



NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME

DATASHEET 11: Public Procurement

The purchase of goods and of services, as well as the order for public works, by public services or other public bodies is subject to Community and international/national rules. Please note that these rules may also be applicable for companies, associations, foundations etc under certain circumstances (for example receiving public grants like the Northern Periphery Programme funding). The procurement rules aim at securing transparent and fair conditions for completion on the common market. These rules have to be considered by project partners when it comes to the realisation of investments or when hiring consultants or experts to the project.

At the European Union level, a call for tender procedure is compulsory for contracts over a certain amount awarded by a public sector body (public supply, works or service contracts). At the level of each EU Member State, other rules may exist, and may be more binding, notably with regard to the amount of the contract which requires the issuing of a call for tender. In any event, in the case of a project implemented with financial assistance from the European Union/Northern Periphery Programme, the European rules must at least apply to all such contracts awarded within the framework of the project. The levels that trigger the obligation to issue a call for tender procedure on a European level are:

- public service contract: an amount equal to or greater than **EUR 200 000** (excl. VAT)

Note that the rules differs depending on the kind of goods and/or services that are purchased as well as the value of the purchase. There are various thresholds set up based on the value of the purchase, and consequently various procedures to apply depending on these thresholds.

Further information on the European rules concerning public procurement can be found in the "*Guides to the Community rules in the area of public procurement (supply contracts, public works, services)*", which can be downloaded from the following link: <http://simap.eu.int/EN/pub/src/quideline.htm>

National/regional rules and thresholds

Scotland

As a rule of thumb, public bodies in the **UK** (Scotland) should ask for at least three bids when purchasing services or goods for more than £5000, (approx. 8000 EUR).

Sweden

In general, public bodies and other contracting authorities (see above) in **Sweden** should apply ordinary tendering procedures when purchasing services or goods for more than 70 000 SEK (två basbelopp, approx. 7800 EUR)

Finland

National legislation in **Finland** requires procurement units/contracting entities to submit competitive tenders for procurements that fall below the threshold value by sending out requests for tender to a sufficient number of potential suppliers in that field or by publishing an announcement, written in free form, regarding the competitive tender.

Thresholds: (1 January 2002 – 31 December 2003)

General state administration

Goods and Services: 162 293 EUR

Other state authorities, local authorities,
joint municipal authorities, legal persons

regarded as part of the public administration Goods and Services: 249 681 EUR

Norway

Tendering procedures have to be followed by public bodies in **Norway** when purchasing services or goods for more than 200 000 NOK (approx. 25 000 EUR). Note the demands on **openness and competition** when purchasing services or goods also below these values.

Iceland

All procurement of services by public bodies in **Iceland** exceeding ISK 10 000 0000 (approx. 115 000 EUR) shall be put to tender.

Please consult the Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat, the Regional Contact Points, the Internal market web site (see link below) and/or your national public procurement authority for further information.

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/publproc/