Opportunities and barriers for circular procurement in the built environment

Lunch debate

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Content

- Introduction and study scope
- Impact of the built environment
- Resource efficiency and GPP
- Four barriers
- Two recommendations
- Discussion
What? Introduction and study scope

EU Circular Economy Package (Dec 2015)
- Several specific actions for the construction sector
- More opportunities using Green Public Procurement (GPP)

Goal of the study
- Find GPP opportunities to enhance circular built environment by identifying barriers and gaps in current policies / regulation

Approach of the study
- Interviews
- Literature research

Scope of the study
- Construction sector, focus on buildings
- Resource efficiency, GPP
Why? Impact of the built environment

“Circular” facts construction sector
- 50% materials
- 35% waste
- 40% energy
- 30% GHG

Life cycle buildings
- 90% buildings 2050 already there
- Procurement of services and products in every phase
- Many contractors / stakeholders
- Focus on energy performance

Figure: Saint Gobain
How? Resource efficiency through GPP

Circular economy (Commission)
- In CE the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible and the generation of waste is minimized.

Resource efficiency (WRAP)
- Resource efficient construction makes best use of materials, water and energy life cycle of built assets to minimize operational carbon.

Green Public Procurement
- Voluntary instrument for public authorities to procure goods, services and works with a better environmental impact throughout their life cycle.
Four barriers

Low supply

Insufficient Quality and quantity

No Proof of concept / verification

GPP ???

Fragmented demand

Unsufficient Drivers

Low demand

Unsufficient Drivers

No Proof of concept / verification

Insufficient Quality and quantity

Fragmented demand

Low supply
Barrier 1: Insufficient quality and quantity of secondary materials

What is / will be there
- 70% target for recycling CDW (Waste framework directive)
- Voluntary Standards for raw secondary materials (action plan)
- Voluntary Recycling protocol for CDW (action plan)
- Best practises on CDW recycling / policy (member states)

What is missing
- Sufficient attention for CDW other than “heavy minerals”
- Sufficient (financial) incentives
- Easy access to examples / best practises
Barrier 2: Fragmented demand in member states for circular building (materials)

What is / will be there
- Core indicators environmental performance of buildings (JRC project)
- Several (private) schemes for building certification / assessment (e.g. BREAAM)
- Construction Product Regulation

What is missing
- Common understanding and harmonized objectives for resource efficiency
- Sufficient scale in demand for circular building (materials)
Barrier 3: Lack of proof of circular concepts and verification methods

What is / will be there

- Core indicators environmental performance of buildings (JRC project)
- Several (private) schemes for building certification / assessment (e.g. BREAAM)
- Several (EU funded) demonstration projects

What is missing

- Verification methods for assessing performance on resource efficiency
- Easy access to examples / best practises
Barrier 4: Insufficient drivers and urgency to improve resource efficiency

What is / will be there
- New EU GPP criteria document for Office Buildings
- Examples of (successful) GPP policies in member states

What is missing
- Direction (strong vision / targets) for enhancing resource efficiency for the construction sector
- Economies of scale (to reduce costs)
- Life cycle approach and coordination between stakeholders in the value chain (of buildings)
- Easy access to examples / best practices
Two recommendations (1)

Develop an (online) platform for GPP and the built environment

- Central information sharing point (best practices/approaches/lessons learned)
- Contact and meeting point for Industry and public authorities (defragmentation of the value chain)
- Demonstrating proof of concept (matching supply and demand)
- Setting specific goals together for resource efficiency (give direction)
Two recommendations (2)

Investigate opportunities for resource efficiency synergies within current policies

- Measures for enhancing resource efficiency might be easier to implement through synergies with existing policies
- Strong focus on energy performance (EPBD and EED)
- Mandatory renovation of buildings
- Renovation for enhancing energy performance may hinder improving resource efficiency (at deconstruction phase)
- Investigate opportunities for integrating requirements for resource efficiency in EPBD (based on life cycle approach)
Topics for discussion

To discuss:

- Are these recommendations effective and feasible?
  1. *Develop an (online) platform for GPP and the built environment*;
  2. *Investigate opportunities for resource efficiency synergies within current policies*.

- How to sharpen the recommendations (steps to get there)?