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Public procurement reform in the context of EU accession: progress, challenges, and priorities discussed at IDIS “Viitorul”

Progress, challenges, and priorities related to public procurement reform in the context of the Republic of Moldova’s European integration process were discussed on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, during a meeting organized by IDIS “Viitorul”. The meeting brought together members of the Public Procurement Monitoring Coalition and the National Platform for Public Procurement (PNAP), as well as representatives of relevant public authorities and institutions.

The event was organized within the framework of the project “Supporting Moldova’s Public Procurement Reform in the EU Accession Context”, implemented by IDIS “Viitorul” with the financial support of the European Union from September 2025 to September 2026.

Wojciech Paczynski, Programme Manager at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, who attended the meeting, emphasized that the reform agenda reflects commitments undertaken by the Republic of Moldova. Delivery of these reforms (which are also related to the EU accession negotiations) unlocks access to European funds. “Each reform step represents a milestone for the disbursement of these resources. There is some grace period after each deadline, but delays in implementation lead to delays in funding. At the same time, the Government can propose adjustments to the reforms where necessary. In this context, it is important to draw on the experience and expertise of civil society and key stakeholders in the field of public procurement to identify potential vulnerabilities and contribute to improving the reform process,” stated Wojciech Paczynski.

Carolina Ungureanu, Deputy Director of IDIS “Viitorul” and Project Manager, emphasized that, in the context of the EU accession process and the implementation of the Reform Agenda linked to the Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova, the focus should increasingly shift from making commitments and adopting the regulatory framework towards effective implementation and the achievement of tangible results. “Public procurement reform is not only about adopting legislation, but also about the capacity of institutions to implement it, the professionalization of the workforce within the system, digitalization, centralization, and transparency. Ultimately, we are talking about the quality and efficiency of public spending and about a sector that directly affects the quality of public services and infrastructure, as well as the lives of citizens,” stated Carolina Ungureanu.

Diana Enachi, a public procurement expert at IDIS “Viitorul”, presented an assessment of progress in implementing the public procurement reforms included in the Growth Plan Reform Agenda, focusing on the centralization, professionalization, and digitalization of procurement. The assessment aimed to evaluate progress in implementing the three key components of public procurement reform—centralization, professionalization and certification of procurement specialists, and digitalization—by examining the level of implementation, actions undertaken, and results achieved.

According to Diana Enachi, the findings informed the development of recommendations aimed at achieving the objectives set out in the Growth Plan Reform Agenda and advancing the reform process, while also providing a basis for consultations with relevant stakeholders. “The assessment is based on a mixed methodology, including an analysis of official reports and relevant policies, as well as an assessment of the perceptions of key stakeholders in the sector through survey tools,” said Diana Enachi.



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Regarding the three components assessed, Diana Enachi concluded that limited progress has been made in digitalization; significant progress has been achieved in the professionalization and certification of procurement specialists, although the certification mechanism needs to be revised and improved; while limited progress has been recorded in centralization, with several actions currently under implementation.

At the same time, Vadim Țurcan, Associate Expert at IDIS “Viitorul”, presented key findings and proposals concerning specific aspects of awarding public works contracts in the context of the methodological norms for implementing Law No. 325/2025 on Public Procurement. The presentation addressed specific aspects of the award process for public works contracts and highlighted areas requiring clear and coherent regulation within the methodological norms for implementing the new Public Procurement Law.

Based on an analysis of the regulatory framework and existing practices, Vadim Țurcan presented proposals and recommendations for developing clear and applicable methodological rules tailored to the specific nature of public works contracts. “The findings and proposals presented will also serve as a basis for discussions and consultations with the relevant authorities and stakeholders in the field of public procurement,” stated Vadim Țurcan.

During the discussions, participants acknowledged the progress made in public procurement reform while also highlighting the need to accelerate the implementation of commitments and ensure the effective and consistent application of the new legislative framework.

Key priorities identified included continuing the professionalization and certification of public procurement specialists, advancing the digitalization and centralization of procurement, and developing clear and practical methodological norms for implementing Law No. 325/2025. Participants also emphasized the importance of maintaining dialogue among public authorities, civil society, experts, and other stakeholders so that challenges identified in practice are adequately reflected in the implementation of the reform.

The Public Procurement Monitoring Coalition and the National Platform for Public Procurement (PNAP) provide a framework for dialogue and cooperation among civil society, public authorities, experts, and other relevant stakeholders in the field. Through monitoring, analysis, and consultation activities, the two platforms contribute to identifying systemic challenges, formulating recommendations, and promoting solutions that support the implementation of public procurement reform and its alignment with European standards and practices.

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For additional information about the project, please contact the project’s communication specialist, Maria Procopciuc, at +373 600 88 544 or via email at maria.procopciuc@viitorul.org.