



One planet
procure with care

January 2022

2020/2021 Data collection for SDG Indicator 12.7.1

Main results and conclusions from the
first reporting exercise

Sustainable Public Procurement
Economic and Trade Policy Unit
Economy Division
United Nations Environment Programme
unep-spp@un.org

Acknowledgements

This report was developed by Sophie Loueyraud, UNEP consultant, under the supervision of Farid Yaker, Programme Officer, Economic and Trade Policy Unit, UNEP. It also benefited from the kind assistance of Jakob Hannerz, UNEP intern, and review by Agnes Wierzbicki, UNEP consultant, and Elizabeth Nidzelskaya, UNEP intern.

The UNEP SPP team would like to thank the Government of Norway, the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI), and the One Planet Network for their financial support which made this first reporting exercise on Indicator 12.7.1 possible.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Indicator 12.7.1 and the 2020 data collection process	2
SDG Target 12.7 and Indicator 12.7.1.....	2
Development of a measurement methodology for Indicator 12.7.1.....	2
Data collection process	5
Chapter 2. General outcome of the data collection exercise	6
Participating countries and general survey statistics	6
Final outcome of the report evaluation	7
Chapter 3. Detailed findings from the collected reports	10
Sub-indicator A: SPP Action plan, policy, or equivalent SPP legal requirements	11
Sub-indicator B: Public procurement legal and regulatory framework	12
Sub-indicator C: Practical support delivered to procurement practitioners in the implementation of SPP/GPP	16
Sub-indicator D: SPP purchasing criteria/ buying standards / requirements.....	18
Sub-indicator E: Existence of a SPP monitoring system.....	22
Sub-indicator F: Percentage of sustainable public procurement.....	25
Chapter 4. Conclusions and lessons learned	26
APPENDIX.....	28

Chapter I: Indicator 12.7.1 and the 2020 data collection process

SDG Target 12.7 and Indicator 12.7.1

[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), - “a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity” - was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. It includes 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and seeks to build on the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing the eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge and the determination of Member states to “*take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path*” and to “*realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.*”

Further to the adoption of the 17 SDGs, 169 targets and [231 indicators](#) were developed to measure progress in the achievement of each Goal. The monitoring and methodological development of each indicator was attributed to different UN agencies so as to keep track of achievements (a full list of custodian agencies can be found at [unstats.un.org](#)).

Due to its long-standing work in the field of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), most notably through activities carried out through [10-year framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production \(10YFP\)](#) and [One Planet Network](#)¹, the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) was designated as the custodian of SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and its 11 related targets.

Target 12.7 specifically aims to ‘*Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities*’ and is measured through [Indicator 12.7.1](#), defined as the ‘*Number of countries implementing Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) policies and action plans*’.

More information, updated news and further resources on SDG indicators can be found at [unstats.un.org](#), and on SDG 12 and Indicator 12.7.1 on the [SDG 12 Hub](#).

Development of a measurement methodology for Indicator 12.7.1

Background

With support from experts and member organizations of the 10YFP Sustainable Public Procurement Programme and the One Planet Network, UNEP has led the methodological development of Indicator 12.7.1 since 2016.

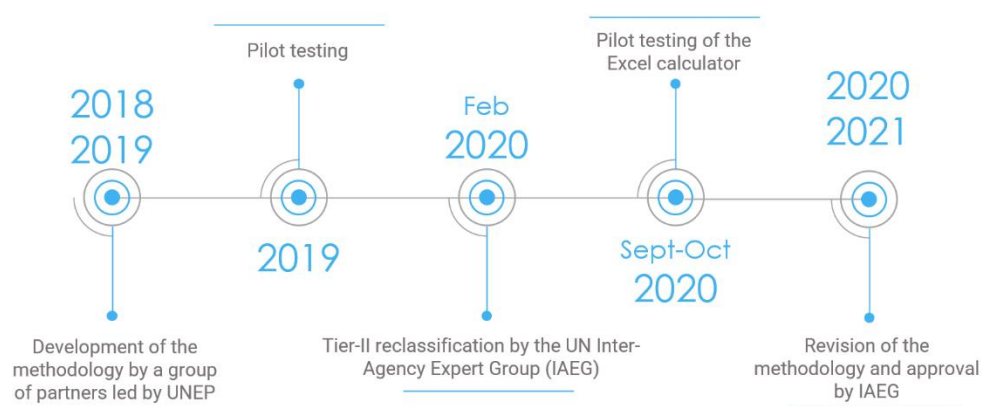
This development has included consultations and pilot testing with experts and government officials, the outcome of which was the approval of a first version of this methodology by the UN Inter-Agency Expert Group on the SDGs (IAEG) in February 2020 and upgrade of the methodology to Tier-2 meaning that the indicator was now “[considered conceptually clear, with an internationally established methodology and standards available, but data not regularly produced by countries](#)²”.

¹ www.oneplanetnetwork.org

² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>

To facilitate data collection, an Excel-based calculator was developed, and pilot tested in September 2020. Following the pilot test [a revised edition of the methodology](#)³ and related [metadata](#)⁴ were produced, and officially approved by the IAEG.

SDG Indicator 12.7.1 - Methodology development and pilot testing



Description of the SDG 12.7.1 methodology

As the implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement extends well beyond the adoption of an SPP policy or action plan, the methodology aims at evaluating the **degree of SPP implementation** through the appraisal of the following six main factors:

- (i) SPP policy – Whether an SPP policy, action plan or equivalent legal instrument⁵ has been approved. This includes SPP-related components or targets which may be included in overarching policies (such as a Sustainable Development Policy, Public Procurement National Strategy, etc.), Green Public Procurement or Socially Responsible Procurement policies (Sub-indicator A).
- (ii) Public procurement legal framework – Whether the public procurement legal framework is deemed conducive to SPP, (i) by allowing for the inclusion of sustainability requirements at different stages of the procurement cycle, and (ii) by mandating the procurement of sustainable alternatives for at least certain categories of products or services (Sub-indicator B).
- (iii) Tools and support – Whether support and tools are provided to procurement practitioners in the implementation of SPP (provision of guidelines and training, knowledge-sharing and news updates, support through an SPP helpdesk) (Sub-indicator C).
- (iv) Sustainability criteria – Whether GPP criteria have been developed, whether social, economic and governance-related focus areas are considered or promoted in procurement practice, whether an impact assessment has been conducted prior to the selection of specific products/services as the main target of sustainable procurement and development of SPP criteria (Sub-indicator D).
- (v) Monitoring and evaluation – Scope of SPP monitoring and measurement of SPP outcome (Sub-indicator E).

³ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/37332>

⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

⁵ Such as [Executive Order 13834](#) (and associated Implementing Instruction) in the United States, and [article 34 of Public Contracts Code](#) in Italy.

- (vi) Outputs/Outcomes – Actual percentage of sustainable procurement in total procurement value (Sub-indicator F).

Based on the attribution of a maximum one point per each section, a final score is calculated to evaluate whether the government’s implementation of SPP can be considered compliant with the methodology requirements and whether the national or federal government can be considered in the measurement of Indicator 12.7.1.

This score calculation is based on the formula below (full calculation details can be found in the [12.7.1 calculation methodology](#)):

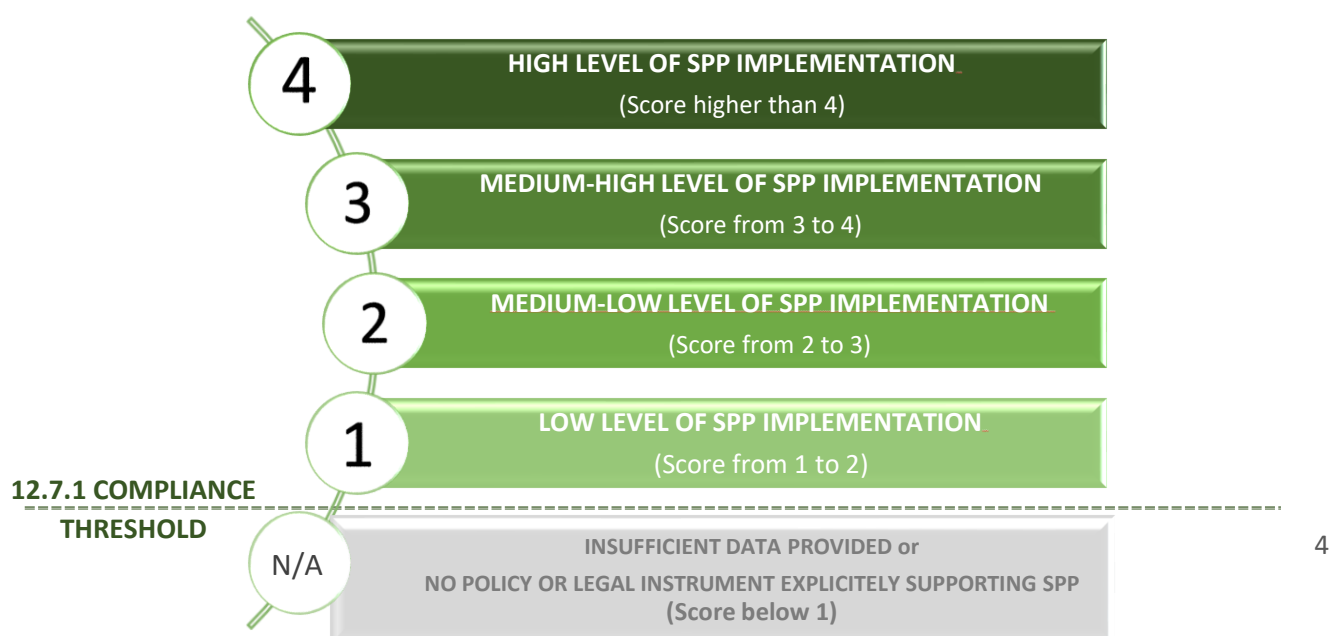
$$\text{Final Score} = A (B+C+D+E+F)$$

Denoted as:	Parameter and sub-indicators	Scoring
A	Existence of a SPP action plan/policy, and/or SPP regulatory requirements. 0 means no SPP policy in place, 1 means existence of SPP action plan, policy and/or SPP regulatory requirements at national, local or both levels.	0 or 1
B	Public procurement regulatory framework conducive to sustainable public procurement.	0 to 1
C	Practical support delivered to public procurement practitioners in the implementation of SPP.	0 to 1
D	SPP purchasing criteria/ buying standards / requirements.	0 to 1
E	Existence of a SPP monitoring system.	0 to 1
F	Percentage of sustainable purchase of priority products/services.	0-100%

Based on this final score (ranging from 0 to 5), national or federal governments’ implementation of SPP is categorised according to a maturity level based on the 4 different levels presented in Figure 1.

It should be noted that **only submissions receiving a score higher than 1** (corresponding to maturity levels 1 to 4) **are deemed compliant** with the methodology requirements and are accounted for in the final measurement of Indicator 12.7.1. **Submissions receiving a score below 1** (due to a lack of supporting evidence, to the absence of an SPP policy or equivalent legal instrument, or to a lacking implementation of SPP) **are therefore not considered in the final measurement of Indicator 12.7.1.**

FIGURE 1. SET LEVELS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF A GOVERNMENT’S IMPLEMENTATION OF SPP



More information and resources can be found on the [SDG 12 Hub](#), [SDG metadata repository](#), [SDG global database](#) and UNEP 12.7.1 webpage.

It is also important to highlight that, in regard to the evaluation framework, although the methodology had originally been designed to generate an index taking account of SPP implementation at three different levels of governance (national/federal, provincial and municipal levels) based on the share of their public procurement value in the total value of procurement at country level, due to the unavailability of those figures in most countries, the final evaluation eventually relied on the SPP implementation score received by the national or federal government, and reports received from subnational governments were evaluated separately.

