EPFL

Sustainable Procurement Charter

EPFL adheres to a strong vision of sustainability that aims to maintain the impact of human activities within the planet's ecological limits.

EPFL fulfills its duty to act in an exemplary manner as a university that trains society's future scientists and engineers. At the level of its campuses, it commits to anchor sustainability in the values and practices of its whole community, particularly in the domain of procurement.

According to the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, if every person consumed as many natural resources as is the case in Switzerland, three planets would be necessary to meet the needs of each and everyone. Our current consumption of goods therefore exceeds the planet's production capacity. Improving our production methods and consumption habits, as well as optimizing our procurement procedures is unavoidable to achieve a sustainable balance between economic efficiency, ecological responsibility and social solidarity.

EPFL's Sustainable Procurement Charter fits in this context; its purpose is to provide a framework for our community and partners

Our ambition

The ambition of EPFL's Procurement Department is to promote a sustainable procurement policy that takes into account the social, environmental and economic impacts of the products and services during their whole life cycle. In order to do that, we endorse a circular economy approach that promotes sharing, reusing, repairing, renovating and recycling.

That implies in particular a clear upstream definition of the need, the freedom to access public procurement and equal treatment between our suppliers, transparency of procedures, efficiency and proper use of public funds.

Our commitments regarding procurement

EPFL commits to spread a threefold sustainable procurement culture; this entails that its community questions its consumption habits.

1. **Accompanying the EPFL community towards more sustainable procurement practices**
   - ✔ Questioning needs.
   - ✔ Promoting the pooling of facilities.
   - ✔ Favoring long life-cycle solutions (reusing, repairing, renovating, recycling).
   - ✔ Taking purchases into account in EPFL's CO_2 footprint.

2. **Promoting a sustainable supply chain**
   - ✔ Maintaining a responsible financial relationship with suppliers.
   - ✔ Selecting suppliers according to a transparent, fair and unbiased process, according to predefined and objective criteria.
   - ✔ Systematically engaging in reflection in favor of including selection criteria related to sustainability in calls for tenders.

3. **Fostering innovating partnerships with suppliers who share the same vision**
   - ✔ Assessing our suppliers' "sustainability" performance.
   - ✔ Maintaining a constructive and open dialogue that aims to challenge our respective practices and suggesting areas of progress.

Our expectations of our suppliers

EPFL encourages its suppliers and stakeholders to act according to the sustainability principles expressed in this Charter. It urges them to implement a structured social and environmental approach in all the countries in which they operate and, when possible, to obtain certifications and labeling that confirm their responsibilities. This entails in particular:

- **To respect the fundamental rights** established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Fundamental Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), as well as Swiss laws regarding child labor, slavery, forced labor, discrimination, staff health and safety, freedom of association and collective bargaining, remuneration.

- **To promote the principles of equality and inclusion** in their organization.

- **To reduce their environmental impact** by complying with all applicable laws and regulations, and in accordance with the UN Framework Conventions on climate change and the protection of the environment (Convention on Biological Diversity, Stockholm Convention, Montreal Protocol and others).
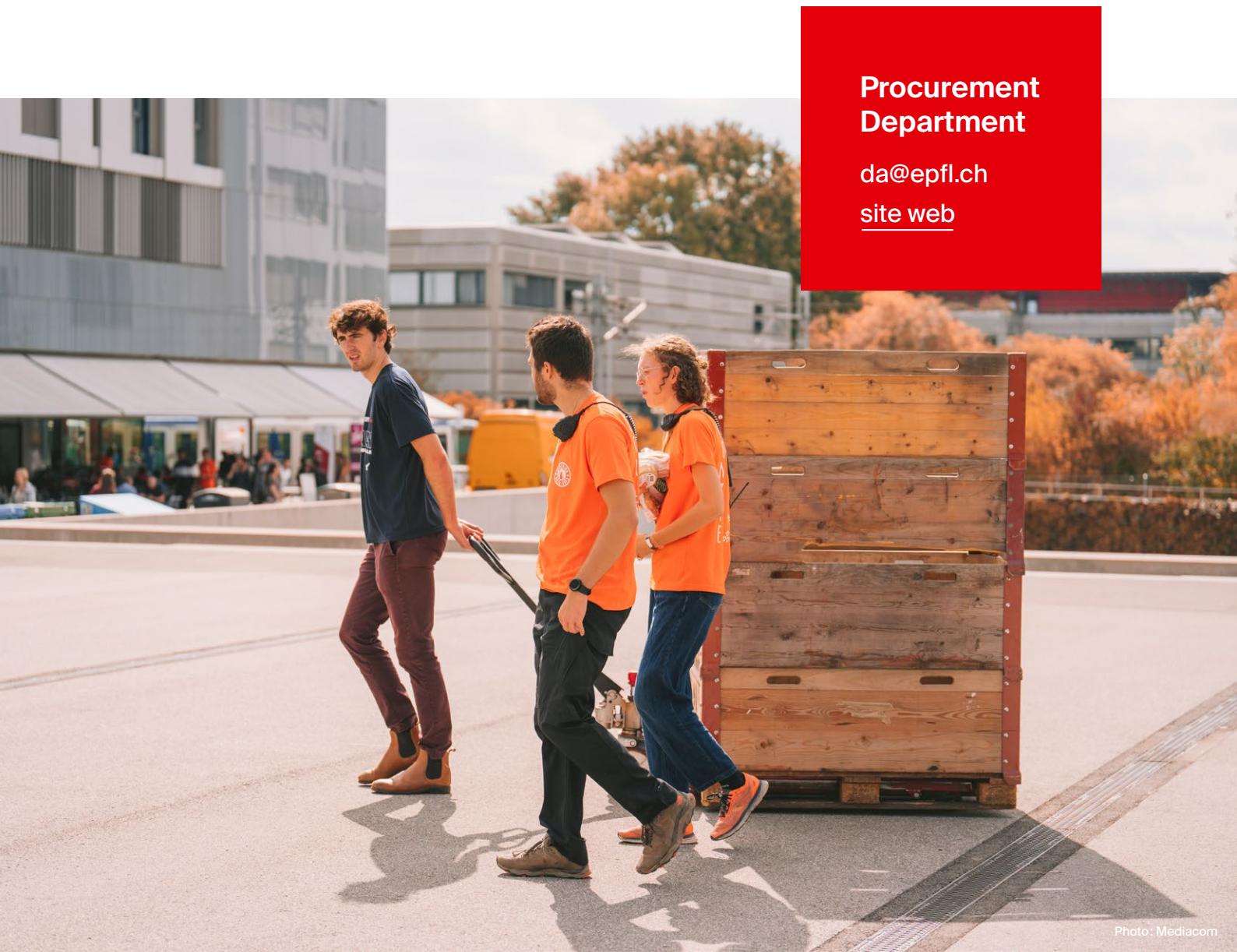
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