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OPEN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SPENDING

22 October 2018

Location: Chisinau, Moldova
By Invitation Only

Organized by
United Nation Development Programme
Open Contracting Partnership
World Trade Organisation
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Background and Objectives

The movement for Open Government has created the spaces for revolutionizing the way governments work across the world, generating the space for active citizen participation and driving efficiencies in governments. Open Contracting is a prime example of the transformative nature that open government innovations have had. Open Contracting is about publishing and using open, accessible and timely information on government contracting to engage citizens and businesses in identifying and fixing public procurement problems. Making the contracting process more transparent had proven to have an impact on improving competitiveness, lowering barriers to entry for small and medium-size enterprises, as well as curbing corruption and strengthening trust in the process.

Around 35 governments worldwide currently implement Open Contracting as a way to create access to public procurement information and engage stakeholder to make procurement more efficient and transparent. Local governments and major cities are realizing its potential as well. About half of those governments are actively implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard, the open data standard for public procurement that is at the heart to unlocking and re-use of data in ways that have not been imagined before. Countries working with Open Contracting include France, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Moldova, Albania, Georgia, and others. An increasing number of other governments is committing to join the club. Municipalities are at the lead in Spain and Italy.

Public contracting is the bricks and mortar of public benefit, where taxpayers' money gets converted into schools, roads and hospitals, and other indispensable public goods. It is vital to modernize governments in states and cities to fight corruption, reform markets, and foster innovation and entrepreneurship. More effective and transparent procurement through open, clean contracting is crucial to sustainable development. While there is very little reliable data on the size of procurement as a part of the economy, the European Union calculates the average share of public procurement in the GDP of its 28 member states to be 16%, the OECD estimates that percentage to be 12% for its member countries, whereas the World Trade Organization estimates the share of public procurement in GDP globally to be between 10 and 15%.

Electronic procurement and digital e-gov services offer an unprecedented opportunity to revolutionize the way public procurement is done. Digital processes enable smart intelligence services for business, central or local governments and citizens. At the heart of all of it are open and reliable data, user-friendly online tools and an engaged community.

On the 22 October 2018, United Nations Development Programme teamed up with Open Contracting Partnership, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Trade Organisation to host Open Contracting activists and stakeholders from the Western Balkans and Central Europe for a workshop to discuss opportunities to improve public spending using Open Government tricks and tools available.

Objectives of the workshop

The meeting will bring together representatives from different countries, sectors and stakeholder groups, including (1) Open Government community; (2) municipal governments and (3) digital government and digital procurement implementers to:

- Introduce the idea and philosophy of Open Government and Open Contracting to national and municipal leaders and other stakeholders in the region and beyond;
- Share new projects, approaches, and tools to advance Open Contracting in digital public procurement;

- Support each other in exploring opportunities and challenges related to implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard;
- Celebrate progress, learning, and growing of the Open Contracting community.

Agenda components

- Welcome and introductions (Valeria Ieseanu, Lejla Sadiku, UNDP);
- Introduction to Open Contracting (Karolis Granickas, Open Contracting Partnership);
- Introduction to *Dozorro* and *Digital Whistleblower* (Anastasia Kozlovtseva, TI Ukraine & Jakub Krafka, Digiwhist/Datlab);
- Lay of the land in the Western Balkans and relevant experiences from Moldova and Ukraine;
- Introduction to OCDS monitoring and reporting tools (Dmitry Palamarchuk, EBRD GPA TC Facility);
- Discussion on the feasibility of Open Contracting to Western Balkan countries and related knowledge-sharing and support mechanisms.

Invited government stakeholders
Public procurement regulatory authorities and review bodies from:
- Albania;
- Bosnia & Herzegovina;
- FYR Macedonia;
- Kosovo[1]
- Moldova;
- Montenegro;
- Serbia;
- Turkey.

Provisional agenda

Time	Session subject	Speakers	Format
9:00-9.30	Registration & breakfast coffee		
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome remarks Introductions & workshop agenda	Valeria Ieseanu, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova Iurie Turcanu, Deputy Director, E-Governance Agency, Moldova	
10:00 - 10:30	Open Contracting: the idea, philosophy, and impact	Mr. Karolis Granickas, Open Contracting Partnership	Presentation
10:30 - 11:00	Open Contracting for Open Government	Ms. Eliza Niewiadomska, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development,	Presentation
11:00 - 11:30	Showcase of OCDS monitoring tools	Mr. Dmitry Palamarchuk, EBRD GPA TC Facility	Presentation

[1] For UNDP, references to Kosovo on this website shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

11:30 - 12:15	Open Data for Better Public Spending: Government Perspective	**Moderator**: Valeria Ieseanu, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova Mr. Iuri Cicibaba, Ministry of Finance of Moldova Mr. Suad Zejnulovikj, Advisor, Public Procurement Bureau, FYR Macedonia Mr. Dario Kihil, Public Procurement Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Goran Pastrovic, Regional School of Public Administration	Panel Discussion
12:15 - 13:00	Open Data for Better Public Spending: Civil Society Perspective	Moderator: Ms Diana Venachi, Viitorul Mr. Anastasia Kozlovtseva, Dozorro, Transparency International Ukraine Mr. Jakub Krafka, Digital Whistleblower Ms. Aida Ajvanovic, Zasto Ne/Open Government	Panel Discussion
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break		
14:00 - 15:30	**Targeted workshops**		
Stream 1	How can Open Government help improve public spending?: Examples & opportunities	Led by: Mr. Karolis Granickas, Open Contracting Partnership Cases from Moldova and the Western Balkans region - Potential examples: AIS - Smart contracting (TBC)	Workshop
Stream 2	How Open Data helps digital procurement?: what's in it for governments?	Led by: Jakub Krafka, Datlab, Czech Republic 1. MTender Open Government Digital Procurement - Mr. Iuri Cicibaba, Ministry of Finance of Moldova, 2. Monitoring the MTender - Vadim Jeleascov, Simpals, Moldova	Workshop
15:30-16:00	Coffee break		
16:00 - 17:00	Reporting Back & Next steps	Moderated by: Ms. Lejla Sadiku, UNDP, Ms. Luisa Balbi, EBRD: ● Next Steps; ● Team up for Challenge!	Workshop
17:00	Closing of the workshop		
17:00-18:30	Networking Drinks		