Data collection process

Identification of national SPP focal points

In preparation for the official launch of the first Indicator 12.7.1 data collection exercise, representatives from more than 70 countries⁶ were contacted between September and November 2020, **to identify relevant focal points for the SDG 12.7.1 data collection.**

As a result of this process, **55+ national governments** and **8 subnational governments** (reporting independently from their national government) **organized a specific team or designated a relevant focal point to report on SDG 12.7.1 Indicator**, most often originating either from National Procurement Agencies, Treasury Boards (Ministries of Finance), Ministries of Environment or, in rarer cases, from National Statistics Departments in charge of reporting on SDGs.

Capacity building

In order to facilitate the provision of data by governments, and guide focal points in the provision of information, a set of specific tools was produced in three languages (English, Spanish and French):

- An Excel®-based calculation tool, offering a set of pre-set answers to be supported by relevant evidence (policy document, procurement guidelines, green procurement criteria, training contents, developed case studies or best practice, etc.);
- Reporting instructions;
- Frequently Asked Questions.

Four webinars were further held in English, Spanish and French in October 2020 to introduce the calculation methodology and reporting tools, and provide guidance on reporting.

⁶ Based on a list of focal points identified in the drafting of the 2017 SPP country factsheets, on the contact list of the EU GPP advisory group and nominated focal points for the One Planet 10-year framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns.

Data collection process

The SDG 12.7.1 survey was sent out to the identified focal points in October 2021 and initial reports were collected from December 2020 to January 2021, after which requests for additional information or clarifications were made by the UNEP coordination team in January / February 2021 before the final results were provided to the United Nations Statistics Department (UNSD) early March 2021.

In total 40 submissions were received from national or federal governments. Based on the defined methodology and maturity levels, 33 reports on national or federal governments' SPP implementation were deemed compliant with the methodology requirements (maturity levels 1 to 4) and considered in the final measurement of Indicator 12.7.1.

The outcome and general conclusions drawn from the data and information provided are presented in the next chapter.

Chapter 2. General outcome of the data collection exercise

National and federal governments from 40 countries responded to the first call to report on Indicator 12.7.1 by providing detailed accounts of their SPP policies and implementation activities.

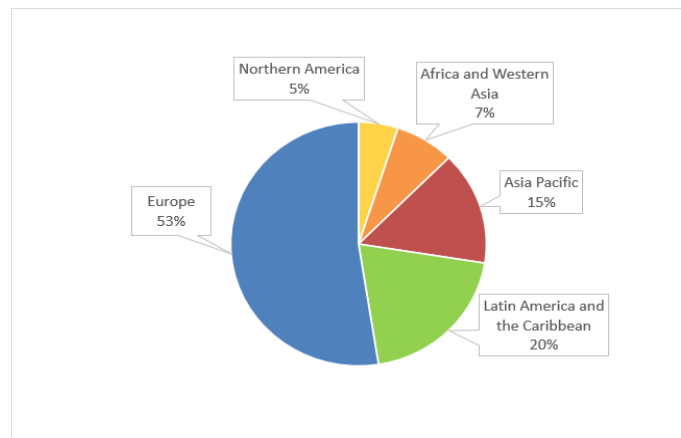
The first chapter hereafter provides general information on the participants in the survey (40 national or federal governments), while the second chapter provides more detailed conclusions based on the 33 reports considered compliant with 12.7.1 methodology requirements, with regard to SPP implementation at the regional and global levels.

Participating countries and general survey statistics

Survey participants represented a diverse array of countries covering all regions of the world, as shown in Figure 2.

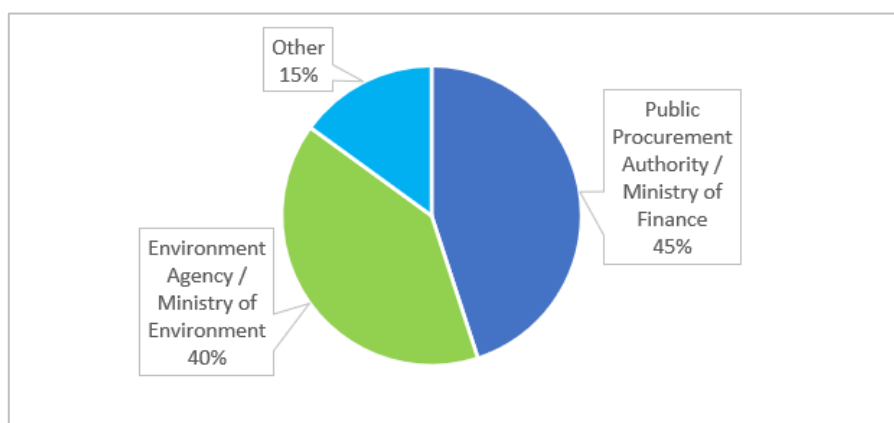
While Europe accounted for the largest share of participants (52,5%), a good response was also received from governments in Latin America and the Caribbean (20%), thanks to support from the Organisation of American States (OAS) in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the [Inter-American Network on Government Procurement](#) (INGP) in the identification of focal points. A strong response was also received from the Asia-Pacific region (15%), where both historical leaders in GPP and newcomers expressed their interest in contributing to the global effort in data collection for SDG Indicator 12.7.1. Further efforts will however need to be made to raise participation levels from governments in Africa and Western Asia – where SPP is also gaining ground – in the next reporting exercises.

FIGURE 2. REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL/FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN 2020 DATA COLLECTION FOR SDG INDICATOR 12.7.1



Designated focal point entities, responsible for completing the survey and coordinating the collection of information internally, varied, although for the most part these were public authorities charged with either financial or economic responsibilities (45%) or environmental affairs (40%). The remaining 15% included other types of entities, such as Statistics Bureaus, Ministries of Development, etc. (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. REPORTING ENTITIES – 2020 DATA COLLECTION FOR SDG INDICATOR 12.7.1



Final outcome of the report evaluation

Based on the evaluation framework and maturity levels presented in Chapter 1, the following classification of reports was reached (Figures 4 and 5):

- From the 40 reports received, 7 did not meet the methodological requirements to be considered “compliant” due either to the absence of an SPP policy or equivalent legal instrument, to a lacking implementation of SPP, or to the lack of supporting evidence for proper appraisal.

- 10 reports were assessed as belonging to Level 1 – Low level of SPP implementation, 14 reports to Level 2 – Medium-low category, and 9 reports to Level 3 – Medium-high category.
- It should also be noted that, in this first data collection exercise, no reports matched the expected level of requirements for the fourth category corresponding to a high level of SPP implementation.

The compliance threshold for a national / federal government to be included in the measurement of SDG Indicator 12.7.1 has been set at Level 1, meaning that maturity levels 1 to 4 are deemed compliant, while governments which were attributed level 0 will not be included in the final computing of Indicator 12.7.1.

As a result, Indicator 12.7.1, i.e., the Number of Countries Implementing Sustainable Public Procurement Policies and Action Plans, therefore amounted to a total of 33 countries in the first reporting exercise.

FIGURES 4 AND 5. FINAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE 40 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM NATIONAL/FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

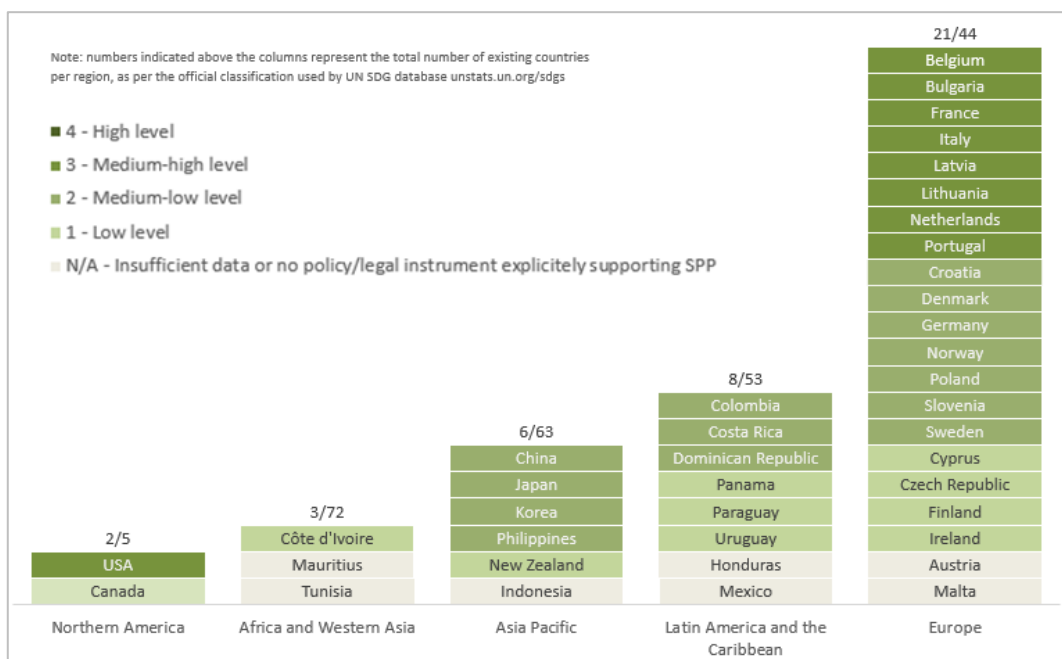
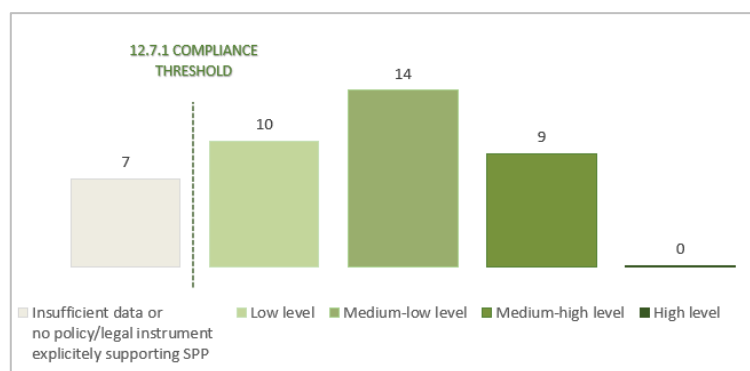
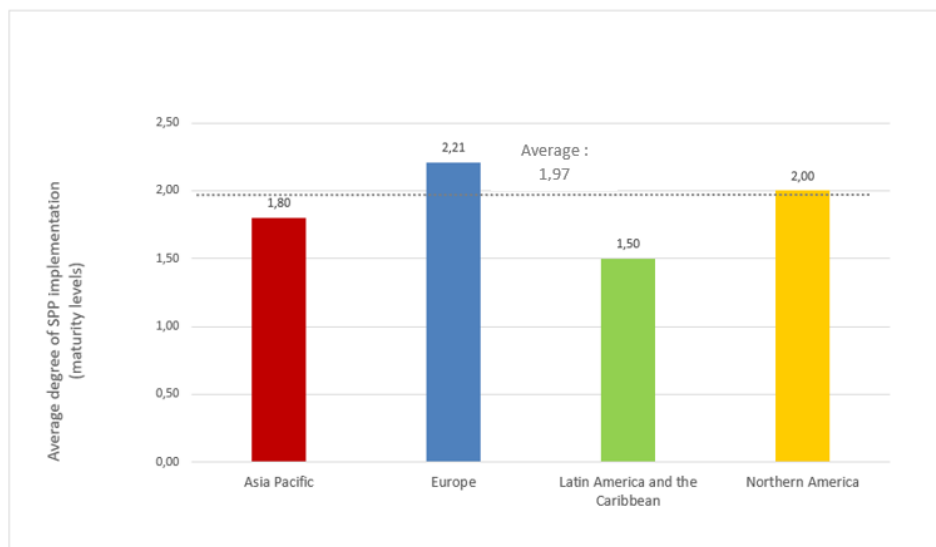


Figure 6 below represents the average maturity level attributed to reports in each region.

