PORTraits
ETHICAL PROCUREMENT OF ICT

CITY OF HELSINKI, FINLAND

CREATED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ETHICAL PROCUREMENT OF ICT
ABOUT

The city of Helsinki procures ICT for about 40,000 employees. The ICT department together with centralized procurement department are responsible for the procurement. The City buys about 20,000 laptops, 6000-7000 phones and 5000 tablets every year.

Whilst working on a new Procurement Strategy, Helsinki builds up experience and knowledge on how to procure fair ICT. Helsinki is also a signatory of the Joint Statement of Demand for Circular, Fair Smartphones.

"This exchange with European IT procurers helped us getting insights on labels other than TCO Certified, as we did not have enough expertise on their use". Mia Malin, City of Helsinki

APPROACH

The Procurement Strategy provides a strong basis for ethical procurement of IT. Helsinki leverages several stages of the procurement cycle for social aspects such as Preliminary market consultation, Inter-organisational planning and strategy, Needs and Specification Assessment.

Particularly, careful market discussions, needs assessment, desk research and announcement of intentions towards ethical aspects in upcoming procurements are effective tools Helsinki already has in place to promote ethical IT procurement. For example, Helsinki co-hosted the Nordic Forum for Market Dialogue towards fair, circular smartphones with other Nordic buyers.

In upcoming tenders, social aspects should be included better through Selection and Exclusion criteria, Contract conditions, Labelling, Electronics Watch Affiliation or other third party verification.

MARKET DIALOGUE

CHALLENGES
- There is a limited market for TCO Certified products

RECOMMENDATIONS
- host joint market dialogue events
- collaborate with resellers as well as suppliers
- link social aspects to lifecycle thinking
- create a wider engagement around a dialogue event
- learn from other public buyers on how to create a dialogue event

ACTION

We are currently planning a new tender for ICT equipment in 2022. We see this as an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with the industry.

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