

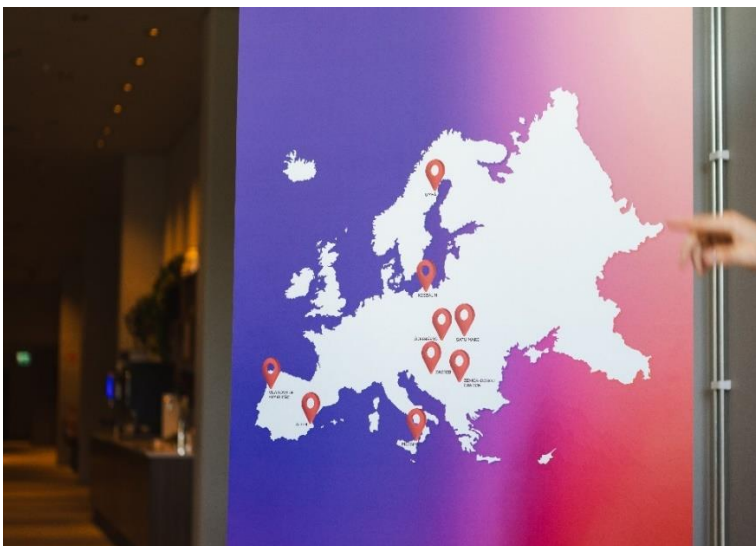
GenProcure – Quarterly Report – April to Jun 2025

1. What is GenProcure about ?



GENPROCURE NETWORK IMAGE

GenProcure is one of thirty Action Planning Networks (APNs) funded through the [URBACT](https://urbact.eu/)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%202020-%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 (April to June 2025)

This sixth Quarterly Report reviews the activities undertaken by the GenProcure APN at transnational and local levels in the period April to June 2025 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 'Contract Monitoring' on Thursday 15th May 2025.
 - o A Core Transnational Meeting, held in Újfehértó and Satu Mare on the topic of 'Peer Review of IAPs' on Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th, and Thursday 29th May 2025.
-) 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 final steps of activity for GenProcure in 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 – Contract Monitoring (Thursday 15th May 2025)

ABOUT THE MASTERCLASS

The meeting on Contract Management was led by the GenProcure Lead Expert, Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson and was split into three parts. **In Part 1**, Matthew sought to link contract management into the cycle of procurement and detail why undertaking contract monitoring is important. Six key reasons were detailed:

- Cities go to a lot of trouble to include social, gender, environmental questions
- It can be a condition of contract to report against commitments
- It enables an evidence base to be collected
- It enables you to demonstrate impact to politicians
- It enables case studies to be collected
- It justifies investment by suppliers

Measure	Proxy Value (if applicable)	Output	Impact
No. of employees (FTE) taken on who are long term unemployed (unemployed for a year or longer)	£14,701.56	{ADD NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES}	#VALUE!
EXAMPLE: No. of employees (FTE) taken on who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs)	£12,442.91	{ADD NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES}	#VALUE!

In Part 2, Matthew introduced three key ways of undertaking contract monitoring. First, we talked about Quantitative Contract Monitoring:

- **This is about counting outputs:**
- E.g. Number of new jobs created as part of the delivery of the contract.

- **It is aligned to the objectives you are looking to realise in your Procurement Strategy:**
 - E.g. Tackling Unemployment
- **Suppliers will have detailed in their tender responses commitments to quantitative outputs**
 - E.g. Commitment to creating 5 new jobs
- **It is collected through a straightforward mechanism**
 - E.g. A quarter by quarter spreadsheet

Type 2 of Contract Monitoring - Qualitative

Mike is a local worker and has an employment history of domestic services and warehouse/factory operations. Prior to his traineeship at FRC, Mike was working zero-hour contracts which offered no structure or security of regular income, which led to him having more precarious living situations. Luckily, Mike managed to stay with family and friends for a period of time, but this put significant strain on his ability to see or spend time with his kids.

Mike saw the traineeship on 'Indeed' and, after a quick and easy application and interview process, was offered a role as a trainee warehouse operator where he quickly built rapport with workers and with management. After a brief period, Mike was offered a full-time role with regular hours and pay. He really enjoys his job and feels like he has agency and feels valued. In addition, gaining job security has allowed Mike to live independently in his own rented property. With structure, regular income and resources Mike now spends more time with his children, which is something he has wished to do for a long time.

Second, we talked about Qualitative Contract Monitoring:

- **This is about looking at the wider impact of a social consideration:**
- E.g. the types of support agencies for moving people into employment.
- E.g. impact upon the individuals that have moved into employment opportunity.

- **Suppliers will have detailed in their responses how they are going to create new employment opportunities:**
 - E.g. work with social enterprise in deprived neighbourhoods.
- **It requires a relationship to be developed with the supplier and beneficiaries:**
 - E.g. monthly calls.
 - E.g. evaluation activities with new employees.

