

Integrity in public procurement rated 30.3 out of 100 in OECD report

In the area of public procurement the Republic of Moldova received a score of 30.3 (performance level C- medium) points out of 100, according to the baseline [report](#) of the fifth round of monitoring of anti-corruption reforms in the Republic of Moldova. The report includes an assessment of anti-corruption practices and reforms in the Republic of Moldova against a set of indicators, and elements, in nine areas focusing on anti-corruption policies, corruption prevention and law enforcement. The report assesses the Republic of Moldova's efforts to develop anti-corruption institutions, measures to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption cases and identifies directions for improvement.

The integrity performance level of public procurement was set on the basis of four indicators, (25 points were available for each indicator): *comprehensive public procurement system*, with a score of 6 out of 25 points; *competitive public procurement system* with a score of 14 out of 25 points; *sanctioning of violations* – with a score of 7 out of 25 points; and *transparency of public procurement* – with a score of 4 out of 25 points.

Figure 5.1. Performance level for Integrity in Public Procurement is average.

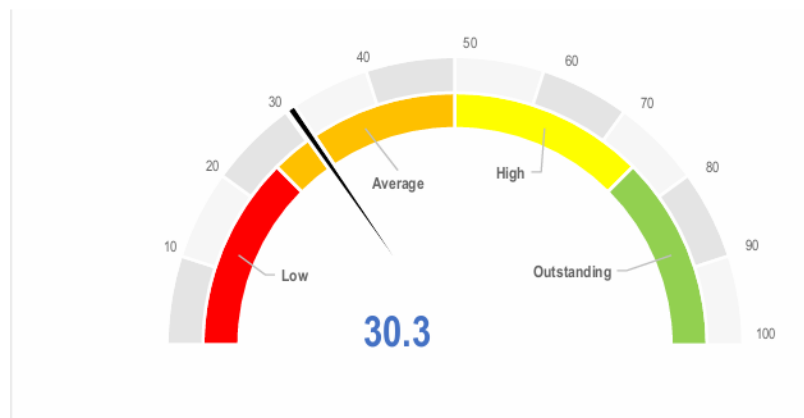
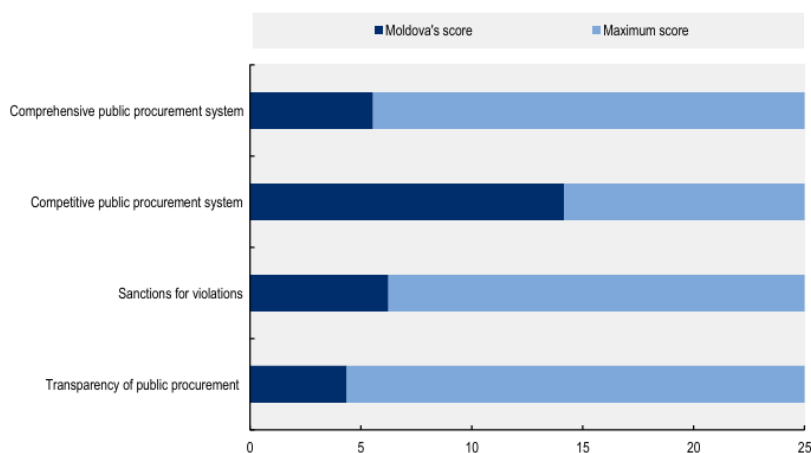


Figure 5.2. Performance level for Integrity in Public Procurement by indicators.



According to the report, the Republic of Moldova has implemented various measures to combat corruption in public procurement. However, there are gaps in the enforcement of sanctions for violations of conflict of interest rules. Similarly, it says that the provisions on mandatory exclusion from public procurement of individuals and legal entities convicted of corruption are not applied in practice.

It is also noted that the national e-procurement platform, MTender, does not cover all procurement methods available under the law, while centralized publication of up-to-date procurement data remains a challenge and most information is not published in an open machine readable format.

Civil society organizations from the Republic of Moldova, which participated in the preparation of the report, expressed a number of concerns about the risks of corruption in the Moldovan public procurement system. The concerns included:

- Incomplete coverage of procurement methods in Mtender;
- Ineffective administration of utility procurements regulated by the law on utility procurement in state-owned enterprises, especially with regard municipal enterprises
- Poor planning with delayed publication of tender notices, as well as frequent changes to the notices;
- Use of targeted specifications and requirements to be met by a single specific participant under the umbrella of competitive processes;
- Use of incomplete requirements and ambiguous evaluation criteria;
- Scheduling only a short time for preparation of proposals;
- Failure to qualify participants;
- Lack of transparency and insufficient control over contract implementation with frequent increases in contract prices; and
- Lack of timely publication of exclusion information.

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