

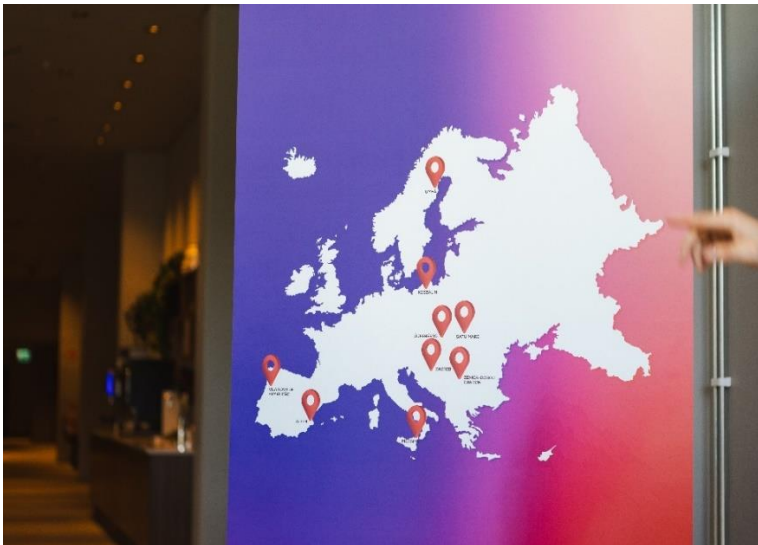
GenProcure – Quarterly Report – January to March 2024

1. What is GenProcure about ?



GENPROCURE NETWORK IMAGE

GenProcure is one of thirty Action Planning Networks (APNs) funded through the [URBACT](#)¹ Programme. Operating between June 2023 and December 2025, and through a series of transnational and local level learning and knowledge exchanges, GenProcure will seek to support nine Partners to create [Integrated Action Plans \(IAPs\)](#)² around the topic of **Gender Responsive Public Procurement**.



GENPROCURE NETWORK MAP

The GenProcure APN is being led by the City of Vila Nova De Famalicão (Portugal) and includes the following Project Partners (PP): Koszalin (Poland), Satu Mare (Romania), Umeå (Sweden), Alcoi (Spain), Messina (Italy), Zenica-Doboj Canton Development Department (Non-City Partner - Bosnia and Herzegovina), Zagreb (Croatia), and Újfehértó (Hungary). Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson is supporting the Network as Lead Expert.

The thematic focus of GenProcure is the topic of Gender Responsive Public Procurement. The Network recognises that cities across Europe face significant challenges in the way in which they undertake Public Procurement because it is often seen as very bureaucratic and technical. The Network also recognises that cities across Europe also face significant challenges around Gender Inequality and in particular around representation, pay and access to services. The City of Famalicão as Lead Partner believes this APN is an opportunity to link together the themes and challenges of Public Procurement and Gender Inequality, and through exchange and learning enable themselves and the Project Partners to develop actions that will enable Public Procurement to be undertaken in a way that considers and realises Gender Equality – this is commonly termed as Gender Responsive Public Procurement.

¹ <https://urbact.eu/>

² The URBACT IAP Study from 2023 provides some pointers on how to develop a good IAP: <https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/IAP%20Study%20%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>



CYCLE OF PROCUREMENT

The GenProcure Network is also shaped by URBACT's and our Lead Expert's historical work and knowledge around Strategic Procurement. Framed by the activities of the [Procure APN](#)³ (2015-2018) and the [Making Spend Matter Transfer Network](#)⁴ (TN) (2018-2021), URBACT developed an [Online Training Course on Strategic Procurement](#)⁵. The Course was shaped by the 'Cycle of Procurement' image on the left and recognised that for Public Procurement to become more strategic, cities needed to think about local economic, social and environmental considerations at each of the six stages of the cycle.

In GenProcure, we have used the 'Cycle of Procurement' to shape our Network Methodology for the period January 2024 to December 2025. Through a series of Transnational Meetings, our Partners will learn about the different stages of the 'Cycle of Procurement' and specifically how Gender can be considered at each stage. Partners will subsequently look to test aspects of the 'Cycle of Procurement' and Gender considerations in their cities and as part of developing wider actions for their IAP.