The general mean (1.97) for the 33 respondents considered 'compliant' with the methodology requirements shows that the average level among respondents is close to the maturity level 2 – Medium-low level of SPP implementation. Reports received from European countries perform slightly higher (2.21), followed by

Northern American respondents (Level 2 on average), and Asia-Pacific respondents (1.80 on average), while LAC respondents (1.50) show a lower overall performance.

FIGURE 6. AVERAGE MATURITY LEVELS ATTRIBUTED TO RESPONDENTS, PER REGION⁷



Looking at the final findings from the survey and geographical distribution of the 33 reports considered compliant with the methodology requirements, the following can be observed:

- The high representation of European national governments among the 33 respondents (55% of which are members of the European Union), in which the existence of a pre-established group monitoring the implementation of GPP (EU GPP advisory group) played an important role, reflects EU's long-standing efforts in the field of Green Public Procurement (GPP) policy implementation. These governments' levels of SPP implementation show different grades of maturity, spreading across all 3 stages of implementation, as, although the public procurement legal framework in most EU member states is conducive to SPP due to the transposition of the EU public procurement directive in national legal frameworks, the support and tools provided for SPP implementation itself differ in each country.
- A more moderate yet notable participation was also received from governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, with Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic leading the way, and significant efforts from Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay in the field of SPP.
- A similar trend was observed in the Asia-Pacific region, where GPP pioneers such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, and China have scaled up their efforts in the implementation and measurement of SPP, with interesting developments in other countries such as the Philippines.
- Although there is growing interest in Sustainable Public Procurement in Africa and Western Asia, participation in the SDG 12.7.1 monitoring exercise was limited to only a handful of countries in this region, although it is hoped that more governments will participate in future reporting exercises.

⁷ Due to the participation of only one country in Africa and Western Asia (Côte d'Ivoire) out of 75 countries in the region, this part of the world is not represented in the chart as data cannot be considered representative of regional trends.

Chapter 3. Detailed findings from the collected reports

The pages hereafter present the general findings drawn from the Excel®-based questionnaires collected from the 33 national or federal governments which were deemed compliant and accounted for in the final calculation of Indicator 12.7.1.

It is important to mention that, for each answer selected, the assessment was based on the relevance of the evidence provided by governments when filling the questionnaire, therefore, in the case when, despite a request for clarifications submitted after the receipt of the original report, no relevant evidence was provided to support the claims made, no point could be granted for that answer.

The final evaluation might therefore not strictly reflect the reality of efforts undertaken by governments, but can give a general overview with regard to the trends observed in SPP implementation.

The information is presented through six sub-chapters corresponding to the original six sub-indicators (A, B, C, D, E and F) featured in the questionnaire.

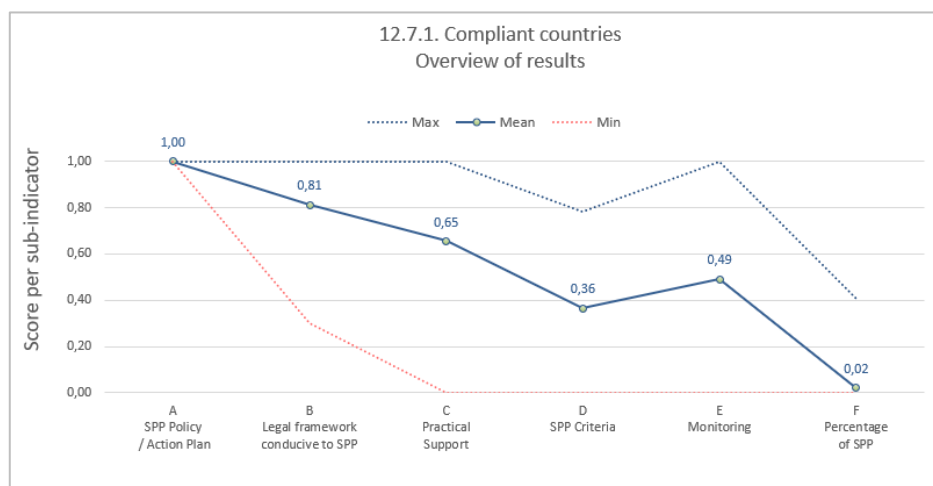
A maximum of 1 point could be received in each main section of the questionnaire, leading to a maximum total of 5 points based on the calculation described in Chapter 1 of this report (in *Development of a measurement methodology for Indicator 12.7.1*). For more detailed explanations, please see 2021 [12.7.1 methodology](#).

Important note:

Geographical areas (and names of countries) mentioned in the charts and text hereafter only refer to the national or federal governments which provided reports in 2020-2021 exercise for the collection of data related to SDG Indicator 12.7.1 (please see Figures 4 and 5. Final classification of the 40 reports received from national/federal governments for the full list).

Due to the participation of only one country in Africa and Western Asia (Côte d'Ivoire) out of 75 countries in the region, this part of the world is not represented in the regional charts below as data cannot be considered as representative of regional trends. It should also be noted that the results for 'Northern America' refer to the information provided by the USA and Canada (two out of four countries in the regional grouping).

FIGURE 7. OVERALL PERFORMANCE



Overall performance based on the defined evaluation framework shows that although the scores are quite good in terms of reaching an enabling public procurement legal framework (sub-indicator B) as it is a necessary first step in the implementation of SPP, the undertaking of further actions supporting SPP implementation show an average performance, such as in the practical support (sub-indicator C) provided to SPP practitioners (development of guidelines, tools, training modules, case studies, etc.), and the general monitoring of SPP (sub-indicator E), or lower performance, such as in the development of sustainable procurement criteria and conduction of a risk assessment analysis (sub-indicator D), or in the actual measurement of SPP outcomes/outputs (sub-indicator F).

Sub-indicator A: SPP Action plan, policy, or equivalent SPP legal requirements

Considering the designation of SDG Indicator 12.7.1, i.e., the Number of countries implementing SPP policies and action plans, a first part of the questionnaire looked at the existence of relevant policy documents promoting or mandating the implementation of SPP (including Green Public Procurement, or Socially Responsible Public Procurement), or of equivalent legal requirements, for which governments were asked to provide evidence.

It is important to note that, to provide a fair appraisal of an SPP strategy, the [official metadata](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/)⁸ and developed methodology⁹ for SDG Indicator 12.7.1 go beyond the mere adoption of SPP policies and action plans to take account of equivalent legal or executive dispositions which, in the absence of such policy documents, may equivalently promote or mandate SPP implementation.

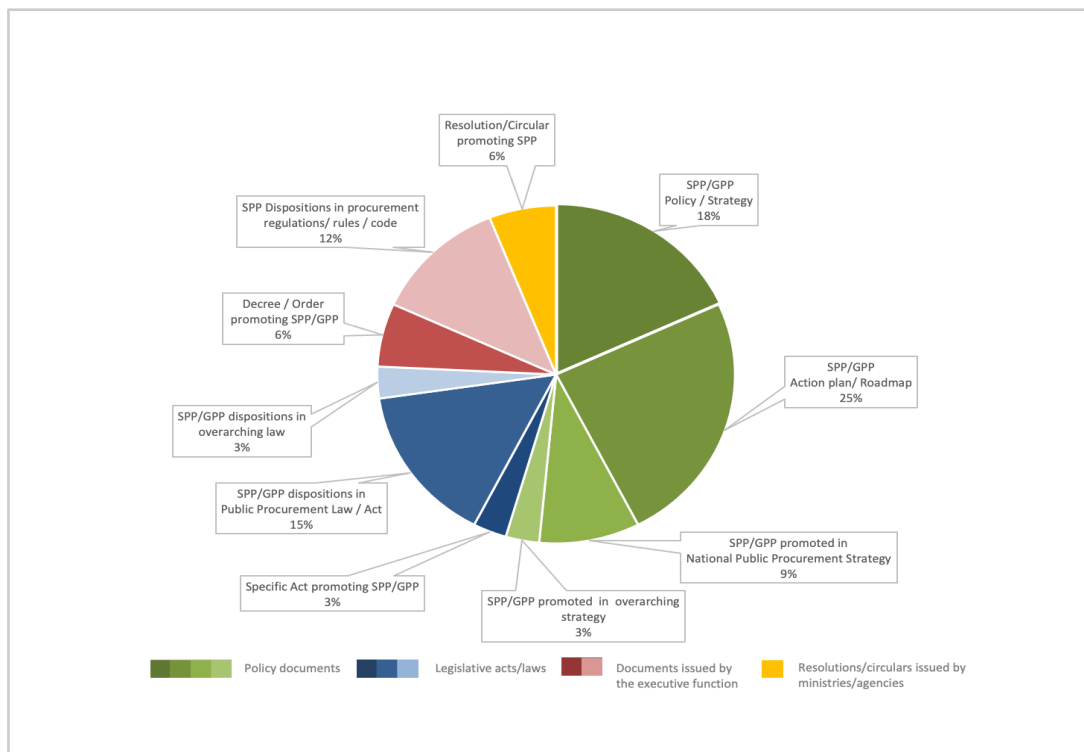
As this question was a mandatory requirement for the further evaluation of the provided reports, all 33 countries considered in the measurement of Indicator 12.7.1 expectedly received the maximum score of one point.

⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

⁹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/37332>

Figure 8 below provides an overview of the type of policy document used to promote the implementation of SPP at a national or federal level (SPP policy, strategy, action plan, or roadmap) and, in the case when there is none existing, the type of legal instrument which promotes it.

FIGURE 8. TYPES OF POLICY DOCUMENTS AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPP (AS OF DECEMBER 2020)



Documents are represented in different shades of colour depending on their nature:

- Policy documents are represented in shades of green (55% in total);
- Legislative acts or laws are represented in shades of blue (21% in total);
- Documents issued by the executive function are represented in shades of pink (18% in total);
- Resolutions or circulars issued by ministries or agencies are displayed in yellow (6% -- i.e., 2 countries).

Sub-indicator B: Public procurement legal and regulatory framework

The second part of the questionnaire focused on the conducive aspect of the legal and regulatory framework to facilitate the implementation of SPP.

It included two sections:

- A first section looking at whether the public procurement framework allows for the inclusion of sustainability requirements at different stages of the procurement cycle (definition of product requirements, pre-qualification of suppliers, award criteria, contract performance clauses) (0.70 points), and;
- A second section enquiring whether the procurement of sustainable alternatives is mandatory, for at least certain types of products or services (0.30 points).

a. Inclusion of sustainability requirements at different stages of the procurement cycle

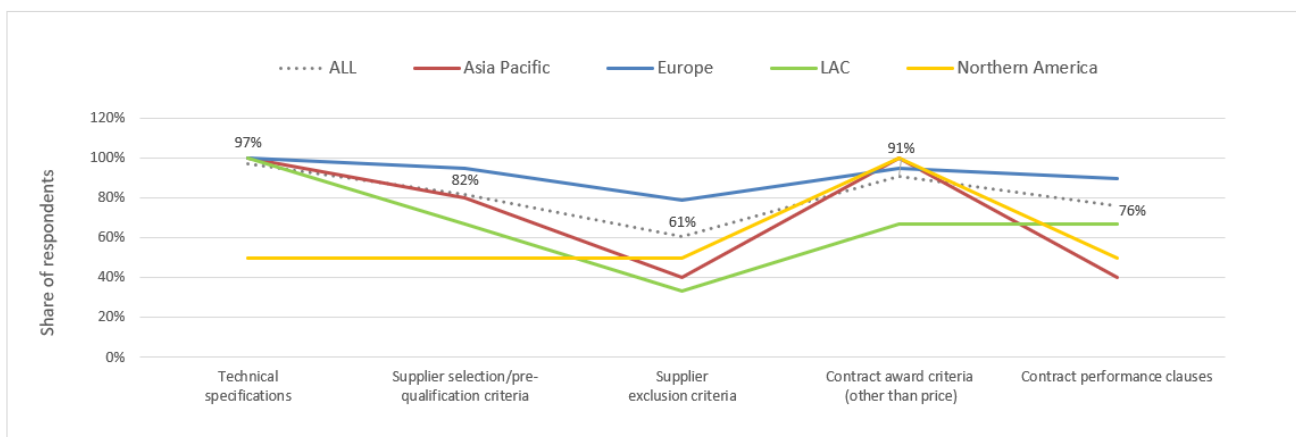
This section focused on whether the legal framework allows for the **consideration of sustainability requirements at four different steps** of the procurement cycle:

- (i) When defining specifications and minimum compliance criteria which the procured goods and services shall meet;
- (ii) When sourcing or pre-qualifying suppliers;
- (iii) When evaluating tenders and awarding contracts;
- (iv) When drafting contract performance clauses.

