



## **B3 National Action Plans - Examining how national governments in the old EU-15 are promoting sustainable procurement and how transferable these approaches might be**

### **Implementing the Norwegian Sustainable Public Procurement National Action Plan**

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**Organisation :** Norwegian Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

**Short description:** Norway has about 5 mill. inhabitants and a public procurement budget of about € 40 billion

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### **Executive Summary of your Abstract**

Implementation of Norwegian Action plan is being coordinated by Difi. This presentation will give an overview of goals defined, strategies chosen, current status and challenges.

### **Abstract**

An increased focus on sustainable public procurement (SPP) is seen in Norway at present. The strong political signals, administrative measures and concrete resource allocation to the regional level are expected to give a real boost to the work on SPP in Norway.

The overall increased focus in Norway on sustainable procurement has led to the establishment of a set of administrative initiatives implementing SPP.

The first of these is the national action plan which was launched in June 2007 and will be operational until 2010, being mandatory for the state sector, but local governments are also requested to implement it. The national plan sets up procurement policy for the state sector pointing out specific product groups, similar to the groups chosen in the EU regime. Environmental criteria have been developed for these product groups. Pilot-testing of the criteria on hotel, in a real-life tender executed by Bærum municipality may be presented at the conference. Other support tools such as lifecycle cost tools and evaluation tools have also been developed, and these will act together with an overall focus on professionalising the procurement function.

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

[www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009](http://www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009)

The second initiative is the establishment of a new agency in January 2008 in order to boost efficiency and quality in the public sector in Norway; Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi). The Ministry of the Environment finances four full time positions focusing on GPP, and the GPP focus is given high priority. The main tasks are the development of GPP tools, networks and communication channels, as well as limited concrete one-to-one advice in concrete procurements and the coordination of a nationwide advisory function. The work on SPP is integrated with the general procurement development work of the department, such as eProcurement, electronic sourcing tools and procurement strategy. Support to the individual procurer in putting the tools into practice is also provided.

The third initiative is establishment of a nationwide advisory network comprising 18 advisors, financed by the Ministry of the Environment. The first 6 are being established now and will be active until 2011. The remaining 12 will then follow in the autumn of 2009, and be active until 2012. .

## **Resumé**

In 1991, Martin Standley established and lead "Green Management": a government financed programme to help business take advantage of opportunities in the Green Market. This became a government foundation "GRIP" in 1995 which he directed until 1998, before continuing as advisor on Sustainable Development projects and focussing gradually in on Green Public Procurement. He was secretary for the Norwegian Public Procurement Panel in 2007 and 2008 and then joined the Public Procurement department in Difi as Environmental Advisor where he now works on implementing the National Action Plan. Martin Standley has also participated in the UN Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement.