



Call for tender

**DRIVING PUBLIC PURCHASE TOWARDS TRULY GREEN
CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS & MATERIALS**

Study for an evidence-based report

Deadline: January 31, 2024, COB

About ECOS

ECOS – Environmental Coalition on Standards – is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies, and laws. We ensure the environmental voice is heard when they are developed and drive change by providing expertise to policymakers and industry players, leading to the implementation of strong environmental principles. More information is available on our [website](#).

In the context of our work on construction, ECOS seeks to subcontract an organisation/consultancy (hereby 'Consultant') to deliver a study for an evidence-based report, as outlined in the scope and output of this tender document.

Background and policy context

In the EU, public spending accounts for a large share of construction sector demand, with public contractors' buying powers for construction activities accounting for 1,4% EU GDP¹. Despite a growing consensus on its potential however, no mandatory green public procurement (GPP) approach for construction products exists at EU-level. This has led to data inconsistency and fragmentation, as national authorities adopted varying standards and metrics to evaluate environmental impact, resulting in a lack of comparability across projects or regions.

In March 2022, the European Commission proposed two major pieces of legislation that attempt an EU-level approach to GPP for construction products: the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) and the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). Both proposals would empower European authorities to set mandatory GPP criteria through secondary legislation, for construction products such as cement, concrete, and steel.

Therefore, setting truly green criteria for top polluting construction products and ensuring their swift implementation at national level are key to ultimately greening the sector. By prioritising eco-friendly materials, public authorities are not only encouraging the development of green technologies but also promoting their large-scale adoption.

Concept and objective of the report

In the upcoming months, ECOS will embark on a European wide campaign advocating for the urgent adoption of mandatory GPP criteria for construction products. This initiative aims to elevate the discourse around sustainable construction, a sector that has largely been overlooked by EU environmental policy.

¹ [Advancing Green Public Procurement and Low-Carbon Procurement in Europe: Insights | International Institute for Sustainable Development \(iisd.org\)](#)

As part of the campaign, an evidence-based report will be produced as the basis for constructing a compelling narrative and providing recommendations to the EU and national policy makers. Therefore, the report will have three main objectives:

- **Illustrate the environmental benefits and transformative impact** of adopting mandatory GPP criteria for construction products at EU-level.
- **Provide policymakers and progressive stakeholders with arguments** (especially in terms of feasibility) to advocate for EU-wide GPP standards, emphasising the benefits for the environment, economies, and society.
- **Initiate an EU-wide public discussion** about the necessity and benefits of sustainable construction practices and mandatory GPP criteria

The above-mentioned report will be drafted by the ECOS team, **using the findings of the study presently advertised as a basis**. The study, which will be outsourced by ECOS, will analyse the environmental impact and feasibility of adopting mandatory GPP criteria for construction products at EU-level. The focus of this study shall be on concrete and steel, given their significant usage in the industry and their substantial impact on global emissions. Geographically, the study shall cover the state of GPP at EU level, with a specific focus on frontrunners such as Germany, Italy, and Belgium.

Scope

The study will cover the **work packages** described below. The percentages assigned to each work package should reflect the amount of effort and resources required for each one.

Work Package 1: Evaluation of state-of-play on GPP in construction industry / products: How big is the problem and why is there a need for a mandatory EU-level effort? - 20% of the project.

- Provide a schematic, background overview of how EU Member States have introduced voluntary or mandatory criteria and / or targets for construction products.
 - This background analysis should be carried out against the following categories of criteria (currently considered in legislation), as well as summarised in a table/diagram:
 - Minimisation of whole-life-cycle GHG emissions.
 - Circularity, according to the following sub-criteria:
 - Resource efficiency (including waste generation and recycled content).
 - Recyclability, reusability and reparability.
 - Capability of different materials to be separated at end-of-life.
- Provide a schematic overview of the reporting methods that EU Member States utilize for tracking and communicating the implementation of voluntary or mandatory criteria and / or targets for GPP for construction products.

Work Package 2: Evidence of benefits through the application of GPP – 50% of the project.

- Present a case study on a well-known building or infrastructural project to showcase the positive impacts of implementing GPP criteria (as per the sub-categories indicated above). The study should include:
 - An analysis of the environmental impact of the structural elements of the construction project under analysis (with a focus on concrete and steel elements).
 - A scenario analysis of the project with the application of ambitious GPP criteria, with the aim of demonstrating the potential for:
 - Positive environmental impacts (GHG emission reduction & circularity, as defined in WP1).
 - Cost savings.
 - The results should include quantifiable environmental benefits.
- The study should focus on an existing or planned project (building, bridge, stadium, etc.) that combines both structural materials of concrete and steel and is representative to the public.
- The following list of potential infrastructure projects can serve as a guide, but consideration of additional projects is also welcome:
 - London Olympic Stadium.
 - Paris Olympic Stadium.
 - Brenner Base Tunnel.
 - Fehmarnbelt Tunnel.

Work Package 3: Scalability of environmental benefits and cost savings – 15% of the project.

