

# REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA INTRODUCED IN THE TENDERING OF DRUGS, MEDICAL DEVICES AND NON-MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN A HEALTH GROUP PROCUREMENT ORGANISATION

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## Background

Green public procurement is a process of contracting products, services, and works with the least possible damage to the environment during their life cycle. In order to improve knowledge on the application of environmental criteria in healthcare procurement, it is necessary to assess the current implementation situation. The Consortium of Health and Social Care of Catalonia (CSC) is a regional public institution founded in 1983 with the legal status of public non-profit association. All CSC associates are public or private non-profit bodies. The main mission of the CSC: to promote excellent and sustainable health and social models to improve people's quality of life, offering high-value services added to its associates. In 2021, has 115 (35 city councils and 80 other local public institutions managing 45 hospitals and more than 55 other health and social care entities). The procurement volume (2021) was 368 M€ total volume of procurement (138 M€ total volume of procurement as a central purchasing: 71% medicines, 18% medical devices and 11% others). The procurement volume (2022) was 1,105 M€ total volume of procurement (420 M€ total volume of procurement as a central purchasing: 76% medicines, 18% medical devices and 6% others).

## Aim and objectives

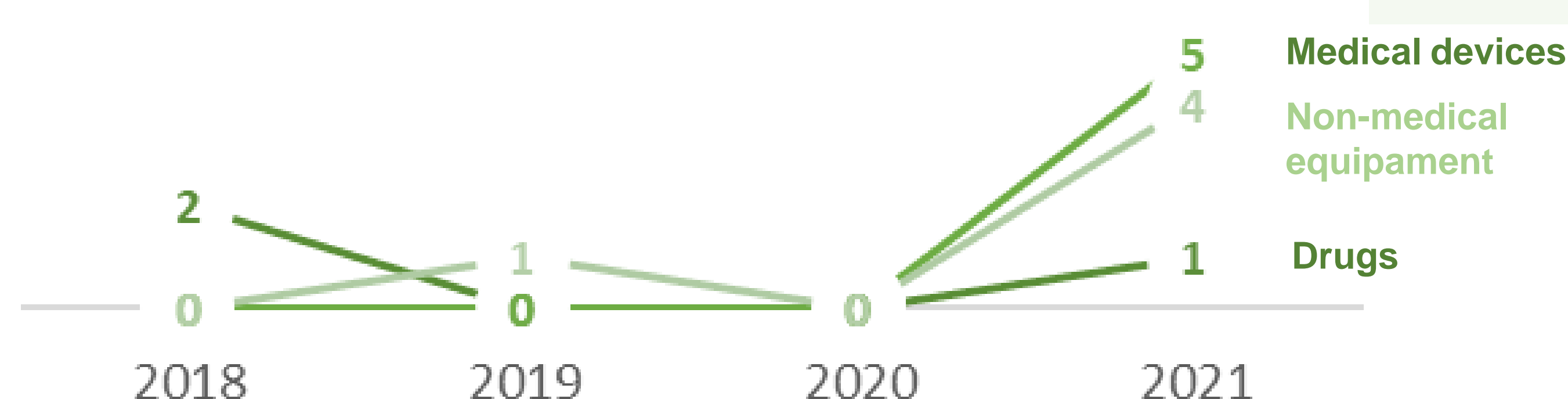
To review the incorporation of environmental criteria in public procurement procedures for drugs, medical devices and non-medical equipment (paper, clothing, etc.) in a health group procurement organization.