Local Multiplier 3

$$LM3 = \frac{\text{Round 1} + \text{Round 2} + \text{Round 3}}{\text{Round 1}}$$

$$LM3 = \frac{\text{Total Spend} + \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Spend with LOCAL} \\ \text{suppliers} \\ + \\ \text{Spend with LOCAL} \\ \text{employees} \end{array} \right) + \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{RE-Spend of suppliers with} \\ \text{their own} \\ \text{suppliers/employees} \\ + \\ \text{RE-Spend of employees} \\ \text{upon local goods/services} \end{array} \right)}{\text{Total Spend}}$$

good thing to do:

- But it can help further develop relationships with suppliers.
- **Different methodologies can be used:**
 - E.g. Local Multiplier 3 (LM3).
 - E.g. Surveys of suppliers.

In Part 3, Partners were asked to detail which of the three approaches were most relevant for them and the development of their IAP. Responses were as follows:

- For **Koszalin**, the quantitative approach is most relevant as a result of the bureaucratic procurement law in a Polish context, and the fact that social clauses are rarely used in procurement.
- For **Alcoi**, the quantitative approach is the most relevant as it is relatively straightforward to collect output data on the activities that they undertake as a Municipality.
- For **Újfehértó**, the quantitative approach is the most relevant. However, given the smaller scale of the local economy, they could also utilise the retrospective approach to gather information from SMEs.
- For **Zagreb**, the quantitative approach is the most relevant as they can directly link data collection to the outputs they are seeking to realise through procurement and count the numbers of jobs created, for example.
- **Umeå** has a strong history of undertaking Contract Monitoring using all three techniques. They are particularly skilled around qualitative monitoring and identifying the impact of social clauses on individuals moving into employment.
- For the **Zenica-Doboj Canton**, the regional authority already has a number of outputs against which it collects data, and the quantitative approach is also most relevant in relation to monitoring procurement contracts.

Third, we talked about Retrospective Contract Monitoring:

- **This is about collecting further data from suppliers after a contract has finished:**
 - E.g. the extent to which they have re-spent back in the local economy.
 - E.g. questions about carbon emissions.
 - **Not necessarily aligned to the contract but more of a**

- For **Famalicão**, time and capacity is the biggest challenge with Contract Monitoring, with quantitative approaches probably the most relevant given this barrier.
- For **Messina**, it is already a requirement that output data is collected from suppliers, and therefore the quantitative approach is most relevant.
- **Satu Mare** already has a robust approach to Spend Analysis and recognises that a quantitative approach to Contract Monitoring would complement this by enabling data to be collected across wider indicators.

3.2 Transnational Meeting – Peer Review of Draft IAPs (Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th, and Thursday 29th May 2025)

PEER REVIEW OF DRAFT IAPS



The core focus of the Transnational Meeting was upon peer reviewing the Draft IAPs of each Partner. To assist with this, we appointed an Ad-Hoc Expert, Franziska Singer, to read through each of the Draft IAPs in advance of the meeting and to facilitate the Peer Review sessions. Each Partner was allocated 45 minutes for the review of their Draft IAP, with this including:

- A 15 minute presentation from the relevant Partner on

their IAP with a focus on Actions.

- 15 minutes of comments and feedback from Franziska on the relevant IAP.
- 15 minutes where other Partners can ask questions and also provide feedback.

Rather than asking each Partner to produce a learning table from the Transnational Meeting, our Lead Expert Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson recorded the key questions asked of Partners by their Peers in the third part of the activities described above. These are detailed in the individual partner activities in section 4 of this Quarterly Report.

4. Partner Activities

4.1 Alcoi

The City of Alcoi did not participate in the Peer Review session at the Transnational Meeting described above. They however, have now developed **6 key actions** for including in their Draft IAP and including around creating an online guide for businesses around accessing Public Procurement opportunities; drafting and internal guide for staff on including Gender Clauses in Public Procurement; and organising a networking event where women entrepreneurs can share their experiences around Public Procurement.

4.2 Famalicão



The city of Famalicão's now has in place **10 key actions** in their IAP around the three themes of: 'Education for Change'; 'Data for Change', and 'Governance for Change'. Partners asked Famalicão the following about their IAP during the Peer Review

- What will be the topics of your conferences and who will moderate them?
- What will the newsletter be about?
- How will awareness raising around procurement fit within the existing school curriculum?

4.3 Koszalin



The City of Koszalin now has in place **9 key actions** in their IAP around three themes of: mainstreaming gender equality in public policies; public procurement supporting gender equality; and increasing the diversity of public procurement contractors. Partners asked Koszalin the following about their IAP during the Peer Review:

- Is it legal to include Gender Clauses in a Polish context?
- Will you be able to appoint an Equality Officer and what will be the job?
- How will you realise shifts in gendered language?
- You could detail more about the types of goods, services and works that you procure.

