



NSW Parliamentary Inquiry

Nook Studios | Supplementary Question 1

MS MEL FLANAGAN, Founder / Director, Nook Studios

MS SOPHIE BROWN, Advocacy/Communications, Nook Studios

Question 1. Do you have further examples of social procurement systems in other jurisdictions both nationally and internationally that weren't included in your submission?

Answer:

Other local and international jurisdictions sometimes use Sustainable Procurement and Ethical Procurement instead of Social Procurement.

The **Open and Sustainable Procurement [toolkit](#)**¹ published by the Open Contracting Partnership includes a comprehensive [database](#)² of sustainable public procurement case studies around the world. These examples are organised by reform type (e.g. social, environmental, economic) and region. The toolkit also features practical guidance on the steps to implementing a sustainable procurement reform.

Additional examples of social procurement worth highlighting include:

Public consultation: Mexico City involves suppliers and citizens in the planning of procurement purchases via a transparent ["pre-bidding" module](#)³ in their e-procurement system. Registered users can comment on draft procurement documents - such as specifications and technical annexes - before a project is formally sent out for tender.

This allows external stakeholders to clarify any part of the documents and flag potential improvements or concerns before the tender is awarded.

The tool uses open source software so it can be replicated by other governments.

Green procurement: Lithuania monitors uptake of [green criteria](#)⁴ in all its procurement procedures. A dedicated sustainability unit in the procurement agency works with government buyers to design appropriate, environmentally friendly contracts for their specific context.

Social procurement: Lithuania is also working on a social buying reform. Procuring entities can choose to adopt [social criteria](#)⁵ in their contracts, including equal pay, inclusion of people with disability, and work-life balance. Uptake by buyers is promoted through various strategies.

Women's participation: Dominican Republic's reform to promote [women's participation](#)⁶ in public contracting saw a 16% increase in contracts awarded to smaller businesses led by women over eight years.

Sources:

1. Open and Sustainable Public Procurement Toolkit (Open Contracting Partnership), available at <https://sustainable.open-contracting.org/>
2. Database : <https://sustainable.open-contracting.org/2e59454b25174caa94f2e7189fb64655>
3. Prebases - A Strategy to Strengthen the Planning of Contracting Procedures (OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation), available at <https://oecd-opsi.org/innovations/prebases/>
4. How Lithuania fast-tracked green procurement (Open Contracting Partnership), available at <https://www.open-contracting.org/2023/12/06/how-lithuania-fast-tracked-green-procurement/>
5. Thoughts on Social Buying in Lithuania (Open Contracting Partnership), available at <https://www.open-contracting.org/2024/05/28/thoughts-on-social-buying-in-lithuania/>
6. Women Win One in Four Contracts in the Dominican Republic Thanks to Inclusive Procurement Reforms (Open Contracting Partnership), available at <https://www.open-contracting.org/2020/09/23/women-win-one-in-four-contracts-in-the-dominican-republic-thanks-to-inclusive-procurement-reforms/>