

D.3.3 Final report on Best Practice Procurement Policy with energy efficiency clause *User friendly version*

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DESCRIPTION

The building sector offers a large untapped potential for cost-effective energy and carbon savings. However, to successfully decarbonise Europe's building stock, middle- and senior-level building professionals as well as trade professionals must upskill in sustainable energy-efficient construction.

As the largest single consumer in the EU economy, the public sector can use its purchasing power to influence the market. In particular, Green Public Procurement (GPP) can stimulate the provision of more resource-efficient, less polluting goods, services and works within the marketplace. One of the main objectives of the BUSLeague project was to explore how public procurement could be better used to incentivise energy efficiency upskilling and improve quality of work.

This report presents some examples and best practice of how public procurement can be used to incentivise energy efficiency upskilling in the construction industry, including methodologies tested as part of BUSLeague. It covers both indirect and direct ways to incentivise upskilling through public procurement, and highlights the importance of policy, as well as high-quality guidance documents and templates.

Best practices cover in the report are:

- Indirect use of public procurement to incentivise upskilling:
 - Social Return on Investment Obligation – Netherlands
 - Social Culture Ladder – Netherlands
 - CO2 Performance Ladder – Netherlands
 - Introducing highly ambitious air-tightness standards as part of public procurement – Austria
 - Introducing higher building quality standards as part of public procurement - Netherlands
- Direct use of public procurement to incentivise upskilling:
 - Energy efficiency training clause pilots in Bulgaria, France and Ireland
 - Train4Sustain programme
- The role of policy (Ireland) and high-quality guidance documents (Spain)

By presenting successful case studies, that are fully compliant with EU tendering rules, it is hoped that this document will inspire public bodies across Europe to use these tools to drive upskilling. This is critical as labour and skills shortages represent one of the main risks to the successful decarbonisation of buildings across the continent.

Building upon the feedback received as part of the pilot programme, the document includes key recommendations for public bodies and policy makers who may be interested in using public procurement to incentivise upskilling.



MORE INFORMATION

The full version of this deliverable can be found on the BUSLeague project website at the following link: <https://busleague.eu/outcomes/>

OTHER PICTURES

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Public procurement can be used to incentivise energy efficiency upskilling both directly (e.g., through energy efficiency training clauses) and indirectly (e.g., by introducing higher quality standards).

New requirements must be developed in close cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders, including industry. Public bodies must be **fully transparent** about the process.

Given the additional work associated with the introduction of additional requirements, energy-efficiency training clauses are **typically used for ambitious projects** (often going beyond minimum building regulations) over a certain size (€).

Additional requirements should initially be piloted on some specific projects. However, overtime the same rules should apply to all projects in a region/country to ensure consistency. This is key as labour shortages are an issue across Europe.

High quality templates and guidance documents are critical and should be made available to public bodies willing to use public procurement to incentivise upskilling.

Onsite training is usually well received by building professionals and trades working on a project. It also allows them to gain a better understanding of how their work connect with the work of other building professionals and construction workers.

Fig. 1: Key recommendations for public bodies and policy makers developed as part of the BUSLeague programme.





Fig. 2: Onsite upskilling at St Bricins, Dublin County Council, Ireland



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