



Hosting the 12th Procura+ Conference in 2027

Call for submission of bids

July 2025

Cities, regional governments and national governments are invited to express their interest in hosting the 12th Procura+ conference (formerly EcoProcura) on sustainable public procurement (SPP) and innovation procurement (IP) planned for 2027.

A timeframe for bidding is detailed at the end of this document.

The Procura+ conference series

Procura+ is the only international conference to provide a platform for exchange and dialogue amongst purchasers from all levels of governments, suppliers and policy-makers on strategies and latest practical solutions for implementing SPP and IP.

Procura+ conferences seek to generate greater awareness, motivate and encourage people, both from a practical and policy perspective, to move forward on the issue of SPP and IP at the local, national, European and international level. The conference series thereby contributes to the mainstreaming and development of SPP and IP.

The conference usually lasts for up to two and a half days and allows for pre and side-events to take place. It can be combined with national initiatives, projects, and product exhibitions/trade fairs related to SPP and IP. Procura+ conferences provide the ideal opportunity for the host to promote its own SPP and IP activities to a wide audience interested and specialised in these topics.

The 12th Procura+ Conference will build on the success of a series of Procura+ Conferences held in Hannover 1998, Bilbao 1999, Lyon 2000, Brussels 2001, Göteborg 2003, Barcelona 2006, Reykjavik 2009, Malmö 2012, Ghent 2014, Nijmegen 2018 and Lisbon 2024.

For information on the Procura+ Conference series, please visit:

<https://procuraplus.org/events>

Background and purpose

Much has changed in two decades since the first Procura+ conference. SPP and IP have continued to develop and spread amongst public authorities both in Europe and the rest of the world, so that they now form an integral part of procurement policy in many countries. SPP and IP have also grown in scope and in depth, as the knowledge and techniques developed by frontrunners have been disseminated and standards raised. However, progress towards more SPP and IP has not been straightforward. The economic downturn has severely limited government budgets in many countries and the resources, along with the political will, to implement SPP and IP have come under pressure.

There is general consensus that the pressing issues facing society today require public authorities to work with the market to develop sustainable and innovative solutions. There is a pressing demand for sound financial management and efficient spending of public money, as



well as an urgent need to establish a clear understanding of how to incorporate sustainability issues into the procurement legislative and implementation framework. While some governments have experienced the cost savings and competitive advantages associated with SPP and IP, work remains to be done to demonstrate its benefits to others and to consolidate the progress that has already been made.

In late 2024 it was announced that the European Commission would evaluate the effectiveness of the 2014 public procurement directives, with a view to potentially updating them. After a call for evidence in March 2025, the results are still being analysed but even now there is an increasing focus on the directives that govern public procurement, the changes that could be made, and the role that strategic public procurement plays in society, including acting as key driver for a just transition. Despite this, public procurers still need to operate in the current context and have relevant good practice and tools and tricks that others can benefit from.

Initial ideas for the focus of the conference are (non-exclusive):

- Revision of the Public Procurement Directives.
- Presenting the current situation with regard to SPP and IP at the global, European, national and local level.
- The potential for regional collaboration and networking.
- Procurement and the latest policy agendas - social inclusion, competitiveness, smart cities, circular economy, creating growth and jobs.
- The importance of leadership and management in SPP and IP.
- An overview of socially responsible public procurement and latest good practice.
- Professionalising SPP and IP - improving knowledge and developing better techniques for procurers.
- The power of market intelligence and engagement - developing a more cooperative relationship with business.

The outcomes of the conference will support public authorities in implementing SPP and IP and will be used to inform policy processes at the local, national, European and international level.

Roles and Cooperation

ICLEI will lead the development of the 12th Procura+ conference in close cooperation with the host city.

ICLEI has been working on conference organisation for almost three decades and will therefore provide strong and valuable planning and implementation experience to the host.

Tasks and responsibilities will be shared between ICLEI, the host and potential further partners, based on an agreed share of tasks.

The host is responsible for securing the financial framework (see below) including contributions from third parties. The host is also asked to organise with appropriate



administrative means the local conference management and logistics as well as the social programme. In its bid, the successful host will clearly demonstrate its overall capacity. This will include provision of a suitable venue, linguistic abilities and organisational skills to deliver the conference in cooperation with ICLEI.

Budget

Procura+ conferences can only take place with the generous support of the host city or organisation. The host should therefore take responsibility for securing funding through their own efforts. Funding sources may come from a variety of local, regional, and national organisations from the public and private sector. In several cases in the past it was possible to also obtain support from the host region and/or national government.

There are two key budget categories. One for strategy, programme development, speakers, marketing and participant management (to be covered by the host and managed by ICLEI): approximately 150,000 Euro. The other category is for local services, venue, catering, translation, study visits, etc. to be covered and managed by the host.

ICLEI is interested and willing to cooperate in designing special programme elements to attract sponsorship such as product exhibitions, display areas, business fora etc.

Participants

The Procura+ Conferences showcase successful examples from European and international public authorities. They enable 250-350 participants from over 30 countries to interact and share their vision, knowledge and analysis of the latest solutions on sustainable and innovation procurement. This includes purchasers from local governments, regional and national governments and other national, European and international institutions as well as businesses representatives and policy-makers.

The conference participation fee will be agreed upon between the organising partners and will constitute part of the income to cover costs. Subject to available funding.

Programme

The programme will be developed under the coordination of ICLEI. The latest developments in the area of SPP and IP will be reflected in the programme.

English will be the main language during the conference. Simultaneous interpretation into other languages for plenary sessions and at least one programme line during the entire conference is possible if requested by the host.



Indicative Timeline for the Bidding Procedure

31 October 2025	Deadline for submission of bids
November 2025	Decision on host city
November-December 2025	Contract finalisation
January 2026	Start of conference preparations

Bidding Package

For interested host cities, a bidding package will be available, including conference requirements and budget categories

Further information and to submit your bidding package:

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For further information on ICLEI's Sustainable Economy and Procurement activities and events, please visit:

www.procuraplus.org

www.sustainable-procurement.org