

XPRESS CASE STUDIES ON BARRIERS TO INVESTMENTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES – ITALY –

This case is based on an interview with a public employee in a large city in Italy, and it is based on a procurement of photovoltaic roof in school buildings in a province in Italy, the total value is more than 20 million euros (excluding VAT). This procurement is not selected; it is referred by the interviewee during the interview

This city historically follows an ambitious environmental and climate policy starting the Green Public Procurement process in 2003 in collaboration with the Regional Environmental Protection Agency. It has elaborated over the last years several Action Plans for GPP, the first one dating back to 2008. The interviewee has been active in and responsible for the process for the last decade or so and is well informed on the subject. The tender she refers to goes back to 2009 and at the time was an important best practice. In the meantime, the Provinces and the newly formed Metropolitan Cities have lost many of their functions and financial resources and thus while their own procurement policies continue to be important, they play mainly an important role in giving guidance to the cities and towns in their territories.

Analysis of the current situation

This city has been active in Green Procurement, elaborating periodically an Action Plan for GPP. It is continuing with the implementation of the current Green Procurement Action Plan, elaborating at the same time a new version in order to include products and services not regulated to date by the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) approved by the Minister of the Environment, as is already the case for car maintenance (oil and tire change).

Moreover, in October 2019, by decree of its mayor, the city joined the Plastic Free initiative, appointing at the same time the Green Manager to implement this measure and ensure the harmonization of current and future sustainable development and environmental sustainability activities.

In relation to the energy-related strategy, the city participates in several European projects focused on energy efficiency in public buildings.

a. Public procurement strategy

In 2008, the Provincial Council decided to implement the Green Procurement policy within its own body and in the Municipalities of the metropolitan area and to start the process for the drafting of the Action Plan.



In relation to RES related procurement, for electric vehicles the city will use CONSIP (central purchases of the Italian public administration) conventions, if they exist, or in any case use the Public Administrations' electronic market, which it is obliged to do. For solar panels no purchases are planned as the roofs are already saturated.

b. PP & supplier engagement

In relation to a strategy for dialogue with suppliers in the pre-tender phase, the interviewee refers that at present there are no process of dialogue with suppliers in place.

The Ministry of the Environment in the drafting of the Minimal Environmental Criteria CAM of each single product, service or work sets up a discussion table with the companies in order to prepare them and create an adequate answer to the demand.

c. PP & SME

Related to a strategy for more SME engagement in public procurement, the city has established a list in the "Albo Lavori Pubblici" section of the Tender Portal where qualified economic operators can register. This list is to be used for the awarding of works, other than open or restricted procedures, for an amount of less than 1,000,000 euros, carried out by the city, also in its capacity as central contractor.

Barriers and drivers

- Potential barriers for SMEs to participate in public purchases are the administrative burdens linked to the preparation of the bid and the "oversize" lots of the tenders. In addition, a long duration of contracts reduces competition.
- Success factors for SMEs to be suppliers of the municipality, wherever possible, are procedures through direct award or inviting a defined number of suppliers that streamlines the procedure and SMEs have a better chance of success.

Summary and Discussions

Public bodies like this large city which have qualified personnel and in the present case is of good ecological will, should be stimulated to follow innovative procedures through targeted advice on how to do introduce them into their daily functioning. Equally important would be to support them in their communication with the cities and towns of their territory since they have an important role of guidance.

