



RREUSE Position on Public Procurement

Introduction

Creating a resource efficient and socially inclusive Europe is at the heart of the EU 2020 strategy. The current proposal on public procurement provides potential to promote the role of social enterprises providing products and public services, including activities relating to waste prevention, repair and reuse and recycling.

RREUSE supports the position of ENSIE ([Français](#), [English](#)) as well as the [position of the NSPP](#) on the reform of the [public procurement](#) procedures .

RREUSE would like to highlight and add the following:

1. The inclusion of disadvantaged workers in Reserved Contracts

Art. 17 concerning reserved contracts is a step towards supporting work integration social enterprises. It is very important that the target group not only favours those with disabilities but also those who are disadvantaged, such as the long term unemployed, not necessarily either one or the other. In some member states, the categories defining a 'disadvantaged worker' also include those who are disabled.

RREUSE therefore believes article 17 should be formulated as follows:

*Member States may reserve the right to participate in public procurement procedures to sheltered workshops and economic operators whose main aim is the social and professional integration of disabled and disadvantaged workers or provide for such contracts to be performed in the context of sheltered employment programmes, provided that more than 30% of the employees of those workshops, economic operators or programmes are disabled **and/or** disadvantaged workers.*

2. The concept of most economically advantageous tender should integrate more horizontal socio-environmental concerns including the social integration of disadvantaged persons or members of vulnerable groups amongst the persons assigned to performing the contracts. RREUSE supports integration of social considerations in public procurement and in the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT)

3. Link Public Procurement to Green/Sustainable Public Procurement

The work on Green Public Procurement by DG Environment as part of the Sustainable Production and Consumption Action Plan should relate to rules on public procurement as well. The Commission recently asked stakeholders whether social criteria should be included in Green Public Procurement criteria in a bid to move towards more sustainable public procurement (SPP). Criteria such as reserved contracts and the integration of social considerations in public procurement within the MEAT should also apply to this work.



4. Assistance to Contracting authorities and Businesses

Article 87: In the case of countries that have no experience on the implementation of social or environmental clauses and special procurement, it would be necessary for local authorities to consult a committee formed by networks and NGOs with extensive and recognized experience in the social and environmental fields in order to develop local standards for the award of contracts for social services and other specific services. Building such consulting capacity is essential to allow member states to fully utilise reserved contracts for social enterprises contributing to a resource efficient and socially inclusive economy e.g. through waste prevention, repair, reuse and recycling activities.

5. RREUSE lastly supports having a comprehensive legal framework defining social integration enterprises as distinct from other enterprises

Who we are

The Reuse and Recycling EU Social Enterprises network (RREUSE) is a European umbrella organisation for national and regional networks of social enterprises with re-use, repair and recycling activities. Approximately 42,000 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees and over 200,000 volunteers work throughout our 22 member organisations across 11 EU Member States. Although structures and national contexts are diverse, RREUSE members share common elements such as the protection of the environment, the fight against poverty and, especially, the progress of disadvantaged people back into the labour market. RREUSE's main goal is to put sustainable development into practice by encouraging job creation and social inclusion in the field of waste prevention and sustainable waste management activities

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