

# ENHANCING INNOVATION IN PRE-COMMERCIAL PUBLIC PURCHASING PROCESSES

## Scope and policy

The public sector in Europe is facing immense pressures for change. The local authorities play a key role in implementing public procurement policy and legal framework. A city or a region may therefore become an important test market in implementing new and innovative products and technologies. In this context, there is an urgent call for action.

The overall objective of PreCo is to support public authorities in undertaking pre-commercial procurement (PCP) actions which stimulate innovation by engaging the suppliers in the market as well as the end-users (Living Labs). For this purpose, PreCo brings together a thematic network for the development and adaptation of European wide models, frameworks and policy recommendations in the domains of eHealth and eEnergy.

## Benefits and results

The ultimate aim of the PreCo Network is to create a new type of knowledge intensive innovation platform in Europe. In this platform public and private sector use advanced ICT to develop conditions for advanced, all inclusive service economy and innovation ecosystem, which as such can create global benchmark lead markets for experimental innovation engagement model. This would also result in job creation, increased citizen participation and SME involvement in European level innovation research and practice.

## Project Activities

Network activities are organized in work packages and horizontal activities including project management,



**Proposal Acronym**  
PreCo

**Type of Funding Scheme**  
Coordination Action (CA)

**Call identifier**  
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**Objective identifier**  
9.3 : General Accompanying Measures

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400,000 Euro

**Project start date**  
1 Nov 2009

**Duration**  
24 months



monitoring and assessment activities, expert groups, operational support and dissemination, information and communication activities.

The objectives of the first phase are to identify current PCP practices in member countries and beyond, to provide for a state-of-the-art analysis on the international experiences on PCP, specifically in the US, Japan and China, to identify and analyze best practices and to set up the network taking into account other relevant networks and activities dealing with PCP matters. An important aspect in this action line is the identification and activation of all interfacing interest groups and policies.



The second phase will focus on pre –commercial procurement in eHealth. As the area is at its very early stage of development, a dedicated working group will be established to identify the best practices in the field, to study and analyze the obstacles for the public authorities to engage in PCP activities in eHealth, and to explore the R&D trends in the industry and the public needs for future technologies in the long run. A very important task is to establish dialogue with supply side actors to exchange information on public sector needs and private sector opportunities. This will further increase awareness of technology roadmaps and thus facilitate demand stimulation.

European wide dissemination of results will be provided to all stakeholders in order to influence national procurement strategies and policy change, market impact and advancement of knowledge and implementation on national and regional level. Policy recommendations will be provided to the European Commission.

The third phase will focus on pre-commercial procurement in eEnergy. In this task we aim to raise awareness for crucial the role of public procurers in stimulating and fostering clean energy innovation and to define and communicate model procurement strategies. Establishment of sustainable dialogue with the supply side is one of the key tasks. Other stakeholders include national energy agencies and international organizations, such as ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)

In the second and third phase we will consolidate identified best practices and models into policy recommendations in selected domains. Consensus workshops and other dissemination activities will be organized to bring together policy makers, leading experts from eHealth and eEnergy sector, universities and businesses and other relevant stakeholders, such as the European community of Living Labs.

In the final phase of this action an analysis of the gaps in the current and best practices and means to breach it will be made, a roadmap for future research on PCP issues, including legal issues (Competition law, IPR).

## Project Partners

Partner Name	Country
Culminatium Innovation	FI
Alfamicro-Sistemas de Computadores Lda	PT
Agentura pro evropske projekty & management	CZ
Fundacion Comunidad Valenciana–Region Europea	ES
University of Southern Denmark	DK
Vysocina Kraj	CZ
Helsinki School of Economics	FI
Copenhagen Living Lab	DK
Amsterdam Innovation Motor	NL
Europortello Veneto	IT