

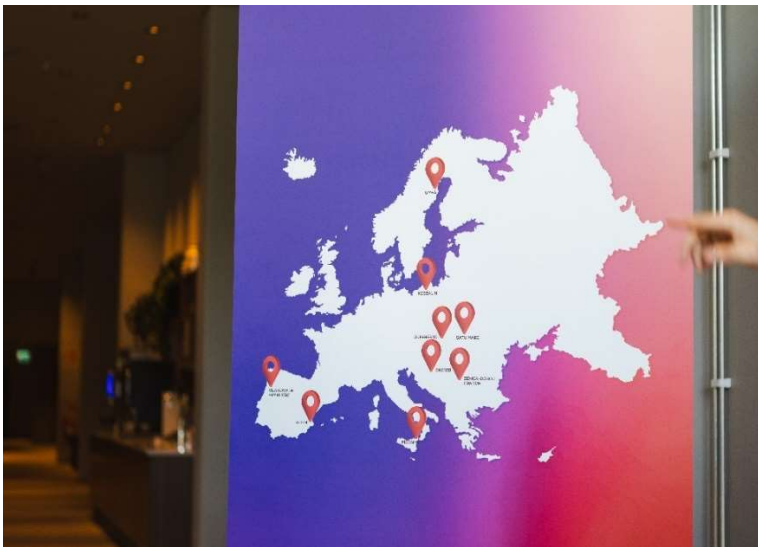
GenProcure – Quarterly Report – October to December 2024

1. What is GenProcure about ?



GENPROCURE NETWORK IMAGE

GenProcure is one of thirty Action Planning Networks (APNs) funded through the [URBACT](#)¹ Programme. Operating between June 2023 and December 2025, and through a series of transnational and local level learning and knowledge exchanges, GenProcure will seek to support nine Partners to create [Integrated Action Plans \(IAPs\)](#)² around the topic of **Gender Responsive Public Procurement**.



GENPROCURE NETWORK MAP

The GenProcure APN is being led by the City of Vila Nova De Famalicão (Portugal) and includes the following Project Partners (PP): Koszalin (Poland), Satu Mare (Romania), Umeå (Sweden), Alcoi (Spain), Messina (Italy), Department for Development and International Projects (DDIP) of Zenica-Doboj Canton (Non-City Partner - Bosnia and Herzegovina), Zagreb (Croatia), and Újfehértó (Hungary). Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson is supporting the Network as Lead Expert.

The thematic focus of GenProcure is the topic of Gender Responsive Public Procurement. The Network recognises that cities across Europe face significant challenges in the way in which they undertake Public Procurement because it is often seen as very bureaucratic and technical. The Network also recognises that cities across Europe also face significant challenges around Gender Inequality and in particular around representation, pay and access to services. The City of Famalicão as Lead Partner believes this APN is an opportunity to link together the themes and challenges of Public Procurement and Gender Inequality, and through exchange and learning enable themselves and the Project Partners to develop actions that will enable Public Procurement to be undertaken in a way that considers and realises Gender Equality – this is commonly termed as Gender Responsive Public Procurement.

¹ <https://urbact.eu/>

² The URBACT IAP Study from 2023 provides some pointers on how to develop a good IAP: <https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/IAP%20Study%20-%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>



CYCLE OF PROCUREMENT

The GenProcure Network is also shaped by URBACT's and our Lead Expert's historical work and knowledge around Strategic Procurement. Framed by the activities of the [Procure APN](#)³ (2015-2018) and the [Making Spend Matter Transfer Network](#)⁴ (TN) (2018-2021), URBACT developed an [Online Training Course on Strategic Procurement](#)⁵. The Course was shaped by the 'Cycle of Procurement' image on the left and recognised that for Public Procurement to become more strategic, cities needed to think about local economic, social and environmental considerations at each of the six stages of the cycle.

In GenProcure, we have used the 'Cycle of Procurement' to shape our Network Methodology for the period January 2024 to December 2025. Through a series of Transnational Meetings, our Partners will learn about the different stages of the 'Cycle of Procurement' and specifically how Gender can be considered at each stage. Partners will subsequently look to test aspects of the 'Cycle of Procurement' and Gender considerations in their cities and as part of developing wider actions for their IAP.

