



“PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS” A Social Platform guide to the EU Public Procurement Directive



Why this guide?

In April 2014 the EU's [Public Procurement Directive](#) came into force.

Member states have until 18 April 2016 to transpose the Directive into national legislation. Although the Directive provides contracting authorities with a vehicle to achieve social and environmental goals, they are not obliged to pursue those goals.

The guide is aimed at:

- supporting **member state representatives** in the transposition of the Directive to embrace its full social potential
- supporting **contracting authorities** in the implementation of the Directive
- facilitating the understanding of the Directive by **social economy enterprises** and **non-profit social and health service providers**.

Content: We have focused on the following *three areas*:

- “Reserved contracts” for economic operators that promote the social and professional integration of persons with disabilities and disadvantaged persons.
- “Social considerations” as the silver thread through the procurement process (e.g. how to promote fundamental rights, gender equality, employment opportunities for people further away from the labour market, decent work, in public contracts for works, services and goods)
- Putting service users first by designing effective procedures for awarding contracts for social and health services.

For each area, the guide provides recommendations to member states and contracting authorities. It also gives some concrete examples based on the rules of the 2004 Directive.

Key recommendations:

1. Encourage the evaluation of bids on the basis of the Best Price-Quality Ratio, in particular those concerning social and health services
2. Member states should include the provision on reserved contracts (article 20) in national legislation, to support persons with disabilities and disadvantaged persons in accessing employment opportunities
3. Allow reserved contracts for social services provided by social economy operators

4. Develop in all member states support mechanisms for contracting authorities, social economy enterprises and businesses
5. Contracting authorities, where feasible, should award contracts in the form of separate lots.

The guide can be downloaded at <http://www.socialplatform.org/what-we-do/service/public-procurement>. It is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#), [Croatian](#) and [Italian](#). Portuguese will follow.

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