

New type of support for PCP published in FP7 work programme 2011-2012

19 July 2010 the Commission adopted the new FP7 Work Programme for ICT. This 2011-2012 work programme contains for the first time a new type of support for pre-commercial procurement. In addition to the possibility to submit proposals for networking on PCP, consortia of public authorities from around Europe can in this Work Programme also apply for **EC funding for undertaking a pre-commercial procurement jointly**.

The grant for the latter type projects will combine the reimbursement of eligible costs for the activities linked to the preparation, management and coordination of the joint PCP call for tender (max 100% reimbursement rate) plus a reimbursement of maximum 50% of the costs for the development of the new ICT solutions procured through a PCP.

The following calls are planned:

- **Targeted calls for joint PCPs addressing ICT solutions in specific areas of public interest:** ICT for health (Objective 5.3, Call 7), ICT for ageing well (Objective 5.4, Call 7) and photonics (Objective 3.5, Call 8), as well as
- **An open call for PCP proposals addressing ICT solutions in any area of public interest:** (Objective 11.1, Call 8). Proposals for the open call can relate to for example public sector needs for new ICT solutions in healthcare, inclusion, e-government, transport, energy efficiency, environment, security, education etc.

Call 7 will be published 28 September 2010 (deadline for submission 18 January 2011). Call 8 is expected +/- 1 year later. For more info, refer to the [Work Programme text](#) and [Annexes](#).

The PCP mailing list recently welcomed its 1500th subscriber !!!

So, what is PCP again?
(For those of you receiving this newsletter for the first time)

By acting as technologically demanding first buyers, public procurers can drive innovation from the demand side. In addition to improving the quality and efficiency of public services, this can help creating opportunities for companies to take international leadership in new markets.

Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) is an approach for procuring R&D services which enables public procurers to:

- Share the risks and benefits of designing, prototyping and testing a limited volume of new products and services with suppliers, without involving State aid
- Create optimum conditions for wide commercialization and take-up of R&D results through standardization and/or publication
- Pool the efforts of several procurers

Information / Networking sessions on new PCP calls for proposals

Information on the new calls for proposals on PCP will be given at various events after the summer break:

✚ ICT 2010 Event (27-29 September 2010, Brussels)

- Dedicated session on the new WP2011-2012 support for PCP: Session WP11.1-11.3 on 29 Sept, 11h30-12h30
 - Info on PCP support also within the WP sessions for the specific objectives related to public sector services
- Subscription is available via the [ICT 2010 event](#) website. There you also find the current [ICT 2010 conference programme](#) showing the times/dates at which the various WP sessions are programmed.

✚ Open Days Event (5-9 October 2010, Brussels)

- Workshop "Building synergies from research and development to deployment", 5 October, 9h-10h45. This workshop will present future activities and support for PCP (including WP2011-2012 and beyond).
- Registrations for this workshop are open from 5 July 2010 onwards via the [Open Days website](#). To subscribe, go to "registrations", search for workshop number "05A04", and click on the "register" button to fill in your details.

✚ Opportunities to network / find partners for submitting PCP proposals to Call 7

- For the PCP call in ICT for health: at the [E-health procurement workshop](#) (7 October 2010, Brussels)
- For the PCP call in ICT for ageing: at the [FP7 ageing/inclusion info day](#) (15 October 2010, Brussels)

More detailed info about these events will be available after the summer break on the [Events page](#) of the PCP website.

Info on ongoing EC funded **PCP networking projects**

Three networks of public authorities on PCP are currently operational. Funded by the ICT FP7 2009 work programme, these networks are raising awareness and exchanging experiences on PCP in ICT for transport, health, energy and e-government. More info on the scope of these networks is available on the [Projects page](#) of the PCP website.

- **P3ITS** – Pre-commercial procurement for ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) innovation and deployment
- **PRECO** – Enhancing innovation in pre-commercial public purchasing process (focus on ICT for health & energy)
- **PROGR-EAST** - Innovative PROcurement techniques to support the GRowth of competitiveness for public services in EASTern Europe (focus on e-government)

You are hereby also invited to the first [P3ITS workshop](#) that will take place in Brussels on 28 September 2010 (morning only). This workshop will present the first results of the P3ITS project and ask for feedback from the ITS Community.

Outcome of PCP sessions at the **23-24 March 2010 conference**

23-24 March 2010 DG INFSO co-organised, together with DG ENTR and other Commission DGs, a **conference on "Promoting Innovation through public procurement: best practices & networking"** in Brussels.

Around 200 public procurement practitioners, policy makers and other key stakeholders for implementing pre-commercial procurement participated to this conference. **The outcomes and speaker presentations of the conference** are available online in the [Events section](#) of the PCP website.

Concerning pre-commercial procurement, presentations are available on:

- Future Commission support for PCP (2011-2012 & beyond)
- The possibility of EIB loans to public procurers for launching PCP projects
- The experience of the Észak-Alföld region in Hungary on using Structural Funds resources to setup PCP programs.