

Pilot on Due Diligence in the Public Procurement of Garment & Textiles

This note presents a forthcoming pilot to support public buyers in integrating OECD risk-based due diligence in the public procurement of garment and textiles. The pilot takes place as part of the programme [Responsible Business Conduct \(RBC\) and Public Procurement](#).

The report "*Leveraging RBC through Public Procurement*" found that many procurement practitioners face challenges when tackling RBC issues by integrating risk-based due diligence as recommended by the OECD into public procurement. To address these challenges, this pilot aims to help public buyers learn how risk-based due diligence can work for them in practice, through the example of garment and textiles procurement. Learning from this pilot will contribute to a broader objective of increasing the uptake of RBC in public procurement.

The pilot will be launched during the [OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector](#) in February 2021 and is expected to last to December 2021.



Who can participate in the pilot?

The pilot is open to national and sub-national contracting authorities that have started to integrate due diligence into the public procurement of garments. There is no participation fee. However, participants are expected to commit to the entire length of the pilot (February to December 2021) and engage actively in pilot activities. All discussions are held under the Chatham House Rule.

The OECD may invite non-governmental stakeholders with an interest in RBC and public procurement to take part in relevant activities under the pilot. These stakeholders will likely include business, trade unions, civil society organisations, experts, academia and others.



Benefits for practitioners

- **Help in demonstrating how risk-based due diligence can contribute towards reaching strategic public procurement goals** by highlighting concrete benefits;
- **A learning environment and safe space to share experiences and discuss challenges** in meeting public procurement needs while addressing risks in the sector;
- **Insights on how risk-based due diligence can support them** in identifying, preventing and mitigating harms to people and the planet along the garment supply chain;
- **An understanding of key steps within the OECD due diligence framework**, such as risk identification, risk-prioritisation, risk mitigation and integrating meaningful stakeholder engagement into the public procurement cycle;
- **Due diligence tools and approaches** for the garment and textile supply chain, to meet the needs of public buyers, potentially adapted from existing initiatives.



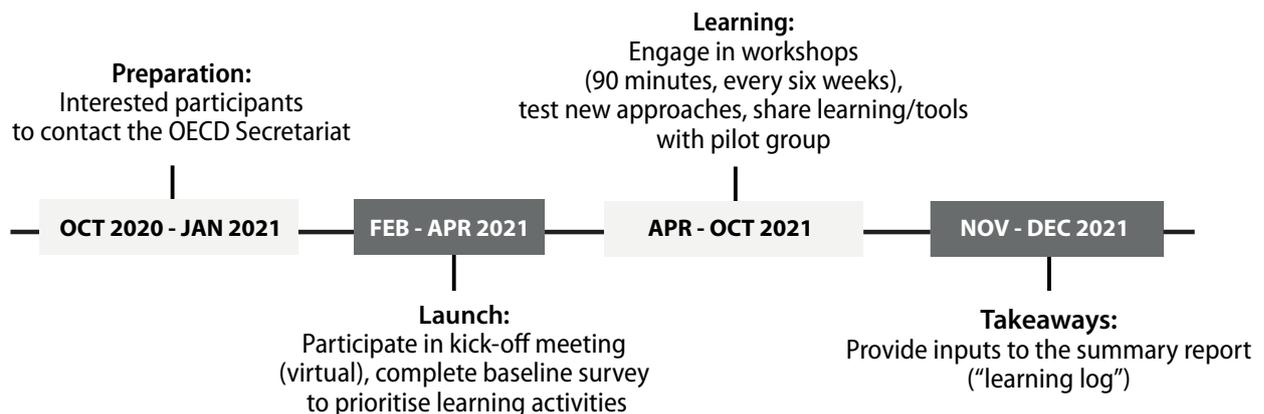
Scope & Methodology of the pilot

The pilot builds on the OECD implementation programme with business and other stakeholders in the garment sector and will draw on the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector](#). In addition, the pilot links closely to the OECD work on public procurement, considering the [2015 OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement](#), the [Public Procurement Toolbox](#) and public procurement frameworks in participating countries. In principle, it will focus on the product categories of uniforms and work wear, subject to the interest and priorities of the participating countries.

Specific activities will be determined in collaboration with pilot participants, collected through a short survey. A key part is a series of technical workshops (virtual meetings) that provide technical knowledge on the OECD risk-based due diligence framework and key risks in the public procurement of garments. Between workshops, participants are expected to test what they have learned in their day-to-day operations. Participants will be asked to report on lessons learned and share approaches or tools which may help the larger group. Learning may feed into the co-creation of tools, knowledge material or model documents between participants.



Timeline & Commitments



Why a pilot on garments and textiles?

According to estimates by the EU's Lead Market Initiative (LMI), the annual public market for the textile and clothing industry accounts for EUR 10 billion, a significant volume of public spending.



The garment and textile sector often provides the "test case" for expanding policies into other sectors, given the global attention to the RBC risks (human rights, labour, environmental and corruption impacts) prevalent in the supply chain from fibre to finished good.

The OECD Secretariat is collecting expressions of interest!



Deadline:
31 December 2020



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[Click here](#) for more information about **Responsible Business Conduct and Public Procurement**.