2. About this Quarterly Report (October to December 2024)

This fourth Quarterly Report reviews the activities undertaken by the GenProcure APN at transnational and local levels in the period October to December 2024 and the learning derived by Partners. In particular, the Quarterly Report details:

-) Information about the content of our two collective meetings held in the period:
 - o An Online Masterclass on the topic of 'Learning from the City of Vienna about Gender Responsive Public Procurement' on Thursday 14th November 2024.
 - o A Core Transnational Meeting, held in the City of Koszalin on the topic of 'SME Engagement' on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th November 2024.
-) Information about the key learning from our Partners in relation to those topics.
-) Information about the activities undertaken by each of the GenProcure Partners at the local level and including progress made in the development of IAPs and particularly around the actions for inclusion in IAPs.
-) Information about other activities involving GenProcure Partners.
-) The next steps of activity for GenProcure into Quarter 5 (January to March 2025).

³ <https://urbact.eu/networks/procure>

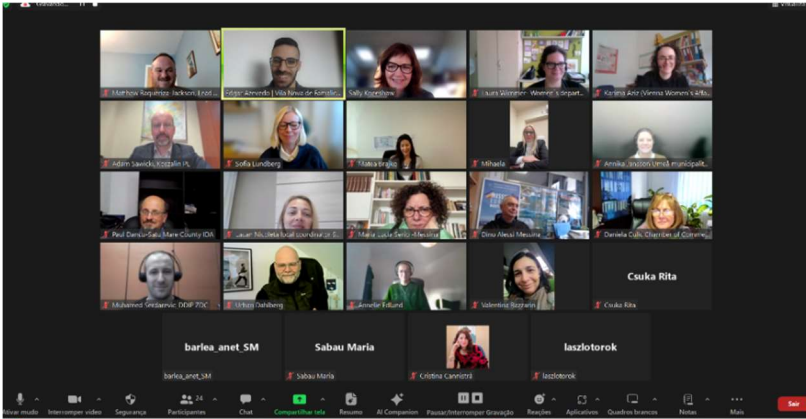
⁴ <https://urbact.eu/networks/making-spend-matter#:~:text=Making%20Spend%20Matter%20Transfer%20network,local%20economy%20and%20its%20citizens.>

⁵ <https://urbact.eu/knowledge-hub/procurement>

3. Collective Activities

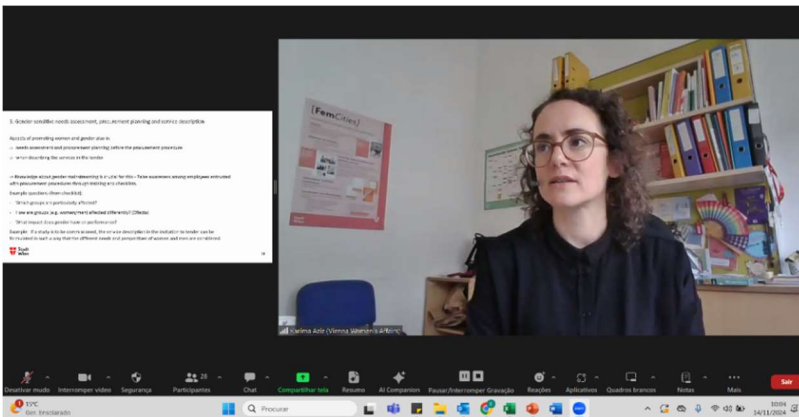
3.1 Online Masterclass – Learning from the City of Vienna (Thursday 14th November 2024)

WHY THE CITY OF VIENNA ?



Since the beginning of the GenProcure APN in June 2023, we have recognised that very few cities across Europe beyond our GenProcure Partners have undertaken work around Gender Responsive Public Procurement, but with a very notable exception. The City of Vienna has been undertaking work around addressing Gender Inequality since 2010, with using Public Procurement as a lever to realising Gender Equality a key component part to its approach to Gender Mainstreaming. We therefore asked the City of Vienna to share their learning with GenProcure Partners through an Online Masterclass and which was facilitated by Ad-Hoc Expert, Sally Kneeshaw. The Masterclass was split into two parts.

PART 1 – VIENNA PRESENTATION



In Part 1, Laura Wimmer, Department Head, and Karima Aziz, Department of Basic Research, at the City of Vienna Department for Women’s Affairs presented about Vienna’s approach to Gender Responsive Public Procurement (GRPP). The GRPP pilot started in 2010 and since then the rollout has gone from 2 to 9 municipal departments. The next steps are to roll out more. Vienna wanted to do something more than ‘kindly ask for gender equality to be considered’ in the contracts it awards and to send a signal that everyone in the city has a responsibility to build a fairer, more equal place. Three types of instruments have been used in the City of Vienna’s approach.

