InnProBio
FORUM FOR BIO-BASED INNOVATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

www.innprobio.eu
InnProBio

Launched in March 2015, the European InnProBio project consortium has been raising awareness and increasing the knowledge base of public procurement practitioners about the potential in purchasing products and services made from bio-based materials.

What are bio-based products and why should we purchase them?

A bio-based product is a product that is wholly or partly derived from biomass. Bio-based products are made from renewable feedstocks such as wood, straw, sugar, maize, cassava, algae or biowaste, all of which can also be referred to as biomass. The choice of feedstock can have a huge impact on the overall sustainability of a bio-based product.
Bio-based products can offer some benefits to you and your community, such as:

- Reduced negative health effects caused by airborne petrochemical toner particles.
- Application of natural fibres offering better thermal insulation. Their application e.g. in building construction materials can also help to reduce health problems during installation.
- Improved environmental performance, including a lower CO2 footprint during production and/or use when used for vehicles, for instance. Bio-based car parts are lighter than conventional parts, resulting in lower fuel consumption during car use.
- Biodegradability in environments where collection and separation of certain waste products for recycling is not viable or practical. This is important for catering services and outdoor events, along with gardening and landscaping services. Biodegradability is also a characteristic of biosurfactants (used in detergents).

The bioeconomy within a circular economy

According to the definition of the European Commission, the bioeconomy “comprises those parts of the economy that use renewable biological resources from land and sea – such as crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms – to produce food, materials and energy.” The EU Bioeconomy Strategy seeks to ensure that fossil fuels are replaced with sustainable natural alternatives as part of the shift to a post-petroleum society.

The circular economy, on the other hand, aims to ‘close the loop’ by focusing on the value of products, materials and resources being maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste kept to a minimum. It aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, making use of waste prevention, recycling, up-grading and cascading uses. The bioeconomy is the biological motor of the circular economy as it brings the renewability aspect ‘back into the loop’.
The InnProBio consortium has developed several tools and resources to assist procurement and sustainability professionals interested in finding out more about bio-based products and services, and how to purchase them.

- **State-of-the-art reports:** Reports that serve to provide additional ‘background’ information to procurers and other relevant stakeholders about the current state of play regarding bio-based products.

- **Frequently asked questions (FAQs):** Information available on the InnProBio website presented in the form of commonly asked questions that procurers may need answers for.

- **Factsheets:** Five factsheets about bio-based products and services have been published over the course of the InnProBio project.

- **Decision Support Tool (DST):** The DST is essentially a set of tools presented through a single online tool. The DST has been designed to accompany those dealing with public procurement through the steps and thought processes of making an informed decision favouring a product made from bio-based materials. An easy-to-use roadmap maps out the entire preparatory and procurement phases, such as: preparing policies, setting up trials, carrying out a needs analysis, consulting the market and developing functional specifications, for instance. A products database displays a broad selection of bio-based products from key spend categories for public buyers.

- **Good practice case studies:** Learning from real life experiences is always helpful. A set of case studies detailing the processes and approaches undertaken from a selection of public entities will be available on the InnProBio website. These case studies will provide further ‘food for thought’ and, hopefully, inspire replication.

- **Open online discussions in the Procurement Forum:** Over 60 people have joined this discussion group in the Procurement Forum. The group is a place to discuss and share ideas related to the procurement of bio-based products and services.
Dialogue sessions and buyers’ groups

The InnProBio team is organising training sessions and market dialogue sessions with procurers and decision makers in different countries. The aim of these events is to inform public buyers about the possibilities and advantages of bio-based products and services and on how to procure them. In the market dialogue session discussion will be facilitated with potential suppliers of bio-based products and services. In the training sessions the tools to support procurement of bio-based products and services will be introduced. Formats for the dialogue sessions will become available on our website in the beginning of 2018 to assist other organisations to set up their own market dialogue and training sessions.

Are you a procurer considering a purchase or reviewing a contract for a good or service in one of the following areas?

- Cleaning products
- Catering services
- Textiles or furniture (for example, carpet, flooring, upholstery)
- Buildings (for example, insulation, pipes, indoor coatings)
- Gardening products or services (for example, geotextiles, erosion maps)

Contact the InnProBio team today and we will investigate possible ways of collaboration with other procurers sharing the same interests.
For further information

Website: www.innprobio.eu
Newsletter: Sign up by visiting our website
Twitter: #InnProBio

Procurement Forum: www.procurement-forum.eu
Connect with like-minded procurers from around Europe through a specially designed networking tool

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This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 652599. The sole responsibility for any errors or omissions made lies with the editor. The content does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission. The European Commission is also not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.