Study on e-Procurement Measurement and Benchmarking MARKT 2011/097/C

Lot 1 — Public Procurement Performance Indicators

EU Country Profiles

Annex to D2

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Author(s)	Gabriella Cattaneo, Stefania Aguzzi, Marcello Bardellini, Rosanna Lifonti
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Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	At the national level, the Federal Office of the Chancellery provides a general framework of e-procurement.
Other relevant bodies	The Bundesbeschaffung GmbH (Federal Procurement Agency) provides central procurement services to federal agencies and, in particular, it negotiates framework contracts and makes them available to the agencies.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The Master Plan of the Federal Government (2011).
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The plan aims to develop a common approach for Austrian public administrations. There is a plan to comply early with the forthcoming EC Directive, by making e-submission mandatory from June 30, 2014. The main objectives of the plan include: • Avoidance of "multiple investments" through the creation of joint e-procurement platforms/solutions • Taking into account national and international (EC) standards (e.g. PEPPOL) • Creation of harmonised standards and interfaces of existing applications • Adherence to the principles and guidelines of "Digital Austria"
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information		http://www.bbg.gv.at/kunden/elektronisch-einkaufen/e-Procurement-masterplan/ http://www.bbg.gv.at/fileadmin/daten/Downloads/ba/ba_16_1111_e-procurement.pdf
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		The Austrian government has implemented a programme for suppliers offering training (free of charge) about the e-tendering process and the functionality of the tool used.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific.
		Obstacles: The national platform asks for qualified digital signatures to submit tenders. According to Auftrag.at, this is still a difficult process to access for non-domestic potential suppliers. The qualified electronic signature for national and international suppliers is managed by the Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR). Austria has already fulfilled the requirements of the European Signature Directive of the European Commission.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** The Austrian government has implemented a programme for suppliers which offers (free of charge) training about the process of online tendering and the functionality of the tool used. In addition, the division of the public tenders into lots facilitates SME participation.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		No.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, partially.

For which contracting authorities?	Only for central contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all, excluding direct procurement.
Above which threshold(s)?	€100,000 for direct procurement until the end of 2012 (temporarily increased from €40,000 because of the economic crisis).
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	The platform Pep-Online is the one-stop portal: it integrates two different interfaces for contracting authorities and suppliers and it is owned by the Federal Gazette Weiner Zeitung (owned by the Federal Chancellery). https://www.pep-online.at/BC/

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary. It is planned to become mandatory when it will be required by the EC directive on e-procurement (source: Auftrag.at presentation).
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	https://www.pep-online.at/BC/ is the main URL with two interfaces: For suppliers: auftrag.at ausschreibungsservice gmbh www.auftrag.at For buyers: lieferanzeiger.at	Yes	No
	Is the service offered for all types of goods, services and public works?	For all goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Bundesbeschaffung GmbH http://www.bbg.gv.at/	Yes	Yes
	Is the service offered for all types of goods, services and public works?	All except public works and military supply	All except public works and military supply

	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiated procedure, framework agreements, electronic marketplace	Framework agreements, electronic marketplace, e-shop

Comments: Auftrag.at is part of the Wiener Zeitung group, the Austrian Official Federal Gazette. Auftrag.at is the provider of Internet services for public e-procurement in the pre-awarding phase. It is mandated to publish all public tenders in Austria (see above). In addition, it offers services to contracting authorities and business operators, from e-notification to e-submission. Bundesbeschaffung GmbH is the centralised purchasing agency for the federal government in Austria for standardised goods and services (excluding public works and defence). It is more focused on e-ordering and contract management. The use of its services is mandatory for federal authorities above the EU threshold. BBG runs the online shop for public buyers. This shop comprises almost the entire collection of contracts the BBG holds and it is open for all public entities and utility providers in Austria.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services of BBG Federal Procurement Agency	
Stationery and office equipment	Services
Electric devices and components	Energy
Building operation	IT and telecommunication
Drug	Travel management and mobility
Catering and food	Workshop, machinery and metal products

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government does not produce an official monitoring report on e-procurement but there is a plan to do so. The national public platforms Auftrag, BBG and ANKOE collect monitoring data as reported in the following table. We have no information about type of data which is needed and should be collected.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Public Platforms' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO		
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES		
Number and type of suppliers	YES		
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	NO	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES volume	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	NO	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	NO	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