1. Promotion of women as a social condition of implementation - the first is the most complex. There are minimum requirements in terms of the scale of the contracting of the company. The company has to send a declaration of commitment on gender equality, and if this is missing it would be a formal lack of documentation at eligibility stage. The company also has to choose one measure from each of four groups in a catalogue. No penalties have been issued so far for lack of compliance with this. These measures mostly relate to representation in the labour market in terms of both vertical and horizontal segregation. Group C is about working conditions, taking into account unpaid and paid labour and the importance of flexible working. Most companies choose the flexible working measure in Group C and in Group D most companies choose the anti-sexual harassment measure.

2. Gender aspects as part of the qualitative award criteria - the second instrument involves qualitative assessment, and this does influence the weighting of bids.

3. Gender-sensitive needs assessment, procurement planning and service description - the third instrument is a checklist for gender needs assessment to see which groups would be potentially affected by the service or product being commissioned.

Laura and Karima also reflected upon some of the challenges they have faced in implementing a GRPP approach. One of the key challenges is to make sure that the knowledge about GRPP remains in the departments when there is a change of staff. Going forward they will renew the training. Vienna is now considering e-learning modules on Gender Equality and Public Procurement. There is also a challenge around data to know what the total volume of contracts with gender clauses is. It is also important to have the political support of all parties. At the beginning the questions were around the legal framework 'Is this possible?' but there have been no legal challenges.

In terms of company size often SMEs have less prior experience on the topic but don't feel excluded or negative about including gender clauses. 'In fact, we see that the impact is greater in smaller businesses. Bigger businesses often have these kind of plans and structures in place and our job is to push them further.'

PART 2 – QUESTIONS FROM GENPROCURE PARTNERS

During the second part of the Online Masterclass, GenProcure Partners were given the opportunity to pose the City of Vienna with questions about their approach to GRPP. The key questions posed were as follows :

- **Question from Nicoleta Lașan, Satu Mare** - for the meeting in Vienna, the ULG would like for Vienna to present a concrete example of public procurement with gender criteria included for the evaluation of the offers and scoring. What and how exactly did they score during the evaluation?

Vienna gave the following example of scoring for a tender on Youth Services. It was acknowledged that this scoring system may not be viable within all national and local procurement frameworks.

Price Criterion	Max. 25 Points
Qualitative Criteria	Max. 75 Points
Concept for organisation and implementation of the project	15
Concept for expansion of the project	20
Communication strategy	20
Qualification of project lead	15
Qualification of team	5

- **Question from Edgar Azevedo, Vila Nova de Famalicão** - we would like Vienna to show practical examples of the methodology used to apply social criteria in public procurement processes (the process, how it was done and why). At the same time, understand what suppliers' reaction was to this change. Then we want to understand how Vienna evaluates the tenders received (method and criteria) and finally how the impact of this measure has been evaluated.

Vienna responded that mostly businesses are positive about these measures. The reaction can be more about a need for support to know how to bid and implement them. It's important that the municipality helps with information on this.

- **Question from Muhamed Serdarevic, Department for Development and International Projects of Zenica-Doboj Canton** - the question for the City of Vienna that the project partner of GenProcure network DDIP ZDC would like to ask at the online meeting is "What recommendations would you give us for preparing the meetings of the working group for gender equality in public procurement?".

The advice to Mohammed is to invite experts both on gender equality and public procurements and perhaps law. Find out initially what is possible legally and make use of good source material like the EIGE report which has good practices in it. Also find the common ground, share perceptions and practises and work at eye to eye level. Another question is when to bring in the political commitment. Maybe there is a need to 1st prepare your arguments and have a fact sheet on the working group and what has been agreed so far.

- **Question from Matea Brajko, Zagreb** - how does Vienna balance the need for gender equality in public procurement with high standards of economic efficiency and service quality? Are there specific criteria or assessment models that the city uses to measure the impact of gender requirements on market competitiveness, innovation, and long-term sustainability, particularly in sectors where implementing gender equality is more challenging? What are the key results and lessons learned from such assessments so far?

The Vienna team responded that in fact including gender equality in public procurement improves standards of economic efficiency and service quality. They outlined several studies including a report on gender budgeting in Vienna that showed positive economic results.

- **Question from Annika Jannsen, Umea** - we have an overarching question for the online meeting with Vienna “Looking back, is there anything you would have done differently or anything you regret not doing?”

The Vienna team responded that maybe a lesson learned is that working incrementally in a rollout is good but also that monitoring on an ongoing basis would be better than waiting for particular evaluation points for data.

