

Barbara van Offenbeek-Kuipers
Emile Bruls

Circular procurement criteria
textiles

GPP Advisory Group
Budapest, 4 June 2019



Project supported by LIFE funding



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

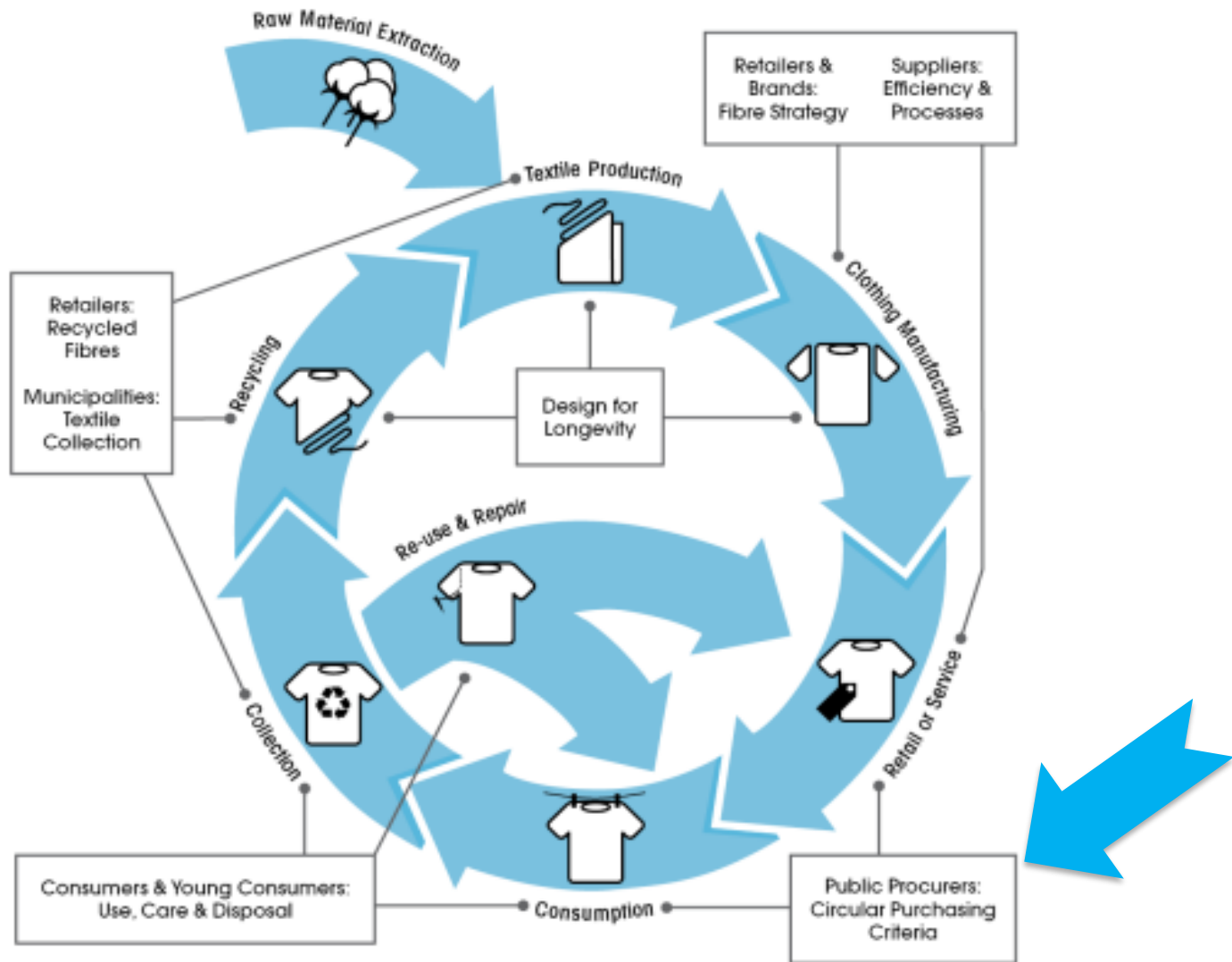
Aims:

- Reduce clothing waste across Europe
- Circular economy approach to textiles
- Divert over 90 tonnes of clothing waste from landfill and incineration
- Reduce environmental footprint of clothing
- Less low grade textiles go to incineration and landfill
- Prevent waste in the clothing supply chain
- Encourage innovation in design, recycling and service models
- Influence consumers to buy smarter and use clothing for longer



