



AGENDA

EIGHTH REGIONAL IPA CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

organised by **SIGMA**
and **Public Procurement Administration of Montenegro**

Bečići, Montenegro, 13 – 14 June 2018



Background

In most of the European Union (EU) candidates and potential candidates the public procurement systems are rooted in strong foundations; the legal framework has been harmonised with the EU *acquis* to a large extent. However, there are still areas where the process of harmonisation is not sufficiently advanced. The adoption of the 2014 EU Public Procurement Directives requires corresponding amendments and additions to national legislation, complemented by institutional development and capacity building, and supported by an exchange of experience between the above countries.

The public procurement institutional set-up has stabilised in recent years, and the relevant bodies have developed into mature and proactive institutions which are willing and able to further develop the system. However, as the 2016 and 2017 SIGMA Monitoring Reports show, the relevant institutions still require assistance to strengthen their professional capacity.

The 2014 EU Directives provide a toolbox enabling to make more efficient and strategic use of public procurement. Public procurement is facing new challenges as it is increasingly expected to: demonstrate best value for public money in ever-constricting budgetary environments; use the opportunities of digitisation and evolving markets; make a strategic contribution to horizontal policy objectives and societal values such as innovation, social inclusion and economic and environmental sustainability; maximise accessibility and show accountability for minimising inefficiencies, waste, irregularities, fraud and corruption, as well as building responsible supply chains.

Another remaining challenge is the professionalisation of public procurement, understood as to reflect the overall improvement of the whole range of professional skills and competences, knowledge and experience of the people conducting or participating in tasks related to procurement.

Successful public procurement operations strongly benefit from the use of a number of collaborative procurement tools and approaches, including centralised purchasing and electronic procurement. These are powerful means to reduce transaction costs in the whole process, provide more competitive prices and simplify tendering. Following these themes SIGMA developed two SIGMA Papers: 1) on framework agreements (based on good practices from EU member countries) and 2) on selection of economic operators.

With this background, SIGMA will hold a public procurement conference for the Western Balkans and Turkey where the above-mentioned issues will be prominent, in addition to the usual review of the latest developments. This will be the 8th annual general meeting of senior public procurement officials organised by SIGMA (previously held since 2004 in: Ohrid, Sarajevo, Pristina, Skopje, Istanbul, Danilovgrad and Vlora).

Objectives

The main objective is to provide participants with an overview of the most recent developments in the EU public procurement system and trends, achievements and challenges in the region. The event will provide a platform for formal and informal exchange of experiences between SIGMA's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) partners, the European Commission (EC) and EU member countries. The key procurement officials from the region will learn and get a better understanding on how the EU member countries implement and use new procedures and instruments.

Main topics

The main topic of the conference will be the challenges to adjust the public procurement systems to the new international practice allowing enhancing smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The presentations and discussions will be organised around the following three main themes:

- the most recent changes to the EU public procurement framework allowing carrying out procurement more efficiently and in a sustainable manner, while making full use of digital technologies to simplify and accelerate procedures. The topics highlighted include the professionalisation of the public procurement function, centralised purchasing and electronic procurement.
- the most recent achievements and challenges in public procurement reforms of SIGMA's IPA partners.
- the most recent SIGMA studies on key public procurement issues: framework agreements and selection of economic operators in practice, with a comparative analysis of national EU examples.

Participants

The conference will be attended by senior officials from SIGMA's IPA partners responsible for designing and implementing public procurement reforms: heads of public procurement offices, their key staff and also officials from the leading ministries and other governmental agencies competent for public procurement. Participation of DG GROW and some national experts from EU member countries is also envisaged. Representatives of other international donors active in the region (EBRD, EIB, World Bank) will be invited as observers. Representatives of SIGMA partners will be asked to present recent developments and share their experiences. The conference will also provide participants with the opportunity to meet informally compare national experiences and discuss specific issues among peers.

Venue

The Conference will be held in Montenegro (Hotel Splendid, Bečići) and will be co-hosted by the Montenegrin Public Procurement Administration.

Interpretation

English will be the working language of the conference but simultaneous interpretation will be provided for all SIGMA IPA partner languages.