Laura and Karima concluded with three key success factors for their work around GRPP

- Political support at the top of the administration.
- Experts as part of the steering committee.
- A point of contact in the municipality for businesses to seek support.

The Key Learnings for Partners from the session with Vienna were as follows:

“One of the activities foreseen in the IAP regards the inclusion of gender criteria in public procurement. We have received practical and inspiring examples on the inclusion of gender criteria in public procurement.” (Satu Mare).

“Since 2016, Umeå municipality has worked to set social criteria in its procurements where possible, where employment requirements are one of these criteria. As a lesson, we can take it with us to specify even more clearly about these criteria in the request documents, if possible.” (Umeå).

“We appreciated the advice on the structure of a working group for gender equality in public procurement and will adapt it to our local context as part of the testing action.” (DDIP of Zenica-Doboj Canton).

“While Vienna’s work is indeed inspirational, every city is different. Context is everything – we can’t necessarily just lift policies from Vienna and apply them to our urban area. But the lesson learnt is realizing that even small planning decisions can have a gendered impact. We are at a starting point in Koszalin, where Vienna was in the ‘90s. Like them, we need to gather data first, consult the stakeholders impacted, and prepare small-scale pilot projects accordingly.” (Koszalin).

“We hope that one day the time will come when the Hungarian local government system will be so strong and rich that it will be able to run such projects and maintain such a strong institutional system as Vienna.” (Újfehértó).

***“We’ll establish clear goals that gender equality will be a fundamental criterion in the public procurement process. This should be communicated as a key priority of the Municipality of Messina’s procurement policy. We’ll ensure that gender equality is prioritized in supplier selection, with a focus on encouraging diversity and promoting gender-responsive business practices.”
(Messina).***

“Following the online class organized by the City of Vienna, we noted their recommendation emphasizing the importance of maintaining political support from city representatives, which we aim to secure on a larger scale. However, the session also highlighted an area we may have underestimated—the critical role of systematic monitoring at this stage of the process.” (Zagreb)

“The lack of a clear definition in Portuguese law on the use of social criteria in Public Procurement (unlike the Green criteria) is a barrier to overcome in the implementation of the IAP, making the actions even more groundbreaking.” (Famalicão)

“TO BE ADDED.” (Alcoi)

3.2 Transnational Meeting – SME Engagement in Public Procurement (Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th November 2024)

GENPROCURE FAMILY PHOTO IN KOSZALIN

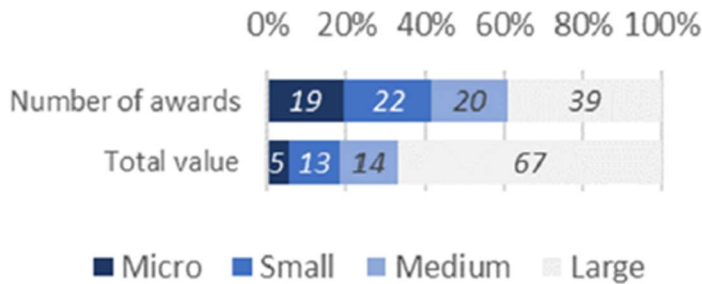


The Transnational Meeting was split into three parts. **In part 1**, the Lead Expert of GenProcure (Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson) facilitated a session which focused upon the topic of SME engagement in Public Procurement. This was split into four elements, each with an opportunity for intervention from colleagues from Koszalin and for Partners to participate in tasks. We discuss each element in turn below. **In part 2**, we undertook the Mid Term Reflection Session for the GenProcure Network and in particular discussed adaptations to future Transnational

Meetings. We also heard from each Partner about their progress in testing actions and in identifying actions for their IAPs. **In Part 3**, Alice Carvalho discussed the reprogramming of budgets and how that linked to the Mid Term Reflection. More information on the Mid Term Reflection is detailed in the MTR Report.

SME ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Figure 1 Share of above-threshold contracts directly awarded to SMEs (EU28, 2011-2017)



In the **first element** of the session on Public Procurement, Matthew presented as to why SMEs are important and how they link to Public Procurement. This included the presentation of a series of pieces of data that demonstrated the mismatch between the scale of SMEs across the EU and the prevalence of SMEs delivering Public Procurement contracts. Key data presented included:

