



Deliverable

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E2 Green Procurement Mechanism

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Summary

The objective of this procurement mechanism is to set out some of the criteria that should be included when buying a product or contracting a service for any of the project's actions. A way of harming the environment in the least possible way should be taken into consideration not only by public entities but also by private ones. Asking for more and more environmentally friendly products and services is a way to innovate for the providers of the ones mentioned previously since nowadays we are living in a world where we want to even take advantage of wastes. It is important to mention that this procurement mechanism is not mandatory to be used by any of the partners of the consortium, but it is advisable for them to apply some of the green procurement criteria throughout the project duration.

Introduction

The AgRemSO₃il project is designed to develop and tune at farm scale a new technology and its associated techniques for the agrochemical remediation of farm soils by combining solarization and ozonation in situ. Thus, the innovation involves technological applications (new equipment) and the methods used (advanced oxidation processes as ozonation and H₂O₂; or solarization). Based on what was mentioned previously, it is very important stakeholder engagement in this mechanism when buying and contracting services throughout the project's duration like travel and external assistance services, and durable goods and consumables to be acquired for the construction of the prototype.

The aim of this document is to set up the criteria to manage in a proper way the tendering procedures based on certain aspects that the manufacturers of products/services should consider in order to be considered as a potential supplier of goods and services. During the project's lifetime, market needs, or interests of potential stakeholders may change, results that were not foreseen in the planning phase can develop, or any other number of unknown variables can come up, that require a close review and regular updates/adjustments of aspects or criteria that was not initially taken into account in this mechanism.

1. What is Green Procurement?

It refers to the purchase of services and products that will have minimal environmental impact when compared to others that would perform the same function. It gives priority to companies that work constantly in lowering their impact on the environment, by manufacturing, as stated previously, services and products with a lower environmental impact. Usually this type of procurement is a process which is typically associated to the public sector, since they are major consumers of services and products throughout Europe, and they are the ones that can shape the way other institutions perceive this type of procurement as a better way to take better care of the environment. With the stated previously, it can be said that a Green purchasing mechanism can be applied to the private sector as well, which at the same time would incentivize the industry to respond to environmentally friendly goods (bigger audience: public and private) demanding these types of products and/or services.

Green procurement in the public sector can be seen as a major driver for innovation around Europe, because in a way, it can provide industry with incentives for developing products that are less harmful for the environment. Therefore, it is important to create a mechanism that includes standards for the procurement selection and award criteria when purchasing goods and services. A procurement mechanism that can be taken into account by the beneficiaries when purchasing goods and services for developing the activities of the project in which they are involved. It is important to mention that this Green Procurement Mechanism is a document for the Consortium's consultation. It was created to make procurement decisions that will enhance the environmental performance, but it is not in any way a mandatory document that the beneficiaries of the project need to follow when buying products or services. Each company has its own internal procedures to buy these two, and it is advisable to take into account some of the principles that will be mentioned in this document. All the principles will be applied directly to the project's areas related to products and services.

2. Green Procurement Mechanism

The Green Procurement Mechanism (GPM), differs from the traditional mechanism, where price and quality are what matter, because this one takes into account specific standards that help the institutions in selecting suppliers of products and services that have a lower impact on the environment. It is important to mention that when buying a product or service, the supplier should be able to give you all the necessary information so that you can make a fair assessment based on facts/proof, rather than on assumptions about these two. This mechanism should consider material acquisition, production, packaging, distribution, maintenance and disposal of the product and packaging.

The objectives of this procurement mechanism are to influence in:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduction in energy consumption.
- Reduction in water use.
- Reduction in waste.
- Improve public and private companies' green policies.
- Reduction of hazardous substances.
- Encouragement to use recycled materials.
- Control over the pollution in the air, water and soil.

The key areas in which this report will focus will be basically 4:

2.1 Travel:

Throughout the duration of the project there are several trips planned in order to perform actions related to the project like Dissemination events, Attendance to events and Congresses, Project management, and demonstration activities. All the ones stated previously will be done at a national level, others at EU level, and one activity at international level.

The type of service to be contracted should be the one taking into account Green Procurement measures in which the environmental factor is taken into account; by this it is understood that the services should hurt the environment in the least possible way. Performing teleconference meetings is a good way of reducing the environmental impact, but sometimes it is not possible to perform an activity at a distance so this is why trips to different places must be done in order to be sure that the activities, like the ones mentioned previously, are carried in a correct way.

2.2 External Assistance:

Throughout the project there will be several activities that will be sub-contracted, like for example some genomic analysis, organization of conferences, workshops, demonstration activities, and dissemination activities.

The type of searched services should be contracted taking into account some factors related to Green Procurement like:

- the types of materials/products used to provide the service (environmentally friendly)
- the expertise and qualification of the personnel to carry out the activities in an environmentally friendly way
- water consumed during the provision of the service
- waste generated while carrying out the service.

