

# **Regulating the amounts of hazardous substances by procurement rules - obstacles and challenges for municipality**

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# Status of NonHaz procurement in the Cities

- Information and experiences were gathered from cities: *Riga, Kaunas, Silale, Gdansk, Västerås, Stockholm, Turku*

	Use of Ecolabels?	Hazardous substances: discussion, requirements, list of substances	Procurement process / Who sets the guidelines	Consultancy
gatory to use the criteria in teria). The main product food services, cleaning  gulations. re usage of them varies. It	<b>In procurements with higher thresholds the ecolabels are used as a scoring system</b> (not as a limiting criteria/technical specification). For example in <b>cleaning products</b> and services the criteria is mostly about ecolabels.  In practice the ecolabels are mentioned in the instructions: if the supplier has the ecolabels, they can receive more scores/points (COMPREHENSIVE CRITERIA).	<b>Discussion on a ministry level is based only on EU directives</b> , where there is a special list of hazardous substances.  In big procurements (over the threshold) the <b>list will be mentioned</b> in the instruction / <i>what do you mean with instruction??</i> for the procurement procedure and maybe in the technical specifications. This is done according to the EU directives. It will be requested in any case if it is over the threshold, mostly reconstruction works. <i>How usual is this?</i>  In reconstruction work the suppliers need to have the safety sheets for each product/chemical. In the procurement documents there can be a mention/sentence that the materials used cannot be dangerous and need to be without certain hazardous substances (EU directive), or that the materials need to be used according to EU directives. <i>How usual it is to use this kind of a sentence?</i>  <b>When there is a contract with the supplier more can be asked and better control the substances.</b>  Different procedure in different procurements. In specific cases there can be criteria about hazardous substances. <i>How usual is this?</i>  <b>&gt; Require non-toxic/non-harmful products/materials, but a certain list of</b>	<b>Ministry of Environment protection and regional development/ The Cabinet Ministers.</b> Each department or institution has 1-3- procurement specialists, and an procurement comission (8-10 experts) that is set by the head/manager of the department	It is <b>possib</b> only in proc procuremer decide that i environmen only by the department. 10 experts (r departemen <i>THIS: LISIN EXPERT?</i>
ance (computers). aim of 45 % of them  and certificates. for certain chemicals. nd ecolabels. ser/purchased from. From for the product has already	Ecolabels are used in cleaning services (recommondation from the guideline). Also criterias for other products mention ecolabels. One can see the ecolabels of the products in their description in the procurement platform (nordic swan, blue angel, eu-ecolabel)	<b>Hazardous substances are the main issue in the discussion in the city (?)</b> and that's why the law was developed. The aim of green procurements is to limit the hazardous substances from all the places where public procurements are used (worklife, kindergartens, etc)  The legal Act is quite new, made at 2016, so the work is beginnig. Themes for better and healthier lives are connected to public procurements and cutting down hazardous substances  No lists of substances (the pre-made criteria).	Government (because ther is only national guidelines) Is there procurement guidelines at the city level that are not related to green public procurements?	No green pr do everythir legislation. where decis



# Challenges

- Information and knowledge
- Commitment
- Financial and resource obstacles
- Operational and administrative environment
- Markets



# Information and knowledge

- Lack of knowledge in hazardous substances
- Lack of "easy to understand" ready made criteria and concrete good case examples, lack of guidance and instructions
- Lack on knowledge in EU Green Public Procurement concept → GPP concept is confusing and difficult
- Existing guidelines might be not used → if guidelines are too general and lack concrete instructions/too detailed and difficult → lack of action



# Information and knowledge

- Lack of information about the benefits of restricting hazardous substances  
→ we need to know the positive effects of restrictions/limiting criteria on health/environment → motivation to use restrictions/criteria
- Lack of knowledge about the less hazardous options on market





# Commitment

- Lack of commitment
  - national political and policy level
  - city leadership level
- There is an interest to act but visions or strategies are lacking
- In some Cities only obligatory legal requirements are fulfilled → need for more strict EU and national legislation







# Financial/resource obstacles

- Lack of specialised personnel
  - Lack of time → training and implementation NonHaz products/services
  - Lack of money for products and services → concrete evidence is needed that NonHaz products and services have temporarily higher price
- Cities have impact on markets





# Administrative and operational environment

- Everything is done like before
- Balance between products functions and hazardous substances (plastic → light material)
- Focus only on invitation for tenders phase
  - dismissing the potential and opportunities during the contract period
  - follow-up procedures difficult to include to the “ready process”





# Markets

- It is not permitted or there is no experience to have a dialogue with companies → lack of information concerning NonHaz options
- There is not enough affordable NonHaz products and services on the market

Nothing changes without forerunners that require safer options!



# Thank you

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