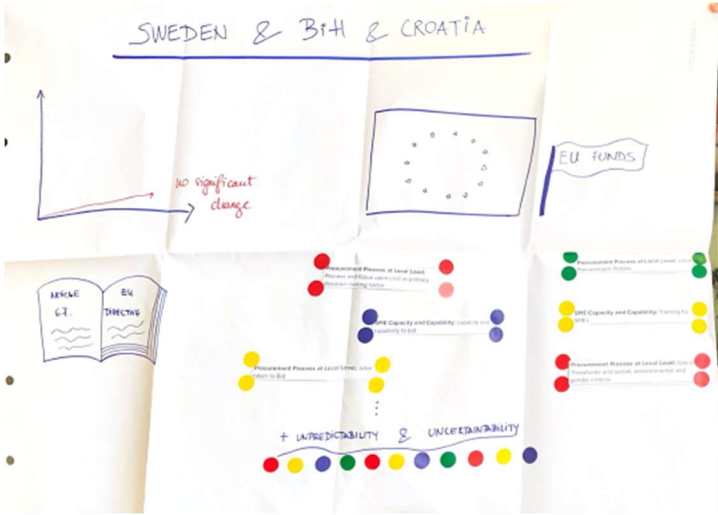
- It is estimated that 61% of above EU Threshold contracts were awarded to SMEs. However, this only represents 33% of contract value, with SMEs accounting for 58% of EU GDP.
- The highest percentage of contracts awarded to SME's amongst GenProcure Partner countries was in Hungary at 73%, with the lowest in Spain at 47%.
- The highest percentage value of contracts awarded to SMEs was in Croatia at 58%, with the lowest in Portugal at 24%. In Spain there is a mismatch of -38.1% in the value of contract awards and the importance of SMEs to the economy.
- Whilst the award percentage of works contracts to SMEs stands at 73%, this only represents 26% of contract value.
- The highest percentage share of contract awards and value is in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
- SMEs are much more likely to be awarded below EU Threshold contracts (86%) and have a higher contract value percentage (73%).

During tasks, Partners reflected upon this data and concluded that the data is based upon a relatively small sample size and that more localised Spend Analysis is important to determine percentage of awards and spend at the local level. This first element also included a presentation from the City of Koszalin Anna Bober about Public Procurement law and policy in Koszalin.



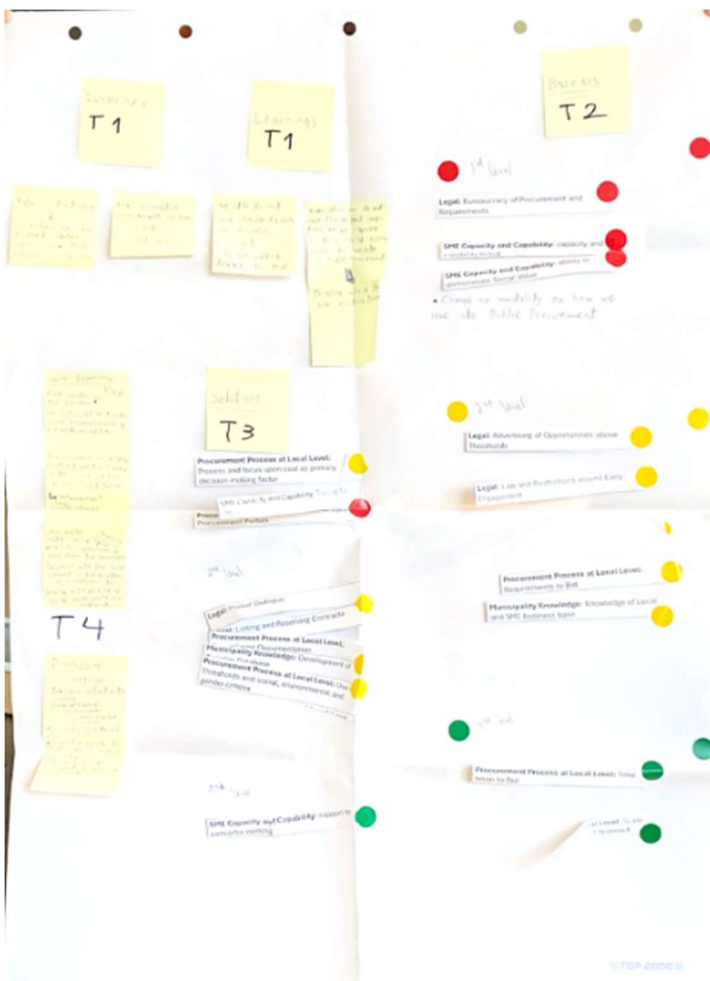
In the **second element**, Matthew presented some of the key barriers to SMEs participating in Public Procurement procedures, with this also being reflected by Piotr Huzar from the Koszalin Chamber of Commerce. Partners then used cards to prioritise the key barriers faced by SMEs in their contexts and to identify additional barriers. The most common barriers identified by Partners were:

- Bureaucracy of Procurement and Requirements.
- The capacity and capability of SMEs to bid for Procurement opportunities.
- The ability of SMEs to demonstrate Social Value.
- The law and restrictions around early engagement.
- The time taken to bid for Procurement opportunities.
- Process of Procurement and focus upon cost as primary decision-making factor.



