

# MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION ENGINEERING

## DIGEP - Assessing and optimizing social and sustainable procurement practices adopting a value chain perspective

<b>Funded By</b>	Dipartimento DIGEP
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<b>Context of the research activity</b>	<p>The research focuses on “Social and Sustainable Procurement,” a strategy that involves purchasing goods and services with the goal of generating positive social and/or environmental impact alongside traditional economic objectives.</p> <p>This approach benefits companies with more sustainable technologies and services, as well as organizations that employ people with limited economic resources or social disadvantages, such as individuals with mental and physical disabilities, ex-offenders, and those affected by addiction.</p> <p>The social and sustainable procurement value chain encompasses a diverse range of stakeholders, including public sector entities, private organizations, startups, and social enterprises.</p> <p>The research is situated in the context of supply chain management and procurement management, two highly relevant topics in management. The focus on social and sustainable procurement is at the forefront of the research area because of its social and environmental significance and due to existing gaps in the literature.</p> <p>Indeed, numerous challenges impede the full realization of social and sustainable procurement’s potential, thus hindering its direct and indirect effects, such as reducing public expenditure, stimulating economic growth, and promoting corporate social responsibility.</p>
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<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The first objective of this research is to investigate the current state of social and sustainable procurement practices, with a particular focus on the commercial relationships between large and medium-sized for-profit companies on one side, and social enterprises and startups with a high social impact on the other side.</p> <p>This investigation will then prioritize identifying and analyzing the challenges that impede the full realization of the potential of these business partnerships, as well as the complex interplay between these barriers.</p> <p>Building upon the findings of the initial investigation, we will then explore innovative approaches to integrate social procurement into corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.</p> <p>By understanding the dynamics of social procurement and the diverse needs</p>
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of stakeholders, this research project aims to contribute to the development of more effective and impactful social and sustainable procurement models.

**Skills and competencies for the development of the activity**

Business and Management, Impact analyses, Innovation management, Supply chain management, Data analysis.