Agenda

Tuesday 12 June 2018

19:30 - 21:30 Official welcome cocktail

Location: Terrace of the hotel Splendid, Bečići, Montenegro

Wednesday 13 June 2018

09.15 - 09.45 Registration and coffee

09.45 - 10.15 Opening and welcome remarks, followed by *Tour de table*

Mr. Darko Radunović – Minister of Finance of Montenegro

Mr. Bonifacio Garcia-Porras, Head of Unit, G/2 Access to Procurement Markets, European Commission, DG GROW

Ms. Erika Bozzay, Senior Policy Adviser, SIGMA

10.15 - 12:15 **Session 1: Panel discussion on the key priorities for developing the framework and sound foundations of public procurement system**

Moderator: **Mr. Piotr-Nils Gorecki**, Senior Policy Adviser, SIGMA

Speakers:

Mr. Bonifacio Garcia-Porras, Head of Unit, G/2 Access to Procurement Markets, European Commission, DG GROW:

Key values and principles of a modern public procurement for jobs and growth

Mr. Mersad Mujević, Head of Public Procurement Administration, Montenegro:

The public procurement reform in Montenegro: challenges and achievements

Ms. Diana Vilytė, Director of the Public Procurement Office, Lithuania:

The public procurement reform in Lithuania: implementation of the new EU public procurement directives and structural reforms

12.15 - 12.30 Group Photo

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 **Session 2: Panel discussion on the professionalisation of public procurement**

Moderator: **Ms. Erika Bozzay**, Senior Policy Adviser, SIGMA

Speakers:

Ms. Carmen Raluca Ipate, Policy Officer, Unit G/2 Access to Procurement Markets, European Commission, DG GROW:

Commission's recommendations on the professionalisation of public procurement

Mr. Petur Matthiasson, Policy Analyst, Public Procurement Unit, Public Governance Directorate, OECD:

Developing a public procurement training framework – practical examples

Ms. Maja Kušt, procurement expert, Croatia:

Support for professionalisation of the public procurement community in Croatia

Mr. Aleksandar Djordjevic, Advisor, Public Procurement Office, Serbia

Mr. Günay Sezer, procurement expert, Public Procurement Authority, Turkey

Ms. Aleksandra Sołtysińska, Senior Lecturer, Jagiellonian University, Poland:

The role of higher education in enhancing professionalisation in procurement

15.30 - 15.45 **Coffee break**

15.45 - 16.45 **Session 3: Streamlining the procurement process: practical examples based on the most recent SIGMA Papers**

Moderator: **Mr. Marian Lemke**, Senior Policy Adviser, SIGMA

Speakers:

Ms. Małgorzata Stachowiak, procurement expert, Poland:

Selection of economic operators in public procurement procedures: overview of legislation and practice in the EU

Mr. Daniel Ivarsson, procurement expert, Sweden:

Implementation of framework agreements in the EU

19.00 **Dinner at De Gustibus restaurant, Tivat**

Bus departure at 18.00

Thursday 14 June 2018

09.15 - 11.15 **Session 4: Panel discussion on capacity building of central purchasing**

Moderator: **Mersad Mujević**, Head of Public Procurement Administration, Montenegro

Speakers:

Mr. Peder Blomberg, procurement expert, Sweden:

Conditions for a successful centralised purchasing

Mr. Uwe Flach, Head of Consulting & E-Procurement & International Affairs, Bundesbeschaffung GmbH (BBG), Austria:

Experiences of introducing centralised purchasing in the EU

Ms. Reida Kashta, General Director, Public Procurement Agency, Albania

Mr. Safet Hoxha, President, Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, Kosovo*

Ms. Ivančica Franjković, Head of Sector, Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Croatia: *Centralised purchasing in Croatia – a success?*

11.15 - 11.40 **Coffee break**

11.40 – 13.40 **Session 5: Panel discussion on electronic procurement: opportunities and challenges**

Moderator: **Ms. Margaréta Molnár**, procurement expert, Hungary

Speakers:

Mr. Uwe Flach, Head of Consulting & E-Procurement & International Affairs, Bundesbeschaffung GmbH (BBG), Austria:

Experiences of introducing electronic procurement in the EU

Ms. Gabriela Papes, Associate, Public Procurement Bureau, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Almin Vehabović, senior Expert Associate for Information System Administration, Public Procurement Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Yarema Dul, Head of International Co-operation, Department on Public Procurement Regulation, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ukraine:

The development of electronic procurement in Ukraine

Mr. Tato Urjumelashvili, procurement expert, Georgia:

Future of electronic procurement

13.40 - 14.00 **Way forward – discussion & closing remarks**

Ms. Mirosława Boryczka, IPA Regional Liaison, SIGMA

14.00 **Lunch and networking opportunity**

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This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

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