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Analysis of national policies on CSR,
in support of a structured exchange of information on national CSR policies and initiatives
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**Sustainable Public Procurement Initiatives in EU Member States:
Preliminary Summary of the Survey Results**

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Background

At the CSR HLG meeting on May 30, 2006 “Sustainable Public Procurement/SPP” (or “CSR and Public Procurement”) was identified as one of the three topics to be analyzed in-depth in the course of this project commissioned by DG Employment and Social Affairs. This preliminary summary gives a brief overview of key results of the survey on SPP initiatives in EU Member States.

Countries and initiatives surveyed: Some figures

- ∅ Between 26 March and 30 April 2007 we have conducted the survey as follows:
 - Public administrators **contacted in total: 74**
 - Not prepared for an interview/provided other contact details: 43
 - Interviews conducted: 24
 - Written information provided by other experts (no interview): 7
 - Countries covered by survey interviews/written information: 24
- ∅ By taking into account existing benchmark/overview studies or surveys on SPP initiatives in Europe,¹ we were able to cover 2 additional countries (Latvia and Italy), adding up to **26 surveyed EU Member States** (excluding Greece).
- ∅ The literature and the telephone survey revealed **103 SPP initiatives** launched by national/federal Member State governments.

¹ (i) EU Compendium (2003) Compendium on national public policies on CSR in the European Union; http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/csr-matrix/csr_topic_allcountries_en.cfm?field=14

(ii) EU Compendium (2006) Corporate Social Responsibility National public policies in the European Union; http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social/csr/csr_compendium_csr_en.pdf

(iii) Sustainable Procurement Task Force (2006) WG1 – International Benchmarking Final Report;

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/task-forces/procurement/documents/wg1-report.pdf>

(iv) DG Environment (2006) National GPP policies and guidelines;

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/national_gpp_strategies_en.pdf

- ∅ Thus, the average number of SPP initiatives per country is 3.96. The range of initiatives is one (Latvia, Luxemburg, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic and Spain) to nine (UK).

Summary of the survey methodology

Topic	Sustainable Public Procurement (environmental, social & ethical)
Scope	Government initiatives in the 27 EU Member States at the federal/national level
Surveyed persons	Public administrators familiar with SPP initiatives
Start & end of survey	26 March - 30 April 2007
Limitations	The results reflect mainly the knowledge of the public administrators interviewed and can not be regarded as a complete picture of SPP in Europe.

Types of policy instruments

- ∅ Generally speaking, CSR policies make use of the following instruments:

- Informational instruments (e.g. guidelines, trainings, websites),
- Partnering instruments (e.g. networks, partnerships),
- Financial or economic instruments (e.g. economic incentives, subsidies),
- Legal instruments (e.g. laws, decrees, circulars),
- Hybrid instruments (e.g. action plans, programmes)

- ∅ The **103 initiatives** we found in the survey are mostly legal, informational and hybrid instruments. They can be **categorized and specified** as follows:

- **Informational instruments (32):** **31,1 percent**
 1. Educational activities, e.g. conferences, seminars, trainings 3.9
 2. Government-sponsored guidelines 13.6
 3. Information resources, e.g. websites, studies, reports, etc. 11.7
 4. Information/awareness raising campaigns 1.9
- **Partnering instruments (1):** **1.0 percent**
 5. Networks/partnerships/agreements 1.0
 6. Multi-stakeholder fora
- **Financial or economic instruments (0):**
 7. Prizes and awards, e.g. CSR audits etc.
 8. Economic incentives, e.g. loans, grants, subsidies, etc.
- **Legal instruments (36):** **35.0 percent**
 9. Laws 25.2
 10. Decrees, resolutions 4.9
 11. Circulars 4.9
- **Hybrid instruments (34):** **33.0 percent**
 12. Action plans/programmes/strategies for CSR 27.2
 13. Platforms/centres/institutions 5.8

Implementing the EU directives on PP in Member States

A key driver behind the adoption of legal instruments opening the space for SPP are the directives on “procurement” (Directive 2004/18/EC) and on “utilities” (Directive 2004/17/EC), both adopted in 2004. In the survey we asked the interviewees about the implementation status of the directives and we obtained the following picture:

Implementation status of EU directives on PP in EU Member States	No. of countries
Implemented	19
In preparation	2
Not yet implemented	1
Status unclear	5
Total	27

National Action Plans on GPP/SPP

National action plans (NAPs) and programmes for GPP/SPP are not only one of the most comprehensive instruments fostering GPP/SPP; they are also the type of instrument applied most often in EU Member States. The following table gives an overview of how widespread NAPs for GPP/SPP are in the 27 EU Member States.

NAPs on GPP/SPP in the EU Member States	No. of countries
NAP adopted by the government	9
Draft NAP available, but not yet adopted by government	5
NAP in preparation (working group established)	2
NAP status unclear	1
No NAP	3
Not identified / unclear	7
	27

Further information and link

Further details of the survey on SPP in Europe are summarised in the presentation given at the CSR HLG meeting on 7 May 2007. A full documentation of the survey results and the three selected case studies on SPP in Europe will be provided in a report later this year. Both documents will be available for download on the project website at www.sustainability.eu/csr-policies.