2. About this Quarterly Report (January to March 2024)

This first Quarterly Report reviews the activities undertaken by the GenProcure APN at transnational and local levels in the period January to March 2024 and the learning derived by Partners. In particular, the Quarterly Report details:

-) Information about the content of our two collective meetings held in the period:
 - o An Online Masterclass on the topic of 'What is Spend Analysis' on Wednesday 7th February 2024.
 - o A Core Transnational Meeting, held in the City of Umea on the topics of 'Gender Equality, Gender Equality Strategies, and Gender Equality Activities' and 'Public Procurement Strategy' on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March 2024.
-) Information about the key learning from our Partners in relation to those topics.
-) Information about the activities undertaken by each of the GenProcure Partners at the local level and including progress made in the development of IAPs.
-) Information about other activities involving GenProcure Partners.
-) The next steps of activity for GenProcure into Quarter 2 (April to June 2024).

³ <https://urbact.eu/networks/procure>

⁴ <https://urbact.eu/networks/making-spend-matter#:~:text=Making%20Spend%20Matter%20Transfer%20network,local%20economy%20and%20its%20citizens.>

⁵ <https://urbact.eu/knowledge-hub/procurement>

3. Collective Activities

3.1 Online Masterclass – What is Spend Analysis? (Wednesday 7th February 2024)

REDUCING WEALTH EXTRACTION

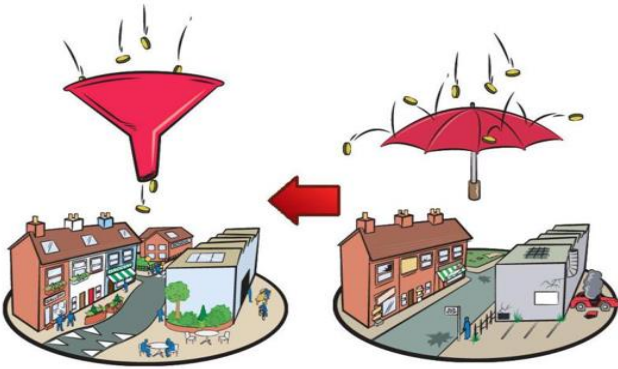


Illustration by Rory Seaford of The Creative Element,
www.pluggingtheleaks.org/resources/plm_ptl_images.htm

The meeting on ‘What is Spend Analysis’ was split into four parts. In part 1, the Lead Expert of GenProcure (Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson) introduced the six-step cycle of procurement which will frame our activities throughout this Network, and also outlined why the process of Procurement is important from a value, legal, and social and environmental perspective.

SPEND ANALYSIS - MANCHESTER

In part 2, Matthew introduced stage 1 of the cycle of procurement and in particular outlined the types of data that needs to be collected to undertake Spend Analysis, how the actual analysis is undertaken, how the results can be interpreted, and the example of Manchester (UK) who have been undertaking Spend Analysis for over 15 years.

valor fatura por Localidade

Localidade	valor fatura	%GT valor fatura
Vila Nova de Famalicão	244.031.386,14	54,79%
LISBOA	59.635.247,38	13,39%
VILA REAL	57.673.761,77	12,95%
BRAGA	14.528.801,18	3,26%
Guimarães	13.310.977,29	2,99%
Calorico de Basto	13.144.154,57	2,95%
Porto	11.199.794,44	2,51%
Oeiras	5.841.766,89	1,31%
Barcelos	4.785.711,23	1,07%
Loures	4.495.004,11	1,01%
VILA NOVA DE GAIA	1.544.076,83	0,35%
VIANA DO CASTELO	1.322.720,15	0,30%
LEIRIA	1.296.652,87	0,29%
Trofa	1.269.443,59	0,29%
SANTO TIROSO	1.140.936,60	0,26%
Maia	1.099.820,27	0,25%
Matosinhos	1.045.709,36	0,23%
GUIMARÃES	888.542,88	0,20%
Gondomar	682.159,19	0,15%
TOMAR	496.242,97	0,11%
Monção	455.196,17	0,10%
VILA DO CONDE	377.134,23	0,08%
Sintra	333.371,60	0,07%
AVEIRO	332.900,22	0,07%
Bragança	324.857,58	0,07%
COIMBRA	281.414,16	0,06%
Póvoa de Varzim	269.813,43	0,06%
Vila Verde	233.860,08	0,05%
Fafe	224.241,96	0,05%
Ovar	220.920,45	0,05%
Ponte Delgada	210.683,97	0,05%
Total	445.382.843,46	100,00%

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Contagem de Localidade

SPEND ANALYSIS - FAMILIÇÃO

In part 3, the project partners of Famalicão, Koszalin and Umeå presented the work they have each undertaken historically around Spend Analysis and the key lessons they have learnt. Finally, the GenProcure Partners and other attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions. Following the meeting, Partners were asked to populate Key Learning Tables and to detail in particular what they had learnt from the online masterclass and what the implications for their IAP would be.

