

# RESPIRO – Responsibility in Procurement

Project Brief as of March 2007



**Short title:** RESPIRO – Responsibility in Procurement

**Full title:** Procurement promoting Corporate Social Responsibility – Exchange Forum between the Public and Private Sector

**Objectives:** To increase the inclusion of social and ethical requirements in public and private sector purchasing activities through

- Encouraging an exchange of experiences between public and private sector procurers,
- Encouraging an exchange between public procurers and potential suppliers.

**Duration:** December 2006 – December 2007

**Co-operation partners:** ICLEI (Project Coordinator)  
EUROCITIES (Main Partner)  
FIEC – European Construction Industry Federation  
EFBWW – European Federation of Building and Wood Workers  
ETUF -TCL - European Trade Union Federation of Textiles, Clothing and Leather  
EURATEX - European Apparel and Textile Organisation

**Language:** Main working language: English. Information on the project will also be available in German, French, Italian and Spanish

**Funding:** European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (funding line: industrial relations and social dialogue)

**Website:** [www.respiro-project.eu](http://www.respiro-project.eu)

# Summary

Environmental issues are increasingly being taken into account in public and private procurement, thereby being highly effective in using market power to encourage the supply of “greener” products and services. However, the inclusion of social responsibility in procurement (working conditions, employment generation, fair trade etc.) has lagged behind in both sectors.

Although facing different legal frameworks for procurement, both public and private sector purchasers have much to learn from each other, in terms of how to address social requirements, and what is practical to achieve on the market. The private sector, of course, plays a dual function in this dialogue, as both purchaser and supplier.

Through identifying good practices and committed organisations, bringing these together in discussions, providing a platform for exchange, and widely disseminating information, much can be achieved in helping to shift towards more socially responsible production and consumption.

In line with current trends and increasing interest both on the business side and on the side of the public authorities, two sectors have been selected for particular attention:

- Construction – as Europe’s largest industrial employer, efforts to promote CSR principles such as healthy and safe working conditions and combating against black labour can have a significant impact on a great many people. In addition, social criteria in sourcing supplies can have sustainability gains in the global dimension.
- Textile & Clothing – a sector under high pressure from global competition where CSR principles such as quality employment can help to profile European industry. Again, as the sector is a major employer especially in developing world countries, CSR principles are relevant along a global supply chain as well.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To establish and facilitate a **multi-stakeholder dialogue process** with relevant stakeholders, e.g. industry, trade unions, NGO’s, policy makers, public and private purchasers, etc.
- To produce **clear guidance for SRP in the construction and textile sectors**, in particular concerning the following issues: working conditions (e.g. health & safety, training opportunities), employment protection, black labour, promoting labour market inclusion, and ethical procurement of materials
- To **widely disseminate** the guidance developed to ensure the project will have far reaching effects which go beyond the duration of the project
- To **raise awareness** with policy-makers at national and European levels of the opportunities offered by SRP

To achieve these objectives the following will be delivered:

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue by means of four expert meetings to ensure end user involvement and the practicability of the guides developed
- Guides for SRP in the construction and textiles sectors in English, German and French
- European SRP conference to ensure widespread dissemination of project results, together with other dissemination activities.

*For more information on the project please contact the project co-ordinator, Amalia Ochoa, email: [amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org](mailto:amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org)*