It is important to highlight the fact that this question focused on whether such consideration was *allowed*, but not whether it is *applied* in day-to-day practice.

Figure 9 below provides an overview of the answers provided by respondents in regard to the possibility of including sustainability requirements at each stage of the procurement cycle.

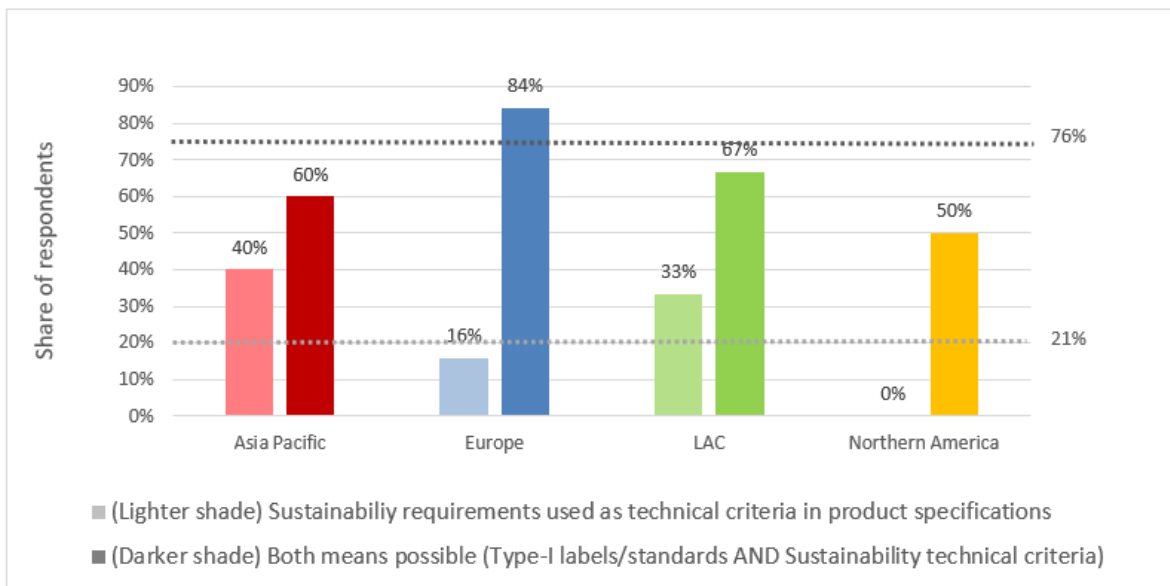
FIGURE 9. STAGES OF THE PROCUREMENT CYCLE WHERE THE INCLUSION OF SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS IS EXPLICITLY ALLOWED BY THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK



- 76 % of governments indicated that the legal framework allows for the inclusion of both (i) sustainability requirements in product specifications as technical criteria and (ii) the reference to Type-I labels/sustainability standards (Figure 10):
 - In European countries the share of respondents who indicated that both means are possible is especially high (84%), and can be partly explained by the fact that EU countries have to mandatorily transpose the EU public procurement directive¹⁰, which explicitly allows the use of ecolabels in tender evaluations, into their own legal framework.
 - In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and in Asia and the Pacific those shares are also quite high, 67% and 60% respectively.

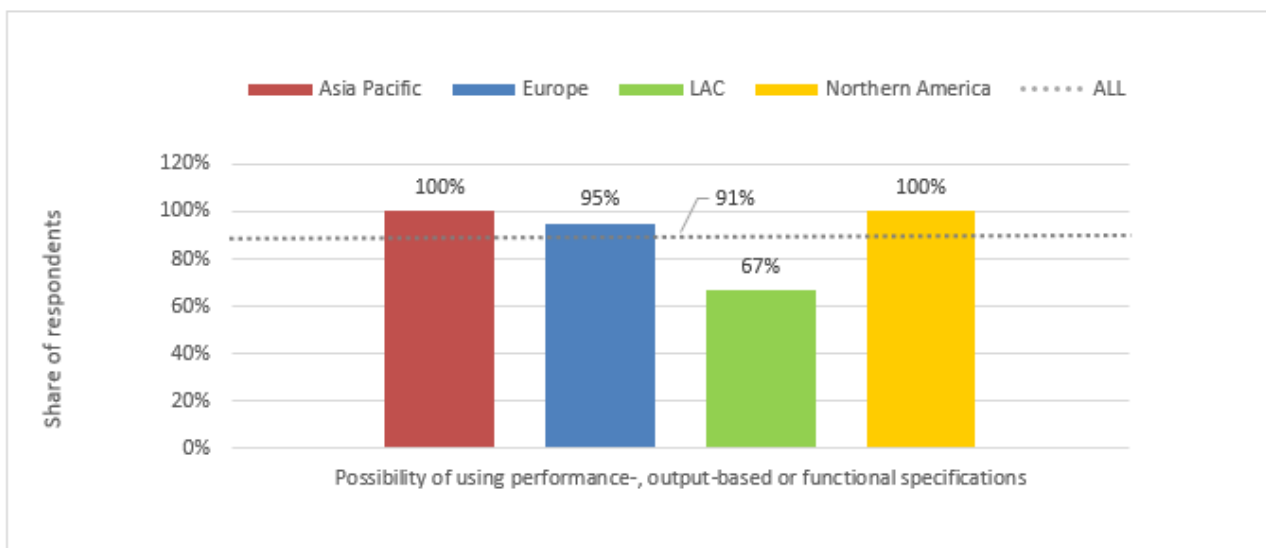
¹⁰ www.ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/eu_public_directives_en.htm

FIGURE 10. TYPE OF MEANS EXPLICITLY ALLOWED BY THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INCLUSION OF SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS IN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



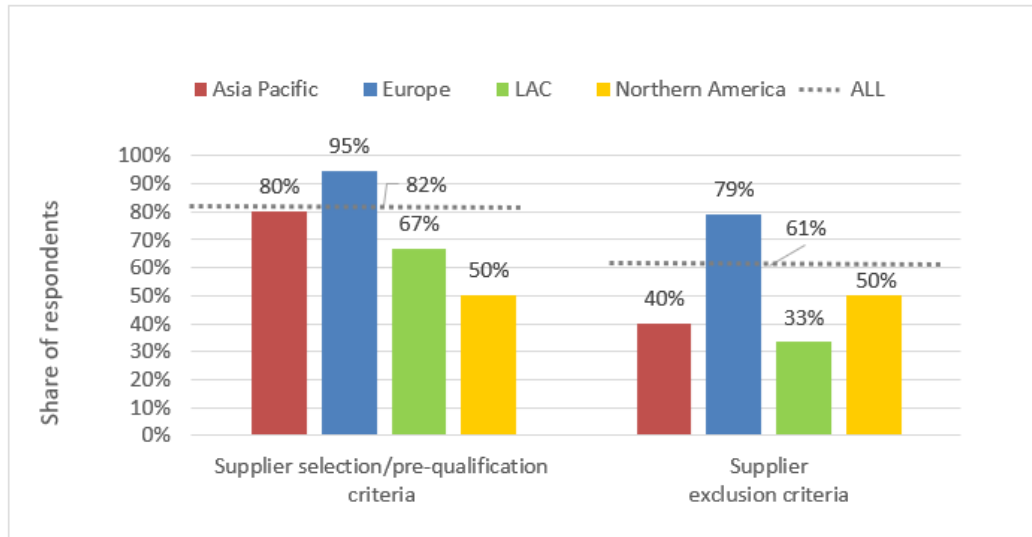
- 91% of respondents also indicated the possibility of using **functional, output-based and/or performance-based criteria** when drafting technical specifications. The geographical distribution of these results shows a slight under-performance in this area in Latin America and the Caribbean (67%), while this possibility is more common among European (95%), Asia-Pacific (100%) and Northern American respondents (100%).

FIGURE 11. POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING PERFORMANCE-, OUTPUT-BASED OR FUNCTIONAL CRITERIA



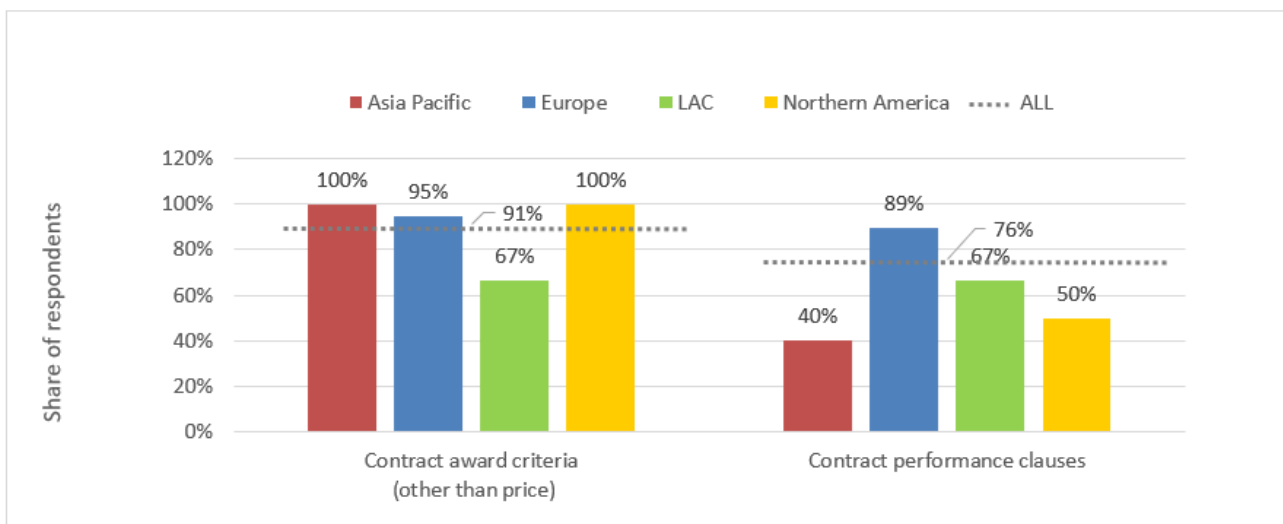
- The use of sustainability requirements as grounds for the **pre-selection or exclusion of suppliers** seems to be especially widespread among European respondents (95% and 79%), while these percentages amount to 82% and 61% on average.

FIGURE 12. POSSIBILITY OF USING SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS AS SUPPLIER SELECTION OR EXCLUSION GROUNDS



- As for the evaluation of tenders, **91%** of all respondents stated that **contract award** may be based on **criteria other than price** (by resorting, for instance, to approaches such as the ‘Most Economically Advantageous Tender’ – MEAT – and ‘Best Value for Money’), although this possibility is only observed among 67% of respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The legal framework also allows for sustainability requirements to be included in **contract performance clauses** in **76%** of cases. This proportion however drops to 67% in Latin America and the Caribbean and 40% in the case of Asia-Pacific countries.

