



## Certification of suppliers by the Sustainability Compass in Germany



Public Procurement Principle: **Balance, Capacity**



Procurement Stage: **Pre-tendering, Tendering**



Audience: **Policy maker, Procuring entity, CPBs**

### Description

---

As the German federal government's commitment to sustainable procurement increased, authorities realised that procurement practitioners needed support in implementing sustainable procurement. In 2010, the federal government, in partnership with a consultancy firm specialising in sustainable procurement, developed an electronic platform to provide both buyers and suppliers with support and advice on how to overcome challenges at each step of the procurement process. At present, two fulltime employees manage the platform, called the Sustainability Compass. These employees work on supporting the system and developing new product groups.

The Sustainability Compass contains a number of resources on both the ecological and social aspects of sustainable procurement, including:

- a self-check for companies to identify risks in their supply chains and guidance on how to manage them
- a five-step process providing standard tools and instruments (complete with detailed guidance on their use) for each stage of the tender process, suitable for all users from beginners to experts
- an overview of relevant social and environmental issues along the supply chain for certain product groups – which can be taken into consideration in the procurement process
- the ability to analyse and compare sustainability labels (such as certification for sustainable practices) to more effectively establish that works, services and supplies correspond to certain sustainability criteria

- best practice examples of operational aspects of procurement, such as sustainability evaluation criteria
- ready-made text modules to be used in tender documents
- comprehensive information on legal frameworks at the German state level

Authorities have recently created a version of the Sustainability Compass for procurement staff within municipalities. This version of the platform provides municipal staff with information specific to their region, such as lists of local suppliers and the sustainability certificates they hold.

Source: OECD (2019), [Public Procurement in Germany: Strategic Dimensions for Well-being and Growth](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