DanishFashionInstitute





About public procurement action

- Market report on European workwear-sector and the organization of public procurement in Europe, recommends next steps for public procurers to stimulate circularity in workwear
- Report with a summarise of opportunities and barriers to cascading emerging knowledge and implementation of circular procurement principles across the European Community for workwear.
- Development of criteria for circular procurement of workwear
- Masterclasses on circular procurement of textiles in several countries in Europe for procurers of workwear
- Develop and share knowledge to stimulate sustainable and circular workwear
- Recommendations for the EC on how to stimulate circularity in procurement of workwear all over Europe

About public procurement action



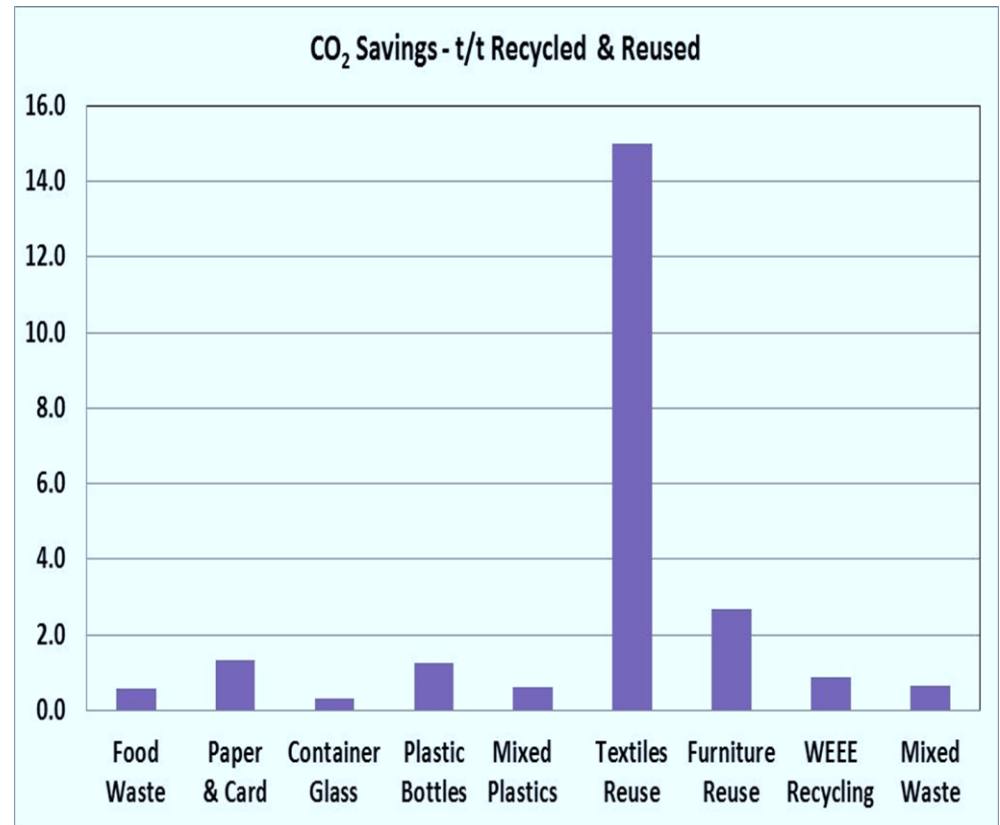
Project supported by LIFE funding

The role of public procurement in getting textiles in Europe more sustainable and circular.

Public procurers are able to take a key role in the development of sustainable workwear.

- Buying power
- Promote circular innovation
- Setting an example
- Decreasing environmental impact

- Resource consumption
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Air and water pollution
- Water consumption & pollution
- Toxicity issues
- Biodiversity loss and land-use



Why are textiles so interesting for Public Procurement?

1. Overall figures and observations
2. Stakeholders
3. Current practices GPP of workwear
4. Current practices of GPP in National Action Plans
5. Overview current practice GPP in European countries
6. Main barriers for CPP of workwear
7. Recommendations

Observations workwear in Europe



Project supported by LIFE funding

- Exact figures of workwear are hard to find. But an analysis in 2015 showed that €8.6 billion of contract awards for textiles and workwear were made across the EU28 countries in 2015
- At this moment the economic value of used textiles lies almost entirely in the re-usable component. Workwear has a high potential for re-use
- Not many attention for circularity in textiles or workwear
- Prices for non-re-usables are low and often can't pay for transport > find their way to down cycling, e.g. industrial rags, low grade blankets, incineration

