



## C2 National approaches in the new EU Member States

### National actions plans to promote Green Public Procurement in the new EU Member States of the Central and Eastern Europe region

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**Organisation :** REC

**Short description:** The REC is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist stakeholders in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of 29 countries and the European Commission. It has its Head Office in Szentendre, Hungary, and Country Offices and Field Offices in 18 beneficiary countries in the region stretching from Tallin in the north to Ankara in the south.

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## Executive Summary of your Abstract

This presentation summarises the interim results of a study by the Regional Environmental Center on the status of Green Public Procurement (GPP) national action plans (NAPs) in the new EU Member States of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region. First an overview of the status of GPP NAPs will be provided in terms of the level of advancement in the preparation, approval and implementation of strategies. In the second half of the presentation the results of a comparative review of selected three country cases – which were, as a first step, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland – will be presented.

## Abstract

The potential of Green Public Procurement (GPP) in the European Union was first highlighted in the Commission's Communication on Integrated Product Policy (IPP), dated 2003, which recommended Member States to adopt national action plans (NAPs) for the promotion of GPP by the end of 2006. Regarding relevant initiatives and action at the national level, some forerunning countries of the EU15 have started putting the principles of GPP into practice almost a decade ago and thus GPP is already in a relatively advanced stage of development in these Member States. A 2005 study by the so-called "TAKE-5 consortium" identified a core group of countries that consistently had more tenders with green criteria than the rest of the EU25. These were coined as the "group of Green-7" and include Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK.

While GPP has been on the agenda of many of the EU15 countries – particularly those belonging to the group of Green-7 – for almost a decade by now, in the new EU Member States the implementation of GPP in general is still in a very initial stage of development.

This presentation summarises the interim results of a study by the Regional Environmental Center on the status of GPP NAPs in the new EU Member States of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region. First an overview of the status of GPP NAPs will be provided in terms of the level of advancement in the preparation, approval and implementation of strategies. This overview is provided by help of a five-stage model, which has been developed specifically for this purpose.

In the second half of the presentation the results of a comparative review of selected three country cases – which were, as a first step, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland – will be presented. Aspects of this comparative review included, inter alia, the responsibilities of different governmental institutions in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the NAPs, product groups in focus, indicators and targets defined for the monitoring of implementation, the means of implementation, i.e. tools and approaches in focus, the way of setting of GPP criteria and the planned role of eco-labels, finally the planned role and involvement of the business sector.

## Resumé

Jozsef Szlezak is senior expert and topic area leader in the subject of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) at the Head Office of the REC. Jozsef holds MSc degrees both in engineering (University of Miskolc, Hungary) and economics (Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary). Between 1998 and 2003 he worked in industry in several technical management positions and also as a consultant, his responsibilities including environmental management. Jozsef joined the REC in July 2003 where he had initially specialised in Integrated Product Policy (IPP) and then gradually has expanded his knowledge and work experience in the border subject of SCP, including the greening of private and public consumption. In his capacity as senior expert at the REC Jozsef is also the member of the pool of experts at European Topic Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (under contract by the European Environment Agency) specialising in IPP and SCP policies and initiatives at the national and EU levels.

**Recommended reading:** N/A, the study will be published at a later stage (only interim results are presented)