## Materials & methods

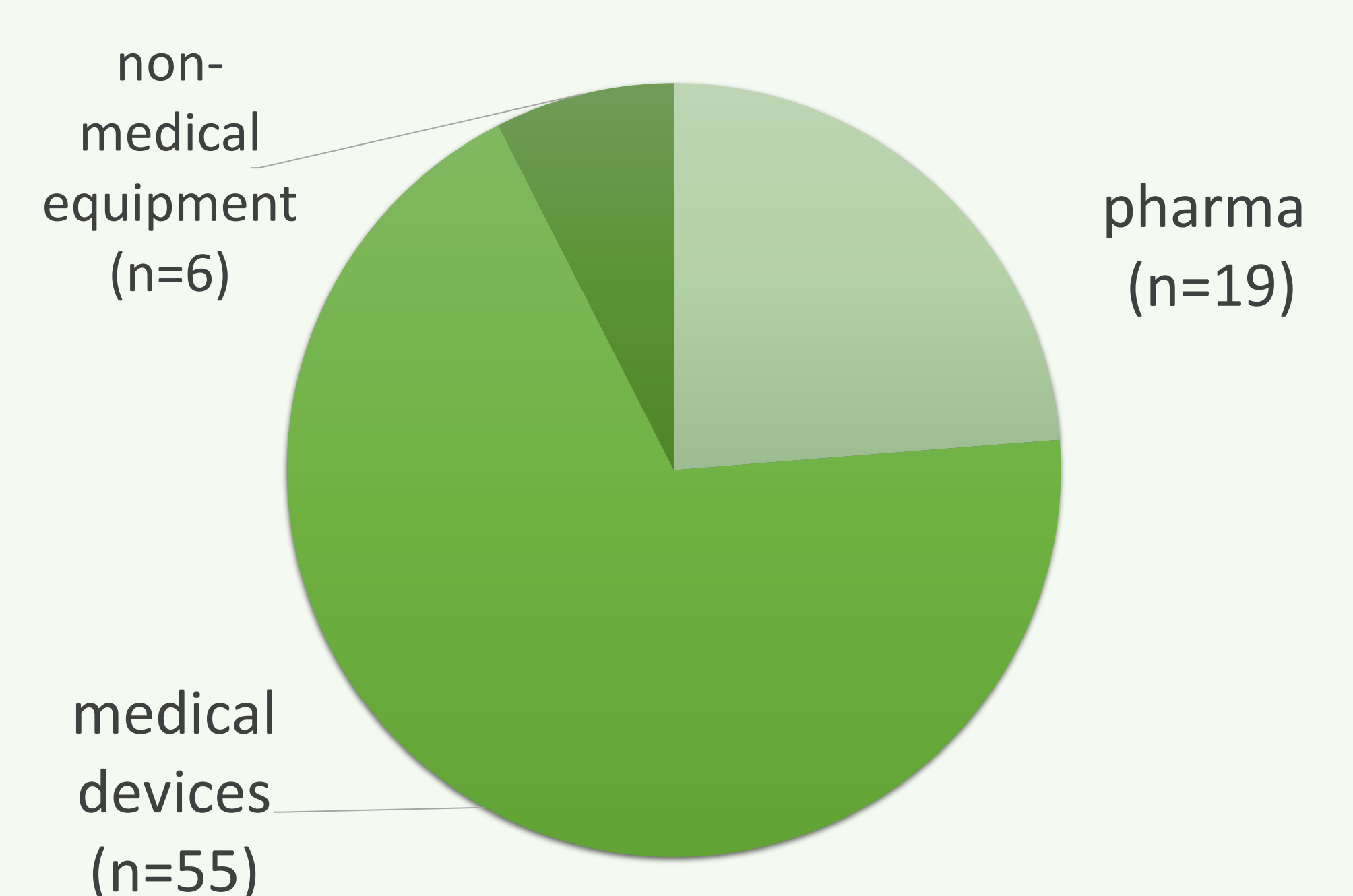
A retrospective study was performed including all the tenders carried out by the health group procurement organization from 2017 to the first quarter of 2022. All tenders that had environmental criteria in the evaluation criteria were identified. In order to evaluate the impact of these criteria in the suppliers bids, it was considered as compliance with environmental criteria if at least one of the products was offered. Classification of the suppliers was made on the basis of subject matter of the procurement (drugs, medical devices, and non-medical equipment).

## Results

117 tender files were reviewed, where 15 (12.8%) included environmental criteria in their technical specifications: 4 (26.6%) for drugs, 6 (40%) for medical devices and 5 (33.3%) for non-medical equipment. A total of 130 suppliers offered tender bids in the 15 tenders identified: 80 (61.5%) met one or more of the environmental criteria included in the specifications.



**Fig.2.** During the period 2018-2021, the highest number of tenders with environmental criteria were those of medical devices.



**Fig.1.** Type of companies that met one or more environmental criteria in technical specifications.

## Conclusions

The introduction of environmental criteria in healthcare procurement is still low but with an increasing trend towards a higher percentage of the tendered contracts in our GPO. Overall, a growing trend with the incorporation of environmental criteria is observed over the years. Current sustainable public procurement policies in Europe encourage for a wider introduction of social and environmental criteria in the procurement of drugs, medical devices and non-medical equipment.

