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RESPIRO - Responsibility in Procurement Sounding Board Meeting II

**Socially Responsible Criteria for Construction (8:30-12:30) and
Socially Responsible Criteria for Textiles and Clothing (13:30 - 17:30)**

Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounding Board meeting on Socially Responsible Procurement (SRP) for the Construction Sector (8:30 - 12:30) and • Sounding Board meeting on SRP for the Textiles and Clothing Sector (13:30 - 17:30)
Location and Venue	Florence Exact venue will be announced closer to the meeting date
Host	Regione Toscana (Region of Tuscany)
Date	Tuesday, 25 September 2007
Language	English
Duration	1 day in total: half a day on each sector Construction: 8:30 - 12:30 Textiles and Clothing: 13:30 - 17:30
Framework	<p>The two meetings form part of a series of Sounding Board (or multi-stakeholder) meetings designed to facilitate an expert exchange between stakeholders working on responsible public procurement (e.g. public and private purchasers, industry, trade unions, legal experts, NGOs, policy makers, etc.). The multi-stakeholder meetings form an important part of a larger Exchange Forum, which also includes broad dissemination of the SRP guidance through a European conference.</p> <p>The RESPIRO project is being carried out by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and EUROCITIES in cooperation with the social partners in the construction and textiles sector. It is co-funded by the European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and runs from December 2006 to December 2007.</p>
Meeting purpose	<p>The aim of the meeting is to pool experts' knowledge with the purpose of providing expert input into two practical Guides in the RESPIRO project on SRP in the two focus sectors. The final Guides developed as part of the multi-stakeholder meetings will contain easy to use responsible procurement standards / criteria for European public authorities to use when tendering for Construction projects and Textiles and Clothing.</p> <p>The meeting will build on the results of the first Sounding Board meetings, held in Brussels on the 11/12 June 2007.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting(s), all those attending will receive a draft version of the Guides, which will form the basis of discussion.</p>

Topics discussed	<p>We will aim to define standards / criteria to be used for public procurement for the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating child labour and forced labour • Ensuring health and safety standards in the workplace • Promoting fair wages and good working conditions • Promoting non-discrimination and equal opportunities policies • Promoting labour market inclusion • Training and personal development opportunities for staff • Use of socially responsible materials & treatments 	
Outcomes	<p>Two Guides (16-page) on how to carry out SRP in Construction (and renovation projects), and Textiles and Clothing. The guides will include purchasing criteria, examples of good practice cases, and other practical tips.</p> <p>The guides will be published in English, German and French following the meetings.</p>	
Organisers	Regione Toscana in cooperation with ICLEI and EURO CITIES	
Cost	<p>Attending the Sounding Board meeting is free of charge. Participants are generally expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses, however, a limited budget is available to cover some costs <i>upon request</i>.</p>	
Target groups	<p>Approximately 20 people.</p> <p>Representatives from the following stakeholder groups will be invited to participate in the Sounding Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade unions; • Industry representatives; • Representatives from the European Commission; • Representatives of networks, associations, scientific institutions and NGOs involved in the topic of social issues in the textile and the construction sectors; • Public sector purchasers; • Researchers; • Private sector purchasers. 	
Benefits	<p>Through taking part in this multi-stakeholder dialogue process, participants will benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving the latest EU and national developments and related regulations • Receiving the latest information, technical advice and practical guidelines on SRP standards • Present their initiatives and expertise within a unique forum • Collaborating with experts from around Europe • Receive practical tips in the form of good practice examples from other organisations (public and private sector) • Taking part in influencing the development of European standards for SRP 	
Didactic character	<p>The meetings will consist of an introductory presentation and the proposed approach for the practical Guides, followed by moderated interactive discussions on the revision and improvement of each Guide.</p>	
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