



CASE STUDY: IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACTION PLANS

Cities face many challenges when it comes to implementing Public Procurement Strategies and Action Plans including around: data and evidence; embedding innovation and social and environmental criteria; and decision-making and monitoring. The city of Almelo in Netherlands produced an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) as part of an URBACT Action Planning Network called [Procure](https://urbact.eu/procure)¹. One year on from the completion of the Procure Network, this document explores how this city has overcome the challenges associated with implementing their IAP.



Market Engagement – the City of Almelo, the Netherlands

Almelo is located in the Eastern part of the Netherlands and forms part of the wider Regio Twente, which is the largest city-region within the country. The City of Almelo has an annual procurement spend of over €80million which is for both goods and services and construction.

The core focus of the IAP (produced as part of the Procure Network) for Almelo is upon collaboration and upon various regional partners coming together to foster innovation through a more effective approach to procurement and through an innovation partnership. A key component of this is engaging with the potential market early in the public procurement process, both in terms of enabling innovation and in raising awareness of opportunities.

The challenge with early market engagement and indeed innovation is finding the businesses in the first place which both want to be involved in procurement processes and have a desire to be innovative in their approach.

To overcome the challenge associated with procurement implementation around market engagement, the City of Almelo have undertaken a number of activities. First, they have applied for further European Funding (through Horizon) to bring dis-used parts of the city into use for the benefit of health and other social outcomes; a key emphasis of this work is upon encouraging construction companies to innovate for outcomes as part of the procurement process. Second, they have sought to engage SMEs at a far earlier stage of the procurement process than before. Third, they are working with SMEs to populate vacant space in the City Centre to deliver key services from.

¹ <https://urbact.eu/procure>