- Provide an estimation of the environmental impact and cost savings potential of applying GPP criteria at a larger scale.
 - The estimation should quantify the scaling up potential of the project analysed in the second work package. It will show the amount of emissions reduced and cost savings that could be achieved if ambitious GPP criteria were widely adopted at EU level.

Work Package 4: Key recommendations - 15% of the project.

- Provide specific, actionable recommendations that could facilitate the reduction of embodied-carbon emissions and improvement of circularity through the adoption of mandatory EU-GPP criteria for construction materials (i.e. concrete, steel).
- These should be based on the evidence gathered in the report and should address aspects related to the current revision of the CPR and ESPR (e.g. suggestions to overcome the problems identified in the first work package, technical inputs on setting criteria for construction products and possibility of setting the bar throughout the criteria development based on the second and third work package).

Tasks & Outputs

Recognizing that the subject of GPP for construction products is often communicated in a complex and technical manner, the report developed by ECOS will aim to simplify the language and make it accessible to a wider audience. It will weave a compelling story that highlights the need for the establishment of mandatory GPP for construction products at EU level.

Therefore, ECOS expects the study to provide robust and impactful data focused on construction products, while also being as visual as possible with the inclusion of figures and practical examples that can be understood by a general audience.

The study delivered by the Consultant should follow this **structure**:

- Executive summary, including brief overview of the study's findings and recommendations.
- Introduction, providing the context of the work.
 - Importance of low carbon concrete and steel in reducing environmental impact of construction industry, including up to date figures.
 - GPP 's role in developing a market for lower carbon containing products.
- Aim and extent of the study, establishing its parameters.
 - Methodology, data sources and other relevant technical considerations and assumptions used.
- Evaluation of state-of-play on GPP in construction industry / products and why is there a need for a mandatory EU-level effort (work package 1).
- Development of the case study (work package 2 + 3).
 - Analysis of the environmental impact of the structural elements under analysis and comparison with the benefits of using lower carbon containing materials, by showcasing the benefits of introducing GPP criteria for construction products.
- Conclusion, highlighting the main takeaways and recommendations for adopting EU-level mandatory GPP criteria for construction products (work package 4)
- Bibliography.

The Consultant will provide, when possible and relevant, key facts and figures that ECOS will be able to use in communication materials (such as infographics, and visual representations).

A participation to the launching conference will be required from the Consultant, to facilitate the dissemination of findings, foster discussion, and provide insights into the study's recommendations and implications.

The length of the study should not exceed **15 pages** (excluding references and annexes).

The tenderer will assign to ECOS the exclusive right to own and use the outputs of this study. The authors will be acknowledged in the published ECOS report.

Budget

The budget available for this work is maximum **EUR 45.000** (including VAT), and all other costs will be incurred by the Consultant.

Note that sub-contracting is accepted in cases where a delivery team involves individuals from different institutions or organisations. In this case, the lead tenderer retains responsibility for legal and financial arrangements for any sub-contracting.

Project implementation and timeline

Delivery of the study will involve active contribution from and regular coordination with ECOS. The key milestones include:

- **Signing the contract.**
- **Kick-off meeting – February 2024.**
 - An **inception document** (presenting the structure of the report and the methodology identified) will send to ECOS ahead of the kick-off meeting.
- **Interim meeting – March-April 2024.**
 - An **interim presentation** will be sent to ECOS ahead of the interim meeting and to present at the interim meeting).
- **Final meeting – May 2024.**
 - A **final report** (presentation of the key findings) will be sent to ECOS ahead of the final meeting and to present on the final meeting).

After each meeting, consultation with ECOS will take place.

The contract should be completed by the Consultant **by 1st of June 2024.**

Tender Assessment

Assessment of the tenders will be made using a weighted multi-criteria approach. The award criteria are:

- 70% quality:
 - Delivery team expertise.
 - Relevance of application.
 - Quality of the deliverables.
 - Usefulness of the expected outcome for communication.
- 30% price.

Only short-listed tenderers will be contacted.

The fact of publishing a procurement procedure does not oblige ECOS to award the contract to a tenderer simply because its tender fulfils those criteria. It also reserves the right to decide not to award the contract to any tenderer and to cancel the procedure at any time before award.

Tender preparation

Tenderers are requested to **submit a proposal by 23:59 CET on 31 January 2024 to info@ecostandard.org** (and in CC tudor_cherhat@ecostandard.org outlining:

- A brief description of the tenderer's understanding of the analysis demanded.
- A description of the anticipated activities, relevant timeline with milestones, and proposed outputs.
- A description of how close coordination with ECOS will be ensured throughout the project.
- Budgeting for each element of the work.
- CVs and time availability of the key staff delivering the work, as well as their areas of expertise.

ECOS Procurement and Purchase Policy

This tender complies with the ECOS Procurement and Purchase Policy adopted by the ECOS Executive Committee, and last updated October 2021. This policy covers general principles relating to transparency and fairness, value for money, and non-discrimination. It specifies thresholds relating to a competitive negotiated procedure with at least a specified number of candidates either with tender or selection and sets out the procedure to be followed by ECOS.