

Contribution of ECPAR and its members to social procurement

Since 2008, the social economy has been an action priority by ECPAR and its members. Tools and initiatives have been proposed annually:

- Directory of purchases made with social economy enterprises, by sector and size of contracts granted
- Video capsules presenting the business relationship and partnerships between public and private buyers and social economy enterprises
- Training "Buying from social economy enterprises: it pays"
- Responsible purchasing fact sheets that identify the offer of the social economy sector by product and service
- Benefits of the social economy that are of interest to institutional buyers
- Networking activities between buyers and social economy enterprises, and between social economy enterprises

ECPAR: the history of a multistakeholder initiative

Facilitating exchanges and collaboration between organizations that wish to become responsible purchasing leaders and stakeholders with expertise in the field - this is the challenge that ECPAR has been addressing since 2008.

In 2017, more than 30 organizations participate in the work, including public bodies, private companies, non-profit organizations, research centers and experts, such as:

- Public bodies, including Public Services and Procurement Canada (Quebec division), the Shared Services Center of Quebec, municipalities, Crown corporations and universities.
- Companies from the energy, transportation, entertainment, finance and airport sectors
- Stakeholders including social economy networks and green technologies, environmental and social actors and international cooperation agencies

The offer of social economy enterprises in Quebec can be consulted in the directories of ECPAR members networks:



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QUEBEC HIGHLIGHTS AND SOCIAL PROCUREMENT ACTIONS OF CERTAIN ECPAR MEMBERS



In 2011, the project *Social Economy, I buy!* is launched by the Quebec government in order to promote procurement from collective enterprises within public bodies. Endorsed by the Prime Minister in office, this initiative has given, throughout Quebec, greater credibility to procurement promotion initiatives with these companies.



Quebec's social economy action plan 2015-2020 foresees investments of more than \$100 million to support collective entrepreneurs and improve access to public markets for collective enterprises (cooperatives, NGOs, mutuals). Social economy is also taken into account in two of the objectives of *Quebec's 2015-2020 Sustainable Development Strategy*. Around 20 departments and agencies have included social economy support, partnerships and business relations in their sustainable action plan, including the **Shared Services Center of Quebec, the Quebec Construction Commission, Loto Quebec and Hydro-Québec.**



The commitments of elected officials and the responsible procurement policy of the **city of Longueuil** has led to innovative partnerships with social economy enterprises. For example, Dose Culture, now improves the public's sense of security, while contributing to the revitalization of municipal and public institutions. Part of its profits are reinvested in the community through socio-cultural events.



As part of "Montréal durable 2016-2020", the **city of Montreal** has set a solid plan to increase the value of its supply contracts with social economy enterprises. The Council of the Social Economy of Montreal (CESIM), a special interlocutor in this area, has also obtained the commitment of more than 20 public organizations and private companies to the *Social Economy, I buy!* initiative. A great success that meets the needs of social economy entrepreneurs who readily accept a hand to share their offer to institutional buyers!



The **Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ), Aéroports de Montréal, Gaz Metro and Société de transport de Montréal (STM)** have been active in responsible procurement for many years. They all plan, in their own way, to concretize their commitment to *Social Economy, I buy!* - some by granting a preferential margin in calls for tenders, others by encouraging partnership initiatives which concerns them. Most of them intend to inform their staff of the value and performance of these types of companies and to put in place guidelines and procedures ensuring that specific attention is paid to the sectoral offer of social economy enterprises.



As a cooperative, **Desjardins** has had a long and close relationship with social economy enterprises. In order to promote the supply of these companies to procurement teams, the Vice President of Real Estate, Procurement and Administration signed in May 2017 the declaration *Social Economy, I buy!* Since then, the following initiatives have materialized this commitment:

- Partnership with *Carrefour Environment Saguenay* for the management and revaluation of computer residual materials
- Contract with *Groupe TAQ* for the mechanical insertion of paper products (Lévis region)
- Establishment of agreements to promote the use of caterers from social economy for lunch boxes ordered during meetings in the Montreal area.



Espace québécois de concertation sur les pratiques d'approvisionnement responsable

For more information on ECPAR, consult the 2017-2018 program at ecpar.org or contact Anne-Marie Saulnier at 514 618 6171