

Knowledge-Building Series

This Series is part of the Innovation Pilot, supporting public buyers with their commitments on human rights and modern slavery using a worker-driven approach

What is the Knowledge-Building Series?

It is a webinar and workshop series that will focus on modern slavery and human rights risks in public sector supply chains. The Knowledge-Building series will provide public buyers with an overview of labour rights violations and risks in several high volume, high cost purchasing categories. It will provide information and guidance to help public buyers comply with regulatory requirements and uphold their own policy commitments, using public procurement leverage.

Participants will have access to seven 1.5-hour webinars and workshops per year covering different topics, accompanied by slides and guidance notes. The Series is expected to run for three years as part of the Pilot.

Who is it aimed at?

Any public authority who wants to strengthen their responsible procurement policies and practices. It will help those who want to know more about modern slavery risks and other human rights violations that may be occurring in their supply chains, and what they can do about mitigating and preventing them.

Why should I join?

Many public buyers rely on supplier self-reporting, ESG risk ratings or certifications to assure their compliance requirements. These tools may be a good first step for responsible procurement, but they often provide a false sense of assurance. They do not usually reflect the realities for workers in supply chains. Even where risks are identified, they do not usually offer practical solutions. The Knowledge-Building Series aims to deliver:

- Professional development to advance your socially responsible procurement capacity, focused on human rights and modern slavery
- Increased awareness of how to prevent and manage human rights risks in specific purchasing categories and supply chains
- Improvements in compliance data and evidence provided by suppliers, which could improve your tendering, contracting systems and decision-making
- Better supplier engagement based on increased knowledge of risks

What topics will be covered?

Five webinars per year will cover purchasing categories that carry high risks of human rights violation such as:

- Food (fresh & frozen produce e.g. bananas, seafood, tomatoes)
- Beverages & confectionery (tea, coffee, chocolate)
- Construction (buildings, roads, construction materials)
- Textiles and apparel (linen, uniforms, other wearables)
- Logistics (shipping, road transport, warehousing)
- Services (catering, cleaning, security)
- Furniture

PLUS: two webinars per year on evaluating the quality of evidence from suppliers to improve reporting and verification with legal and contract compliance requirements, including:

- Modern Slavery or Human Rights Statements by suppliers: how to assess them
- Certifications and labels: what level of assurance do they provide?
- Self-Assessment Questionnaires: what information matters most?
- Third-party risk assessments: what are they based on?
- Indexes ranking countries, products, and businesses: what you should know
- Worker-generated data (including tech-based apps): how reliable is it?
- Membership of industry associations: what do they do, and how do they operate?
- Tech-based systems (e.g. blockchain, AI): what can they tell you?

Participants will get:

- Seven 1.5-hour online expert presentations and workshops per year
- Slides from each webinar
- Guidance Briefings on each topic
- Survey results to measure knowledge gain, before and after each session
- Public recognition for participation on our website and on social media

What does it cost?

€5,000 per year per participating organisation. Discounted rates are available for multiple purchasing consortia that work together.

Want to join?

For full details, contact [Cindy Berman](#) or [Haëndila Varela](#)