

BSI – Buying for Social Impact



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Initial findings from the BSI project

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Objectives of the BSI project

- *Encouraging contracting authorities to use public procurement to pursue social goals*
- *Increasing the capacity of social economy enterprises to take part in public procurement procedures and to access new markets*

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Client

- *Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and*
- *the European Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)*

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Consortium

- European Association for Information on Local Development (AEIDL)
- European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES)
- DIESIS COOP
- Social Economy Europe (SEE) and
- the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE).

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Geographical scope



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Two strands of work

- *Knowledge development through desk research on: how the new public procurement directive has been transposed at national level, identification of good practices on SRPP, and a mapping of the capacity of social economy enterprises in accessing markets.*
- *Knowledge sharing and exchange through the organisation of awareness raising and training events in the 15 EU countries.*

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Resources:

<https://www.aeidl.eu/docs/bsi/index.php>

<https://www.aeidl.eu/docs/bsi/index.php/bsi-buying-for-social-impact/bsi-library>

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Initial findings - challenges

- difficulty in introducing and applying new possibilities foreseen by the directive: e.g. the special regime (unspecific approaches to social services – MEAT), reserved contracts based on art. 20 (e.g. DE, DK, SE, NL etc. or difficulty to implement it above the threshold (PL, IT)
- use of social considerations is less problematic, but it is mainly employment clauses
- challenges are linked to a) a low level of knowledge; b) the absence of solid legal arguments supporting the use of specific provisions.

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Initial findings - challenges

- Lack of knowledge is mainly at regional and above all municipal level, from both sides
- In some countries the provisions are new to the contracting authorities, but also the social economy sector is not well developed
- In many countries public authorities do not know well the social economy / non profit sector and in which markets there is potential – role of facilitators
- CAs have a tendency to “stay on the safe side”, using the known procedures or stick to interpretative acts coming from the centre

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Initial findings – possible solutions

- Improvement of knowledge is promoted through training seminars, often supported by the social economy; in some countries there are help desks, support structures that provide advice and information
- Legal framework is not enough, it is important to provide trainings, disseminate good practice
- Crucial is the constitution of units of legal experts able to enter in a dialogue with regional and local Cas
- Necessary to build a solid national legal argument that SRPP is possible

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Lessons learned

- More attention to the transposition phase: often the spirit of the directive is not understood, tendency to ignore recitals, leading to a mismatch between the EU legislator and the national ones
- This project has proved to be useful in some countries to deepen the understanding of the spirit of the directive and to make the public sector know better the social economy

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Call for good practices

We are now collecting good practices of SRPP

Please contact me: vca@aeidl.eu

Thank you!

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