

Practice Abstract #1



Procurement for Sustainable, Healthy and Innovative School Meals

As part of the **SchoolFood4Change** project, ICLEI Europe has developed a **Handbook for Procurers**, a practical and legally sound guide for **developing tenders**. The Handbook provides a **set of targets and criteria** to guide European municipalities in integrating **sustainability, health, equity, and climate objectives** into school meal procurement. Consisting of **core and advanced criteria, contract performance clauses, and verification mechanisms**, the Handbook aligns with EU public procurement directives and offers a practical pathway for advancing the objectives of the **European Child Guarantee and the EU's Vision for Food and Agriculture** through sustainable, healthy, and innovative procurement. A good practice example from a European city illustrates the implementation of each target.

Seven procurement targets included in the Handbook:

1. Organic & biodiversity
2. Healthy, seasonal, tasty meals
3. GHG reduction
4. Tackling food poverty/Right to Food
5. Food education & culture
6. Small farmers & social inclusion
7. Fair Trade & decent labour

Innovative Procurement models include:

- Organic Districts
- B2B platforms
- Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS)
- National/regional food catalogues

Together, these criteria and models help cities improve **child nutrition**, reduce **environmental impacts**, strengthen **local food economies**, and build **fair, transparent supply chains**.



Find more information here:



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