BELGIUM

Updated to February 19, 2013

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	Chancellery of the Prime Minister (http://kanselarij.belgium.be/nl/) — Secretariat Committee on Government Procurement.
Other relevant bodies	The federal e-procurement service by SPF Personnel et Organisation provides advice to authorities on e-notification and e-procurement (http://www.publicprocurement.be) and manages e-procurement applications.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	There are operational plans of the federal government and the regional governments with cooperation and coordination agreements. Flanders and Bruxelles Capitale have decided to use the federal applications. For the federal government, the main principles are presented in the "Politique d'achats des autorités fédérales" which considers e-procurement a primary objective of the Belgian Policy for Modern Purchases. There is an action plan on e-procurement at the Flemish regional level as well.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The operational plans foresee the gradual introduction of mandatory e-procurement for all national administrations by January 1, 2013. The Region Flanders has already implemented mandatory e-procurement for all state administration. Wallonie and the Region Bruxelles-Capitale have not set targets for mandatory implementation yet.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	There are no value targets. The target by end 2014 is 100% of take-up. For the Flemish region take-up was 100% (number of contracts) for e-submission by the end of 2012.
For further information		http://www.publicprocurement.be http://www.governance-flanders.be/ http://marchespublics.wallonie.be/fr/informations-generales/quoi-de-neuf/actualites/index.html http://bestuurszaken.be/sites/bz.vlaanderen.be/files/E-PROCUREMENT%20evaluatie%20nota%20VR%20(samenlezen%20met%20de%20notulen).pdf
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		Free info/training programmes held by 16 accredited agencies; road shows and helpdesks for contracting authorities with economic operators.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Support and services by the JEPP — Joint Electronic Public Procurement.
		Obstacles: Suppliers must use the Belgian e-ID to submit online tenders. Foreign economic operators must present a qualified e-signature. This can be procured from private services such as CertiPost (but this is not free of charge and requires several days to be purchased). The federal e-procurement service has provided the EU DSS.online digital signature service as a backup solution for foreign economic operators lacking their own signing tool.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Training programme held by 16 accredited trainees, road shows and free access to helpdesk.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	All
For which procedures?	All. In the case of "negotiation without notification", which applies between €5,000 and €67,000, e-notification can be done with the free market platform using a simplified notice (F50), and then invitation using restricted dossiers area.
Above which threshold(s)?	€67,000. From 1/7/2013 the new threshold will be €85,000 excl. TAV.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes — the Platform for e-notification/Bulletin Des Adjudications https://enot.publicprocurement.be/ On January 1, 2011, Belgium established a single online portal as the official e-notification channel, which includes the Official Publication Journal (Bulletin des Adjudications, BDA).

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases.
For which contracting authorities?	e-Submission was planned to become mandatory by January 2013 for national contracting authorities. Belgium is undergoing a test phase for mandatory e-submission for national authorities, which should be completed by end 2014. Since July 1, 2012, ministries must accept electronic offers. Since December 31, 2012, all federal authorities will also be obliged to accept electronic offers. e-Submission is already mandatory in Flanders: since January 1, 2012, all state authorities must use the national e-tendering platform for procurement (as indicated by the note to the Flemish government [VR PV 2010/23] by the Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government for Internal Affairs).
For which goods, services and public works?	All. No restriction by type of purchase (no difference by government tier).
For which procedures?	All. In the case of "negotiation without notification", which applies between €5,000 and €67,000, e-notification can be done with the free market platform using a simplified notice (F50), and then invitation using restricted dossiers area.
Above which threshold(s)?	€67,000. From 1/7/2013 the new threshold will be €85,000 excl. TAV.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	The Federal Government e-Procurement Platform http://www.publicprocurement.be	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Only those offered in the e-catalogues
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, negotiated procedures, electronic marketplace	Only for e-catalogues and electronic marketplace

Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Flemish public e-procurement portal https://eten.publicprocurement.be/etendering/home.do;jsessionid=51690A4079C8F739601F028368911589	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, e-auctions, DPS	Not applicable
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Portail des Marchés Publics en Région Wallonne et Communauté Française http://marchespublics.wallonie.be	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures	Not applicable

