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Vienna, 2 July 2024

NEW Training Programme PPE+ Europe 2024 -2028

“Strategic procurement training for centralised procurement organisations”

Dear Sir/Madam

As central procurement organisations we all face numerous challenges every single day. Latest global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, have once again highlighted the importance of Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs). We must ensure that urgently required goods as well as services are purchased reliably, that processes are efficient and transparent and supply chains are resilient.

At the same time, we are responsible for the most efficient and legally compliant use of public funds. On top of that we face progressive changes in market conditions such as globalisation, digitalisation, industry 4.0, the requirements to innovate, the acceleration of product cycles and the very need to give greater priority to socio-political and green objectives.

In order to meet these ever-increasing demands, we need to strengthen the capacity of our employees so as to develop SME-friendly tendering strategies, encourage environmental and social sustainability as well as to foster innovative procurement.

To enhance and support professionalisation of public buyers, the European Commission has published recommendations for Member States to ensure that public buyers possess the necessary business skills, technical knowledge, and procedural understanding¹.

The very positive response to the European training programmes for Public Procurement Excellence (PPE) 2018 - 2023 from all participants and stakeholders, as well as the demand for further training, show the continued relevance and importance of professionalisation in the field of public procurement.

¹ [Professionalisation of public buyers - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/euipo/professionalisation/public_buyers_en)

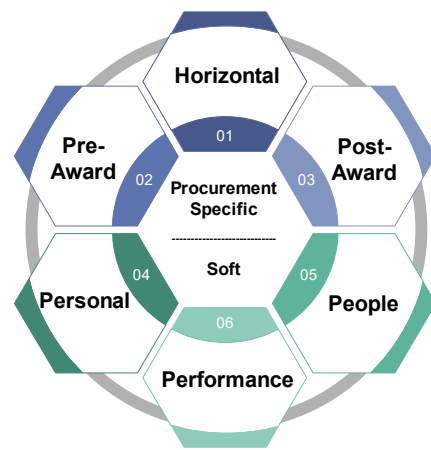


Therefore, we are both honoured and happy to announce a new 4-year project, **PPE+ Europe 2024-2028**! The project is **funded by the European Commission** and implemented by a consortium led by the Austrian Federal Procurement Agency (BBG) together with Ernst & Young Romania (EY) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and it is dedicated to the further professionalisation of public procurement experts from Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs).

The PPE+ Europe 2024 Training Programme

The project builds on the experience gained from previous training programmes and practical expertise from other EU projects. An international team of procurement experts and professors from all over Europe will support the project consortium in combining the practical and theoretical training approach.

The structure of the training programme covers both procurement specific and soft skills and is based on the overall procurement cycle as well as the latest **European Competency Framework for Public Procurement Professionals (ProcurComp^{EU})**:



“Procurement-specific competences, which encompass the competences necessary at each stage of the public procurement lifecycle.

Soft competences, which represent the soft skills public procurement professionals should have in order to master procurement specific competences.”²

Figure 1: ProcurComp^{EU} Competences

Training Programme Offer

- A **well-balanced training programme** through the recognition of the strategic role of procurement with a special focus on strategic and SME-friendly public procurement.
- A **unique combination of practical and academic approaches** with trainers from well-established CPBs in Europe and renowned professors from the Vienna University of Economics and Business and other leading universities. Additionally, relevant stakeholders for important strategic topics like green, social and innovation procurement will be involved as trainers and speakers.
- A **mix of well-tested and newest training and learning methods** to maximise the results in terms of increasing knowledge, understanding public procurement, and addressing the challenges for participants and their organisations will be used.
- Another important aspect is to **foster the concept of peer-to-peer learning**: participants and lecturers will share experiences with the group, discuss challenges and solutions as well as evaluate different approaches and show cases.

² ProcurCompEU– the European competency framework for public procurement professionals [ProcurCompEU – the European competency framework for public procurement professionals - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/easip/en/procurcomp-eu)

- Participation in a **sustainable and effective expert and alumni network** that ensures a continuous exchange between CPBs and other participating organisations as well as effective implementation of the newly acquired knowledge in the participants' organisations.
- Additional **in-depth modules** to choose and further leveraged expertise in areas of interest.
- Upon completion of the course, the Vienna University of Economics and Business will accredit participants as **"Certified Public Procurement Experts"**.
- Participants will be **granted 15 ECTS points** for the course, allowing for universal recognition and comparability.
- **NEW:** Eligibility to apply for individual **Consultancy Service Packages** (up to 60 hours remote) for participating organisations to trigger and support transformation projects based on acquired knowledge and knowhow from the programme (e.g. improving procurement processes and organisational practices etc.)
- **Tuition fee** as well as **Consultancy Service Packages** (up to 60 hours remote) are funded by the European Commission under the SMP (Single Market Programme).
- For **travel and accommodation costs** of participants, travel cost as well as accommodation and subsistence **allowance rates are granted**.

Training Programme Structure & Timeline

- **Duration of the programme**
 - 31 training days which are conducted in two on-site and two main online blocks
- **Training Location/Software**
 - On-site trainings are held in Vienna, Austria and Brussels, Belgium
 - Online sessions will take place via MS Teams
- **Training Block Structure**
 - Block 1 on-site (10 days), Vienna: 04 – 15 November 2024
 - Block 2 on-line (10 half-days): 25 November - 06 December 2024
 - Agile Leadership on-line (3 days asynchronous): 09 Dec 2024 – 10 January 2025
 - Block 3 on-line (8 half-days): 13 – 24 January 2025
 - 2 in-depth trainings on-line (4 half-days): 10 – 28 February 2025
 - Block 4 on-site (5 days), Brussels: 17 – 21 March 2025
- **Training Times**
 - On-site: Monday – Friday, 8 hours per day,
 - On-line: Monday – Friday, 4 hours per day
- Participants will additionally work on their individual learning journal

Your Benefits

- Strengthen the capacity and competency of your staff;
- Meet EC requirements on further professionalisation of public procurement;

- Establish a network of Public Procurement Experts across Europe and exchange professional experience;
- Use a set of methods, tools, and templates for the implementation of most professional tender procedures;
- Create a set of tangible key performance indicators allowing you to measure economic and qualitative organisational improvements;
- Create return on investment – highly skilled staff contributes to successful business operations on a daily basis;
- Participants will be equipped with a comprehensive toolbox of best practice tools, templates and methodologies to enable their organisations to improve processes in various fields of Public Procurement.
- Have access to Consultancy Service Packages (up to 60 hours remote) for individual small organisational projects

We are honoured to invite your organisation to the new edition of this well-established EU programme.

Please identify professionals in your institution who would benefit the most from this programme. Since the number of participants is limited, we recommend that interested procurement professionals apply as soon as possible. For details on the application process, please refer to the [Public Buyers Community platform](#) and the project's [LinkedIn page](#).

Deadline for applications is 21 August 2024.

For further information or clarifications regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to send your questions to application-ppe-europe@iclei.org.

Yours sincerely,

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