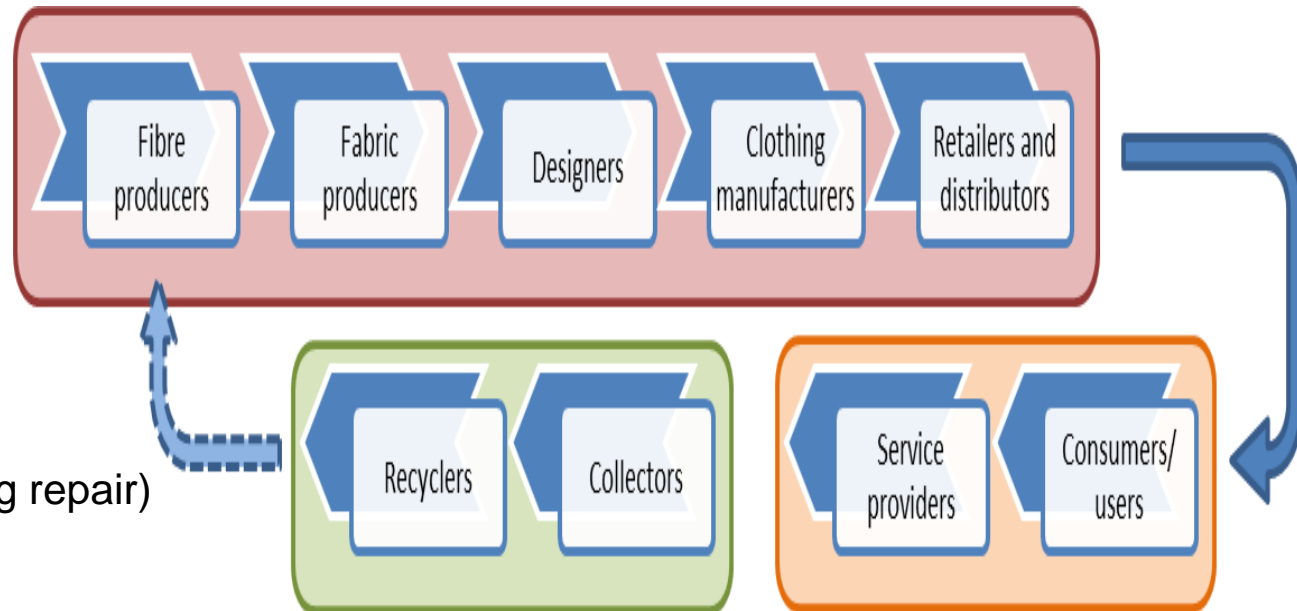
Figures and general observations



Project supported by LIFE funding

Many stakeholders, little influence possible on the production part of the cycle

- EU
- National
- Demand side
 - Procurement
 - Use
- Supply side
 - Production
 - Design
 - Distribution
 - Servicing (including repair)
- Disposal
 - Collection
 - Reuse (including repurposing)
 - Recycling options



- Environmental sustainability is promoted through the use of GPP practices within the European Union (EU) member states.
- Governmental Buying Standards (2010) > sustainable procurement is more at a voluntary best practice level.
- A survey in 2012 by the Centre for European Policy Studies found textiles to be the least well implemented criteria set from the 9 product groups represented by GPP criteria.
- The criteria for textiles have been updated in 2017, but as yet, there is no additional evidence to show that this position has changed.
- Current criteria:
 - A total of 29 criteria spanning selection, technical specifications, award and contract performance cover both core and comprehensive requirements for green textile products. The emphasis is however on reducing Eco toxicity and energy consumption in production
 - Ecolabel is a good additional instrument, but environmental ambitions could reach a higher standard

Current practice of workwear



Project supported by LIFE funding

- Not all NAP's explicitly prioritise particular product categories.
- Most NAPs have been published before the development of circular economy (CE) package in 2014 and 2015
 - little reference to the circular economy in existing NAP's
 - a number of the NAP's contain references to indicators of circularity such as reuse & repair (e.g. Bulgaria, Italy), recycling (e.g. France), waste prevention (e.g. Finland, France) and product ecodesign (e.g. Slovakia, Spain).
- Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK achieved the best results with implementation.
- As an example, a key action in the Dutch Action Plan includes topics like Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and focus on award criteria and delivering on specific policy themes, like social, climate, energy, circular economy and innovation.

