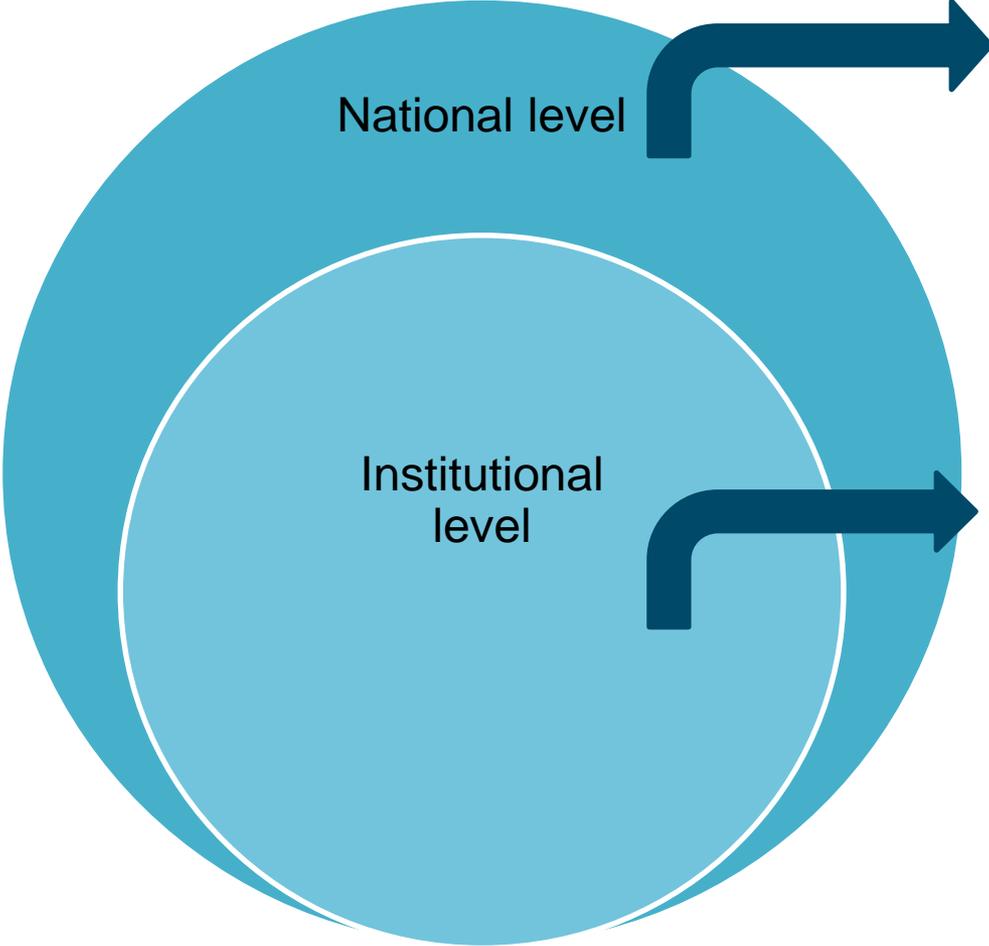




# Challenges countries face when implementing SPP

Sylvia Aguilar  
Procurement Advisory Services  
[SylviaAC@unops.org](mailto:SylviaAC@unops.org)

## Different levels of SPP implementation



National level

Aimed at developing national capacities (and enabling conditions) for SPP, including national SPP policy, national SPP Action Plan, and building competencies among relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

Institutional level

Aimed at developing and deploying the institutional SPP policy and strategy (including implementing sustainability criteria in tenders, according to the institutional policy)