In this sense it is not only important to take into account that the service or product you will be sub-contracting is less harmful for the environment, but also, you will need to take into account the internal green rules that the company applied when manufacturing the product or delivering the service, the way the manufacturing company manages waste during the production cycle, the package materials used, the type of energy used during all the processes, like renewable energy, and other factors that can help you in making the best decision for your company and the environment.

2.3 Durable Goods:

During the project there will be a prototype that will be built with several components, like generators, tanks, structure and supports, filtration systems, sensors and lamps.

For these types of goods there are some Green procurement measures that need to be taken into consideration like:



- Buying energy efficient products that will spend less electricity or that function with renewable energy like biogas
- Goods made from sustainable or recycle material that after the product's life cycle can be reused, refurbished or recycled.
- Buying products that can be proved where made out of sustainable sources.
- The life cycle of the components since you want your product to last as long as they can and to harm the environment in the least possible way when extracting the raw materials for its production, processing, delivery, changing, removing, or disposing its components.
- Maintenance of the equipment and its related components.

2.4 Consumables:

There are some consumables that will be used during the project like reagents, solvents, sample analysis, and other types of consumables like plastic bags.

For these types of goods there are some Green procurement measures that could be taken into account, like:

- Management and labelling of hazardous substances contained in these products.
- Buying consumables that contain the least amount of substances that when released to the environment are less detrimental.

Figure No. 1 shows the mechanism that could be taken into account by the partners of this project.

