

Practice:	Socially Responsible Public Procurement of Long-Term Care
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	Regional Ministry of Social Rights and welfare of Asturias, Spain
<u>Website:</u>	https://www.socialasturias.es/servicios-sociales/seminarios/calidad-en-el-envejecimiento-y-cuidados_2358_1180_3762_0_1_in.html
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<u>Summary:</u>	<p>Asturias is a region located in Northern Spain with a very high share of old people over 65 years of age (25,7% by 2019), many of whom live alone or in care homes. As the number of older people is expected to increase (it is expected to reach 33% of the population by 2035), so does the number of people in need of LTC, which may threaten the sustainability of the system.</p> <p>The Regional Government has implemented the use of social clauses in its procurement through the Practical Guide for the Inclusion of Social and Environmental Responsibility Clauses in the Administrative Contracting of the Administration of the Principality of Asturias and its Public Sector. By implementing this system, the Autonomous Government sought that public contracting entailed an added social benefit beyond the mere provision of services, as execution of tasks or the acquisition of goods that each particular contract pursued.</p> <p>This contracting formula emphasizes contracting as an engine of economic and social development, as a useful mechanism for the achievement of public policies, by introducing a new culture of social and environmental responsibility in contracting bodies.</p> <p>The use of these clauses has multiple benefits. On the one hand, it has a social impact inasmuch as its introduction can be translate) in practice, into the incorporation into the labor market of people who, for</p>

different reasons, found it (had difficulties) difficult to access it. Additionally, at the micro level, the hiring of these people helps to break(breaking) stereotypes about(related to) the performance of these people in a job, while in macro terms, it allows rewarding those companies that(which) maintain(use) social responsibility policies and encourages others that did not have it implemented.

From an economic point of view, the impact is clearly positive. The introduction of these clauses does not require the mobilization of additional public resources, that is, it is a zero-cost tool for administrations. Instead, its application can be economically beneficial for social protection systems. In the first place, it encourages the hiring of people who could potentially be beneficiaries of benefits from the minimum income systems. But its impact is not limited to savings, its economic return goes (even) further by affecting(incrementing) the number of taxpayers and contributors and has direct effects on the local economy.

On the other hand, it should be noted that the use of these clauses converts policies that do not have a social component, into active (ones) from this point of view, which translates into greater efficiency of public resources.

The positive effects of incorporating the use of social clauses into public procurement in general are also applicable to long-term care. All those clauses that affect the improvement of the working conditions of the workers in the sector, by improving their working conditions, will make it attractive, allowing (enabling) in the first place to retain the talent of the people who are currently linked to the sector, avoiding the flight(resignation) (of experienced professionals to other sectors that are better paid(with better salaries) and / or with a better image(reputation). This retention of talent will affect both the improvement of the quality of services, as well as greater(increase the) productivity and efficiency of the system.

In addition, it will attract professionals with high skills. An improvement in the quality of employment will be

	<p>translated in an increase in attractiveness for the most talented professionals, both either coming from other systems or in the case of those who are starting their professional careers. Finally, it will help to avoid the shortage of professionals: the demand in the field of long-term care is expected to grow in the short and medium term, hand in hand with the aging of the population. That will affect an increase the demand of the different professionals linked to care. The coverage of the new jobs will be feasible to the extent that more people are available to join as workers in this sector.</p> <p>On the other hand, all those clauses that may have an impact on the quality of the service provided to users are relevant. Among others, the enhancement of the continuous training of the professionals involved; job stability as a formula to ensure the training and experience of pampering; or the accessibility of products and services. Rewarding those companies or entities which choose quality in their different fields and encouraging others to bet on it.</p>
<p><u>Resources:</u></p>	<p>The practice turns public procurement into an active social policy. Hence, it does not require additional resources, once the practice is implemented. Certainly, at the start, it will require some investment to develop the social criteria, involve different stakeholders, staff training and promoting the practice in the administration.</p>
<p><u>Objectives:</u></p>	<p>The main aim of the initiative was to link the extension of care for older people in their homes with creating job opportunities for people with difficulties to access the job market.</p>
<p><u>Outcomes:</u></p>	<p>The impact of contracting with social clauses has not yet been evaluated.</p> <p>In the municipality of Aviles, which was the pioneer municipality in the use of this type of procurement in Asturias and which launching its system in 2019. Since the introduction of socially responsible public procurement, the following success indicators could be reached (until 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 712 people have accessed to labour market: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 446 women ○ 179 over45 years ○ 162 long-term unemployed ○ 115 people with disabilities



Challenges.

Despite its benefits both, in economic and development terms, and from a quality perspective, the use of social clauses has had a limited development in the area of contracting within the Principality of Asturias Administration.

This social policy tool faces a great challenge: to deepen its knowledge by the different contracting bodies of the Public Administrations as the only way for its use to become widespread. Its extension to other areas of the autonomous administration represents a particularly significant challenge, because although its implementation has had some development in the contracting carried out by the administrations linked to the Asturian Social Services System, it has been very scarce or non-existent in other areas.

The social clauses have a fit for any public contracting entity and by generalizing their use to other sectors their positive impacts will be extended, being the desirable scenario that all the regional and local administration not straight linked to the Social Services System incorporate them in to their procurement..