Innovative solutions generated by green public procurement

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Abstract: Green public procurement (GPP) provides Governments with the opportunity to move beyond procuring only from suppliers that deliver the least expensive products, to prioritising procurement from suppliers that respect the environment; therefore, it can potentially provide a major boost to sustainable development (Meuleman et al. (2021, p. 2).
The academic literature defines several categories of barriers preventing mass scale use of GPP (see Cheng et al., 2018). The existing studies deal with general environmental policies and regulations (e.g. Grandia, 2016 or Tsai, 2017), direct environmental aspects (Igarashi et al., 2015 or Parikka-Alhola & Nissinen, 2012), and the GPP practice (Brammer & Walker, 2011; Igarashi et al., 2015; Uttam & Le Lan Roos, 2015). In some cases, the price increase because of including "green elements" into the tendering process is directly mentioned as a possible critical barrier.
However, our on-going research suggest that properly implemented GPP may deliver interesting innovative solutions, even solutions with the positive effect of a price decrease. Such findings may support the Porter hypothesis that proposes that If properly designed, environmental regulation can stimulate firms to innovate more, potentially leading to increased competitiveness and productivity over time (Porter 1991).
The paper plans to present results from our ongoing research related to this topic. The data will be based on the in-depth analysis of all tenders labelled in the Slovak system as GPP (as minimum for one calendar year, with focus on selected segments). The list of innovative solutions will be generated and examples of best practice highlighted.