also, several contacts have been made.



Interreg MED ADVOCACY BOOTCAMP

On June 28th and 29th, 2018 was held in Faro, Portugal, the Interreg MED ADVOCACY BOOTCAMP event. This BOOTCAMP, organized by Interreg Med and Interreg SUDOE programmes was composed by 2 days, 3 trainers, 5 testimonials, 70 participants and aimed to train the participants on communication and lobbying, in order to support approved projects in their promotion and capitalisation actions.

During two days, participants benefited from practical training on strategy, political influence, storytelling and digital communication; partners and professionals' testimonials from different perspectives complemented the trainers.

IrRADIARE participated in the 2 days BOOTCAMP. The event was an opportunity to communication partners to learn about new tools of communication and to share knowledge.



MED for YOU: Unfolding a strong narrative for policy change

On **October 24th, 2019** was held in Athens, Greece the MED for YOU: Unfolding a strong narrative for policy change event. The event aimed to present the first evidences in what regards the MED Programme successful cooperation approach.

In MED for YOU event it was revealed how Interreg MED unique architecture has taken shape and produced concrete results thus demonstrating its added value.

Several stakeholders were present at the event and presented their feedback in what regards the achieved results, made them theirs and integrated them in their policies, strategies, etc.

The results were presented in a way directly linked to the topics on the European Commission agenda but also to the objectives of the European cohesion policy.

After the first act, participants had the chance to get behind the project scenes and see a photo exhibition.

The second act of the event was dedicated to a debate on post 2020 and the added value of European territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The event was an opportunity to communication partners to learn about the programme results and to share knowledge and also to look towards the future of cooperation. Also, several contacts have been made during the event.



Other events

Moving from Green Public Procurement (GPP) to Public Procurement Innovation (PPI): The Sustainability path

Held in Bastia, France on October 26th 2018, this was an event organized together with GRAPINNO MED project in order to exchange experience, to activate synergies and to build a sustainable network for procurement in MED region together.

For each project, partners briefly presented the state of the art of project activities and their specific pilot case underlying the approach followed to identify similarities, challenges, opportunities and potential problems.



This day was a good opportunity to establish a connection also with the Green Growth MED community, beyond the one already established with the belonging community Social and Creative.



International Conference: Creating policy instruments for the support of innovation procurement

Held at European Parliament (room A5E3), **Brussels on February 5th 2020**, within the 11th European Innovation Summit, the conference was hosted under the auspices of the MEP Ms Sunčana Glavak and partner organisations, Regional Energy Agency North, City of Koprivnica, Sviluppumbria and Be.Funded.

The conference brought together policymakers, national and regional representatives in charge of national/regional policy instruments for support of PPI, EU networks/agencies in the field of innovation procurement, public authorities, representatives of the Prominent MED project partner countries (Portugal, France, Italy, Spain and Croatia) with the aim of supporting the use of public procurement of innovation.

The event took place during the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU so this was the opportunity to hear about the priorities of Croatia's presidency related to this topic and innovation in general.

The aim of the conference was to help policymakers, public authorities and other stakeholders to recognize and later use the power of innovation procurement.

Participants of the conference coming from MED countries and the rest of EU had the opportunity to learn more about importance of policy instruments supporting innovation procurement. The keynote speech was delivered by Marzena Rogalska, Director Public Procurement, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission.

Main highlights:

- ❖ "Every year, public authorities in the European Union spend about 14% of GDP on public procurement, which shows a huge potential that can be directed to development in a number of sectors, help boost future markets and address key societal challenges," said MP Glavak.
- ❖ It was pointed out at the conference that creating a strong and stable demand for innovative solutions through public procurement can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, help with new challenges, meet the needs for solutions not currently available on the market, and stimulate a new market for innovative solutions. companies to achieve economies of scale for business growth.
- ❖ Innovation is one of the key instruments in the fight against climate change. Project partner's countries are committed to providing funding for certain priorities and challenges in the next financial framework, within which both innovation and policy instruments related to public procurement of innovation should find their place in future programs.
- ❖ Some positive examples of public procurement of innovation at European, national and local levels were presented on the conference.
- ❖ Innovation is a key driver for Europe's sustained growth, protection of values and making transitions towards a carbon free and highly digitised society, for business and citizens. The EU efforts and programmes need to move well beyond the 'business as usual' to delivering real pan-European and global impact.
- ❖ Innovation procurement is one of policy instruments aiming to support innovation in regions but to use its potential regions need to combine it with other instruments. Building a sustainable ecosystem that will include both supply and demand side should be a long-term policy that will harvest the potential of innovation procurement.



Conclusions

All the activities listed above contributed to enlarge the dissemination of Prominent project results and to maximize the project impact. When the project started, partners had no competences or skills in public procurement of innovation, then thanks to the support of external qualified experts and to the participation of several events in this field of application, all the partners increased their knowledge in the matter, achieving important results at local, national and transnational level.

Prominent MED gave the possibility to small municipalities in the MED area to make the difference, implementing something new and innovative with a high potential of replicability in other territories of MED area and beyond. Building synergies, sharing expertise and best practices with similar initiatives and projects, was a key element to achieve project main objectives.