Comments: The federal government and the Flanders administration use the same technology platform but with different service modules. The federal government portal provides e-ordering services only for those goods and services offered under framework contracts through e-catalogues; e-auction and DPS are operational. The Wallonie platform has provided e-submission since January 2012.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government monitors the use of e-procurement by contracting authorities through monthly reporting by the national platform. There are two main categories of data missing: the level of take-up of e-procurement and the number and type of suppliers. Two contracting authorities were interviewed. There are no monitoring obligations for contracting authorities. Only one of them monitors e-procurement, but not in a systematic way. The monitoring gap concerns the value and volume of tenders and the overall take-up of e-procurement.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X

Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	YES	YES	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

BULGARIA

Updated to December 28, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (http://www.mi.government.bg/en) carries out the state policy in the public procurement area.
Other relevant bodies	The Public Procurement Agency (PPA http://rop3-app1.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=173,1082253&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL), as established in March 2004 with decree No. 56 of the Council of Ministers (published in the State Gazette on 23.03.2004) in accordance with the Public Procurement Law (in force since 01.10.2004): the agency is subordinate to the Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism and it assists in implementing the national policy in the field of public procurement. The PPA shall keep the Public Procurement Register. The Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (http://www.mtitc.government.bg/) is responsible for e-government policy.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Planned	Further steps in e-procurement are included in the national programme "Digital Bulgaria 2015" (http://www.mtitc.government.bg/page.php?category=188&id=5529 available only in local language). A national strategy will be elaborated.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	Electronic procurement (at least to the e-submission phase) will be operational by 2016. The Public Procurement Portal (www.aop.bg) and the Public Procurement Register provide some e-procurement services: • e-Notification is the main functionality of the Public Procurement Register. Contracting authorities input in the database of the register all standard public procurement notices (by completing online forms or using Procurement Form Editor) and publish them on the Public Procurement Portal. • Online submission of documentation for participation in contract award procedures, electronic communication between the contracting authorities and potential candidates, including questions and answers. • e-Sender functionality: helps contracting authorities to send public procurement notices to the PP agency and to the TED.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information	Digital Plan Bulgaria 2015 (available in local language): http://www.mtitc.government.bg/page.php?category=188&id=5529	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	**Facilitation:** The Bulgarian public procurement law foresees a shortening of deadlines in the procurement procedures, if contracting authorities send their notices for publication on the PP Register through electronic means and/or provide full access via electronic means to the documentation for participation in the procedure. All the functionalities described above are provided by the PPA free of charge.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: Almost all administrations specify that bids can be submitted only in the Bulgarian language.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	

Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities/entities.
For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works, all types.
For which procedures?	All procedures.
Above which threshold(s)?	Goods and services over BGN 20,000 (about €10,000) and below BGN 66,000 (€33,000); public works over BGN 60,000 (about €30,000) and below BGN 264,000 (about €132,000). In these cases, only public invitation is published and a simplified procedure is conducted. Goods and services over BGN 66,000 (€33,000); public works over BGN 264,000 (about €132,000). In these cases, all procedures provided are conducted and the respective notices are published.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the National Public Procurement Register. www.aop.bg

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No. In Bulgaria there is no public platform offering e-submission.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public One-Stop Advertising Portal	Public Procurement Agency www.aop.bg	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Planned for all goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Planned for all procedures	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	Targove BG EOOD http://www.targove.bg/	Planned	No

	For which goods, services and public works?	Planned	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Planned — open procedures (1st stage available: e-notification)	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	Public Procurement http://www.obshtestveni-porachki.com/	No	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	No	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	The portal provides only lists of notifications, extracted from other sources on the Internet	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government does not monitor the use of e-procurement by contracting authorities. The production of monthly reports is an internal procedure for the Public Procurement Agency, including the usage of e-procurement (for the services currently operational). There are no obligations to report monitoring data about e-procurement. The following table presents the type of data which the national government is interested in collecting concerning e-procurement. We have interviewed two departments of the Ministry of Finance: they collect information about the e-notification phase, but they also consider that it would be important to have all the typologies of data about e-procurement, from the online publication of notices to the volume and value of e-procurement, the benefits achievable, the number and type of suppliers engaged in e-procurement, and drivers and barriers. Contracting authorities are not interested in monitoring take-up levels.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	NO	YES	X
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