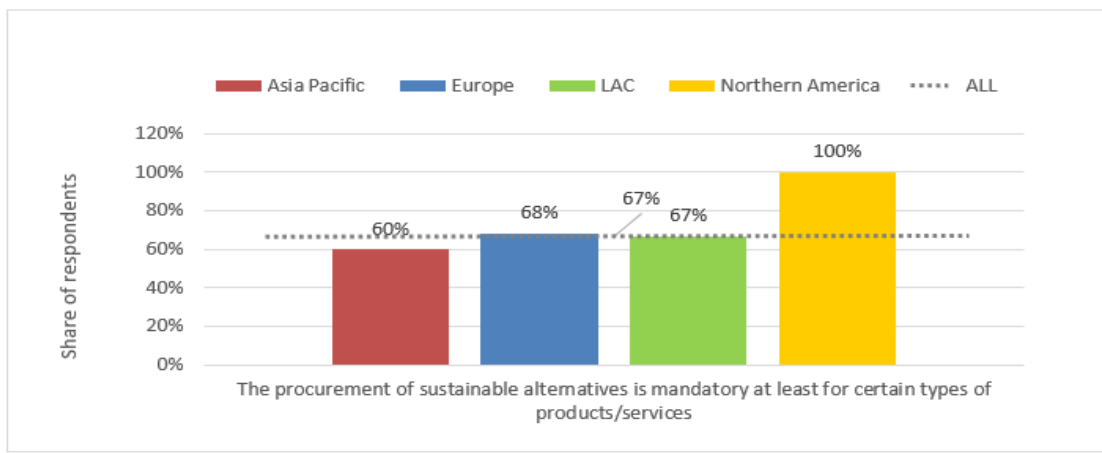
FIGURE 13. CONTRACT AWARD AND CONTRACT PERFORMANCE CLAUSES



b. The procurement of sustainable alternatives is mandatory for at least certain types of products/services

- 67% of the 33 respondents indicated that the procurement of more sustainable goods/services is mandatory, at least for some categories of products.
- This trend is however strongly influenced by the proportion of EU countries which participated in the reporting effort, as the EU requires the transposition of the EU Clean Vehicles Directive¹¹ in member states' legal frameworks.

FIGURE 14. MANDATORY PROCUREMENT OF SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF PRODUCTS OR SERVICES



Sub-indicator C: Practical support delivered to procurement practitioners in the implementation of SPP/GPP

In this section, governments' efforts in terms of support provided to public procurement officers in the implementation of SPP (or GPP) were evaluated, based on five different aspects or means used for support:

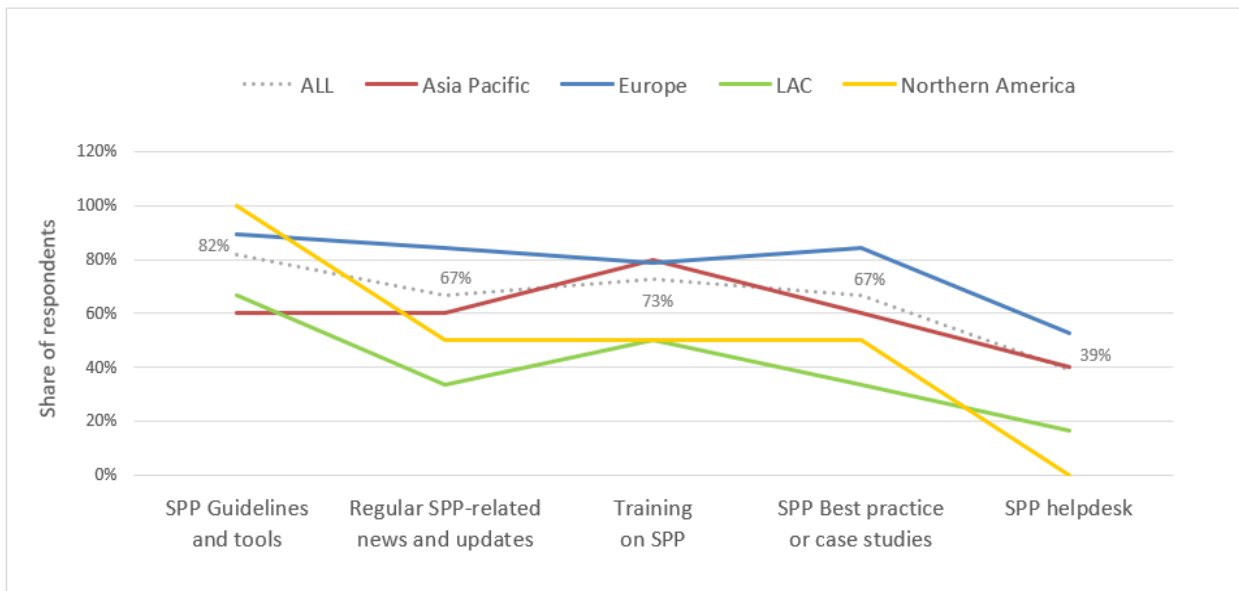
- Developed and disseminated SPP guidelines and tools;
- Regular communication of SPP-related news and updates;
- Proposed training on SPP;
- Developed and disseminated SPP Best practice and case studies, and;
- Assistance provided by a SPP helpdesk.

Each question was worth 0.20 points (total maximum of 1 point).

Out of the 33 reports received, only 6% showed no support provided to public procurement professionals at all. Figure 15 shows the performance of governments for each type of support provided, distributed by geographical area.

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/clean-vehicles-directive_en

FIGURE 15. PRACTICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPP



- The development of **SPP guidelines and tools** is the most common type of support mentioned, with 82% of national governments having developed such guidance (both Northern American respondents; 89% of European respondents; 67% and 60% of LAC and Asia-Pacific respondents).
- **SPP-related news, or updated information** are also regularly disseminated by 67% of respondents via different sorts of communication channels such as newsletter or regular emailing, specific webpages, social media, etc. Such communication is especially popular among European respondents (84%), slightly less among Asia-Pacific respondents (60%) while only 33% of LAC respondents apply such practices.
- **Training on SPP, which includes online training modules** is also provided by 73% of respondents, a share which is especially high among Asia-Pacific (80%) and European (79%) respondents and more modest among LAC respondents (50%). Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic however, most of the more traditional in-person training sessions could not be held, which spurred interesting developments in the design of online self-training modules or hosting of webinars, increasing the accessibility of such contents to a larger audience.
- 67% of respondents provide **best practice examples and case studies**, a popular practice with European respondents (84%) which drops to 33% among LAC respondents.
- A majority of respondents (61%) do not yet provide **dedicated SPP helpdesk services** but may nonetheless address SPP-related enquiries received from procurement practitioners through more general public procurement helpdesks, or provide limited support through website ‘contact’ mailboxes or FAQ sections of agencies in charge of SPP promotion (national public procurement or environmental agencies).

In sum, although efforts are made in the field of practical support granted to public procurement practitioners, there is clear room for improvement and significant opportunities in the tools and communications which can be offered to support SPP implementation, especially at a time when online communications have seen a surge due to Covid-19 and increased remote work.

New and interesting types of dynamic platforms such as pianoo.nl in the Netherlands have also emerged to provide on-demand and incremental criteria (basic, intermediate, or advanced levels of requirement), rather than category-

specific criteria, for purchases involving different types of products or services (for example, the contracting of event management which may include the procurement of “sustainable” catering and cutlery, energy-efficient audio-video devices, etc.).

Sub-indicator D: SPP purchasing criteria/ buying standards / requirements

This fourth part of the survey focused on whether governments have developed specific criteria to refer to when procuring certain sustainable products and services, and whether these address environmental, social, economic, or governance-related concerns. Moreover, respondents were also invited to specify whether, prior to selecting the targeted products and services for the development of such criteria, they had conducted a risk assessment to determine which product or service would have the greatest potential in terms of environmental and/or social outcomes.

- a. Categories of products or services for which green procurement criteria have been developed

Respondents were asked to indicate a maximum of 20 product or service categories for which they have developed environmental criteria, from a list of 24 suggested categories (represented in Figure 17).

In order to receive points for one category, respondents had to provide evidence of said criteria for at least one product or service falling under the selected category. 0.02 points were attributed per type of large product or service category, for a maximum 0.40 points.

FIGURE 16. NUMBER OF PRODUCT CATEGORIES FOR WHICH GREEN PROCUREMENT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED

(AT LEAST FOR ONE TYPE OF PRODUCT/SERVICE PER CATEGORY FROM THE PROPOSED LIST OF 24 CATEGORIES, AND BASED ON THE EVIDENCE PROVIDED)

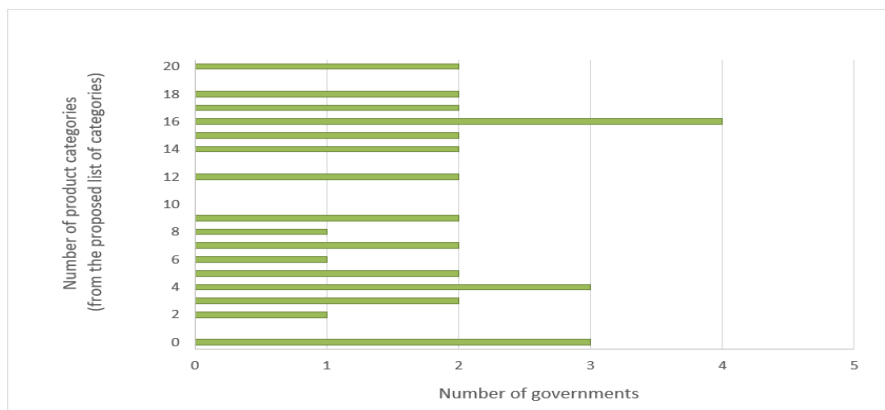
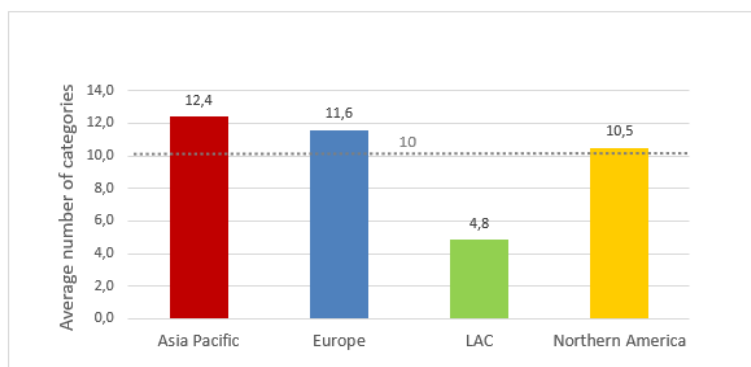


