



B1 Sustainable Construction

Barriers and opportunities for sustainable public procurement in building construction.

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Executive Summary of your Abstract

Abstract

This presentation will brief the audience on the topic of procurement of sustainable buildings and at the same time present the outcome of our Green Procurement Laboratory we held in Paris. A recent workshop we organised last December on Sustainable Buildings confirmed that local authorities in the EU are still not up to speed with regards to procurement of sustainable buildings and public display of energy certification. This is because of lack of public officer training and lack of bids from skilled building professionals. Addressing this shortcoming is even more pressing now, given the stringent requirements set by the recent recast of the EU Buildings Directive that hints public authorities should lead by example in procuring sustainable buildings, as this could help change people's behaviour in occupying more efficient buildings themselves. On top of this, we learnt that a wide range of financial instruments (using revolving funds with performance contracting) to overcome the initial investments of local authorities are already in place in some EU member States but maximisation of their impact is needed, as well as prioritisation among the different instruments and capacity building, particularly at local level and among public authorities. For instance, "Urban Development Funds" already exist in some EU regions that are to collect public and private investments for retrofitting the existing building stock and initiatives like the Covenant of Mayors are recommending the greater deployment of these instruments.

Resumé

Marco is an independent consultant holding several years experience in strategic communication, trans-national project management and policy advising with extensive knowledge of energy and transport, climate change and sustainability issues. Some of his main clients include European Partners for the Environment and Greenovate! Europe. During his career, he advised European industry federations and other multinational clients on sustainable reporting, above all on the greening of the value chain in a life cycle perspective and sustainable production and consumption. He carried out rigorous impact assessments in relation to relevant social, economic and environmental issues related to company operations and business models. He designed pan-European public affairs campaigns on energy efficient technologies and sustainable construction for companies and public authorities.

Besides, Marco is an experienced analyst of CSR tools and sustainable marketing for business and is occasionally a public speaker of European climate governance systems and capacity building between companies and civil society. Privately he is also a pro-bono adviser to some Brussels based NGOs and is a donor of “E-Law” (Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide).

He is an active member of DG Enterprise “Stakeholder Group on Competitiveness of Energy Intensive Industries in a Carbon Constrained Europe” and of the “Association of Certified Green Technology Auditors”. He is in charge of mission and rapporteur of the “European Platform on Finance & Eco-Innovation” and of the “Resource Efficiency Alliance”.

Recommended reading:

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Conference organisers: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the City of Reykjavik

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