The Key Learnings were as follows:

“We need a list of all the SMEs we have in Alcoi and those that work with the Municipality and to create such a list will be an Action in our IAP”.

“We would like to Test the Spend Analysis tool in our context as part of this APN” (Satu Mare).

“It is really interesting to learn from each other and that things can be done in different ways. Learning from the online master class on spend analysis will be transferred to our IAP in a descriptive text, about how Umeå municipality works with Spend Analysis”.

“We learnt about the critical role of Spend Analysis in understanding purchasing patterns, identifying opportunities for cost savings, and ensuring transparency and fairness in Procurement processes. We would like to facilitate knowledge sharing with other local partners about the methodology” (Zenica-Doboj).

“Project partners can also do further analysis around the types of suppliers, with expenditure broken down by organisations owned by women and in which women hold top management positions. We would like to undertake Spend Analysis again and include such data” (Koszalin).

“We really like Koszalin’s method for Spend Analysis as it is perhaps the most usable for extracting data from the Municipalities Accounting system” (Újfehértó).

“Following the meeting last February 7, the Messina working group decided to convene a meeting with the managers of all the departments of the Municipality of Messina. The objective is to involve all offices in a widespread collection of data relating to public spending.”

“While the City of Zagreb already conducts some level of spend analysis, through GenProcure and acquired inputs, knowledge and learned data, efforts will be made to incorporate it even more into the Integrated Action Plan (IAP). Analysis will be undertaken specifically in relation to infrastructure and construction spend.”

“We will keep the Cycle of Procurement in mind in day-to-day organisational life, more specifically having a holistic view of the cycle when working on each of the six specific steps. We will continue to undertake annual Spend Analysis as a key part of this” (Famalicão)

3.2 Transnational Meeting – Gender Equality and Procurement Strategy (Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March 2024)



GENPROCURE FAMILY PHOTO IN UMEA

The Transnational Meeting was split into five parts. **In part 1**, the Lead Expert of GenProcure (Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson) facilitated a session whereby each partner fed back to the Network about the work they have undertaken since the Ready for Action Meeting in November 2023 and the Online Masterclass in February 2024. It was clear that Partners had all made progress in evolving their ULGs, in developing the context sections of their IAPs, in starting to test actions such as Spend Analysis, and in starting to think about appropriate actions for inclusion in their IAP.

Integrated Approach – Task

12 aspects of integrated urban development	Relevant (Yes/No)	Why?	Initial self-assessment of integration (Baseline) 0-10	Future actions for integration of aspects
Stakeholder involvement in planning				
Coherence with existing strategies				
Sustainable urban development (economic, social, environmental)				
Integration over time				
Stakeholder involvement in implementation				
Sectoral integration				
Spatial integration				
Territorial integration				
Multi-level governance				
Integration of cross-cutting thematic aspects				
Complementary types of investment (hard/soft)				
Mobilising all available funding				

URBACT'S INTEGRATED APPROACH

In part 2, Matthew introduced URBACT's concept of the 'Integrated Approach', and specifically discussed URBACT's historical thinking about integration, the findings of the last IAP Study (undertaken in 2022/23), and the new 12 element approach to integration that will frame APNs and IAPs in URBACT IV. Partners were then asked to use the URBACT Integration Assessment Tool to explore which of the elements of integration were relevant for the theme of Gender Responsive Public Procurement, and which elements of integration their city needed to improve upon generally.

In part 3, Ad-Hoc Expert, Sally Kneeshaw led a session on Gender Equality, Gender Equality Strategies and Gender Equality Activities and which was complemented by Partners participating in Umeå's Gendered Landscape Tour. A series of interactive tasks were undertaken with partners in relation to the following questions.