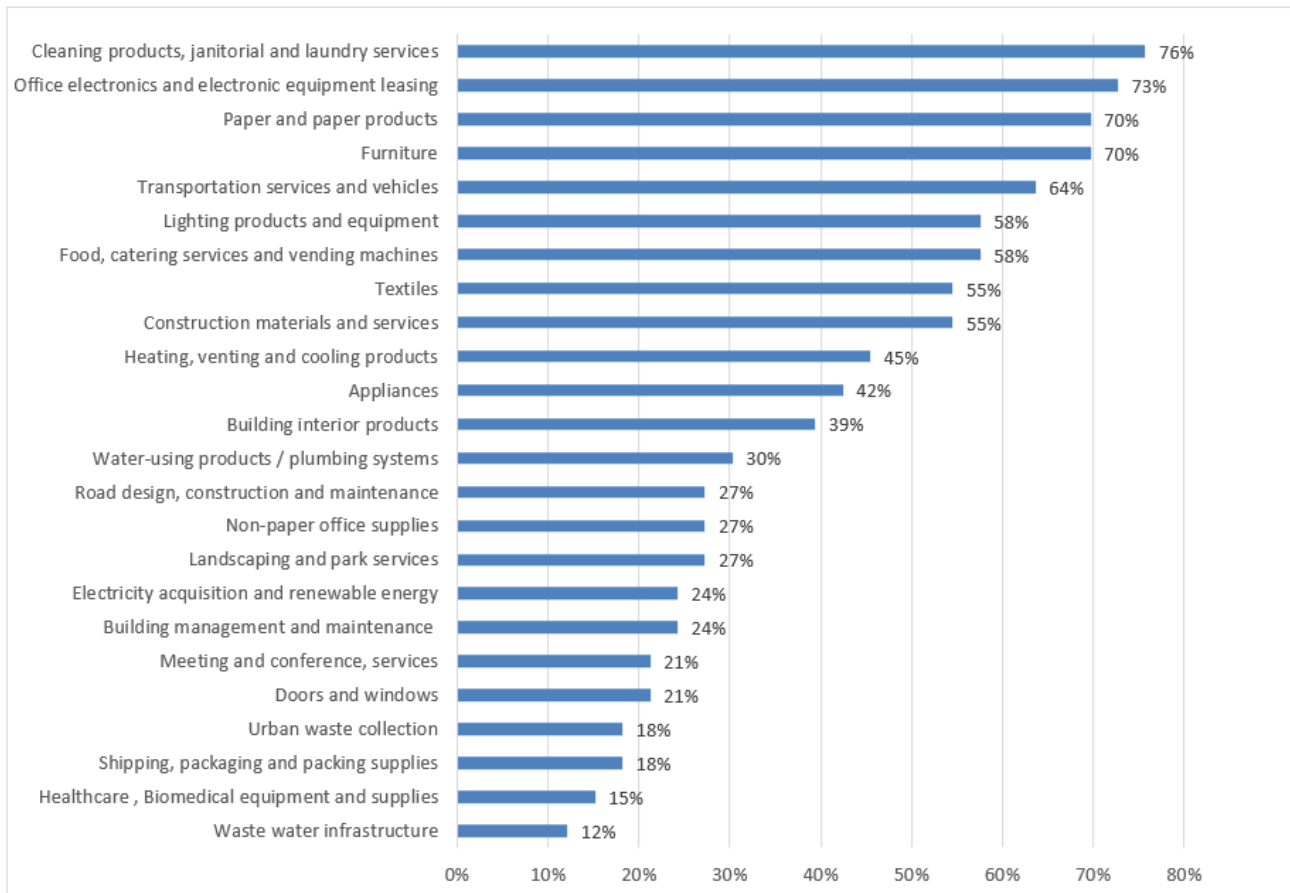
FIGURE 16- BIS. AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRODUCT CATEGORIES FOR WHICH GREEN PROCUREMENT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED



- The results show that respondents have defined **green procurement criteria** for an **average of 10** product /service categories.
- **Among respondents, 27% have developed criteria for less than 5 categories**, while 48% have developed criteria for more than 10 categories and 30% for more than 15.

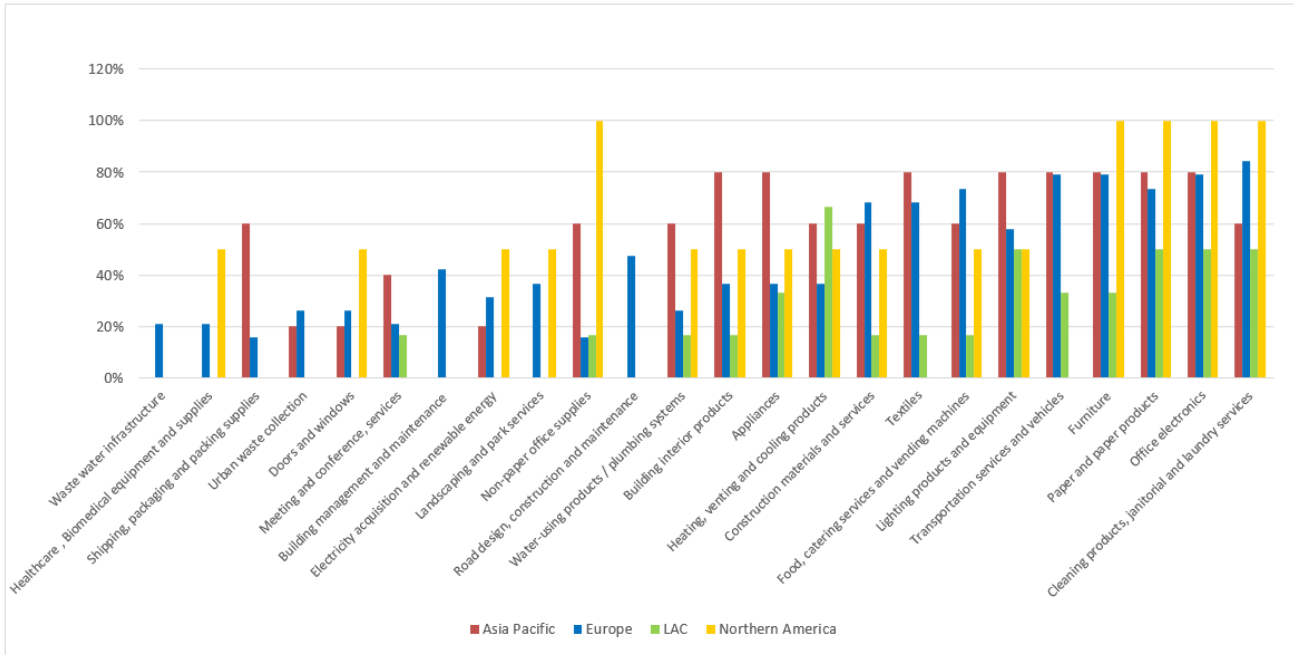
FIGURE 17. MOST COMMON PRODUCT CATEGORIES FOR WHICH GREEN PROCUREMENT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY REPORTING GOVERNMENTS (AT LEAST FOR ONE TYPE OF PRODUCT/SERVICE PER CATEGORY).

Note: percentages refer to the share of governments having developed such criteria.



- Among these, four categories clearly stand out, for which more than 70% of national governments have developed environmental criteria – categories for which it might be easier to procure sustainable alternatives due to the existence of well-established ecolabels or sustainability standards, and the availability of such alternatives on the market:
 - Cleaning products, janitorial and laundry services;
 - Paper and paper products;
 - Office electronics and electronic equipment leasing;
 - Furniture.
- Categories, such as wastewater infrastructure (12%) and urban waste collection (18%), healthcare, biomedical equipment and supplies (15%); shipping, packaging and packing supplies (18%), not typically associated with SPP have emerged in the ranking. Event management was also listed by a few participating national or federal governments as a category.

FIGURE 18. REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MOST COMMON PRODUCT CATEGORIES FOR WHICH GREEN PROCUREMENT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY REPORTING GOVERNMENTS



The most popular categories slightly differ when looking at regional differences:

- In Asia and the Pacific, this ranking is distributed differently, with:
 - 8 categories found among 80% of respondents: Appliances; Building interior products; Furniture; Heating, venting and cooling products; Lighting products and equipment; Office electronics and electronic equipment leasing; Paper and paper products; Textiles; Transportation services.
 - 7 categories found among 60% of respondents: Cleaning products, janitorial and laundry services; Construction materials and Services; Food, catering services and vending machines; Shipping, Packaging and Packing Supplies; Non-paper office supplies; Water-using products.
- In the LAC region, the categories below particularly stand out:
 - Heating, venting and cooling products (67%)
 - Lighting products; Cleaning products, janitorial and laundry services; Office electronics and electronic equipment leasing; Paper and paper products (50%)
- In Europe:
 - Cleaning products, janitorial and laundry services (84%);
 - Office electronics and electronic equipment leasing; Furniture; Transportation services and vehicles; (79%)
 - Paper and Paper products; Food, catering services and vending machines (74%)
 - Construction materials and services; Textiles (68%).

b. Social, economic and governance-related criteria

Respondents were asked to indicate, from a proposed list of 10 social, governance-related and economic focus areas, which ones they address in their implementation of SPP. They could choose up to a total of 10 different focus areas, for which 0.20 points were attributed per focus area listed, up to a maximum 0.40 points.

21% of respondents address at least 5 of the social, governance-related and economic concerns in the proposed list, 79% between one to four, while 15% do not address any such concerns.

Among the most popular concerns addressed in SPP implementation:

- 58% of respondents mentioned the Protection against human rights abuses;
- 45% the Promotion of SME participation in tender bids;
- 42% the Promotion of decent work and compliance with ILO standards;
- 39% Transparency, accountability and combating corruption.

FIGURE 19. MOST COMMON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND GOVERNANCE-RELATED CONCERNS ADDRESSED IN SPP IMPLEMENTATION

Note: percentages refer to the share of governments which consider such criteria.

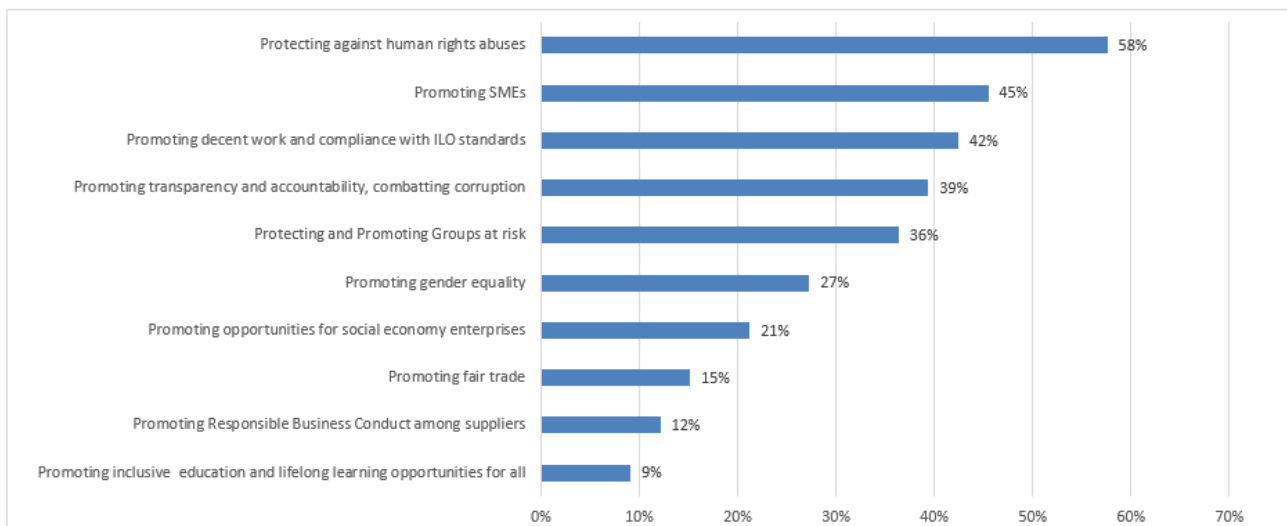
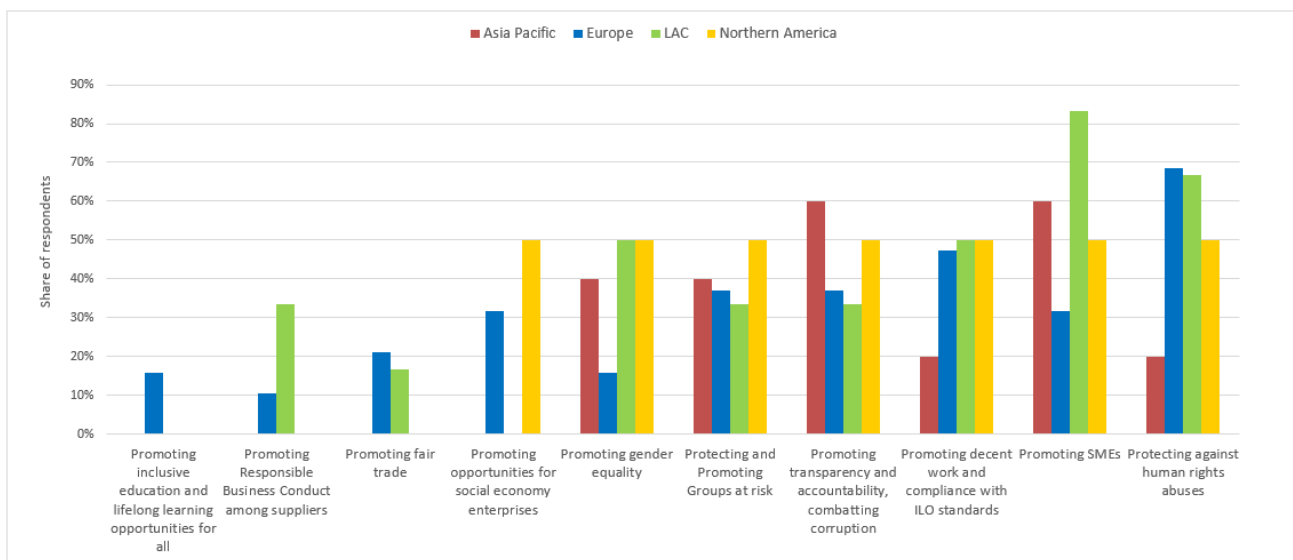


