



Strategic Procurement Training for Centralised Procurement Organisations



Shaping Modern Public Procurement!

Professionalisation and collaboration are key factors in successfully overcoming the many challenges of achieving value for money in public procurement. Issues and risks in the areas of supply chains, market structures, prices as well as climate change aspects require a broad range of competences and expertise. At the same time, we are responsible for the most efficient and legally compliant use of public funds.

The very positive response to the former European training programmes 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.

Therefore, the Austrian Federal Procurement Agency (BBG) and its partners are honoured and delighted to announce the continuation of this training programme – the PPE+ Europe 2024-2028! PPE+ Europe 2024 just concluded successfully with all eligible participants receiving their diplomas and we are excited for PPE+ 2025 to begin!

It is initiated and funded by the European Commission and implemented by a consortium led by 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) and other centralised procurement organisations from EU Member States and Single Market Programme (SMP) participating countries.

The training programme offers a unique combination of practical and academic approaches and participants can benefit from the extensive knowledge and experience of the consortium as well as other international experts in the field of modern public procurement. This includes practical exercises and use cases as well as tools, methods and templates used for daily work routines.

A new component of the training programme is the possibility for participating organisations to apply for individual support service packages (up to 60 hours) to initiate and assist transformation projects based on the knowledge and expertise acquired through the programme.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the second edition of the new training programme: PPE+ Europe 2025.

The Team of PPE+ Europe

Training Programme for Certified Public Procurement Experts

THE PROGRAMME

The new PPE+ Europe training programme offers a unique combination of an academic and a practical approach. The goal is to provide state-of-the art knowledge, tools, and methods for modern public procurement, including policy objectives like SME-friendly, green, and innovative procurement. Additionally, indepth training modules on topics including Food, Security & Defence, Health & Medical and ICT procurement are offered.

Special attention is given to the development of competencies that allow for the facilitation of effective and sustainable transfer of knowledge within organisations. Participants benefit from extensive knowledge and experience of the consortium and other relevant European Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs) and public procurement experts. Together with lecturers from the Vienna University of Economics and Business and international universities they form a unique teaching team.

Working in public procurement means managing different – sometimes even contradictory – requirements and challenges. The public procurement professionals define the conditions for the most efficient and legally compliant use of public funds and at the same time contribute to the realisation of socio-political objectives. Knowledge of a wide range of disciplines is therefore required, e.g. law, product and market expertise, technical knowhow and socio-political objectives as well as project management and effective communication and stakeholder management. Procurers must be able to balance all these disciplines to create meaningful tendering strategies.

Furthermore, the training programme will encourage networking activities by admitting participants to an already established PPE Alumni Network.

A new component of the training programme is the possibility for participating organisations to apply for individual support service packages (remote - up to 60 hours) to initiate and assist transformation projects based on the knowledge and expertise acquired through the training programme (e.g. improving procurement processes and organisational practices etc.).

A final Closing Conference in 2028 will give the participants of all four training rounds the opportunity to meet with all PPE+ Europe Alumni, best practitioners in public procurement, representatives of the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders.

THE TARGET GROUP

- > EEA countries and SMP countries1
- Personnel of public institutions working either in a CPB (operational at national, regional, or sectorial level), in an institution that currently is in a transformational process to function as a CPB, or staff working in regulatory or policy making departments in charge of aggregated public procurement.
- Experienced public procurement staff (operational staff / executive staff) with minimum 3 years of professional working experience.
- > Individuals with Upper-Intermediate level of English.

THE STRUCTURE

- The training programme comprises 31 training days and is planned to be held inon-site and online modes. The following structure is currently envisaged, more information will be provided to applicants upon acceptance to the programme. Main structure:
 - > Block 1 (on-site Vienna): 2025, Calendar Week 38+39
 - > Block 2 (online): 2025, Calendar Week 42+43
 - > Block 3 (online): 2025, Calendar Week 46+47
 - > 2 In-depth modules: between Calendar Week 4 and 5 in 2026 (each 4 half-days online).
 - > Block 4 (on-site Brussels): 2026, Calendar Week 9
 - Agile Leadership (3-day asynchronous module between Calendar Week 50 and Calendar Week 2)
 - > Final PPE+ Europe conference in Q1 2028 (1 day)
- > Training Times:
 - > On-site: Monday Friday, 8 hours per day,
 - > Online: Monday Friday, 4 hours per day

THE VENUE

On-site blocks will take place in Vienna, Austria and Brussels, Belgium (subject to change)

THE TEACHING LANGUAGE

English

¹ list-3rd-country-participation_smp_en.pdf

Training Modules

Care has been taken to provide a well-balanced and engaging curriculum for participants. An overview of the programme and the individual modules comprising it can be found below. For each training programme a total of two In-depth modules will be delivered to participants depending on their professional interests and background.

