

To be released immediately

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PPI4Waste project explored ways to boost innovative solutions in the waste sector thanks to public procurement of innovation

After almost 3 years of work, the EU-funded **PPI4Waste project** ended with an international conference gathering public procurers and suppliers committed to boost innovation in the waste sector. Following a presentation of the main findings of the project, experts and participants agreed that more cooperation was needed to support public procurement of innovation and help increase the uptake of innovative solutions for waste management.

Brussels, Belgium – Without surprise, public procurement of innovation (PPI) was at the heart of every discussion during “**Feedback and opportunities for public procurement of innovation in the waste sector**”, the final conference of the project Promotion of Public Procurement of Innovation for Resource Efficiency and Waste Treatment (PPI4Waste), which took place on 12 September 2017 in Brussels. It gave in particular the opportunity to showcase the **outputs** of the project.

As highlighted during the conference, **there is no doubt that PPI is a powerful tool to foster innovation and leverage the market**. However it still results in a complicated process for most of the public authorities. This is why the PPI4Waste project was set up: to explore mechanisms to overcome barriers to PPI in the waste sector. A number of activities took place within the project lifetime to **identify common needs and state-of-the-art solutions, bring together the demand and supply sides, and gain a better understanding of ready-to-market solutions**.

Another side of the project, as reflected during the afternoon session of the conference, was to lay the basis for a **more coordinated approach for PPI in the waste sector**. A roadmap for joint or coordinated PPI in waste management has been elaborated by the project partners and will be made available on the project website. Amongst its conclusion, **it is recommended to continue the cooperation on the topic of PPI, for example through the communities created during the project**.

The conversation started on the **Procurement Forum** will be continued in a group dedicated to waste and resources in general. This will feature sub-group discussions on PPI in waste, circular economy, legislation and policy among others, and will continue to be aimed specifically at public procurers, researchers and innovators interested in galvanising public uptake of innovative waste solutions.

The topic can also be deepened through the collaboration with existing structures and networks, for instance **ACR+** and **ICLEI**. These networks ensure long term cooperation between procurers and their stakeholders and provide opportunities for exchange of expertise and common projects capitalising on the findings and topic of PPI4Waste.

For more information about the project, its outputs and final conference, visit www.ppi4waste.eu

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*The **PPI4Waste project** is a 33-month project conducted by: ACR+, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Zagreb City Holding, the University of Zaragoza, Mancomunidad del Sur, RISE and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.*

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