

Mainstreaming strategic public procurement to advance regional development

15 December 2021, Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

Chair of the meeting: Mr. Paulo Magina, Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

10:00 – 10:10 Welcoming remarks

The remarks will open the conference and will set the scene for the debate during this event.

- Ms. Sofia Alves, Director, Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Mr. Edwin Lau, Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

10:10 – 10:30 Leveraging public procurement to support Cohesion Policy objectives: lessons learned from the practice

The relevance of public procurement in achieving the Cohesion policy goals is self-evident. Almost half of the Cohesion policy funds – close to €400 billion for the 2021-2027 programming period – will be directed through public procurement. Hence, the potential impact on policy outcomes is exceptional, positioning strategic public procurement as a key economic activity that can enhance the harmonious development of different EU regions.

While the 2014 EU Directives, which have been transposed in all Member States, offer a framework conducive to a strategic use of public procurement, the practice oftentimes doesn't fully exploit all these opportunities. To try to address this systemic challenge, the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the Organisation for Economic and Cooperation Development (OECD) decided to set up pilot projects to promote the strategic use of public procurement to pursue Cohesion policy objectives. During four years, those pilots involving concrete procurement processes benefited from the support of the OECD to reinforce their strategic dimensions.

This session will present the different pilot projects, highlight their linkages with Cohesion Policy objectives and will discuss how strategic procurement practices could yield better results.

Speakers:

- Ms. Ieva Cernuite, Policy Officer, Administrative Capacity Competence centre, DG REGIO / Mr. Stefan Appel, Head of Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Mr. Matthieu Cahen, Senior Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

10:30 – 11:15 Deep-dive session: strategic procurement practices for a greener Europe

Among the pilot projects, several looked into enhancing environmental benefits stemming from public procurement strategies. This session will discuss concrete steps experienced by participating institutions and how they support the effective implementation of green public procurement.

Moderator: Erika Bozzay, Senior Policy Advisor, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

Panellists:

- Ms. Teresa Pratas Jorge, Head of Co-operation and Promotion Unit, Commission for Co-ordination and Regional Development of the Centro Region (CCDRC), Portugal
- Ms. Sandra Simões, Politécnico Coimbra (Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra), Portugal
- Ms. Paula Silvestre, Comunidade Intermunicipal Da Região De Coimbra (Inter-municipal Community of the Region of Coimbra (CIMRC), Portugal

11:15 – 12:00 Deep-dive session: strategic procurement practices for a more innovative Europe

Experiences in the pilots evidenced that public procurement can steer technological innovation improving the well-being of citizens. This session will discuss concrete steps experienced by participating institutions and how they support the effective implementation of innovative solutions to deliver public services.

Moderator: Costanza Caputi, Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

Panellists:

- Ms. Gianna Elisa Berlingiero, Director, Economic Development Department, Regione Puglia, Italy
- Ms. Luisa Anna Fiore, Head of Section, Research and International Relations, Economic Development Department, Regione Puglia, Italy
- Mr. Alessandro Delli Noci, Councillor for Economic Development, Regione Puglia, Italy
- Mr. Marco Di Ciano, Research and Innovation Officer, InnovaPuglia, Italy
- Mr. Alfonso Centuori, CMC S.r.l.

- Mr. Davide Storelli, Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A.

12:00 – 12:05 **Closing remarks by the Chair**