



Expert consultation on gender-responsive public procurement (GRPP)

3, 8 and 11 June 2021

Concept note

Introduction

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is carrying out a project on the strategic use of public procurement to promote gender equality (gender-responsive public procurement (GRPP)) in the EU. The study aims to contribute to a more gender equal distribution of economic resources in the EU by increasing the use of GRPP as a gender mainstreaming tool to achieve gender equality goals and effective public expenditure.

The project will map, identify and select examples and good practice cases of GRPP at EU, national and regional levels. It will also analyse the potential for GRPP under the EU public procurement rules. Within the project, EIGE has developed a step-by-step toolkit to support public procurement officers and policy makers in applying GRPP throughout the whole public procurement cycle.

The toolkit will be also useful to gender equality policy-makers and practitioners to support them in advising public procurement departments on the development of policies and tendering procedures that contribute to gender equality.

The expert consultation

The toolkit needs to be tested as to how it supports potential users in their efforts to incorporate a gender perspective. EIGE has invited relevant stakeholders to participate in an expert consultation to assess the usefulness of the toolkit.

The expert consultation consists of three half-day sessions. Participants are EU officials, representatives of contracting authorities at the EU and national level, EU Funds Managing Authorities, and gender equality bodies from the EU Member States.

The first session will provide an overview of the project and draft findings, explain the essential concepts relevant for GRPP, and present the structure of the toolkit. The first part of the toolkit on the general framework for using GRPP, including legislation, policies and strategies will be tested during day one.

The second session will lead participants through the different stages of the procurement cycle with the help of the toolkit. The intention is to show how the gender perspective can be incorporated at all stages, possible barriers and how to overcome them.

The third session is dedicated to test the last section of the toolkit on post-procurement stage and to carry out an overall assessment of the toolkit.

Breakout sessions dealing with particular aspects of the procurement cycle and guided by a specific set of questions will be followed by plenary (reporting) sessions to inform all participants about the key outcomes of the discussions.

Objectives of the expert consultation

The objective of these sessions is to test the usefulness and usability of the GRPP step-by-step toolkit. With this meeting, EIGE aims to:

- Identify entry points to mainstream gender into procurement practices and processes;
- Raise awareness on how GRPP contributes to closing gender equality gaps;
- Test the draft step-by-step GRPP toolkit.

At the meeting, we will collect:

- ✓ General comments about the toolkit, i.e. structure, content, accessibility;
- ✓ Specific recommendations on how to improve it to suit the needs of its users;
- ✓ Examples and good practice cases of GRPP.

The discussions will be documented, summarized and incorporated into a revised version of the toolkit.