In the **third element**, Matthew presented some of the key ways in which barriers for SMEs can be overcome in legal, process, municipality knowledge, and SME capability terms; before Partners started to identify which solutions were relevant for them. The most common and important solutions were:

- Providing Training for SMEs.
- The development of Local Procurement Portals.
- Streamlining of Documentation.
- Development of Supplier Database.
- Use of Thresholds and social, environmental and gender criteria.
- Lotting and Reserving Contracts.



In the **fourth element**, Justyna Iwankiewicz from the West Pomeranian Network of Centres Supporting Social Economy talked about the role of Social Economy Organisations in Public Procurement and how law in Poland is seeking to advocate for further engagement. Partners then discussed how they could potentially diversify their own supply chains to include Social Economy Organisations. Key mechanisms included:

- Through closer contact and market dialogue with potential suppliers in the Social Economy sector.
- To promote the importance of lower value opportunities to Social Economy Organisations and reserve contracts for them.
- Through including special clauses for women and disabled people in Procurement documentation.
- Through the involvement of NGO Infrastructure and Representative bodies.

Following the meeting, Partners were asked to populate Key Learning Tables and to detail in particular what they had learnt from the Transnational Meeting and what the implications for their IAP would be.

The Key Learnings around SME Engagement in Public Procurement were as follows:

“One of the activities foreseen in the IAP regards Online promotion of public procurement opportunities. We have received practical and inspiring examples on raising awareness of local businesses on public procurement opportunities.” (Satu Mare).

“As SMEs represent a large labor market, where many work, it is of the utmost importance to increase knowledge on the topic of gender equality and the connection to procurement within SMEs. Which reinforces our goal in our IAP.” (Umeå).

“Activities which we planned to include in our IAP can help to build capacity of SMEs to bid offers such as: Development of trainings on gender-responsive public procurement for public procurement officials, SMEs and NGOs; Organisation and realisation of workshops and seminars to raise awareness about importance of gender responsive public procurement; and Encourage forming partnership between public sector and women-owned and women-managed business” (DDIP of Zenica-Doboj Canton)

“SMEs are vital to local economies, creating jobs and providing essential services. However, they face challenges in public procurement, including legal issues, complex procedures, and limited knowledge among procurers. Despite European Commission efforts to support SME participation, such as breaking contracts into smaller lots, these barriers persist.” (Koszalin)

“We learnt about how to build a SME Database” (Újfehértó).

“Messina social city could be a very useful model to be further implemented to promote even more social economy organisations, as a networked and generative platform, on line but feeded by fertile and live relationships in the territory too. Messina Social City is an instrumental body of the Municipality of Messina, founded in 2019. It provides for the management and production of social services in the area, to satisfy the needs of the community and promote social and cultural development, economic and civil of the local community.” (Messina).

“Considering that the majority of contracts awarded by the City of Zagreb are concluded with small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's), it would be beneficial to enhance their understanding of the City's public calls and the application processes for these opportunities. This could be achieved through targeted education initiatives aimed at improving SME's capacity to successfully compete in these processes.” (Zagreb)

“The general need for awareness-raising and training amongst SMEs and Procurers will be met by the actions proposed in the IAP.” (Famalicão).

4. Partner Activities

4.1 Alcoi

The City of Alcoi has faced a number of challenges in undertaking activities and participating in Transnational Meetings in Quarter 4 as a result of the catastrophic flooding that has hit the Valencia Region.

4.2 Famalicão

Partner Presentations

IAP Actions

Reviewed after testing action is finished – with detailed information on the universe of target audience (public suppliers)

- **Action 1: Awareness-raising campaign on GRPP**

Incorporating the knowledge acquired in the GenProcure network, raise awareness of Public Procurement with a more social nature and more egalitarian organisational practices.

- **Action 2: Training course on Public Procurement**

Starting from the needs identified in Testing Action and creating a course that goes through the phases of the Public Procurement Cycle and exploring the changes that we can introduce in light of European and national legislation

- **Action 3: Catalogue of Gender Criteria and Practical Guide**

Starting from the current Portuguese legislation on Green Public Procurement that establishes the ecological criteria for public tenders, our aim is to create something similar for Social and Gender Criteria.



