



Public Affairs

Mobilising action for Fair Trade Public Procurement



Objective

To mobilise Public Authorities to act on sustainable production and consumption by systematically introducing Fair Trade criteria into their public tenders.

Duration

December 2007 - November 2010

Target Groups

- ✓ National, Local and Regional governments and authorities
- ✓ European Institutions
- ✓ Schools, Universities and Hospitals
- ✓ Business sectors, including catering and vending services
- ✓ Fair Trade Organisations

Project Outputs

- ✓ European Observatory on Fair Trade Public Procurement
- ✓ Research and studies on current situation of Fair Trade criteria in public tenders
- ✓ EU Model on Fair Trade Public Procurement
- ✓ Good practices and case studies
- ✓ Monitoring and sharing of relevant laws and actions
- ✓ Training sessions and workshops for public authorities, HORECA sector and Fair Trade Organisations
- ✓ Educational activities in schools
- ✓ Seminars and conferences
- ✓ Partners' and Observatory websites

Project Partners

EFTA is an association of eleven Fair Trade importers in nine European countries. Formally established in 1990, it aims at encouraging its members to cooperate and coordinate. It facilitates the exchange of information and networking, it creates conditions for labour division and it identifies and develops joint projects.

Ctm-Altromercato is a consortium of 130 non profit organisations spread all around Italy. It is the second Fair Trade Organisation in the world regarding dimension and turnover. It manages around 350 "World Shops" and develops activities such as Fair Trade awareness-raising campaigns.

IDEAS is a Spanish Fair Trade and Alternative Economy organisation who's mission is to help build a more fair and sustainable world with national and international activities in Fair Trade, solidarity eco-



onomy and responsible consumption. Created in 1989, it has been the first Spanish organisation to develop Fair Trade activities with organisations from the South.

Oxfam-Wereldwinkels sells Fair Trade food and handicraft products and is also very active in educational and political activities. Founded in 1971, it consists of 206 local “World Shops” throughout the Flemish and Brussels regions of Belgium, managed mostly by volunteers.

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. Created in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives at the United Nations in New York . It now counts with more than 800 members worldwide.

Summary

As we are faced with increasing poverty, climate change and excessive use of natural resources throughout the world, public authorities and citizens have a growing interest in taking on a model of development where economic growth, increased social cohesion and a better environment are sought together.

Many public authorities are making an active contribution to sustainable development through their daily decision-making, including public purchasing. As well as introducing environmental and social considerations into their procurement procedures, an increasing number of public authorities are going one step further towards supporting sustainable development by promoting Fair Trade in those procedures. By doing so, their purchasing decisions will not only have an impact on the lives of producers in developing countries, but will also set an example for others, such as citizens and private business.

The Public *Affairs* project aims at promoting Fair Trade considerations into public procurement, enabling a growing number of public authorities and other public and semi-public sector bodies to use public procurement as a tool to combat poverty and to contribute to sustainable development by systematically including Fair Trade criteria into their procurement policies and practices.

To achieve this, the **European Observatory on Fair Trade Public Procurement**, a dynamic European platform, has been set up. Visitors can register on the website to have access to various content, including best practices and case studies, guides, studies, legislation, news and events as well as other very helpful resources. Through the Observatory, a model on Fair Trade Public Procurement has been developed. This model is based in research and benchmarks on the current legal situation of Fair Trade public procurement at EU, national and regional level .

Throughout the project, various activities such as seminars, training sessions and workshops for public authorities, catering and vending services and Fair Trade organisations, as well as educational activities in schools, are carried out.

The **FAIR PROCURA 2010: Fair public procurement, a tool for sustainable development** conference is the occasion to share today the outputs and results of 3 years of work promoting Fair Trade public procurement at EU level.

For additional information on the Public Affairs project or on Fair Trade and Public Procurement, please contact:

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