CYPRUS

Updated to December 10, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Public Procurement Directorate, Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus. http://www.treasury.gov.cy
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The e-Procurement Plan.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	Yes, by December 31, 2013, all tender documents should be available electronically.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	By December 31, 2013, at least 50% of procurement submissions should be carried out electronically by central purchasing bodies. If this is achieved, since January 2014 the electronic submission of tenders will be requested in at least half of the competitions.
For further information	www.e-procurement.gov.cy	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	Yes, there are facilitations. • Due to the obligation for electronic publication of award notices and award information for simplified procedures, contracting authorities are not required to submit statistical reports. • Reduced timeframe to implement tenders in electronic procurement (Law 12(I)/2006 issued on January 30, 2006. Circulars of the Treasury of the Republic).	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Yes. National regulation allows suppliers to register from anywhere through a registration form and a remote validation mechanism, without the need to maintain their legal basis in Cyprus.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Yes. Although not explicitly referring to SMEs, the development of the e-procurement system is designed to foster SME participation; for instance, registration and use are provided free of charge and they are very user-friendly. The establishment of a unique source of procurement opportunities is also helpful for SMEs. The e-catalogue module enables SMEs to use it at no cost: the tool provided by the system publishes their products and makes them available to contracting authorities.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities in Cyprus.
For which goods, services and public works?	There are no exclusions in any category of procurement.
For which procedures?	All procedures (open, restricted, negotiated, competitive dialogue, framework agreements) except

	simplified procedures, which refer to low value purchases — between €0 and €50,000.
Above which threshold(s)?	Any purchase above €50,000 and any purchase that follows a procedure that requires publication of a notice.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus (https://www.e-procurement.gov.cy/ceproc/home.do). However, contracting authorities can use their own web page as a host for additional information regarding a procurement procedure, but always after publishing the relevant competition and tender documents online on the national e-procurement platform.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary. When used, it is mandatory to use the national public platform.
For which contracting authorities?	It can be used by all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	No restrictions.
For which procedures?	No restrictions.
Above which threshold(s)?	No restrictions.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Public Procurement Directorate of the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus https://www.e-procurement.gov.cy/ceproc/home.do	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Goods, services and public works
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures, framework agreements, e-auctions, electronic marketplace, negotiated procedures and simplified procedures	Framework agreements, electronic marketplace

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government occasionally monitors the use of e-procurement by contracting authorities. There are no obligations to report monitoring data about e-procurement to the national government. The policy maker underlined that the benefits achieved through e-procurement are difficult to quantify as there is no data regarding the paper-based procedure to compare with.

We have interviewed two contracting authorities, the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus (Public Procurement Directorate) and Pharmaceutical Services and the Supplies Departments within the Ministry of Health. They pointed out the need to collect data concerning the benefits achievable through e-procurement, the number and type of suppliers engaged, and drivers and barriers to e-procurement adoption.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	NO	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	YES	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

CZECH REPUBLIC

Updated to December 21, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Regional Development (http://www.mmr.cz/). The Ministry provides practical guidance on the processing of the award of public contracts and ensures development of related legal norms. In addition, the ministry participates in devising national concepts for cooperation between public and private sectors (PPP: public-private partnership). The ministry administers the Information System on Public Contracts and the Public Procurement and Concessions Portal. Publication subsystems, lists of approved economic operators, lists of systems of certified economic operators, a register of concession contracts, and statistical output on public contracts are an integral part of the Information System on Public Contracts.
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The national e-procurement strategy for 2011–2015 updates a previous plan for 2006–2010 which introduced electronic public procurement.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The main target is the implementation of the NIPEZ Project (National Infrastructure for Electronic Public Procurement — http://projekty.osf-mvcr.cz/en/27/default.aspx), which should insure the full availability of the whole e-procurement cycle for all contracting authorities by 2015. The previous plan had implemented the reform of the legislative framework to enable the main steps of e-procurement (e-notification and e-submission) and, in the period 2008–2010, it targeted the support of the electronic submission of orders, the electronic exchange of financial documents, the promotion of electronic payments, and support for long-term storage and archiving of electronic documents.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	National contracting authorities should procure 100% of the value of centralised goods and services purchases in the electronic marketplace. Their sub-units must procure 50% of the same. A key objective of the strategy is to achieve savings in public spending of CZK 50B per year.
For further information	e-Procurement strategy for 2011–2015 (Strategie elektronizace zadávání VZ pro období let 2011–2015). http://www.portal-vz.cz	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	No specific incentive.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	Yes. Technology suppliers may request voluntary "certificates of conformity" for their electronic tools from the government.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases. Czech procurement law has many caveats and exceptions.
For which contracting authorities?	For national contracting authorities and their sub-units.

