Sustainable public procurement strategy within Shifting Economy – Brussels Region

19/03/2024
SHIFTING ECONOMY

19/03/2024
Shifting Economy: an economic policy for all economic actors

• Target audience = « Economic actors » in the broad sense, meaning any entity, regardless of its legal form, engaging in economic activity » (définition EXPA)

• Ambitions (4):

1. Align economic policies with the climate, social, and environmental objectives of the Brussels Region
2. Develop a supportive and progressive framework for Brussels-based economic actors to excel in social and environmental responsibility
3. Contribute to creating quality employment in Brussels
4. Present an action plan to achieve these ambitions
Shifting Economy: toward carbon neutrality in 2050

At the heart of the strategy: progressiveness and inclusivity

2024
Extra financial assistance for companies undergoing a transition process

2030
Exclusif access to public financial aid for Exemplary businesses

2050
Carbon neutrality has been achieved. The economy is decarbonized, regenerative, circular, social, democratic, and digital.
A transition strategy serving all businesses

An offer of public support that is clear and accessible to all businesses, regardless of their level of maturity in terms of transition

- Funding
- Guidance
- Business hosting
- Innovation journeys
- Sustainable public procurement
- Social economy company
Shifting Economy - Sustainable and innovative public procurement strategy (SIPP)
Shifting Economy – SIPP

Sustainable public procurement as a lever for transition

Public procurement represents a significant economic opportunity in Belgium

The Brussels public sector represents approximately 14% of the GDP of the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR).

It plays an extremely important role as a strategic tool of public policy to achieve societal, economic, and environmental transition objectives.

To make public procurement more sustainable, it is necessary to simultaneously:

- Assist public administrations in drafting sustainable specifications that are tailored to real-world conditions.
- Support businesses in their efforts to meet the demand.
Shifting Economy – SIPP

Key challenges – Contracting Authorities

➢ Lack of knowledge of sustainable criteria, circular economy in general, and local circular actors in particular. The risk ranges from non-integration of criteria to too strict integration that does not take into account the market’s ability to respond.

➢ The apprehension of additional costs induced by sustainability criteria (or by innovation);

➢ The role, capacities, and posture of the buyer are also determining factors;

➢ The complexity and legal admissibility of sustainable and/or pro-SME clauses in PP represent a notorious obstacle that requires technical, legal, and economic assistance and the establishment of purchasing centers.
Key challenges – Tendering companies

➢ Lack of knowledge of available offers and rules/procedures to follow.
➢ Apprehension of administrative burdens associated with PP, which covers several aspects:
  • Fear of the time required for administrative tasks;
  • Fear of possible fines;
  • Uncertainty about the starting and completion schedule;
➢ Cash flow risks (in case of payments at 60 or 90 days).
➢ For Brussels SMEs active in sustainability:
  • Requirement of significant turnover
  • Poor integration of sustainability criteria into specifications; little weight given to the recognition of environmental approach in contract award. Price remains the primary element.
  • Non-consultation of regional local service providers.
Shifting Economy – SIPP

Priority measures of the SIPP strategy

- The implementation of a **sustainable public procurement monitoring system** in Brussels (MPDI3);
- The provision of a **sustainable public procurement facilitator** to support public buyers and more broadly regional and local public bodies in Brussels (MPDI4);
- The **development of clauses** and control tools to be included in the specifications (MPDI7);
- **Promotion of the accessibility of public procurement** for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Brussels (MPDI12).
- The overall coordination of the strategy: **governance carried out through the coordination cell**, and the translation of the objectives of regional environmental plans into actions (MPDI1).
Supporting program for sustainable public procurement – Brussels Environnement
Program for supporting sustainable public procurement

**SPP Facilitator services**

- Helpdesk « greenprocurement »: Free advice on call or through e-mail;
- 10 free training sessions/year on the topic of sustainable public procurement;
- 2 meet your buyer events / year

**More tools**

- Quarterly Newsletter: [Subscribe](#)!
- Provision of:
  - Training materials;
  - Standard tender documents;
  - Best practice guides

Website [Brussels Environnement](#)