Figure No. 1 Green Procurement Mechanism

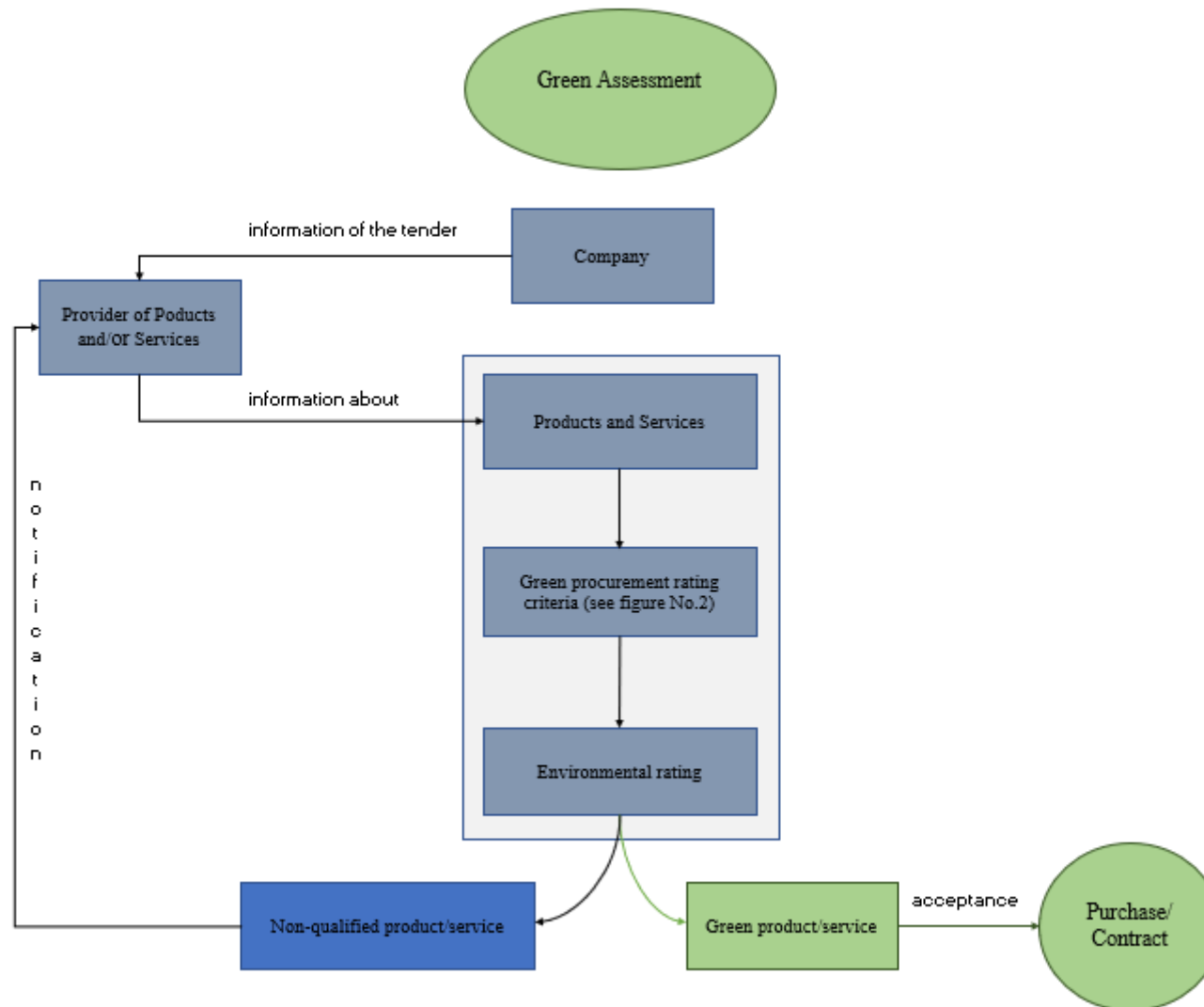
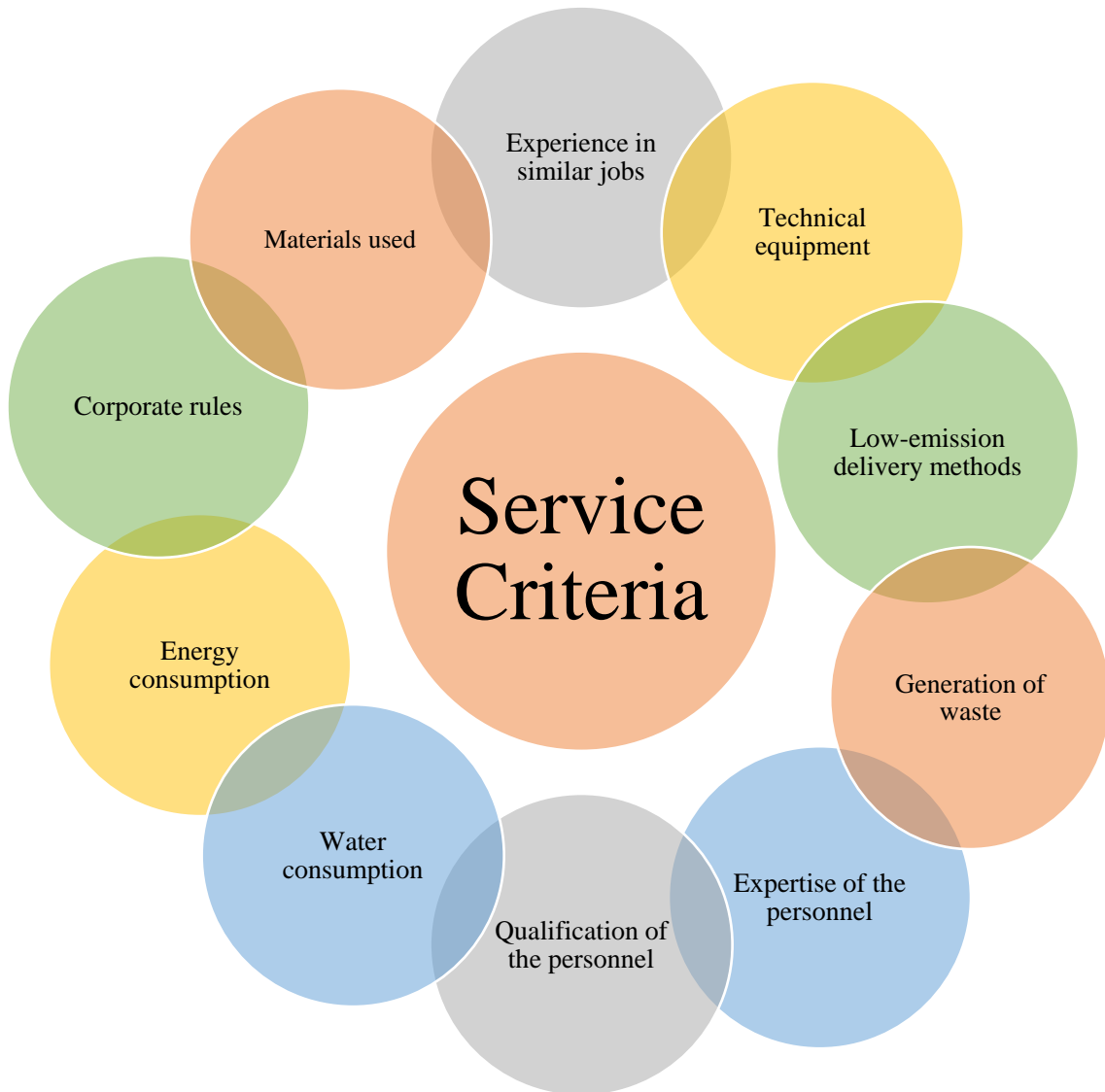


Figure No.2 Some of the criteria recommended when Green purchasing of products:



Figure No.3 Some of the criteria recommended when Green purchasing of services:



3. Challenges

- The already established purchasing mechanism in Public entities make it kind of difficult to establish a Green Procurement mechanism because the purchasing rules are already established. It would be complicated to switch the directives to greener ones, but it is possible if there is a strong commitment from the upper management to change these rules.
- The existing relationships with suppliers would make it kind of difficult for the company to start looking for new ones while they have no information about them. These would involve making new relationships to switch to more environmentally friendly products.
- The fact that there should be a real balance made by experts in the field regarding the price, performance and all the environmental considerations to take into account when purchasing products and services. Conflict between these three should be avoided with the right balance between them.
- The lack of information regarding the manufacturing process of products or the delivery of services make it difficult to know if it friendlier with the environment or not. The suppliers should be able to provide all the required information to make a fair green purchasing mechanism.