



Interior Furnishings for a Company Kindergarten



PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- C **Wider societal interests:**
Requirement for an environment-friendly solution
- C **Evaluation:**
The evaluation concerned no aspects related to socially responsible public procurement.
- C **Anticipated value of the public procurement contract:**
CZK 950,000 excluding VAT
- C **Legal regulation:**
Small-scale public contract

Contracting Authority:
LUŽÁNKY - STŘEDISKO VOLNÉHO ČASU BRNO,
příspěvková organizace
(LUŽÁNKY LEISURE TIME CENTRE)

Name of procurement:
INTERIOR FURNISHINGS FOR A COMPANY
KINDERGARTEN AT KOUNICOVA 16, BRNO

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE (May 2016)

Lentilka is a company kindergarten established by the South Moravian Region. For four years, it has been operated by the Lužánky Leisure Time Centre, an organization cofinanced by the state budget. In 2016, the school capacity was increased by additional three classrooms. Before they could be used, though, it was necessary to furnish them.

The Contracting Authority was aware of the fact that the application of responsible public procurement is often more complex than the commonly used assessment of bids based upon the lowest price. To prepare the public procurement contract, the Contracting Authority therefore worked together with the school founder, i.e. the South Moravian Region, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, to maximise benefits attainable under the concept. At the time period when tender documents were being prepared, the Contracting Authority was not familiar with a similar example of good practice in the Czech Republic which concerned socially responsible purchasing of furniture. Therefore, in general terms, the Contracting Authority found inspiration in a handbook published by its founder, i.e., the South Moravian Region, entitled "Responsible Purchasing: Basic Principles" (prepared by Nová ekonomika, o. p. s., 2015) and in a number of methodology handbooks available online.



European Union
European Social Fund Operational
Program Employment



MINISTRY OF LABOUR
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS



SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



Pertinent information on and methodology approaches used for furniture procurement are available, e.g., at <http://sovz.cz/predmety/nabytek-a-vybaveni-interieru/>.

This public procurement contract was carried out as a small-scale contract outside the scope of Act No. 137/2006 Coll., on Public Procurement (while respecting the Contracting Authority's methodology principles). It comprised interior furnishing and equipment, including outdoor play structures in the garden area of the kindergarten. Having considered its option to apply the principles of responsible purchasing, the Contracting Authority decided to request that the impact made by the order on the environment be minimized.



In the tender documents, the Contracting Authority had to differentiate its requirements for products made of wood or wood-based materials from those made from metal, e.g., coat hangers. For furniture and other interior furnishings made of wood or wood-based materials, it required that the products be abrasion-resistant, washable, combustion resistant, and that the joining mechanisms guaranteed sturdiness and stability. Moreover, the products had to comply with detailed technical specifications indicated in the tender documents, which concerned the following:

- A) hazardous substances,
- B) content of formaldehyde and volatile substances,
- C) composition of any plasticizers used,
- D) content of volatile organic compounds,
- E) and packaging materials.



Furniture featuring an eco-label (e.g. which bears the label Environmentally friendly product or "The Flower" (European ecolabel), and fulfils requirements A) through D), was considered satisfactory.

Details are available in the tender documents at <https://zakazkv.kraibezkorupce.cz/contractdisplay8012.html>



The Contracting Authority received five bids. In them, bidders took various approaches to demonstrate that they had fulfilled the contract requirements specified. Some offered furniture featuring an ecolabel, others provided affidavits and certificates for individual technical requirements. One of the bids failed to fulfil the technical requirements of the Contracting Authority. Of the remaining bids, the bidder offering the lowest bid price was selected, which, however, subsequently refused to implement the order. As a result, the bidder who ranked second (MY DVA group a. s.) was contacted to provide furniture made of wood and wood-based materials featuring an ecolabel.

From the Contracting Authority's point of view the contract was carried out without any problems and all the deadlines were met. Especially appreciated was the preparation undertaken by the winning bidder prior to meetings where the procedure to implement the contract was negotiated.

The Contracting Authority would certainly recommend that other contracting authorities insist on the minimum impact on environment as part of their purchase of furniture and interior equipment. Whenever appropriate in the future, the Contracting Authority will certainly require the same measures.