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Pilot on social considerations (Human Rights and fair work conditions) in public contracts for garments and textiles

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Pilot on social considerations

▶ Aims

- Fair work conditions
- Signal to the market of garment suppliers
- Awareness & knowledge building within government

▶ Origins

- Part of Flemish Public Procurement Plan
- Brainchild of several administrations
- Collaboration = key factor

Pilot on social considerations

- ▶ **Little knowledge or capacity within (local) administrations to control respect for**
 - 8 fundamental ILO-conventions
 - Universal declaration of human rights,
 - Convention on the rights of the child
 - Health and safety guidelines

- ▶ **Need for easy scheme to control fair work conditions**
 - Design of standardclauses for tender specifications
 - Questionnaire for suppliers looks into policies concerning CSR and work conditions
 - In case of risks: audit in production location
 - Remediation or termination of the contract

Pilot on social considerations

- ▶ **Benefits for buyers of (local) governments**
 - Lowers threshold for buyers
 - Helpdesk and free audits
 - No intervention in buying process
- ▶ **Benefits for businesses**
 - No additional costs or red tape
 - Participating to RFP is easy
- ▶ **Downside**
 - No gatekeeping

Pilot on social considerations

▶ 3 governmental departments

- City of Mechelen
- Public Centre for Social Welfare of the city of Sint-Niklaas
- Central purchasing and procurement entity (Flemish Government)

▶ Lessons learnt so far

- Timing
- Need for 'right contracts'
- New approach for the suppliers

▶ Challenges



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Thank you!

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