For which goods, services and public works?	For all goods, services and public works for tenders above the national threshold. For centralised procurement of standardised goods and services, such as electricity, fuels, IT, office equipment, for lower value purchases.
For which procedures?	e-Notification is mandatory for open procedures, restricted procedures, framework agreements, e-auctions, dynamic purchasing system (DPS) and negotiated procedures (over the national threshold, see below). e-Notification is mandatory for small-scale procurements under the threshold in some cases, including: • If the contracting authority decides to use an e-auction • If the contracting authority launches a mini-tendering procedure based on a framework agreement with several potential suppliers
Above which threshold(s)?	For purchases of goods and services of at least CZK 1,000,000 (€39,478) (VAT excluded); for construction works, the threshold for publication is CZK 3,000,000 (€118,436) (VAT excluded). For procurements in the e-marketplace the threshold for publication is above CZK 50,000 (€1,973) for national authorities and their sub-units.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	No. The main public portals are: • The Public Procurement Portal of the Ministry for Regional Development (https://ezak.mmr.cz/) There are also private portals publishing tender opportunities: • https://www.gemin.cz/ • https://www.tendermarket.cz/home.seam • http://e-trziste.ceskytrh.cz/ • http://www.centrumvz.cz/ • https://etrziste.vortalgov.cz/ Contracting authority profiles: each CA must have its own profile where the data is stored in a structured way in order to be downloadable for statistical reasons. The portal also provides documentation on all the tenders launched by each CA.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases. There are mandatory take-up targets addressed to the national contracting authorities and their sub-units.
For which contracting authorities?	National contracting authorities must use e-submission on the e-marketplace for all their centralised purchases of goods and services over CZK 50,000 (€1,974). Their sub-units must do so for 50% of the value of their procurements.
For which goods, services and public works?	For centralised procurement of standardised goods and services, such as electricity, fuels, IT, office equipment, for lower value purchases.
For which procedures?	For all procedures for national contracting authorities over the national threshold. For small-scale contracts, if contracting authorities use e-auctions and mini-tendering procedures within framework agreements.
Above which threshold(s)?	The use of electronic marketplaces is compulsory for national contracting authorities and their sub-units when purchasing above CZK 50,000 (€1,974).

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic www.mmr.cz http://www.portal-vz.cz/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, e-auction, electronic marketplace	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The ministry runs an e-notification portal. The NIPEZ project is developing the offering for e-submission and this should be available by 2015. The new platform was launched in Prague on February 23, 2012. The e-marketplace is used for the centralised procurement contracts of national authorities, which are mandatory, for the categories of goods and services indicated below. The complete list of goods is listed in annex No. 1 and 2 of government decree No. 930/2011 Coll (http://www.portal-vz.cz/Centralizovane-zadavani-VZ/Legislativa).

Main Categories of Products and Services Covered by Centralised Procurement	
Fuel	Electricity
Office equipment and media storage	Computers and data processing machines, printers
Mobile phones and accessories	Telecommunication equipment and infrastructure
Audiovisual and photo	Stationery
Detergents and general drugstore products	Furnishing
Wiring materials	Gardening services
Rental vehicles	Maintenance of vehicles, ICT, building installations
Transportation and logistics services	IT consulting and services
Education and training	Security
Cleaning services	

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government annually monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. The only data that is not monitored and is needed concerns the benefits achieved through e-procurement. e-Procurement entities and e-marketplaces (e-Tržiště) are obliged to report monitoring data about e-procurement to the national government. The interviewed contracting authority belongs to the Ministry of Justice: it highlighted the necessity to have data about the benefits achievable through e-procurement and, in addition, records or an overview of the amount of financial resources spent on products, services and public works in a way that expenses can be further analysed and the efficiency of the institution increased.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES		
Number and type of suppliers	YES		
Drivers and barriers	YES		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	YES	YES	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

