

Haarlem, Koprivnica, BIG, and KampC, win Prestigious European Awards for Excellence in Sustainable and Innovation Procurement

The 2020 Procura+ Awards Ceremony saw two public agencies and two cities gain recognition for their biggest successes in public procurement: the Belgian public Centre for Sustainability and Innovation in Construction won the title of “Sustainable Procurement of the Year”, the City of Koprivnica (Croatia) won the title of “Innovation Procurement of the Year”, the Austrian Federal Real Estate Agency (BIG) won the title of “Outstanding Innovation Procurement in ICT”, and the City of Haarlem won the title of “Procurement Initiative of the Year”. The event took place on 1 October 2020 as part of the Digital Conference “Environmental Considerations in Public Procurement in Europe”, hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety ([BMU](#)), and the German Environment Agency ([UBA](#)).

The City of Koprivnica (Croatia) was awarded the prize of ‘Innovation Procurement of the Year’ thanks to their innovation partnership for extensive reconstruction. The market dialogue to inform and involve market actors, in this first of its kind partnership in Croatia, to perform a complete reconstruction of a kindergarten building was positively assessed by the jury. *“We are truly honoured to receive the Procura+ Award. This public innovation procurement is the first to be conducted in Croatia, and being honoured with this Award is a remarkable confirmation that we are heading in right direction.”* said **Mišel Jakšić Mayor of Koprivnica**.

The runner-up in this category was the City of Malmö (Sweden).

The Austrian Federal Real Estate Agency (BIG) fought off strong competition from the FABULOS project to win the “Outstanding Innovation Procurement in ICT” Award. BIG won the prize thanks to its innovative approach of using software for sustainable real estate management, supported by an innovation partnership. **Matthias Plattner, Director of the object and facility management department at BIG**, said that *“Me and my team at BIG are excited to receive this Award recognizing our ongoing efforts to improve the sustainability performance of our buildings and using technology for societal goals. The process has been very rewarding and receiving this prize makes us proud of our work.”*

The City of Haarlem (Netherlands) and their cooperative approach to supplier and stakeholder management to achieve a circular and sustainable city was announced as the winner of the “Procurement Initiative of the Year”. The City has worked closely with public maintenance suppliers to create trusting partnerships where suppliers ensure that social and sustainability goals are met, while given the freedom to innovate in how they deliver their services. **Danielle de Boo, Manager of the Project- and Contract management Department, City of Haarlem**, said: *“In Haarlem, we are honoured to receive this Award and we are excited to share our experience with procurers from*



across Europe. Working with our suppliers and other stakeholders to achieve a better, innovative and sustainable city has been a great endeavour and we are happy to be able to share this more widely."

The runner-up in this category was BBG, the Austrian Public Procurement Agency.

The "Sustainable Procurement of the Year" Award went to KampC, the public Centre for Sustainability and Innovation in construction (Belgium), which took the need for a new office building as an occasion to set the bar higher in sustainable and circular construction thanks to a procurement process that incorporated all aspects of circularity in construction. *"At KampC we are trying to push the boundaries of what is possible in public procurement. We are thrilled that our efforts to include circularity in construction are recognised with the Procura+ Award for the Sustainable Procurement of the Year. We hope we can keep leading by example."* said the **Deputy of the Province of Antwerp Kathleen Helsen**.

The runner-up in this category was the Regional Council of Brittany.

The Jury was impressed with the finalists' procurements *"On behalf of the jury, today I would like to acknowledge the achievements of the participants and encourage them to go further. Our special recognition goes to the finalists winning this prize for having challenge the market to innovate for more environmentally and socially beneficial outcomes. Behind each of these winning tenders is a coalition of experts, buyers and policy makers, each doing their bit to secure a more sustainable future. Congratulations to all of them!"* said **Marzena Rogalska, Director European Commission, DG Grow**.

The jury also decided to grant three honourable mentions: the first to the University of Edinburgh (UK), in the category "Procurement Initiative of the Year" for involving the research and academic community in achieving sustainable procurement.

The second to the Finnish administrative agency Sarastia Oy, in the category "Outstanding Innovation Procurement in ICT" category for pioneering procurement of AI solutions to invoicing processes.

And the third to the Galician Health Services, which used innovation procurement to advance their patient care and purchase high end surgical technology, in the "Innovation Procurement of the Year".

"All these fantastic procurements show that there is great creativity when it comes to driving development and producing new solutions to societal challenges," said jury member **Johanna Engberg, Strategist Innovation Procurement, Swedish Competence Centre for Innovation Procurement**.

Prizes were virtually awarded by Ulf Jaeckel, of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment who thanked all candidates who applied to this edition of the Procura+ Awards showing so many inspiring and diverse examples for other cities and organisations of how to use the power of public procurement.



The Jury for this years' Procura+ Award was comprised of Marzena Rogalska, Director, European Commission DG Grow, Erika Bozzay, Senior Policy Advisor, OECD, Johanna Enberg, Strategist Innovation Procurement, Swedish Competence Centre for Innovation Procurement, and Mark Hidson, Global Director, ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Centre.

The Procura+ Awards are partly funded by the [Procure2Innovate](#) project, improving institutional support for public procurers of information and communication technologies (ICT) and other sectors that implement innovation procurement.

Background:

The Procura+ Awards reward successful, already running, sustainable and innovative public procurements. These procurements lead to significant improvements of public goods, services, processes and infrastructure.

For more information: www.procuraplus.org/awards

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