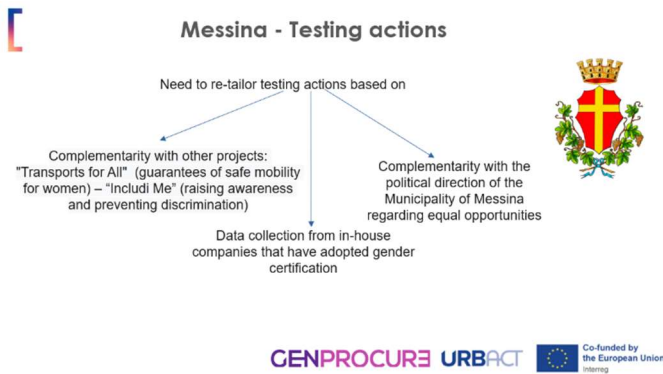
actions for including (as detailed in the slide to the left) and they will use the testing action to verify them.

4.3 Koszalin



The City of Koszalin has concentrated in Quarter 4 upon preparing for and hosting the Transnational Meeting. However, they have identified their second testing action which will be undertaken in Quarter 5 and which is to develop a bespoke training course for Procurers working in Koszalin Anchor Institutions on the topics of Social Procurement and Gender Responsive Public Procurement. Koszalin has also developed 9 high-level actions for their IAP and which they will add further information on in the coming months. These actions include: periodic analysis of public spend, strengthening the potential of public entities to design public space taking into account the needs of women, implementation of the Gender Equality Plan in public entities.

4.4 Messina



The City of Messina has spent time in Quarter 4 seeking to gain political support and validation for their emerging actions. They are particularly seeking to ensure that the actions tested and presented in the IAP reflect the importance of embedding Gender Equality across all activities of the Municipality and other local partners. As detailed in the slide to the left, Messina is seeking to ensure that testing actions are complementary to other projects associated with Gender Equality, that they are framed by robust data, and that they are aligned to political priorities.

4.5 Satu Mare

OBJECT OF CONTRACT			GENDER			GEOGRAPHICAL AREA		
Row Labels	Total Value	% Total Value	Row Labels	Total Value	% Total Value	Row Labels	Total Value	% Total Value
Supply	ROL 29,800,200.03	29.08%	Female	ROL 8,694,518.69	8.48%	Local	ROL 26,032,398.92	25.40%
Services	ROL 12,403,845.62	12.10%	Male	ROL 93,799,083.11	91.52%	North West Region	ROL 12,859,092.69	12.55%
Works	ROL 60,289,556.15	58.82%	Grand Total	ROL 102,493,601.80	100.00%	Romania	ROL 63,602,110.19	62.05%
Grand Total	ROL 102,493,601.80	100.00%				Grand Total	ROL 102,493,601.80	100.00%

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES			TYPE OF PROCEDURE		
Row Labels	Total Value	% Total Value	Row Labels	Total Value	% Total Value
Consultancy	ROL 715,200.00	0.95%	Direct Procure	ROL 4,715,509.88	4.60%
Provision of Machinery/Equipment/Materials	ROL 587,129.63	0.78%	Open Tender	ROL 70,253,474.03	68.54%
Utility Infrastructure	ROL 11,133,151.42	14.75%	Negotiation w/	ROL 10,535,336.60	10.28%
Operation/Functioning	ROL 808,170.39	1.07%	Simplified Proc	ROL 16,989,281.29	16.58%
Advertising	ROL 107,815.70	0.14%	Grand Total	ROL 102,493,601.80	100.00%
Health	ROL 38,466,989.33	50.96%			
Various Services	ROL 1,145,205.38	1.52%			
Transport Infrastructure	ROL 22,525,855.89	29.84%			
Grand Total	ROL 75,489,517.74	100.00%			

Satu Mare has now completed its first testing action which was to adapt and implement the Spend Analysis tool. In total, 6 Anchor Institutions have undertaken the Spend Analysis and have identified the total amount spent through Procurement, the percentage of spend upon different types of products and services such as consultancy and utilities, the types of procedures utilised, and the percentage spent with suppliers based in different geographical areas. In addition, the Anchor Institutions have also identified the percentage of spend with suppliers that are owned by or managed by women. The picture to the left details the Spend Analysis findings for Satu Mare County Council. In addition, Satu Mare has also identified six key actions for inclusion in their IAP and including around the development of a Procurement Strategy for Satu Mare County.