DENMARK

Updated to December 21, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Danish Competition Authority (http://www.kfst.dk/) oversees the legal regulation of e-procurement and implements the EU rules on public procurement through the Danish Act on Tender Procedures for Public Works Contracts.
Other relevant bodies	The Ministry of Finance is responsible for administrative policy contributing to ensuring efficient public institutions. It leads the development of IT policy and infrastructure through the Digitalisation Authority, which manages several digital solutions, including NemHandel (for e-invoicing). Statens og Kommunernes Indkøbs Service A/S (SKI, or "National Procurement Ltd. Denmark" in English) is a not-for-profit and self-financing public company owned by the Danish government (the Danish Ministry of Finance) and a group of Danish municipalities (Kommunernes Landsforening). SKI aims to promote effective public purchasing in Denmark and it uses an electronic tendering system, ETHICS, for the tender process.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	Currently, there are no specific plans for e-procurement adoption in the country. The "Tilbudsloven" (Danish Act on Tender Procedures for Public Works, nr. 1410 of 07/12/2007) regulates the procurement of services, goods and construction where the contract value is below the EU threshold and includes dispositions on e-notification.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?		The central procurement body, SKI, is responsible for the strategy of development of the national e-procurement platform and has operational plans.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?		Not applicable.
For further information		http://www.digst.dk/Home/Digitaliseringsstrategi/Download%20strategien http://www.kfst.dk/udbudsomraadet/udbuddk/ For information on public procurement thresholds please refer to: http://www.udbudsportalen.dk/Ret-og-regler/Tarskelvardier-for-20122013/
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		No concrete incentives are offered to contracting authorities to adopt e-procurement.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific.
		Obstacles: To access the e-submission service all suppliers are requested to use a qualified digital signature as a mechanism for the authentication. This may represent a barrier for foreign suppliers.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific (the national portal, udbud.dk, offers a feature that should make it easier for SMEs to find relevant partners to engage in joint ventures and jointly bid for public tasks).
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes: Since April 1, 2012, all entities must use http://www.udbud.dk/ when they announce the purchase of goods and services covered by the Danish Act on Tender Procedures for Public Works, nr. 1410 of 07/12/2007. However, tenders are also published through other channels, including http://udbudsvagten.dk/. Since January 1, 2013, it is no longer mandatory to publish public service contracts covered by the Annex II B of the State Procurement Act, though the contracting authority can still voluntarily publish annex II B purchases on udbud.dk.
For which contracting authorities?	For all.
For which goods, services and public works?	• Public works contracts between the national and EU thresholds • Public service contracts covered by the procurement of Annex II A of the State Procurement Act, between the national and EU thresholds • Public supply contracts between the national and the EU threshold
For which procedures?	For all.
Above which threshold(s)?	The national thresholds for procurement contracts are established by law and have the following values: €67,000 for supply and service contracts. For public works, the procuring entity must publish a procurement notice if the value is above €400,000.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the national portal (http://www.udbud.dk/) run by the Danish Competition Authority.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable. National contracting authorities are strongly encouraged to use the framework agreements proposed by SKI. Financial agreements between the Authority of the Danish Municipalities (LGDK) and SKI have been signed in order to establish framework agreements for a number of categories (see table below).
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable. However, framework agreements are implemented through electronic means.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable. Framework agreements are implemented for contract notices above DKK 500,000 (€67,000).

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Statens og Kommunernes Indkøbs Service A/S (SKI) http://www.ski.dk/ e-Catalogues http://www.netindkob.dk/	Yes	Yes
	Is the service offered for all types of goods, services and public works?	Yes	Only for goods and services covered by framework agreements
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, e-auction, electronic marketplace, direct ordering, DPS	Framework agreements
National Advertising Portal	Udbud http://www.udbud.dk/	No	No
	Is the service offered for all types of goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: SKI negotiates framework contracts between the public sector in Denmark and private sector companies and runs the national e-procurement platform, providing e-tendering and e-catalogues services. The use of SKI by contracting authorities is voluntary, even though it is strongly encouraged for the products and services covered by the FA. The advertising portal http://www.udbud.dk/ is managed by the Danish Competition Authority and is mandatory for all.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Information technology	Furniture
Office equipment	Energy
Automobiles	Spectacles
Foodstuffs	Catering centre equipment
Electrical equipment	Building materials
Tools	Timber