Current performance implementation of GPP



Project supported by LIFE funding

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
Definition	<i>Evidence of active CE and sustainable procurement implementation; some evidence of circular procurement pilots</i>	<i>Partial implementation of NAPs, some sustainable procurement implementation and CE package actions</i>	<i>Insufficient availability and/or implementation of NAP, GPP and sustainable procurement. Low implementation of CE package measures</i>
Development options	Strategic procurement; category management voluntary sectoral commitments (e.g. 'green deal' type); link to broader CE; certification & labelling developing additional circular textiles criteria	Strategic procurement, Category management, piloting circular textiles, GPP comprehensive criteria, Adoption of circular national criteria, guidance & capacity building in circular procurement	Consistency in use of GPP criteria for textiles, piloting textiles as category approach, capacity building in sustainable procurement and circular economy

Current practice GPP in NAP's



Project supported by LIFE funding

- No or little attention at European or at National level for an integral approach
- No or little legislative stimulus at European or national level
- Legislative barriers for export /import disposed textiles. (a.o. definition of waste)
- Gap between the existing GPP criteria and circular textiles criteria relating to circular procurement.
- Lack of awareness and knowledge of circular principles with procurers and suppliers
- Technical problems to be solved
- Complex and large variety of stakeholders, with a limited influence from procurers on the production
- Lack of transparency in the chain
- From demand side lack of volume to stimulate circular innovation

Main barriers for upscaling CPP in workwear



Project supported by LIFE funding

- Different approaches are required in each country, depending on the size and proximity of the workwear market, influence on the market, degree of engagement with GPP and with the level of awareness on Circular economy principles.
- Interventions are possible at several levels:
 1. Policy (formal legislation or regulation, national strategies, etc.)
 2. Economy (Taxation, fiscal incentives and disincentives, EPR, etc.)
 3. Collaboration (Green deals, covenants, etc.)
 4. Innovation (Technical and operational, procurement strategies and development of new businessmodels etc.)
 5. Directive approach (public expenditure, criteria, demand pull)
 6. Certification, labelling, track and trace systems
 7. Further research to identify and understand better the more detailed stakeholder relationships and potential of influence across the different workwear categories.

Recommendations

1. Develop an overall European strategy for circular textiles and workwear, including:

- a collaborative “market directed” roadmap for circular workwear with actions, timescales, stakeholders, costs, benefits and incentives;
- a ‘tailor made strategy’ per “Band country”; for example, for Bound 2 countries a top-down approach, integrated legislative, policy and implementation of GPP mechanism will be more applicable. In Bound 3 countries we need a more “bottom- up strategy” with pilots and focus on collection and waste separation and first steps towards GPP. For the Bound 1 countries a more complex procurement strategy, market approach and instruments will have most effect.
- a link to the national procurement G/CPP strategy, and category management is crucial, because that’s where you create your demand for circular workwear
- suggestions and actions to solve legislative barriers regarding import and export of “textile waste”
- A link with economic incentives like taxation or EPR

Recommendations



Project supported by LIFE funding

2 .While developing your strategy, consider a sectoral, integral approach, that aims to:

- Engage all relevant stakeholders
- Enable a clearer understanding of the potential risks and benefits to be identified by both the customer and the supplier (f.e. through market dialogue).
- Enable a better understanding of current and future market potential for circular workwear products. This allows benchmarking and planning of development, encouragement and acceleration of new circular products through public sector demand
- Monitor and evaluate progress and signalize relevant developments; /needs/interventions.

3: Collaboration and link to C/GPP

- In “bound 1& 2 countries the use of Green deals and covenants to stimulate collaboration between policy, procurement and suppliers can be effective. It could also include agreements on starting pilots to show ‘how it can be done’”
- In “bound 2&3” countries where there is a preference for legislation, make sure there is room for experiments to show ‘how it can be done’ and adapt your legislation when success is proven .
- Create volume by prescribing minimum requirements in the National action plans, or by category management and collaboration between procurers.

4: Use of criteria

- Update your GPP criteria into CPP criteria
- Make sure the criteria for Ecolabels are updated and comply with CPP.

Recommendations



Project supported by LIFE funding

5. Tools, instruments and sharing knowledge

- The production and roll-out of easily accessible guidance is an important supporting element in CPP.
- Effective communications and dissemination is essential in developing CPP or bringing it to a higher level
- Tip: the masterclasses for circular procurement of workwear are available



Building a circular approach to fashion across Europe

Contact ECAP

ecap.eu@wrap.org.uk

ecap.eu.com

[@ecap_eu](https://twitter.com/ecap_eu)

emile.bruls@rws.nl