1. How would you encourage and enable all women and girls to be consulted, to participate, to identify existing and potential problems and co-create solutions in your city? Responses were as follows:

-) Set up a women's council as a consultative body appointed by the mayor with active women and leaders such as politicians, businesswomen, NGO chairs.
-) Run public campaigns such as on web portals, social media, TV and press.
-) Host events and conferences with interesting speakers.
-) Present good practice and successful examples.
-) Conduct opinion polls via the telephone and internet.
-) Deliver school and kindergarten campaigns, teaching children and empowering them.

EQUAL CITIES



2. What types of gender equality outcomes would you want to achieve in your city? What would success look like? For instance, related to citizen experience of services, quality of life, infrastructure/ design, workforce... Responses were as follows:

-) Change of mindsets - that both genders can do the same things with no specific gender roles.
-) Municipal campaigns to raise awareness.
-) Programmes in kindergartens and schools.
-) Co finance women's enterprises.
-) Give courage - encourage women to rise.

Source: Gender Equal Cities
<https://urbact.eu/knowledge-hub/gender-equal-cities>

-) Provide financial literacy and independence for women.
-) Security – provide more public lighting.
-) Define starting number and goals.



3. How could you start or improve gender mainstreaming in your city? Responses were as follows:

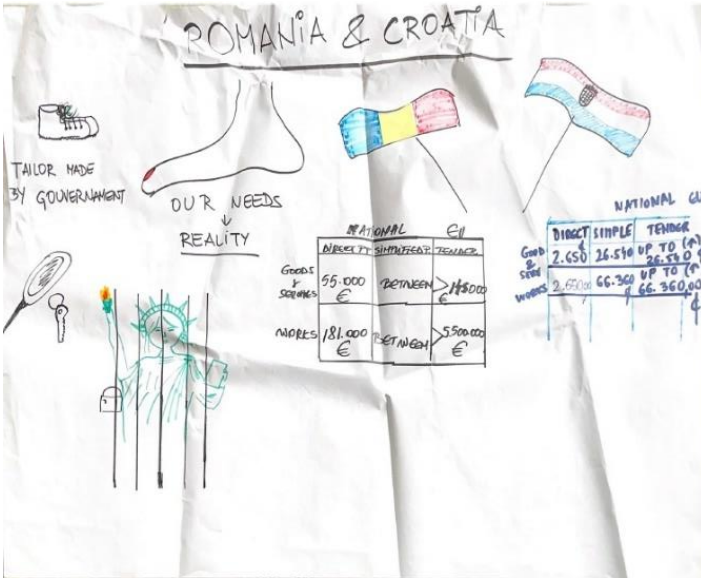
-) Through education, language and gender equality plans.
-) Awareness raising campaigns.
-) Tools for work life balance reconciliation.
-) Communication.
-) Training programmes.



Following the Gendered Landscape Tour, Partners were asked to detail a commitment that they would pledge to undertake around Gender Equality both personally and as cities when they returned home. **Responses were as follows:**

-) Disseminate the ideas and good practices from this meeting.
-) Share information about gender equality especially the good practice in Umeå.
-) Award gender equality certificates for local associations.
-) Develop a gender equality plan.

-) Do a study on providers led by women in public procurements comparing public versus private providers.
-) Organise a meeting of women leaders to raise awareness on the role of women.
-) Make a procurement with gender equality (x 2).
-) Apply the principle of gender equality in one procurement procedure per year.
-) Provide equal support for the personal development of male and female children.
-) Organise a conference on Men's Day the 19th of November to talk about gender equality.
-) Set up a women's council.
-) 'I will make everyone aware that it is possible to change the city. I will give the example of Umeå'.
-) Present to the ULG the outcome of analysis of how much money is spent with companies owned or managed by women.
-) Invite local young women to shadow me and give careers advice.
-) Set up a development trust.