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The Danish government currently does not produce official monitoring reports on the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. SKI produces annual reports on the use of framework agreements. However, the policy maker interviewed declared that it would be useful to collect most of the data indicated, as shown in the table below. The contracting authorities interviewed (the city of Copenhagen and the Danish Cooperation Authority) do not systematically monitor their e-procurement, but they are interested in all types of data, excluding the value of e-procurement and the drivers and barriers.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	NO	YES	X
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO	YES	X
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

ESTONIA

Updated to November 28, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Finance is the only body responsible for regulating public procurement in the country and, in addition, it manages the electronic Public Procurement Register (the national e-procurement platform).
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The national government launched the Public Procurement Act which includes take-up goals for e-procurement (passed 24.01.2007, RT I 2011, 15, 21, entry into force on 1.05.2007).
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	No	
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	Since 2013, each contracting authority must use electronic procurement, meaning e-submission, for at least 50% of its planned procurement budget.
For further information		https://riigihanked.riik.ee
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		None specific. Only training sessions are put in place for public buyers and suppliers to help use the online services.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Yes, foreign suppliers can access the online services on the national e-procurement platform (the Public Procurement Register) with a specific cross-border business ID.
		Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Only training sessions for suppliers to help use the online services.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, since 2001, e-notification is mandatory on the Public Procurement Register.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all, including simplified procedures.
Above which threshold(s)?	The Estonian Procurement Act stipulates the thresholds under the international threshold as follows: • Goods and services above €40,000 • Public works above €250,000 Under above mentioned thresholds there is an obligation to organise a simplified procurement

	procedure. The thresholds for that are: • €10,000 for public supply contracts and a public service contract • €30,000 for a public works contract The simplified procurement thresholds in the event of public procurement in the fields of defence and security are €40,000 for a public supply contract and a public service contract and €250,000 for a public works contract.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the Public Procurement Register https://riigihanked.riik.ee

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Planned. From 2013, all contracting authorities must use electronic procurement, including e-submission, for at least 50% of their planned procurement budget.
For which contracting authorities?	Planned for all.
For which goods, services and public works?	Planned for all.
For which procedures?	Planned for all.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Public Procurement Register https://riigihanked.riik.ee/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures, framework agreements, e-auctions, DPS, negotiated and simplified procedures, design contest	Not applicable

Comments: The national e-procurement platform (the Public Procurement Register) is mandatory for e-notification and is planned to be mandatory for e-submission as well. Estonia does not accept or process payment via the portal and is not planning to do so — the state has a different programme in development for e-invoicing.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments

The national government, through the Ministry of Finance, monitors the use of e-procurement by contracting authorities on a weekly basis, but without any obligation to report data to a government body. The Ministry of Finance publishes a weekly press release reporting the e-procurement activities carried out through the national platform (Public Procurement Register). The Ministry of Finance considers all the data that can be collected on the e-procurement platform important to have; data about the benefits achievable through e-procurement and about the suppliers is not collected at the moment.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

F I N L A N D

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade and Economy have overall steering responsibility in the area of public procurement in the central government, and are responsible for setting general principles and rules. Management and development of the central government procurement system falls within the Ministry of Finance's remit.
Other relevant bodies	The Public Procurement Advisory Unit maintained by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy Advisory focuses on providing contracting authorities with information and advice on procurement. It also advises businesses on issues relating to the application of procurement legislation. The Strategic Group on Government Procurement appointed by the Ministry of Finance supports and develops the strategic steering of central government procurement as well as the implementation of the state's procurement strategy.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	There are no formal plans, but the Strategy for Efficient Public Procurement includes the implementation of electronic processes by the central procurement body Hansel.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	Hansel is responsible for developing electronic methods for centralised public procurements.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	No.
For further information		
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	All contracting authorities are left on their own to decide how they introduce e-procurement — other than through the services provided by Hilma (the national e-notification system — see below). The Ministry of Finance provided some financial incentive for the municipalities' common platform. The platform/service has been acquired and it already has some users. However, the central government has stopped funding the platform.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: The language barrier and the geographical location create more difficulties than any regulations.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** There are no specific provisions for SMEs. There is no public funded training for SMEs, even though there are private law firms and training companies providing training.	
	Obstacles: Many SMEs are discouraged by the complications of the public procurement process.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	The Ministry of Finance should provide accreditation, but so far this has not been implemented.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases. It is mandatory above the national threshold. Procurement falling under the national thresholds can be published in Hilma; however, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities.

