



PARTNERSHIP FOR
TRANSPARENCY



Session 5

PROFESSIONALIZATION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

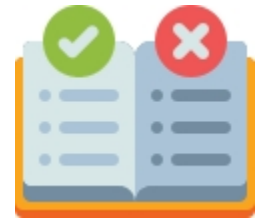
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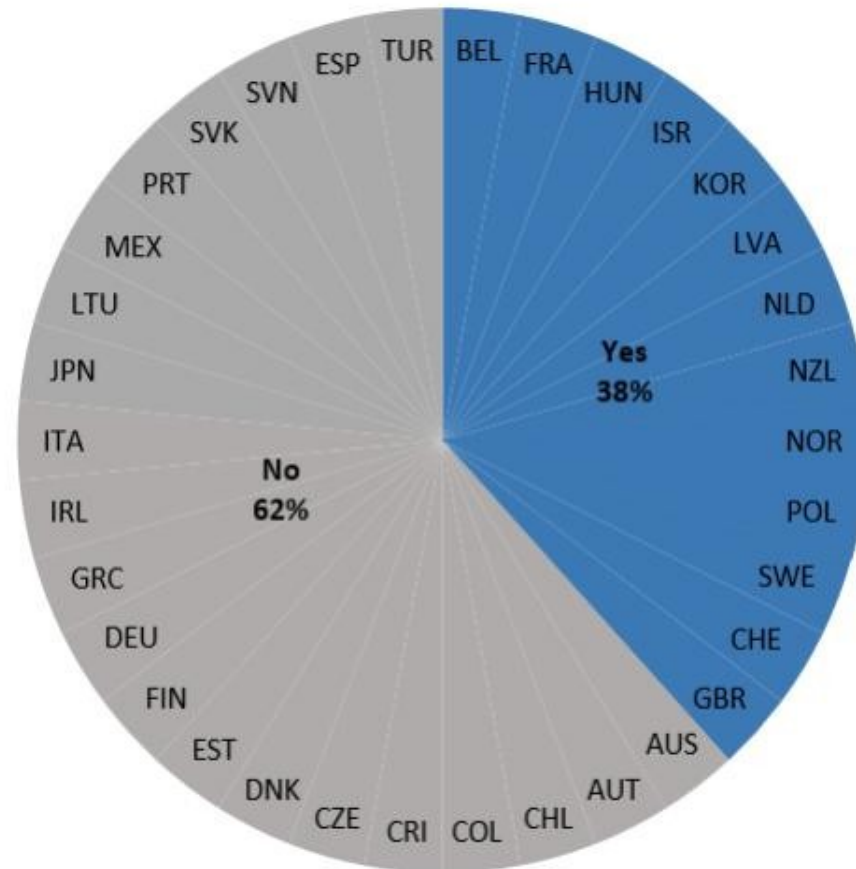
WHY IS A PROFESSIONALIZATION SYSTEM AND CERTIFICATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- The 3Ps of public procurement are People, Processes and Performance.
- According to the research *"Active and Passive Waste in Government Spending: Evidence from a Policy Experiment"*, the lack of professional skills in procurement is considered to be a bigger problem than corruption. Thus, 83% of wasted resources in public procurement are due to lack of professionalization and only 17% - to corruption.



PROFESSIONALIZATION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN OECD COUNTRIES

Figure 5.1. Public procurement recognised as a standalone profession in OECD countries (2020)



According to OECD data, by 2020, only 38% of OECD countries had recognized 'public procurement' as a profession, an increase from 32% in 2018.

Note: Data for Canada, Iceland, Luxembourg, and the United States are not available.

Source: (OECD, 2021^[1])

PRACTICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES - CROATIA

- In the context of EU accession and the shortage of qualified personnel, the Croatian Ministry of Economy, Small Enterprises and Handicrafts launched a certification mechanism for public procurement officers.
- for any procurement falling under the Procurement Act - mandatory for AC a certified specialist;
- In order to be certified, an official must complete 50 hours of training
- The final test to become certified as a procurement specialist is valid for three years.
- The certified Procurement Specialist may take 32 hours of additional education to enhance their skills and ensure future renewal of the certification.
- The basic certification costs €500 while the additional course costs €150
After the three-year period, certification is renewed on application.



OTHER COUNTRIES' PRACTICES - CROATIA (2)

- The Ministry of Economy is responsible for certifying trainers, who can come from the private or public sector.
- The Ministry carries out ongoing checks to ensure that procurement procedures have included a certified specialist. And if they are found not to have complied with this requirement, both the and its representative are fined.
- The role of the certified specialist is to ensure that the procurement procedure is carried out in accordance with the law. Although there is no personal liability, there is a reputational risk.
- Since the introduction of certification, a network of 5000 certified procurers, some 35 of whom have earned a reputation as highly professional experts whose services are in great demand



OTHER COUNTRIES' PRACTICES - AUSTRIA

- Every person who joins the Federal Procurement Agency Public Procurement (BBG) is enrolled in a 2.5-year training program following which they receive a certificate as a certified specialist in public procurement.
- The initial 10-day Introduction to Public Procurement program is followed by the 40-hour core program, divided into basic and advanced components, which culminates in certification. To obtain certificate, employees must write a final paper and present it to BBG management.
- The certification obtained at the BBG Academy under the training program of 2.5 years is recognized by contracting authorities which means that they are entitled to contract BBG procurers for their own public procurement procedures.



PRACTICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES - MALTA

Malta recognizes that public procurement can support the overall strategic objectives of the government's strategic objectives of economic growth and economic recovery. The Department of Contracts (DoC) in the Ministry of Finance has strengthened its regulatory function in the national public procurement system to make it more efficient and to get better value for public money.

With OECD support, Malta has improved its procurement system in key areas:

- a) the organizational structure of the procurement system
- b) internal processes for conducting procurement procedures,
- c) implementation of a risk-based approach in procurement processes,
- d) the strategic use of public procurement (e.g. promoting and advancing the circular and green economy, supporting the SME sector, stimulating innovation in specific sectors, etc.)
- e) professionalization of public procurement specialists
- f) Implementing KPIs and using a data-driven approach to regularly assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the public procurement system.



PRACTICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES - MALTA (2)

- The Ministerial Procurement Units (MPUs) are entities established under each Ministry, provided for in the Public Procurement Regulations of Malta. MPUs are responsible for the preparation, publication and management of procurement
- 4 types of positions are defined which correspond to a gradation of well-defined levels offering opportunities for skills development and advancement
career development:
 1. Deputy Director Procurement (grading 5);
 2. Procurement Manager (grade 7);
 3. Procurement Officer (grade 9);
 4. Procurement Support Officer (grade 11)



INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***The 2015 OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement*** calls on all countries to develop a public procurement workforce with the capacity to deliver value for money efficiently and effectively on an ongoing basis (i.e. i.e. "capacity building").
- In line with the EU Recommendation and the ***European Commission Guide "Building a architecture for professionalizing public procurement"***, EU Member States should should develop and implement long-term strategies for professionalizing public procurement, tailored to their own needs, resources and administrative structures, on their own or as part of broader policies to professionalize public administration.



INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

The lack of a system of professionalization and certification of procurement specialists public procurement is also mentioned in the MAPS Report on the evaluation of the national public procurement system (2021) being recommended:

- the recognition of public procurers as a profession, included in the Single Classification of public function (with the corresponding job descriptions, requirements on the skills and competencies, as well as clear evaluation and assessment criteria promotion)
- the development and implementation of mechanisms for the certification of contracting authorities and procurement service providers responsible for organizing public procurement and awarding contracts.
- appointments and promotion of staff responsible for procurement in a competitive manner and on the basis of professional certification.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



Recognize the position of "procurement/sector specialist"



Set up a Working Group (including on the PNAP or MF platform) to develop the concept of the certification scheme



Including a representative of civil society with experience in public procurement in the certification committee



Offering the right to apply for professionalization and certification to any natural person in accordance with the eligibility requirements

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA (2)



Ensure the sustainability of the professionalization and



Creating a public register of certified procurement specialists



Linking certification to the system of recruitment, evaluation and promotion in the public sector



Establishing a concrete set of competences for procurement specialists

Procurement with periodic evaluation (ProcureCompEU)

ProcurCompEU

- **ProcurCompEU is the European framework for competences for public procurement. It was launched by the European Commission in December 2020 to support the professionalization of public procurement.**
- **ProcurCompEU provides practical tools to promote the professionalization agenda, such as the Competence Matrix, including 30 key competences for procurement professionals professionals, self-assessment tool and training curriculum.**



ProcurComp^{EU}

Cadrul european de competențe pentru
profesioniștii din domeniul achizițiilor publice



ProcurCompEU

I. Procurement specific competences (19):

1. Horizontal (9 competencies);
2. pre-award (6 powers);
3. post-award (4 competencies);

II. Non-technical/soft skills (11):

1. Personal (4 competences);
2. Interpersonal (3 competencies);
3. Performance (4 competencies).



ProcurComp^{EU}

Cadrul european de competențe pentru
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ProcurCompEU (2)

Cum trebuie să fie
utilizate
instrumentele
ProcurComp^{EU}?

ProcurComp^{EU} este un set de instrumente voluntare, gratuite și complet personalizabile. ProcurComp^{EU} ajută autoritățile contractante și persoanele să definească ceea ce este necesar pentru ca acestea să își poată îndeplini bine sarcinile, să identifice lacune și să instituie măsuri specifice de învățare și de dezvoltare pentru eliminarea acestor lacune.





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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? PROPOSALS?