

Charles University (Univerzita Karlova)



Date of affiliation: 2024

Interviewee: Tereza Matyska Mičánková, Public Procurement Lawyer

Why did Charles University affiliate to Electronics Watch?

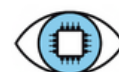
Charles University places strong emphasis on sustainable public procurement in line with our Responsible Procurement Strategy, adopted in 2020. The social and environmental aspects of responsible procurement are aligned with our main role, i.e. scientific research and education. IT is a major purchasing area for the university and plays a crucial role in its research and educational activities. Sustainable IT procurement is, therefore, extremely important.

What makes Electronics Watch different from other responsible procurement tools/resources available?

Before affiliating to Electronics Watch, we tried other approaches, in particular, requiring suppliers to present various social sustainability certificates for purchased products. However, it became clear that these certificates differ in their criteria, and it is not always possible to trust the reliability of the information provided. Electronics Watch is unique in that we know how the monitoring is conducted and that it takes place directly with workers. We also have excellent support from the Affiliate Engagement Team.

Charles University (Czech Republic) was founded in 1348, and is one of the world's oldest universities. In this profile, Public Procurement Lawyer Tereza Matyska Mičánková tells us about starting their responsible procurement journey, learning to assess the reliability of supplier information, and introducing the Electronics Watch Contract Conditions and Code in their tenders.

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Tereza Matyska Mičánková, Public Procurement Lawyer

Can you give an example of the impact that your affiliation has had so far?

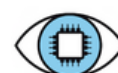
We are still at the beginning of our cooperation with Electronics Watch. As we are the first affiliate in our country, Czech suppliers are encountering the model, mostly for the first time, through us. We have included the Electronics Watch Contract Conditions and Code in some tenders already. Thus far, we have not encountered any problems with challenges from bidders. We will see what happens next as we are preparing tenders that will also include an evaluation of Corporate Social Responsibility.

What progress or achievement(s) are you most proud of?

Personally, I am very happy that Charles University has become an affiliate. The path was not easy, mainly because there had been no prior experience with this type of work in the Czech Republic.

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Nevertheless, we managed to gain support from the university's leadership for joining Electronics Watch. This allowed us to initiate cooperation with the relevant university departments, incorporate the social requirements recommended by Electronics Watch into our Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for ICT, to obtain an initial risk assessment of our current ICT purchases from Electronics Watch, and to carry out several procurements within the DPS that incorporated these insights.



What are the biggest lessons you have learned so far? What are the biggest challenges that you faced (or still face) in advancing this work?

Promoting sustainable procurement in an environment where the main focus is, understandably, on war and threats associated with political changes, is challenging. People are generally not very open to change and there is still limited awareness of the importance or potential impact of responsible procurement.

We are still learning how to communicate effectively about this work and are searching for arguments that could convince colleagues across the Czech university sector of the value of procuring more responsibly.



**Charles
University**

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What's next on your responsible public procurement journey?

We updated our Responsible Procurement Strategy last year. In addition to continuously looking for new ways to increase the sustainability of our purchasing, we are focusing on internal communication within the university through its Sustainable Development Coordinators system. It allows us to work within individual faculties and units on the development of educational programs that could include sustainable procurement, and to explore the possibility of using research and innovation in public procurement.

