

WEBINAR

Réseau Grand Ouest: success stories of SPP from the West of France

27 April 2017

14 h – 15 h 30

Réseau Grand Ouest: success stories of SPP from the West of France



○ Creation of the network

R.G.O. was officially founded in 2006 as an independent association (organization) with the goal to unite and connect municipalities, as well as to support their activities in green and socially responsible public procurement. Today, about 100 public authorities from the west of France are members. All of them take sustainability into account in their procurements - a core task of the Network.

*On the 9th of June 2016, the R.G.O. celebrated its **tenth anniversary**.*

○ Representation

Members are each represented by both a political representative and a technical expert responsible for procurement. This 'dual representation' ensures municipalities' political or high-level commitment as well as implementation on an operational or technical level. **These two levels of commitment are very essential to a comprehensive acceptance of GPP and are integral for the Network's success.**

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○ Policy Priorities

The main priority of the network is **helping the participants** (the public authorities) to integrate social and sustainable criteria in their tenders, in the procurement. RGO's overall goal is to stimulate exchange of good practice and knowledge between its members.

All is based on sharing good practices, experiences of members.

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○ Strategic objectives

The objectives of the Network are to:

- create a common culture among members of the Réseau Grand Ouest (RGO) in the field of sustainable development through responsible purchasing,
- assist decision makers in their purchasing policies on technical and legal aspects,
- pooling and sharing experiences,
- create a dynamic exchange, motivate and stimulate the interest of stakeholders,
- know and learn about strands of business, labels and suppliers,
- develop information and optimise skills,
- be the link between local, national and international initiatives for proposals and as a source of information,
- promote sustainable development through responsible procurement in public procurement.



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○ Activities

To reach this goal R.G.O. sets up several activities:

- **Working groups** = flagship activity = which has been resulting in the development of a guide on the working group's with technical and legal recommendations (market engagement) – currently “sustainable road” and “organic food and catering”
- **Awareness raising** activities = to increase the interest in SPP
- Training sessions on SPP
- Annual meeting on topic linked with SPP
- Webinars/ informal meeting
- **Support in implementing SPP** - this activity has been increasing
- Participation in the project SPP and in the network Procura+ = important to share with others countries and entities
- **Attendance to Capacity Building Events**
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○ Dissemination and communication tools

Website

[http://www.reseaugrandouest.fr/;](http://www.reseaugrandouest.fr/)

Newsletter



Online forum / platform for internal exchange (If a participant wants to launch a tender but wants to know more or if he needs some informations or good practices, he can ask on the forum and the others participants can reply (by call or email) directly).

"Role models (examples to follow)/ best practices cases"



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○ Dissemination and communication tools

Guidelines and reports

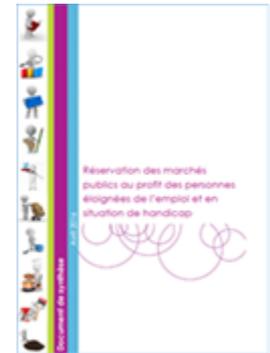
At the end of each working group period, a **guide on good practice** (circa 100 pages) is published which also contains legal recommendations on sustainable and social criteria that can be directly used by other members or municipalities. The table of contents is almost always the same: **Introduction (background), issues (challenges, stakes), state of supply, legal and technical tools, best practices etc.** (it can depends of the topic of course).

And other tools like :

A guide on the existing labels



Participation in several events on SPP at a national level but European as well (climate chance,).



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○ Successes and challenges

Main achievements

- The guides of recommandations and good practices which are written at the end of a working group and the quality of the meetings which are organized by the R.G.O..

Success factors

- R.G.O. is certainly a **dynamic network**. The R.G.O. members actively shape the common work. Within the region and among the members a new culture of sustainability has been established. Many public authorities now review their purchasing decisions regarding sustainability criteria even before they begin drawing up their tender documents.
- Networking allows to overcome the difficulties together and find arguments to change attitudes, habits.
- Having a team of employees (staff), with elected officials involved who decide strategic issues and life of the network.
- Membership is already an investment and political involvement to go in this direction.

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○ Successes and hurdles

- Geographical distance can be a problem because it's sometimes difficult to organize meetings, as the network is large. R.G.O. tries to organize meetings with videoconferencing, more recently webinars but it is not always possible and not always appropriate.

Thanks for your attention !

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- **Success stories**

City of Lorient

City of Nantes/ Nantes Métropole