COLLABORATIVE WORK OF SATU MARE AND ZAGREB

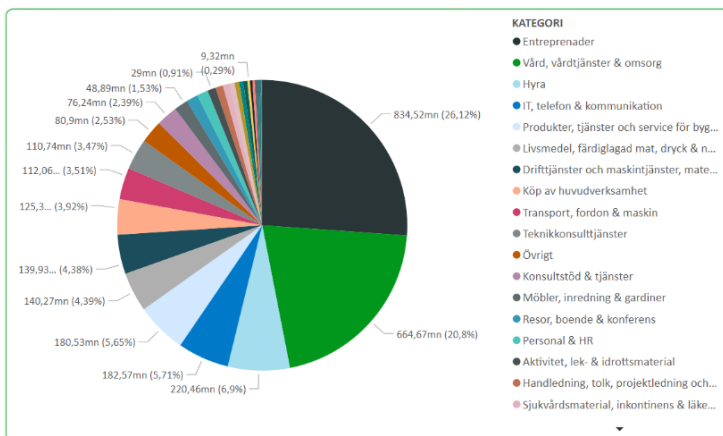
In Part 4, Matthew introduced to Partners the concept of Public Procurement Strategies and particularly why it is important to develop a Public Procurement Strategy, the key sections of a Public Procurement Strategy and how to develop a Public Procurement Strategy. Partners then worked collaboratively on a series of interactive tasks to respond to questions about the sections of a Public Procurement Strategy.



COLLABORATIVE WORK OF FAMILIÇÃO AND MESSINA

The key sections for including in a Public Procurement Strategy are:

-) Introduction and including aspects around why developing a Strategy is important; review of previous Procurement Strategy; and vision, aims and objectives for Procurement Strategy.
-) Findings of Spend Analysis.
-) Legal Framework
-) Local Policy, Procedure and Governance.
-) Strategy links and Wider Outcomes.
-) Market Engagement.
-) Procurement Pipeline.
-) Monitoring.



UMEÅ SPEND ANALYSIS

The session on Procurement Strategy was complemented by presentations from local Umeå stakeholders about their approach to Public Procurement. In Part 5, Matthew introduced the next steps in developing IAPs, and particularly how to develop strategic objectives – Partners will work on developing specific strategic objectives for their own IAPs prior to the next Transnational Meeting in Messina in June 2024.

Following the meeting, Partners were asked to populate Key Learning Tables and to detail in particular what they had learnt from the Transnational Meeting and what the implication for their IAP would be.

LEARNING TOGETHER



The Key Learnings were as follows:

“We would like to develop a Procurement Strategy, building upon our existing approach and this is likely to be a key Action in our IAP” (Satu Mare).

“It is important for both the ULG group and other Stakeholders to be involved in the process of developing the IAP, and to be curious, interested and to dare to try/test ideas that appear during the process. In Umeå, we will consider how/in what way we can support more female entrepreneurs through the network to, for example, dare to submit a tender for a procurement.”

“Some of the outcomes we would like to achieve to improve gender equality in Zenica-Doboj Canton are already encompassed within Gender Action Plan ZDC and include Gender responsible budgeting, Reduced gap between women and men in labour market, and prevention and protection from domestic violence and gender-based violence.”

“We learnt a lot about Gender Equality strategies and activities in Umeå and at our next ULG meeting we will discuss the Umeå practices that can be implemented in the City of Koszalin’s policies.”

“We will incorporate a number of our learnings into the IAP as Actions including the development of a Women’s Council, an Equality Conference, and the development of a Procurement Strategy” (Újfehértó).

“One of the key messages that emerged from the meeting is that the procurement of local public bodies must be directed towards achieving responsible spending with positive effects on the local context. We must therefore not limit ourselves to guaranteeing gender equality, but procurement must ensure environmental sustainability, compliance with social clauses, etc” (Messina).

“Gender equality in public procurement encompasses more than simply achieving an equal number of men and women involved in the process. It involves ensuring fairness, inclusivity and non-discrimination at every stage of the procurement cycle from planning to implementation. We will ensure that these considerations underpin the Actions in our IAP” (Zagreb).

“It is fine and legal to hold meetings with suppliers in order to understand the procedures and understand what to buy. This will become a key part of our future Procurement activities” (Famalicão).

4. Partner Activities

4.1 Alcoi

Alcoi did not attend the March Transnational Meeting – progress in Alcoi will therefore be presented in Quarterly Report 2 for the period April to June 2024.

4.2 Famalicão



The city of Famalicão has started to develop the context section of their IAP, with a particular focus upon ensuring that Public Procurement is used as a mechanism to address inequality of opportunities. For Famalicão, this APN is not just about addressing Gender Inequality, but Inequality more broadly and including accessibility to Procurement opportunities for SMEs and Social Economy organisations. Famalicão has already undertaken significant work around Spend Analysis and is drawing that information together into the context section of their IAP.