FIGURE 20. REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE MOST COMMON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND GOVERNANCE-RELATED CONCERNS ADDRESSED IN SPP IMPLEMENTATION



The following regional specificities could be observed among respondents in terms of focus areas most commonly addressed:

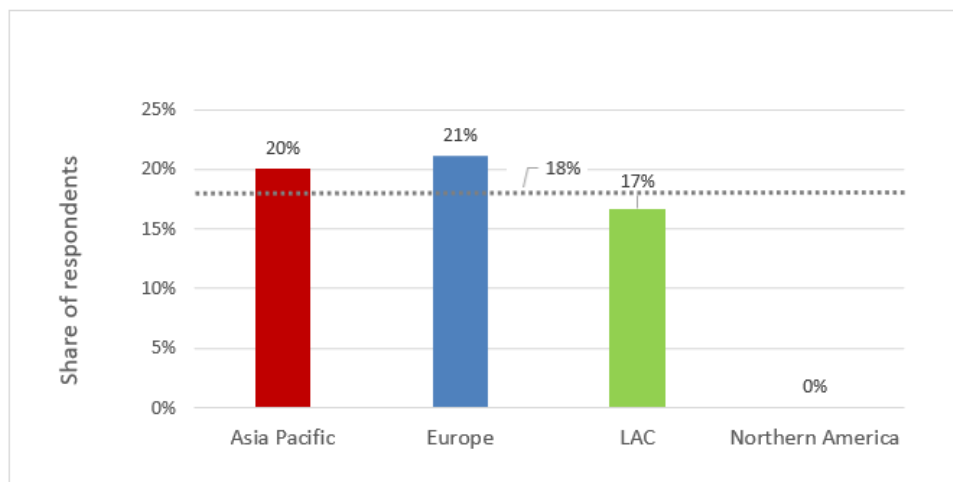
- In Asia and the Pacific: Promoting SMEs; Promoting transparency and accountability and combating corruption (60%);
- In Latin America and the Caribbean: Promoting SMEs (83%); Protecting against human rights abuses (67%);
- In Europe: Protecting against human rights abuses (68%); Promoting decent work and compliance with ILO standards (47%).

c. Risk assessment and impact prioritization

Respondents were asked whether, prior to selecting specific categories of products or services for the development of sustainable procurement criteria, they had conducted a risk-assessment analysis or undertook impact prioritization, to identify which product category or type of service would show the highest potential in terms of environmental and / or social impact. In the case when relevant evidence of such analysis was provided, respondents received 0.20 points.

Only 18% of respondents (the Philippines, Uruguay and, in Europe: Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Norway) undertook such analysis. This practice therefore remains quite uncommon at the present time.

FIGURE 21. RISK ASSESSMENT OR IMPACT PRIORITIZATION



Sub-indicator E: Existence of a SPP monitoring system.

In this section, respondents were asked to indicate whether they monitor the progress and outcome of SPP implementation, for which they could receive a maximum of 1 point.

The evaluation was divided in two parts, focusing, on the one hand, on the aspects related to the monitoring of the SPP (policy, action plan or strategy) implementation progress (0.40 points), and, on the other hand, on the monitoring of SPP implementation outcomes (0.60 points).

The monitoring of the SPP policy and action plan implementation was evaluated through three separate questions:

- (i) Whether such monitoring is conducted;
- (ii) Whether a specific target for sustainable procurement has been set, and;
- (iii) Whether the progress towards the achievement of this target is monitored.

64% of the 33 respondents indicated that they do monitor one or more aspects of their SPP (policy, action plan or strategy) implementation.

The rate of such monitoring is especially high among European respondents (74%), and LAC respondents (67%). Furthermore, 48% of respondents (33 national or federal governments) have set one or more SPP-related targets and 33% monitor the progress towards this target.

FIGURE 22. MONITORING OF SPP POLICY OR ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

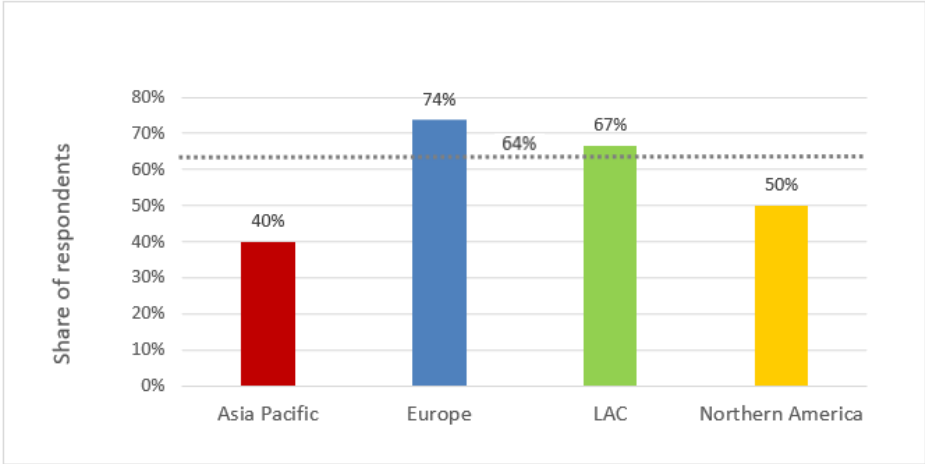
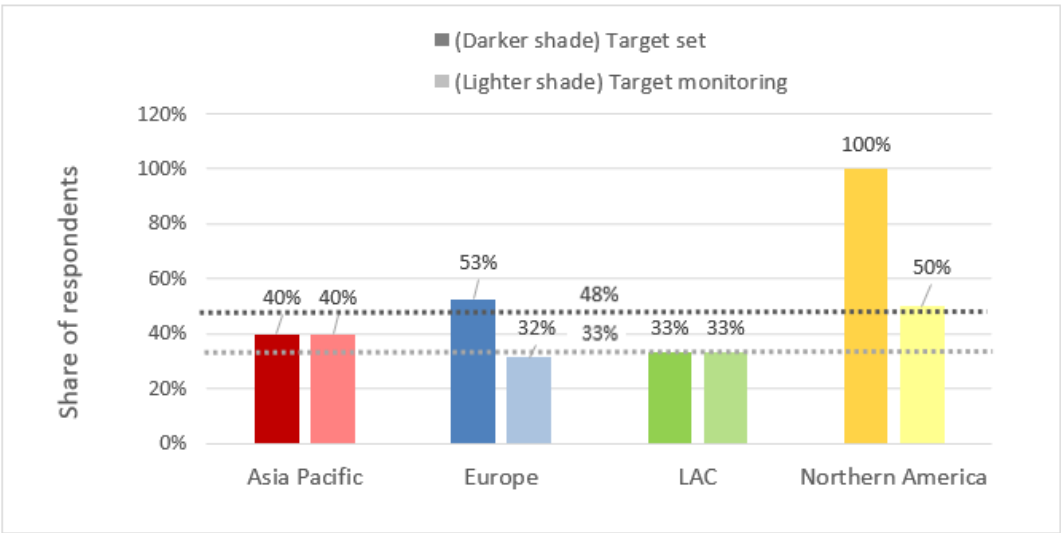


FIGURE 23. SETTING AND MONITORING OF SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT TARGET



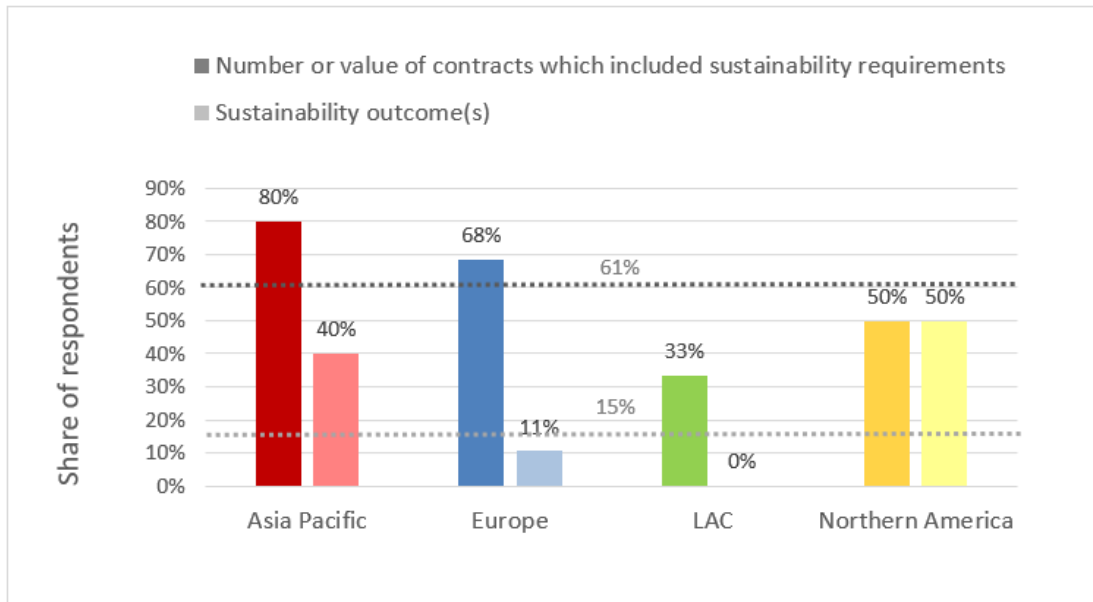
In regards to the monitoring of SPP implementation outcomes (0.40 points), respondents were asked to specify whether they monitor:

- The number or value of contracts which included sustainability requirements; and
- The sustainability outcome(s) resulting from the implementation of sustainable public procurement, such as, for example, the reduction in CO₂ emissions.

61% of respondents monitor the number or value of contracts which included sustainability requirements, a rate especially high among Asia-Pacific respondents (80%) and European respondents (68%).

15% of respondents monitor one or more sustainability outcome(s) resulting from the implementation of SPP (Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea; the Netherlands; USA). Such elaborate monitoring is therefore only an emerging practice at this stage.