Technical assistance, Access to finance



Suppliers



Users Buyers



Procurement of services, goods and infrastructure



Public Procurement Regulatory Authorities

Public Procurement



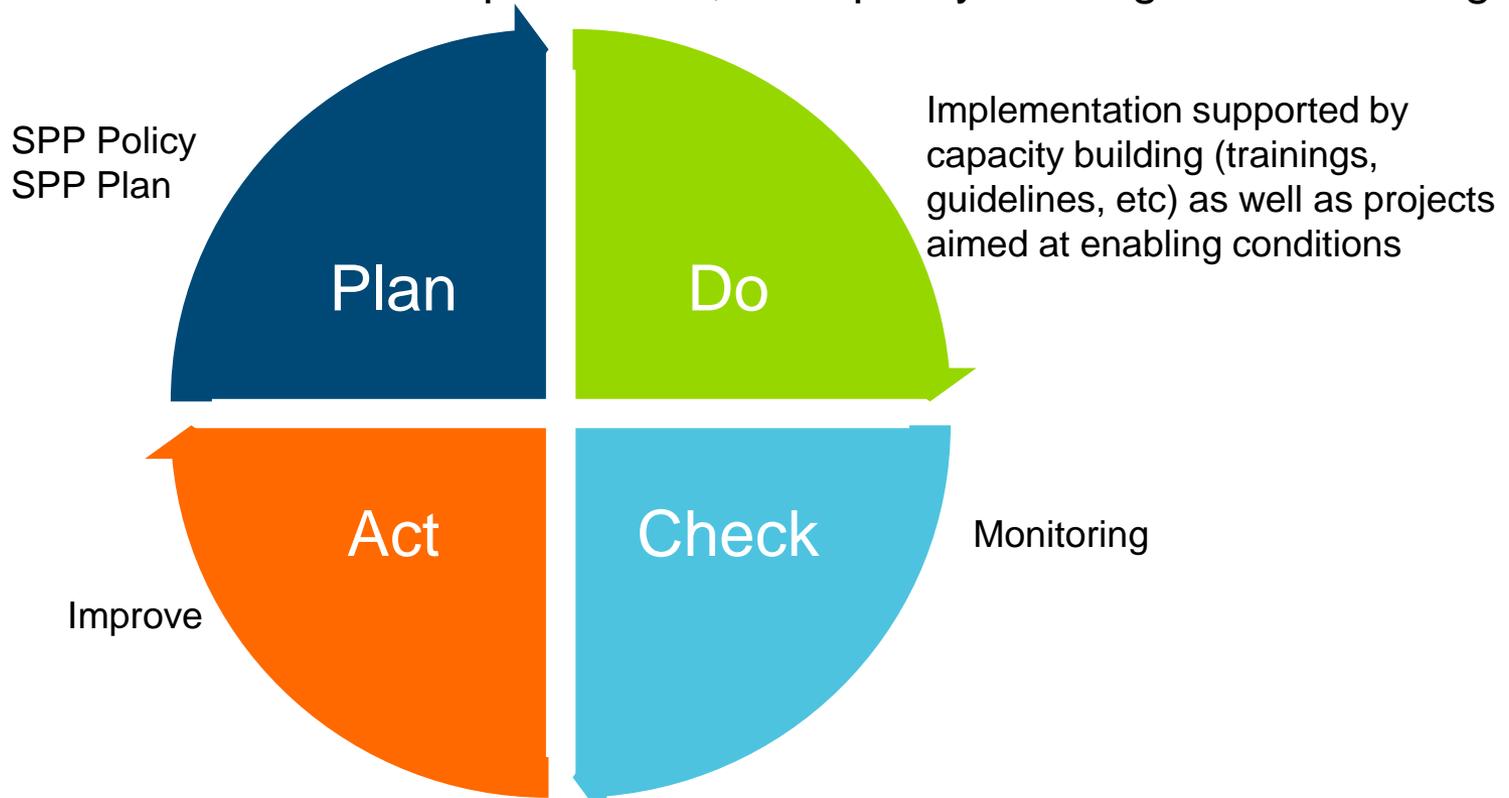
Regulators on subjects that affect public procurement (environment, health, labor, SMEs, etc)

State Comptrollers, Courts



# Challenge: Losing momentum

- Once the country has a law (or decree or policy) to support SPP, they don't assign resources to continuously support the implementation.
- SPP is based on continuous improvement, so capacity building and monitoring are a must!