Famalicão has already undertaken work in Quarter 1 in raising awareness across their ULG Members and others of Gender Equality and linkages to Public Procurement, further progressing work with local businesses, schools and communities that has been undertaken historically.

Famalicão has used the Problem Tree tool of URBACT to identify the key problems that they face in relation to Gender Responsive Public Procurement, and the causes and effects of those problems.

“There are significant challenges facing businesses in bidding for public contracts, which are caused by a resistance to change across public sector partners, and which effects inequality at the very outset because it favours bigger businesses with more resources.”

To shape the Actions to be included in their IAP, Famalicão has developed the following vision:



To be a reference city at national and European level where there is equal opportunity in public procurement processes, prioritizing values of transparency and communication, in parallel with strengthening the local economy through regular contact with stakeholders

4.3 Koszalin

The City of Koszalin held 2 ULG meetings in Quarter 1. The first focused upon defining the main directions for Koszalin’s IAP as being ‘raising awareness of the importance of Gender Responsive Public Procurement across a wider range of local stakeholders’ and ‘learning how to integrate gender considerations at every stage of Public Procurement’. The second focused on Gender Equality Action Plans and specifically the activities of the Technical University of Koszalin.

Koszalin has already started to write its IAP and particularly sections introducing the GenProcure APN, local demographic information about Koszalin, and sections on EU, National, and Local level law and policy around Public Procurement.



REGIONAL GENDER EQUALITY CONFERENCE

The Municipality of Koszalin has also commenced work on its Spend Analysis for 2023, the findings of which will be included in the context section of the IAP. In addition to analysing Procurement spend by geography and SMEs, Koszalin is also exploring whether suppliers are owned by women or have women in top management positions. Members of the Koszalin ULG also participated in a Regional Conference on International Women’s Day which looked to showcase good practice of women in business, science, new technologies, and uniformed services.

4.4 Messina



ULG MEETING IN MESSINA

The City of Messina has spent Quarter 1 looking to further explain the concept of Gender Responsive Public Procurement to local stakeholders and to further secure the engagement of those stakeholders in the ULG and in the development of the IAP. Messina has split their ULG into two parts – a core group that will drive forward the development of the IAP and participate in activities such as the undertaking of Spend Analysis – and an influencing group, which includes other Anchor Institutions, Unions and Associations that Messina would like to influence to change behaviour through the delivery of the IAP.

With the core group, Messina has already shared the Spend Analysis tool presented at the Online Masterclass in February 2024, and is encouraging Municipality entities in particular to collect the required data. The Director General of the Municipality of Messina is playing a strong role in directing the Spend Analysis and is seeking to promote cross-entity collaboration, something that has not necessarily happened successfully in previous URBACT Networks.

4.5 Satu Mare



ULG MEETING IN SATU MARE

Satu Mare held its first full ULG Meeting in January 2024, where the IAP and its sections were explained in more detail and where the ULG practically utilised URBACT's Stakeholder Ecosystem Map and Problem Tree Tools. Following the Online Masterclass in February 2024, Satu Mare also decided that they would like to test the Spend Analysis Tool in their local context. Matthew will be supporting Satu Mare to adapt the tool and to test it with the Procurement Spend of a number of Anchor Institutions and including the County Council, Airport and Hospital.

Satu Mare's Problem Tree has identified the key challenge that they would like to address through the GenProcure APN and in the Actions of their IAP as being a lack of experience in using Social and Gender criteria in Public Procurement. This is caused by a range of things and including legislation, these criteria not being a priority, and an absence of best practice examples in Romania, and this is leading to effects such as inefficient public spend. Satu Mare are particularly interested in developing Social and Gender criteria and will host a ULG workshop specifically on this topic in early 2025.