FIGURE 24. MONITORING OF SPP CONTRACTS AND SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES



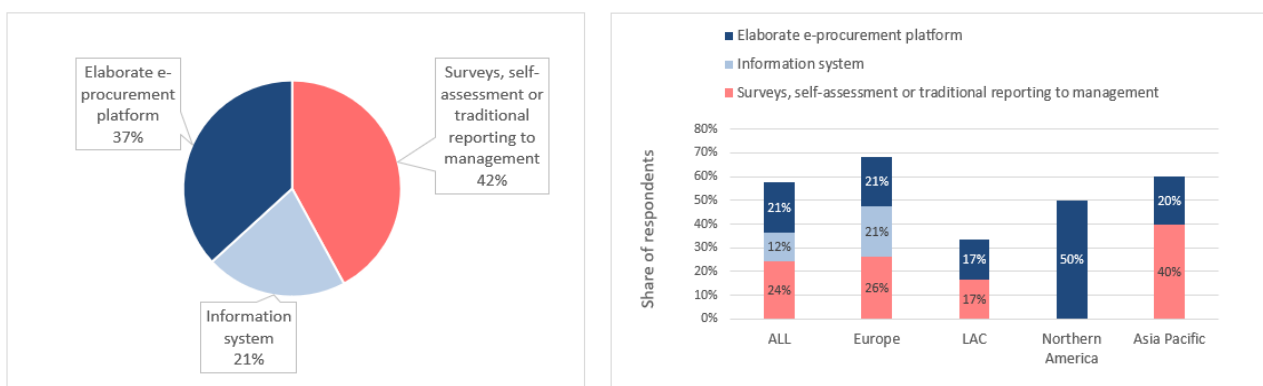
In a last part of this section, respondents were also invited to specify the type of means used for the collection of such SPP-related data and information, whether it is conducted via traditional means, such as surveys, self-assessment, or included in usual reporting to hierarchy (0.10 points), or whether it is conducted via more elaborate means, such as an internal information system (0.15 points), or a more elaborate e-procurement platform (0.20 points).

58% of respondents provided details regarding the type of means used to collect data.

Among those, based on the responses collected the following could be observed:

- Data are still predominantly collected via rather ‘traditional’ means, as 42% (of those who provided such details) mentioned that they still resort to surveys, self-assessment, or traditional reporting to management (Colombia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden).
- None of the respondents selected the answer ‘internal or external audit’.
- 37% of respondents indicated that they resort to an elaborate e-procurement platform to collect data on their SPP implementation (Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Latvia, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Portugal, USA) and 21% to an information system (Bulgaria, Finland, France, Lithuania), showing an interesting development in the digitalisation of procurement and noticeable share of governments opting for elaborate systems facilitating the automatic collection of data and report generation.

FIGURE 25. TYPE OF MEANS USED TO COLLECT SPP-RELATED DATA



Sub-indicator F: Percentage of sustainable public procurement

In this last section, respondents were invited to indicate, whenever available, the actual share of sustainable procurement (based on the value of contracts which included sustainability requirements) in their total public procurement value. This percentage was translated into a score ranging from 0 to 1.

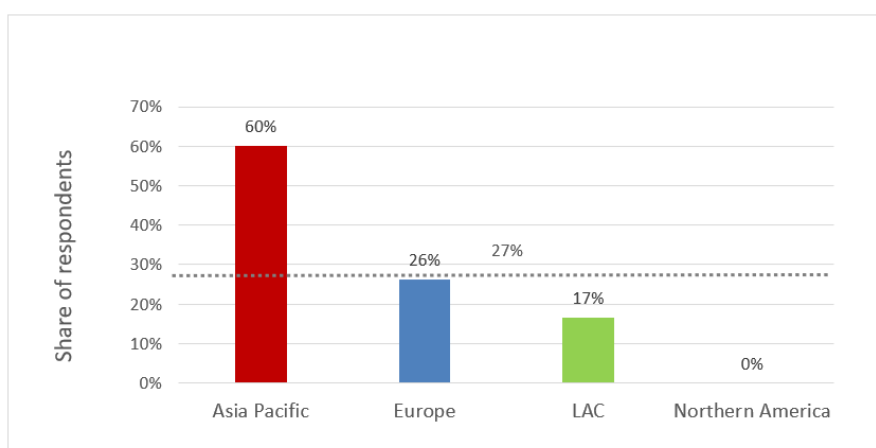
Share of sustainable procurement in total procurement

27% of the 33 respondents (i.e., 9 governments) provided such data.

Among those countries, sustainable procurement represented an average of 8% of total procurement, the highest percentage reaching 40% of procurement, the others ranging from 0.01% to 12%.

The share of governments able to provide such detailed data was especially high in the Asia-Pacific region (60%) due probably to the existence of advanced e-procurement platforms in the leading Asian countries.

FIGURE 26. RESPONDENTS WHO MONITOR THE ACTUAL SHARE OF SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT



Type of contracts monitored

Although it is encouraging to see a reasonable number of governments monitoring the share represented by sustainable procurement in their total procurement, the type of aspects monitored vary greatly.

Two main types of monitoring could be identified:

- The monitoring of contracts which included sustainability requirements, **per type of procurement category**:
 - Distributed per large categories of procurement, such as ‘Supplies’, ‘Works’, and/or ‘Services’.
 - Detailed per type of product / services procured (usually, categories for which green procurement criteria or buying standards have been defined by governments).
- The monitoring of contracts which included sustainability requirements, **per type of sustainability objective, or social group promoted**:
 - Distribution per type of ecolabel borne by the procured products: environmental label; energy-efficiency label.
 - Green, or socially responsible procurement.
 - Share of contracts for products or services procured from:
 - SMEs.

- Women-owned businesses.
- Businesses employing people with disabilities or selling goods manufactured by people with severe disabilities.

Chapter 4. Conclusions and lessons learned

The first data collection effort on SDG Indicator 12.7.1 has allowed us to draw the conclusions below regarding the data collection process, developed evaluation framework, and general findings with regard to SPP implementation.

Data collection process

Firstly, the reporting effort and nomination of focal points have outlined the role of different entities in the implementation of SPP and, in particular which entity is responsible for the practical implementation and monitoring of the SPP policy (45% of which are Public Procurement Agencies/Ministries of Finance, and 40% Ministries of Environment or Environment Agencies).

The development of guidance documents for this reporting and tools have proved useful in supporting national focal points when filling of the Excel-based questionnaire, although bilateral exchanges for necessary clarifications/complements and further analysis of data took more time than originally anticipated.

Due to the busy reporting period at the time selected for the reporting on SDGs (November to February) and the level of requirements in terms of evidence to be provided, it proved difficult for several governments to collect supporting documents in time for the final reporting. Subsequent reporting exercises should therefore allow for governments to save relevant documents ahead of the reporting periods.

Robustness of the evaluation framework and lessons learned

With regard to the defined evaluation framework, although the methodology had originally been designed to generate an index taking account of SPP implementation at three different levels of governance (national/federal, provincial and municipal levels) based on the share of their public procurement value in the total value of procurement at country level, due to the unavailability of those figures in most countries, the final evaluation was eventually based on the SPP implementation score received by the national or federal government. It is hoped however that in the future more countries will be available to provide such data to allow for a more accurate representation of SPP implementation at country-wide level.

The wide range of SPP implementation aspects covered in the evaluation system allow for a multi-faceted evaluation of efforts conducted in this field and provide a good overview of a national government's scope and depth of SPP implementation, although some aspects of the evaluation framework (in particular, the proposed Excel-based questionnaire) will have to be refined to provide as accurate as possible an assessment of a government's efforts in the field of SPP.

Some aspects of SPP implementation have indeed proved difficult to assess: while it is, for example, relatively straightforward to measure green public procurement through the development of environmental criteria and the actual share of contracts which included such requirements, it has been a more difficult endeavor to assess the scope and extent of socially responsible public procurement initiatives, the appraisal of which will have to be further refined through the evaluation framework, as, depending on the aspect considered, such initiatives

may be reflected via legal dispositions (e.g., protection against human rights abuse, promotion of decent work), product criteria or requirements for suppliers (e.g., fair trade, promotion of groups at risk, gender equality), specific guidelines promoting and facilitating the consideration of one of those aspects by procurement practitioners in tenders, or by reserving a specific share of procurement for specific businesses (such as SMEs and micro-enterprises, women-owned businesses, local farmers or producers, etc.).

Socially responsible procurement itself would also require a more standard definition, as most efforts and monitoring made by governments in this field target the promotion of SMEs, while it is questionable whether this sole aspect may be considered as a full-scale socially responsible procurement policy.

General conclusions with regard to SPP implementation practice at global level

Despite the fact that the procurement of more sustainable alternatives is mandatory for specific types of products in a few countries, sustainable procurement still remains voluntary only for most types of products or services. In this respect, governments should set minimum environmental criteria and incremental levels of requirements to foster the purchase of sustainable alternatives.

While efforts are made in terms of support and information provided to public procurement practitioners via public procurement agencies' or environment department's webportals, the number of developed case studies or guidelines still remains low, and only few governments provide SPP-specific helpdesk services to assist and guide procurement practitioners in the daily implementation of SPP.

The assessment of risks in the supply chain and of impacts induced by the procurement of specific types of products before the development of sustainable procurement criteria and guidelines to optimize the outcome of SPP still remains a rare practice (18% of respondents), although such an initiative would significantly contribute to fostering the actual outcomes of SPP.

While a significant share of respondents (61%) was able to provide evidence of the monitoring of SPP-related data, the details of such monitoring vary greatly as procurement officers may, depending on governments' SPP monitoring settings, either indicate one, or several types of sustainability foci (e.g., green vs socially responsible procurement; goods procured from SMEs vs. women-owned businesses) included in awarded contracts.

In light of this, the issuance of recommendations at a global level for a harmonized monitoring framework would seem highly useful at a time when governments may be re-designing or modernizing their procurement systems towards elaborate SPP monitoring systems and e-procurement platforms.

Even though it remains a challenging task, a few governments also take steps toward sustainability outcome monitoring (15% of respondents), showing a nascent interest in linking broader environmental or social outcomes to sustainable public procurement, to highlight its benefits and demonstrate its contribution to the achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or SDGs.

The recent spread of COVID-19 and induced rise in the use of online tools for training, monitoring and news dissemination will also be a trend to follow further against the data received in the next reporting exercise. This development in digitalization of information should bring interesting opportunities in the future for scaling up learning and facilitating monitoring and data collection.

APPENDIX

LIST OF FOCAL ENTITIES

Country	Federal or National Focal Entity
Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie)
Belgium	Federal institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO)
Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water
Canada	Centre for Greening Government, Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada / Centre pour un gouvernement vert, Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor du Canada
China, People's Republic of	China Environmental United Certification Center, Environmental Development Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
Colombia	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
Costa Rica	Ministerio de Hacienda
Côte d'Ivoire	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
Croatia	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Service for General Climate Policy Protection
Cyprus, Republic of	Public Procurement Directorate, Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus
Czech Republic	Ministry of Environment
Denmark	Ministry of Environment and Food
Dominican Republic	Fomento y Desarrollo del Mercado Público, Ministerio de Hacienda, Dirección General de Contrataciones Públicas
Finland	Ministry of Environment
France	Direction des Achats de l'Etat, Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de la Relance
Germany	German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA)
Honduras	Oficina Normativa de Contratación y Adquisiciones del Estado/Secretaría de Coordinación General de Gobierno
Indonesia, Republic of	National Public Procurement Agency (LKPP)

Ireland	Office of Government Procurement, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Italy	General Directorate for Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Land and Sea CONSSIP
Japan	Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Korea, Republic of	Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute
Latvia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
Lithuania	Public Procurement Policy Division, Ministry of the Economy and Innovation & Statistics and reports Division, Public Procurement Office
Malta	Directorate for the Environment and Climate Change
Mauritius	Procurement Policy Office
Mexico	Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público
Netherlands	Directorate for Sustainable Environment and the Circular Economy, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
New Zealand	Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
Norway	Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ)
Panamá	Dirección General de Contrataciones Públicas
Paraguay	Dirección Nacional de Contrataciones Públicas
Philippines	Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office
Poland	EU & International Cooperation Dept., Public Procurement Office
Portugal	Portuguese Environment Agency, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action
Slovenia	Environmental Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
Sweden	National Agency for Public Procurement
Tunisia	DGDD/Environnement
Uruguay	Agencia Reguladora de Compras Estatales
United States of America	Office of the U.S. Chief Statistician