



Supported by EC-DG
Employment, Social Affairs &
Equal Opportunities



RESPIRO – Responsibility in Procurement

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is inviting experts to participate in an expert meeting (or Sounding Board) on developing socially responsible procurement standards to be applied in Europe for construction works projects, as part of the RESPIRO project.

Title	Sounding Board meeting on “socially responsible procurement for construction works projects”
Location	Brussels
Host	EUROCITIES
Date	12 June 2007
Language	English
Duration	1 day – 11:00 until 17:30
Framework	<p>The meeting will take place within the framework of the European RESPIRO – Responsibility in Procurement – project. The project aims 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 and suppliers.</p> <p>RESPIRO 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 develop easy to use standards / criteria for European public authorities to use in public building construction and renovation projects.</p> <p>All those attending the meeting will receive a background paper introducing the key issues to be discussed, and a set of draft standards to be considered.</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"> • Healthy and safe working conditions • Combating the use of “black” labour and protecting employment • Promoting labour market inclusion • Training and personal development opportunities for staff • Use of environmentally and ethically responsible materials, such as sustainable timber
Outcomes	A draft set of European socially responsible procurement standards / criteria for use in public building construction and renovation projects.
Organisers	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
Cost	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 upon request.

Target groups	<p>15-20 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, • Construction companies (industry representatives), • Representatives from the European Commission, • Representatives of networks, associations, scientific institutions and NGOs involved in the topic of social issues in the construction sector, • Local authority representatives involved in tendering for construction projects (public sector purchasers). • 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 socially responsible procurement standards in the construction sector • Present their initiatives and expertise within a unique forum • Collaborating with experts from around Europe • Receiving good practice examples • Taking part in influencing the development of European standards for socially responsible procurement in the construction sector
Didactic character	<p>The Sounding Board will consist of an introductory presentation on the RESPIRO project and the proposed standards / criteria followed by moderated interactive discussions on the standards on the basis of the background document prepared.</p>
Venue	<p>EUROCITIES 1, Square de Meeûs B-1050 Brussels</p>
Further information	<p>If you would like further information on the Sounding Board meeting or on the RESPIRO project please contact Amalia Ochoa (project co-ordinator)</p> <p>E-mail: amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org Tel: +49-761 / 368 92-0 Website: www.respiro-project.org (will be available in May) Address: Leopoldring 3, D- 79098 Freiburg, Germany</p>