SATU MARE – PROBLEM TREE

IAP – Satu Mare – Problem tree		
CAUSES	PROBLEM	EFFECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Legislation unfavorable to the prioritization of social and gender criteria ➤ Lack of interest and openness on the part of decision-makers ➤ Gender and social equality are not a priority ➤ Policies lacking pragmatic approach ➤ Lack of interest/interest from potential bidders ➤ Lack of expertise ➤ Lack of studies and ineffective procurement analysis ➤ Routine unreceptive to innovation and new criteria ➤ Lack of time and resources ➤ Absence of best practice models ➤ Lack of continuity in public procurement planning ➤ Prejudices 	<p>LACK OF SOCIAL AND GENDER CRITERIA IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Public procurement does not contribute to social and gender objectives ➤ Continuous use of criteria other than social and gender ➤ Hasty procurement methods ➤ Inefficient spending of public money ➤ Lack of innovation in public procurement ➤ Widening social and gender inequalities ➤ Stagnation in development ➤ Perpetuation of problems in the gender sector ➤ Discrimination

4.6 Újfehértó

SPENDING ANALYSIS VII.



SPEND ANALYSIS IN UJFEHERTO

The City of Újfehértó has used URBACT's Problem Tree following the Ready for Action Meeting in November 2023 to further hone in on the problem that they would like to address through the GenProcure APN and in their IAP. Given the small size of Újfehértó (around 13.000 people), there has always been a focus upon seeking to support local businesses to bid for Public Procurement

opportunities and particularly those of low value. However, less emphasis has been historically placed on the role of women and start businesses developed by young people. This is the core problem and is caused by

the time-limited nature of Procurement, with consequences for young people, in particular wanting to stay in Újfehértó.

In addition, Újfehértó has also been working in Quarter 1 on developing its ULG further and identifying the relative importance and influence of ULG Members. They have broken their stakeholders into four groups of public sector, private SMEs, NGO's and Citizens. Following the Online Masterclass in February 2024, Újfehértó utilised the Spend Analysis Tool presented to undertake analysis of the Municipalities 13 Million Euro Procurement spend in 2022. This analysis explored the geography of suppliers, spend on goods and services and on works, and by SME or otherwise. This data alongside that to be analysed for 2023 will form part of the context section of the IAP, alongside demographic data that Újfehértó has already gathered.

4.7 Umeå

The City of Umeå has utilised SWOT Analysis to develop the context section of their IAP and in relation to the Network theme of Gender Responsive Public Procurement. They have identified specific strengths such as local politicians being committed to both Gender Equality and more effective Public Procurement and the fact that Public Procurement is seen as a strategic function of the Municipality. They have identified weaknesses such as those identified in the picture above. They have identified possibilities (opportunities) such as the potential for exchange of experiences across Anchor Institutions and the scope for a network of female entrepreneurs. And they have identified threats such as the structure of the labour market and local business development.

In addition, Umeå has been working closely with ULG Members to showcase existing activities around Strategic Procurement, and which were presented at the Transnational Meeting in Umeå in March 2024.

SWOT ANALYSIS IN UMEÅ - WEAKNESSES

Weaknesses - Detailed description

- Equality in Umeå municipality's current procurement policy needs to be reformulated and clarified
- Politically controlled organization
- Finances -
- Organizational structure -
- No joint management of procurement within the municipal group
- Lack of understanding/competence internally for how gender equality can be required in procurement, and why it is important
- Lack of opportunity for follow-up

4.8 Zagreb



ULG MEETING IN ZAGREB

The City of Zagreb has undertaken a lot of further work in Quarter 1 in formulating their structures internally for the GenProcure APN and for their ULG. In particular, they have used URBACT's Stakeholder Ecosystem Map Tool to further expand their ULG, and include representation from across the public, commercial, and NGO sectors. They have also utilised existing communication materials to promote GenProcure to a wide range of stakeholders across the City.

The City of Zagreb have also started to identify the principles around Gender Responsive Public Procurement that will shape the development of their IAP and its Actions. These principles include the following:

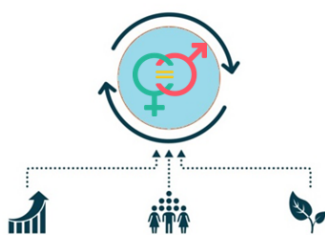
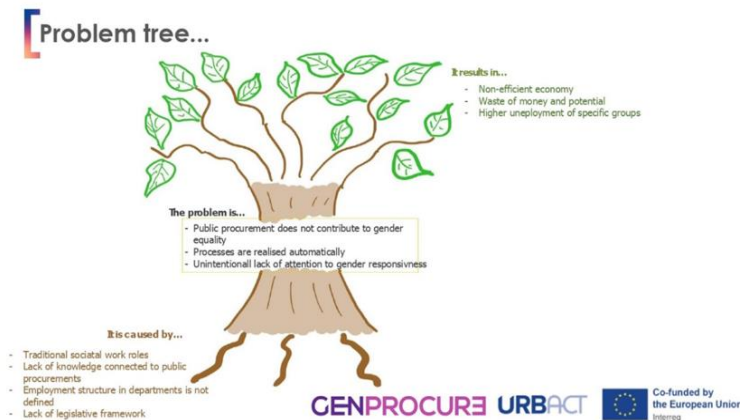
-) Equal Access to Opportunities: Ensuring that both men and women have equal access to opportunities to participate in public procurement processes, including bidding for contracts, providing goods or services or holding decision-making positions.
-) Promotion of Women-Owned Businesses (respecting the principles set forth in Article 4 of the Public Procurement Act 2016.): Actively promoting and supporting women-owned businesses to participate in procurement processes through capacity-building initiatives, mentorship programs and targeted outreach efforts.
-) Gender - Responsive Contracting: Incorporating gender considerations into procurement contracts and specifications, such as promoting the use of gender-sensitive language, ensuring accessibility for all genders and considering the impact of procurement decisions on gender equality.
-) Partnerships and Collaboration: Collaborating with relevant stakeholders, including women's organizations, civil and gender equality groups to advance gender-responsive procurement policies and practices.

4.9 Zenica-Doboj

The Canton of Zenica-Doboj has undertaken significant work on the development of the context section for their IAP. They have written about the current situation in Zenica-Doboj around Gender Inequality and particularly around labour market participation, education, and political representation. They have written about and presented charts around the demography of Zenica-Doboj. They have sought to link the focus of the GenProcure APN to existing local strategy and particularly the Gender Equality Action Plan. They have used URBACT's Stakeholder Ecosystem Map to identify the key stakeholders that will develop and implement their IAP.

ZENICA-DOBOJ PROBLEM TREE

They have used URBACT's Problem Tree to identify that that key problem they are seeking to address in Zenica-Doboj being 'a lack of awareness and understanding of Gender Responsive Public Procurement amongst Procurement professionals and stakeholders.' This is being caused by an emphasis upon more 'traditional' approaches to Procurement and is leading to a non-efficient local economy. Finally, and as detailed below, Zenica-Doboj has developed a vision for their IAP.



VISION STATEMENT:

Reshaping public procurement by prioritizing gender equality and inclusivity, ensuring that procurement decisions foster sustainable development and reduces gender disparities and actively contribute to building a more equitable and inclusive society in the upcoming 5 year period.

5. Other Activities and Next Steps

5.1 Procura+



GENPROCURE REPRESENTATIVES AT PROCURA+

The GenProcure APN and URBACT were represented by the City of Famalicão (Sara Barroso) and Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson at the ICLEI run Procura+ Conference in Lisbon on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March 2024. The Conference was focussed upon policy and practice around Public Procurement and had a specific focus upon using Public Procurement to address social challenges. The City of Famalicão was invited to host one of the Market Lounge sessions on new ideas for Public Procurement and we took the opportunity to talk about GenProcure, the ‘Cycle of Procurement’, and our activities around embedding Gender considerations in Public Procurement.

5.2 Next Steps

As outlined in this report, Quarter 1 has been successful for the GenProcure Network. We have hosted an Online Masterclass and a Transnational Meeting, and each of our Partners have moved forward with the development of their IAPs. More hard work awaits in Quarter 2 (April to June 2024) and in particular:

-) Partners will continue to develop their IAPs and particularly their strategic objectives.
-) We will have a second Online Masterclass on Tuesday 7th May 2024 on the topic of ‘influencing Anchor Institutions’.
-) We will have a second Transnational Meeting on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th June 2024 in Messina, and with a thematic focus on ‘Social, Gender, and Environmental Criteria’.
-) Our ULGs will continue to meet and share learning at the local level.



SEE YOU NEXT TIME !

On behalf of Edgar, Joana, Sara, Vítor, Alice, Juliana, Sally, and Matthew, we look forward to keeping you updated on our future work as part of URBACT’s GenProcure APN.