

Five EU cities gather under the CEPPI project to look for innovative energy solutions

Freiburg, Germany, June 2015 – Birmingham (UK), Budapest (Hungary), Castellón & Valencia (Spain) and Wrocław (Poland) have joined efforts to look for more sustainable energy solutions through a pro-innovation procurement approach. Under the umbrella of the EU-funded CEPPI (Coordinated energy-related PPIs actions for cities) project, these five cities will demonstrate that by selectively intervening in scheduled public tenders, energy consumption can be reduced and, consequently, GHG emissions decreased. The goal of this 3-year project is to save at least 33GWh/year and to boost market transformation towards more sustainable energy products, building and services.

To achieve the objectives, several actions will be taken: procurement officers will be trained, public procurement of innovation tenders with energy efficiency specifications will be launched, and suppliers will be invited to engage dialogue with public authorities to analyse which innovative solutions can be applied.

Launched on 1st April 2015, the project will start with a baseline study of each city to identify both the energy performance benchmarks and the forthcoming public tenders that provide an opportunity to achieve the pro-innovation procurement and energy-saving goals.

A total of 80 public procurers will be introduced to Public Procurement of Innovation methods so that they start using procurement as a strategic tool to enable their cities to be more demanding about their future needs. By shifting from lowest price tenders to eco-innovative tenders that take life cycle costs into consideration, the innovation sector will be stimulated. Cities are intense users of energy, so they become an important lead market with a level of influence within supply chains that goes beyond their own operations and budgets.

The CEPPI Cities aspire to move to a long-term win-win-win scenario that will benefit governments, suppliers and society. Furthermore, they intend to adopt a leadership role in their regions, as well as to create a framework that can be replicated by other cities. Networking events will be held to further this aim and the [Procurement Forum](#), a dedicated online networking space for procurement professionals, will be used as a meeting point for relevant actors in the field. All lessons learned throughout the project will be compiled in a publication titled 'PPI Guide for Low Energy Cities'.

The CEPPI project is funded within the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the EU. The project is coordinated by Birmingham City Council, in partnership with Budapest City Council, the Municipality of Castellón, Valencia InnDEA, Wrocławskie Centrum Badan EIT+, JERA Consulting (UK), Optimat (UK), Steinbeis-Transferzentrum EGS (Germany), and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

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