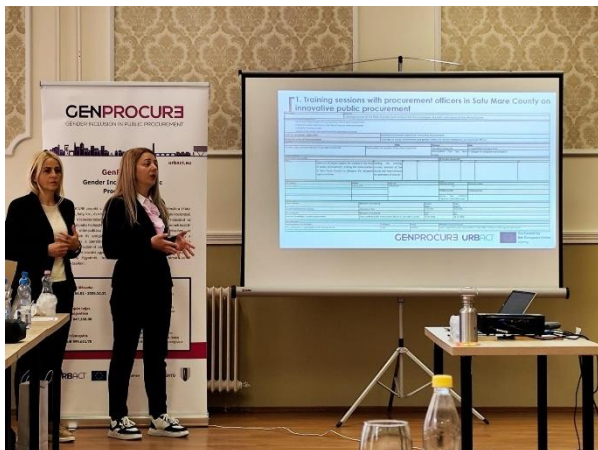
4.4 Messina



The City of Messina now has in place **7 key actions** in their IAP including around: building collaborative partnerships for gender equality in public procurement, gender impact monitoring and evaluation in public procurement, and capacity building and awareness raising around inclusion in public procurement. Partners asked Messina the following about their IAP during the Peer Review:

- Can you explain the mandatory social clauses in a little more detail?
- What kind of promotional materials will you use to share your actions with citizens?
- What kind of Key Performance Indicators will you have?
- What funds do you intend to use to pay for your actions?
- How are you going to monitor your IAP?
- You need to continue to engage politicians about the implementation of the IAP.

4.5 Satu Mare



Satu Mare now has in place **6 key actions** in their IAP and which are frame by three strategic objectives of: building institutions capacity for innovative procurement; improving procurement governance amongst anchor institutions; and increasing the level of involvement of local companies in procurement procedures. Partners asked Satu Mare the following about their IAP during the Peer Review:

- How will you look to engage with SMEs/potential suppliers in the delivery of your actions?
- Have you found 30 people to participate in the trainings for procurement officers?
- How are you linking the IAP to wider strategic activities and the overarching goals of the Satu Mare County?
- You could use AI for diagrams in your IAP and make it more visual.
- You could look to engage further with networks of businesses.

4.6 Újfehértó



The City of Újfehértó now has in place **4 key actions** in their IAP including around preliminary market testing prior to the publication of the public procurement plan and the creation of a dynamic database of micro and regional SMEs. Partners asked Újfehértó the following about their IAP during the Peer Review:

- How will you develop the database of SMEs?
- How will the women's council work in practical terms?
- You need to keep a high level of commitment to the women's council.
- You could create a network of procurement specialists.

4.7 Umeå



The City of Umeå now has in place **3 key actions** in their IAP of: training for staff in the procurement department on gender equality in procurement; training and capacity building for SMEs and female entrepreneurs; and implementation of gender equality criteria in the procurement process. Partners asked Umeå the following during the Peer Review:

- How are you going to involve and motivate SMEs?
- You have already included gender clauses in procurement – what were the results?
- What does the training course involve?
- You could look to link your IAP to the strategic objectives of the municipality further.

4.8 Zagreb



The City of Zagreb now has in place **6 key actions** in their IAP including around integration of gender equality criteria, social and environmental standards; development of a public procurement application; and monitoring and evaluation of gender impact. Partners asked Zagreb the following about their IAP during the Peer Review:

- Who will develop the 'Application?'
- Have you engaged the Unions?
- Can you include a little more in the IAP about collective agreements?
- How straightforward was it to include the gender clause in the test action?

4.9 DDIP of Zenica-Doboj Canton



The DDIP of Zenica-Doboj Canton now has in place 11 key actions in their IAP across four strategic objectives of: enhance gender equality in public procurement; building institutional capacity for gender responsive procurement; promotion of economic empowerment of women; and foster collaborative and inclusive policy making. Partners asked Zenica-Doboj the following about their IAP during the Peer Review:

- Where will you find trainers from for your public procurement training?
- How will you manage expectations around your IAP as it is very ambitious?
- Was it easy to find women owned organisations to participate in your women's council?
- Who will organise the certification for your training courses?
- What is the audience for your training courses?

5. Other Activities and Next Steps

5.1 Next Steps

As outlined in this report, Quarter 6 has been successful for the GenProcure Network. We have hosted an Online Masterclass and a Transnational Meeting focused upon the Peer Review of IAPs. More hard work awaits as we move into the final 6 months of the GenProcure APN and in particular:

-) Partners will look to finalise their IAPs and in particular respond to comments from the Peer Review and develop their implementation frameworks.
-) Our ULGs will continue to meet and share learning at the local level.
-) We will finalise our final outputs for the Network and including a catalogue of Gender Clauses for inclusion in Public Procurement and a Video.
-) We will meet for one last time in Zagreb on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th October 2025 for our Final Partner Meeting and Final Conference.



SEE YOU NEXT TIME !

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