

Sustainable ICT Procurement and Beyond: From Vision to Action

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Public procurement holds significant influence over the sustainability of ICT supply chains. Decisions made by public procurers can shape how materials are sourced, how products are designed, and how social and environmental standards are implemented across markets. Today, this influence is exercised in a complex context: global market disruptions, dependencies on critical raw materials, and evolving European and national policies on climate, circular economy, and digital sovereignty. In this landscape, public procurement becomes a lever not just for compliance, but for driving measurable sustainability outcomes.

The Circular and Fair ICT (CFIT) Pact provides a structured, practical framework to leverage this influence effectively. CFIT brings together public and supporting knowledge organisations to guide ICT procurement toward being circular, resource-efficient, and socially responsible. By translating ambitions into actionable procurement strategies, CFIT develops harmonised criteria, guidance materials, and platforms that support alignment of good practices. Through coordinated requirements and shared learning, the program enables procurers to communicate clear, predictable expectations to suppliers, reduce duplication of effort, and deliver measurable social and environmental impact across borders.

[CFIT's approach](#) is structured around four complementary strategies — *Buy Less*, *Buy Better*, *Use Better*, and *Use Longer* — each addressing a specific stage of the ICT lifecycle. The program also focuses on critical impact areas, including circularity and the use of critical raw materials, due diligence and transparency, carbon and climate impact, and chemicals of concern. By integrating knowledge sharing, capacity building, and coordinated action, CFIT translates sustainability ambitions into measurable outcomes, making strategic influence concrete and actionable.

During the session, Ekaterina explained how CFIT functions as a practical tool for collaboration, enabling participants to align procurement strategies around circularity, fairness, and resource efficiency. She described how the framework translates (policy) ambitions into concrete actions, supports coordinated learning, and facilitates engagement with the ICT market. Johan complemented this with examples from Dutch tenders, showing how CFIT principles can be applied in real procurement processes. His examples illustrated how criteria for recycled materials, responsible sourcing of cobalt, and design for durability and repairability can be integrated, highlighting how alignment under CFIT improves transparency and strengthens engagement with the market.

Although developed for ICT, CFIT's approach has broader relevance. The program demonstrates how coordinated international procurement strategies can strengthen resilience, reduce risk, and make sustainability tangible and measurable across public purchasing practices.