



IMPROVING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROJECT

Improving Public Procurement is a five-year activity that strengthens the management and oversight of the public procurement process. The activity works to improve the planning, tendering, and implementation of public procurement; and helps ensure that legal enforcement and oversight of the public procurement process is more effective. By supporting public institutions to increasingly act in the public interest, the activity helps increase the resiliency of democratic actors and contributes to USAID's overall goal of a more prosperous and democratic Serbia committed to European integration and self-reliance.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide customized assistance to approximately 25 municipalities to strengthen local contracting practices and the professionalization of local procurement officers.
- Administer a local index that will annually rank municipal performance in procurement processes, including citizen involvement in procurement planning and oversight.
- Strengthen the Public Procurement Office's capacity to monitor public procurements with improvements to their methodology to identify red flags in procurement processes.
- Identify trends and anomalies in procurement processes and develop predictive fraud risk metrics to help institutions prevent, detect, and prosecute non-compliance.
- Harmonize monitoring, inspection and adjudicative practices across institutions.
- Implement a multi-year training plan for prosecutors and judges to enhance their ability to detect, prosecute and adjudicate procurement-related violations.
- Improve the State Audit Institution conduct of performance audits of public procurements, in line with European leading practices.

- Improve civil society organizations' watchdog efforts by improving their investigative skill and use of state institutions' reporting.
- Create the annual Changemaker Award to celebrate individuals, businesses, and investigative journalists in their fight against corruption in public procurement.

KEY RESULTS

- Improved the professionalization of public procurement officers in 14 partner municipalities through delivery of a tailor-made training curriculum and hands-on mentoring.
- Developed the first-ever Local Public Procurement Index to measure the state-of-play of public procurements in local governments. Future editions will track progress in partner municipalities in a rigorous, evidence-based manner.
- Improved public procurement knowledge of 1,000 public officials, law enforcement professionals and civil society organizations on the use of existing tools to pursue and investigate procurement irregularities.
- Developed a Playbook of red flags in public procurement to improve the capacities of specialized anti-corruption unit prosecutors, organized crime units of the police, and the Public Procurement Office to interpret data contained in the Public Procurement e-Portal.
- Developed guidelines that the State Audit Institution used to publish its first Consolidated Report on recurring and systemic irregularities in public procurement that warrant further attention.
- Provided media outlets and journalists strategies to investigate procurement irregularities; and trained journalists to use state institutions reports and access information of public importance to identify irregularities for their future reporting on compelling and well-substantiated narratives.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT FUNDING

U.S. Agency for International Development
(USAID/Serbia)

PROJECT DURATION

July 2022 – July 2027

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects, LLC
Deloitte Advisory d.o.o. Beograd
Development Professionals Inc.
National Alliance for Local Economic
Development

TOTAL FUNDING

\$14,500,000

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WHERE WE WORK

Nationwide