4.6 Újfehértó



The City of Újfehértó has undertaken further work on developing its testing action, which is to renovate the castle garden in the downtown of the city and using gender considerations to do so. The design of the garden includes considerations around lighting and safety to ensure women feel comfortable in the use of the park. In addition, Újfehértó is inserting a clause in the Procurement, which will require the successful bidder to have at least 1 female professional involved in the implementation of the contract. A picture of the design of the garden is detailed to the left.

The City of Újfehértó has also finalised with its ULG the key interventions that will form part of their IAP, together with information about how they link to strategic objectives and how they will be followed up. A key action is to involve a women's council in the design of public procurement tenders.

4.7 Umeå

Planning for training and implementation

Definition of target group

- 1) Procurement office
- 2) Members of network

- objectives and outcomes
- Content
- Number of sessions & time needed
- training materials,
- trainers and moderators,
- other practical needs.

Implementation and maintenance



process that will be utilised to develop and implement the training.

The City of Umeå has been busy in Quarter 4 updating their IAP and securing buy-in to its actions from local politicians and other senior leaders within the Municipality, including with the Sustainability Committee. They have also identified a key need for internal capacity building within the Municipality and externally amongst other Anchor Institutions around Gender Responsive Public Procurement, and will look to test an action around training as part of this APN and implement it through their IAP. The slide to the left details the

4.8 Zagreb



Key Actions

- 1 - [conducting regular spend analyses](#)
- 2 - [continuous](#) use of gender and social criteria in public procurement procedures and/or technical specifications and design
- 3 - impact evaluation of those criteria on stakeholders



actions for inclusion in their IAP and as detailed in the slide to the left.

The City of Zagreb has been working on the realisation of three testing actions during Quarter 4. They are undertaking continuous in-house training across departments around gender and wider socially responsible Procurement. They are looking to include gender clauses in the Procurement's of a public park and an intercultural community centre and are using a participatory process to do so. And they are seeking to enhance a current electronic portal to support SMEs to have greater access to Procurement opportunities. The City of Zagreb has also identified 3 key

4.9 DDIP of Zenica-Doboj Canton

Draft Actions of IAP

- Drafting a detailed review of procedures and procurement policies that already exist in order to identify gaps and opportunities for inserting gender-responsive measures
- Preparing a suggestion for new procurement guidelines which would include a "must" factor for the inclusion of gender equality criteria in public procurement processes
- Working on making local procurement policies in coherence with national and international frameworks on gender equality focusing on good EU practices
- Development of trainings on gender-responsive procurement for public procurement officials and interested parties such as SME and NGO representatives
- Initiative to start a certification program for public procurement officers which should include training on gender equality
- Organisation and realisation of workshops and seminars to raise awareness about the importance of gender-responsive procurement



guidance on integrating gender considerations throughout the procurement cycle. As outlined in the adjacent slide, the DDIP has also identified 11 key actions for inclusion in its IAP, with six highlighted on the slide.

The DDIP of Zenica-Doboj Canton has successfully completed its initial testing action: conducting a Spend Analysis across 28 Government Institutions, the Canton Hospital, and the University of Zenica. This analysis examined expenditures totaling 27 million euros, revealing their geographic and sectoral distribution. Building on this progress, the DDIP is now undertaking its second testing action—establishing a Gender Equality Working Group for Public Procurement. This group will provide

These actions include specialized training for procurers, SMEs, and NGOs to promote gender-responsive public procurement practices.

5. Other Activities and Next Steps

5.1 Next Steps

As outlined in this report, Quarter 4 has been successful for the GenProcure Network. We have hosted an Online Masterclass and a Transnational Meeting, and each of our Partners have moved forward with the development of their IAPs. More hard work awaits in Quarter 5 (January to March 2025) and in particular:

-) Partners will continue to develop their IAPs and particularly finalise their learning from testing actions and finalise their action tables, including with information about relevant stakeholders, and monitoring success.
-) We will have a fifth Transnational Meeting on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th March 2025 in Alcoi, and with a thematic focus on following up on Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Budgeting and Gender Criteria in Procurement.
-) Our ULGs will continue to meet and share learning at the local level.
-) We will start to develop our final outputs for the Network and including a catalogue of Gender Clauses for inclusion in Public Procurement.



SEE YOU NEXT TIME !

On behalf of Edgar, Joana, Sara, Vítor, Alice, Juliana, Sally, and Matthew, we look forward to keeping you updated on our future work as part of URBACT's GenProcure APN.