

Green Healthcare

GOOD PRACTICES OF GREEN HEALTHCARE AROUND THE EU



Sustainable industry

INNOVATIVE PROCUREMENT OF UNIFORMS AT RAWICZ HOSPITAL (POLAND)

In 2011, the **Rawicz County Hospital** in Poland engaged in the LCB-Healthcare Network, an EU funded network for innovative procurement. A pilot on the innovative procurement project was launched at the hospital, focusing on the sustainable procurement of staff uniforms. The Rawicz County Hospital is a 200-bed hospital serving a population of about 69,000 in the west of Poland.

The project started by consulting the nurses who would wear the new uniform. The suggestions by the staff included: pleasant looking, functionality, comfortable, easy to wash, keep clean and cost-effective. Specifying these functional outcomes in the tender documents, rather than specifying the material, fibre type, design and so on, gave procurers and suppliers the opportunity to examine more innovative solutions. In order to encourage a better response from providers, the project team at the Rawicz County Hospital contacted other hospitals and healthcare centres.

Eight hospitals in Poland, employing over 13,000 people were interested in learning the results of the Rawicz County Hospital pilot project, hence increasing the interest from suppliers.

Once the hospital had communicated its needs and requirements, an open meeting with potential suppliers was held. After a testing phase took place where hospital staff tried the offers from the preferred supplier.

The outcomes of these innovative procurement process were uniforms produced from a mixture of polyester and Tencel (a Eucalyptus based product). The material blend was found to be resilient during the washing process, quicker to dry, less prone to staining and received general approval for quality and functionality. Although the purchasing price was higher (40%) the total cost of the ownership was lower, thanks to the longer life expectancy and lower laundry costs.

More information at the following [Link](#).

