



LATEST NEWS

Developing GPP criteria for urban furniture

The project consortium has been working on the development of the GUF Tool during the last six months. The work has focused primarily on the collection, evaluation and simplification of GPP criteria, which will allow public authorities to include environmental clauses for urban furniture in their call for tenders.

These criteria are being processed in order to make them more accessible and understandable to the public staff. Furthermore, the project consortium has collected and evaluated characterisation factors that allow assessing the life cycle environmental impacts of the various materials that can be present in urban furniture products. Both GPP criteria and environmental characterization factors are being included in a database that will feed the GUF Tool.

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More news

The sustainable use of wood in GPP criteria for furniture



The GPP criteria used in LIFE FUTURE will allow an easy inclusion of green requirements in public tender documents. These are based on the EU GPP Toolkit, which provides a specific set of environmental criteria for various types of product categories, including furniture products. These criteria aim to reach a good balance between environmental performance, cost considerations, market availability and ease of verification.

Wood is one of the most frequently used raw materials for manufacturing urban furniture. We can find in our cities a wide range of furniture products made with this material, such as benches, bins, planters, playgrounds and so forth.

Valencia, sustainability and public procurement in the city



Valencia, located on the Spanish Mediterranean coast, with almost 800,000 inhabitants, is the third largest Spanish city. According to Cities in Motion Index, it has recently been described as one of the fifty best cities in the world. Sustainability and environmental criteria, as well as urban services place it near the top of the ranking of cities with the best quality of life.

This city is best known by its beaches, its food and its festivities—the famous Fallas—, which turned it into a tourist destination of excellence. Valencia is also an important enclave for knowledge, culture, research and technology. It has two public universities – University of Valencia and Polytechnic University of Valencia—, and

One of the most important GPP criteria for urban furniture is related to the legal and sustainable source of the wood. All wood must originate from sustainably managed forests. The municipality can verify the fulfilment of this criterion through an appropriate certificate (FSC, PEFC or any other equivalent).

[More on the use of wood in GPP criteria](#)

Buying Green Handbook in your language!



The "Buying Green! – A Handbook on green public procurement" published by the European Commission is now available in all 23 EU languages online.

It is the main guidance document of the European Commission to support the acquisition of good and services with a lower environmental impact by public authorities. It can also be used by policy makers and companies responding to green tenders.

[Read more](#)

What's next?



During the next six months of the project, the consortium will continue working on the development of the GUF Tool, including the completion of the database and its connectivity to the online tool. Moreover, the consortium will intensify efforts to spread the project among public authorities, urban furniture manufacturers/suppliers and other stakeholders, in order to engage them in the project. For example, AIMPLAS will present the LIFE FUTURE project in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy to be held on the 6th of October in Valencia.

it has a firm and clear commitment to become a Smart City. In this regard it has developed a strategy that ties together the main actors of the local system of R&D.

[Discover more on Valencia](#)

Stay in touch with LIFE FUTURE project: become a stakeholder!



The GUF Tool is still under preparation but you can already make sure you will not miss any update on its development by staying in touch with us. Luckily, there are different possibilities to follow the project's activities.

It is of course possible to regularly check the website for new information; but to be following even closely the project, you can become a stakeholder and express your support through a letter. By doing so, you will not only show your interest for the project but also receive the project's updates directly in your mailbox. Organisations who are already stakeholders are all displayed on the stakeholder page of the website, with their logo and a link to their website. To join them, you can contact life-future-project@aimplas.es.

If a colleague forwarded you this newsletter and you would like to directly receive it yourself, you just have to [subscribe online](#).

The LIFE FUTURE project is also on the [Procurement Forum](#), a platform that gives stakeholders a chance to exchange, connect and collaborate on the topic of public procurement. A specific group has been created on [GPP and Urban Furniture](#), where news of the project will be posted and where you can share your own experiences and ask questions.

If you like social networks but are more of a Twitter fan, the hashtag [#LIFEFUTURE](#) will guide you to the latest tweets published.

See you soon!



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