Monitoring continues to be a challenge, but countries are making some progress. Disclosure of SPP results varies widely, with 41 percent of national governments not yet publishing results. At the same time, compared to 2012, more national governments appear to be measuring SPP policy implementation and results.

UN Environment (2017)

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20919/GlobalReview\\_Sust\\_Procurement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20919/GlobalReview_Sust_Procurement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

## Challenge: Lack of resources

- Budget pressures vs the need to assign resources to support SPP implementation.
- Resources needed for: market engagement, training, developing guidelines (including criteria), monitoring, among others.
- Important to build up upon existing resources (i.e. universities, cleaner production centers, research centers, among others)





## Challenge: Limited market engagement (the process which takes place prior, during and after procurement)

- There is no official data on the environmental performance of SMEs, but it is known their difficulty to comply with standards and it is recognized that their environmental impact is significant (same applies to social standards).
- To adapt their offer to SPP, SMEs may have to adapt their production processes, be able to innovate, get certifications, substitute raw materials, etc. This entitles access to finance, technical assistance, training, and other support.
- Even though public officers cite the lack of sustainable products and/or services as a barrier to SPP implementation, SMEs capacity building or support (to offer such offers) is not cited as support required to implement SPP.
- Usually there is no coordination among the SPP initiatives with the national initiatives aimed at improving SME's competitiveness.

## Challenge: Plans that do not recognize basic weaknesses

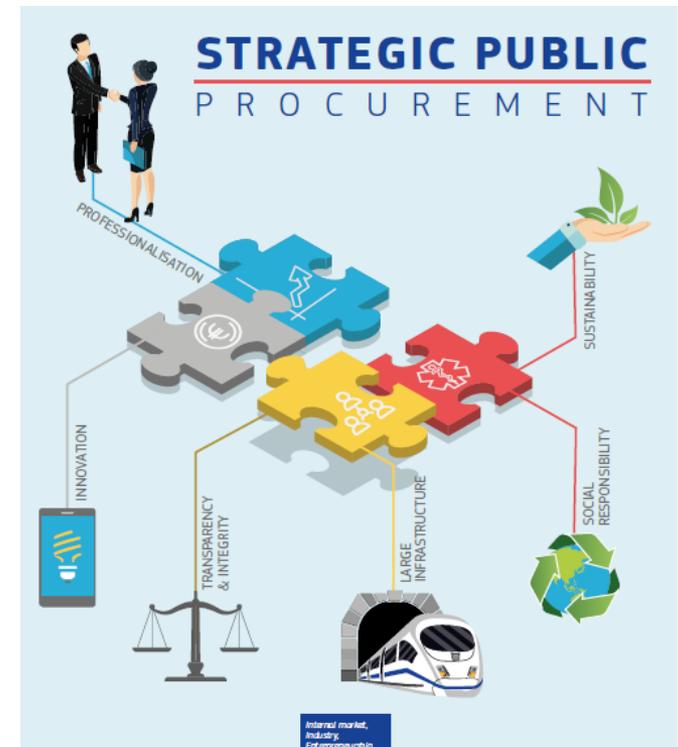
- It's not a secret the lack of compliance to law in many countries. SPP in developing countries must include the support to current laws.
- Public procurement is not always linked with other environmental, health, labor regulations. For example, procurement of cleaning products not registered with the Health Authority, contracting services at prices that do not cover minimum wages of workers, services provided with obvious violations of labor rights (but the contract manager says he/she "can not do anything about it"), procurement of local wood products made with banned species, among others.



# Challenge: Public procurement still not being recognized as “strategic” in many countries

- As important as sustainability is, SPP has to be linked to other initiatives where procurement is recognized as strategic for a country (alongside transparency, anticorruption, efficiency).

## European Strategy (published in 2017)





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