Block 1 2 weeks onsite (Vienna)

Module 1 Kick Off & Intro to Programme 1 day

> Module 5 **Project and Process** Management

Module 9 Sustainable Public Procurement in Practice

Module 2 Introduction to Public Procurement 1 day

Module 6 Efficient tools for centralized **Public Procurement** 1 day

Module 10 Strategic Purchasing and Supply Chain Management

Module 14 **Effective Tender and Contract** Strategies 1,5 days

Module 3 Characteristics of Centralised **Public Procurement** 0,5 days

Module 7 Importance of Sociopolitical Objectives in PP 0.5 days

Module 11 Convincing Communication and Presentations

Module 15 Professional Management of the Tendering Phase

Module 4 Stakeholder Mgmt. and Communication of CPBs 0,5 days

Module 8 **Public Procurement Promoting** Innovation 0.5 days

Module 12 Train-the-trainer (Part 1) 0.5 days

Block 2

Module 13 Legal Framework of PP 1 day

Module 17 SCM Risks / Sustainability 1 day

Module 16 Contract and Supplier Management 1 day

Online Module 18: Agile Leadership (3 days asynchronous)

Block 3

Module 19 Inclusion of SMEs in Public Procurement 1 day

Module 23 Management Topics / Hot **Topics** 0.5 days

Module 20 E-Procurement and Digitization 1 day

Module 24 Train-the-trainer (Part 2) 0,5 days

Module 21 Performance Management 0,5 days

Module 22 Professionalisation in Public Procurement 0,5 days

Online: In-Depth – Security & Defence (2 days)

Online: In-Depth – Health & Medical (2 days

Block 4 1 week onsite (Brussels)

Module 25 **Negotiations in Public** Procurement 1 day

Module 29 Contract Modifications / **Price Changes** 1 day

Collaborative Approaches to Market Engagement 0,5 days

Module 30 **European Commission Emerging / Current Topics** 0,5 days

Online: In-Depth – Food (2 days)

Online: In-Depth – ICT (2 days)

Introduction to Anti -Corruption & Compliance Systems 0,5 days

Module 31 Closing Event & Graduation Ceremony 0,5 days

Integrity / Conflict of interest in PP 1 day

Training Programme Details

GRADUATION

- > Certificate from WU Executive Academy
- > Degree: Certified Public Procurement Expert (15 ECTS)

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- > Personal professional development
- > Expansion of specialist skills in the field of public procurement
- > Participation in sustainable and effective expert and alumni network
- Application and distribution of acquired know-how in their organisation
- > Eligibility to apply for individual Support Service Packages

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1.Review this document, particularly the sections indicating the Target Audience and Structure to ensure that it is a good fit for you.
- 2. Assemble your Application Documents (CV, Letter of Motivation and Letter of Support from your management / employer)
- 3. Follow this <u>link</u> to complete your details and upload your documents.
- 4. Receive a confirmation email and await announcement of the status of your application.
- 5. Subscribe to the <u>Public Buyers</u>
 <u>Community of Practice</u> and find
 <u>PPE+ Europe 2024 2028</u> on LinkedIn
- 6. For any questions or queries email

application-ppe-europe@iclei.org

FEE & FINANCING

- > Programme is funded by the European Commission under the Single Market Programme
- > No tuition fee
- > All lectures and materials are included
- For on-site trainings and final conference, accommodation and subsistence allowance rates are granted (Vienna and Brussels)
- Individual Support Service Packages (remote up to 60 hours) for participating organisations are funded

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

- > Practical and academic input
- > Interactive programme
- > Peer-to-peer learning
- > Learning from best practice and international experts
- > Based on ProcurCompEU and the needs of the participants

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applicants will be required to provide the following documents/information during the application process:

- > Curriculum Vitae
- > Letter of Motivation
- > Letter of Support from the applicant's management / employer

Information & Contact

Project Management by BBG

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All information provided in the brochure is subject to misprints and changes.

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