For which goods, services and public works?	See above.
For which procedures?	For all.
Above which threshold(s)?	Current national thresholds are: • For supplies and services and for service concessions — €30,000 • For healthcare, social services and training services as a joint procurement — €100,000 • For public works concessions — €150,000 • For public works — €150,000 • For design contests — €30,000
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the national e-notification system Hilma. http://www.hankintailmoitukset.fi/fi/

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary. National contracting authorities have the obligation to purchase specific categories of goods and services through framework agreements set up by the central purchasing body, Hansel Oy.
For which contracting authorities?	No restrictions.
For which goods, services and public works?	No restrictions.
For which procedures?	No restrictions.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Hansel Oy http://www.hansel.fi/fi	Planned	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Planned for goods and services covered by framework agreements. No public works	Planned for goods and services covered by framework agreements. No public works
	For which procedures?	NA	For framework agreements, particularly for mini tendering within existing framework agreements
National Advertising Portal	Hilma, official national portal for e-notification http://www.hankintailmoituks et.fi/fi/	No	Planned for 2015
	For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable

		Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Managed by service provider Cloudia Oy http://www.cloudia.fi/ Kuntahankinnat http://www.kuntahankinnat.fi/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Only goods and services covered by framework agreements
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS and negotiated procedure	Framework agreements and DPS

Comments: Hansel Oy (http://www.hansel.fi/fi) is the central purchasing body of the Finnish government, which puts the goods and services (ICT procurement, administrative services, materials and technical services) required by the public administration out to tender and maintains the related framework agreements and an e-catalogue system. It has on its extranet site several tools for conducting mini-tendering on the framework agreements it has established for the central government (call-offs). It is also developing a total order management system (TILHA) for e-ordering. Hilma (http://www.hankintailmoitukset.fi/fi/) is the central e-procurement platform. All contracting authorities are obliged to publish all contract notifications exceeding the national threshold on the Hilma Portal. As the information on Hilma Portal is freely available several companies are subtracting the data from Hilma Portal and selling the same data to companies with some added features. These are not really e-procurement platforms but rather refining the same information that is in Hilma, the official site for e-notification. It is also possible to use the platform for e-access (publishing tender documents online in Hilma). Kuntahankinnat (http://www.kuntahankinnat.fi/) is the central procurement unit for local and regional governments. Cloudia Oy is the service provider for the platform: http://www.cloudia.fi (bought as a SaaS service). KL-Kuntahankinnat Oy is a joint procurement company and negotiates centralised procurement contracts and framework agreements (for energy procurement, ICT, rescue equipment, chemicals, leasing, insurance, travelling, and different office and data processing equipment) for its government clientele.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Electricity	Occupational healthcare services
Fuel	Computers and peripherals
Scheduled flights	Technical ICT consultancy
Vehicles and economic driving training	Office furniture
Domestic accommodation and conference services	Equipment leasing services
Office and ICT supplies	Voice connections and services
Facility user services	Security technology

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government only monitors the use of Hilma (annually) concerning e-notification and does not provide any thorough analysis of the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. It evaluates this data as potentially useful and relevant, therefore there seems to be a substantial information gap. On the other hand, the government monitors the use of centralised procurement agreements, which most often are implemented through e-procurement. The purchases of the Finnish state are entered into a web-based accounting system (NETRA), which provides, for example, product/service category-specific summary reports of purchases. Hansel's contract suppliers report their framework agreement sales by product/service and by customer organisation on a monthly basis to Hansel's web-based reporting system (SUTI), which provides reliable statistical information on purchases through framework agreements in the central government context.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices			
Volume and value of e-procurement			
Level of take-up of e-procurement			
Benefits achieved through e-procurement			
Number and type of suppliers engaged			
Drivers and barriers			

Gap = Needed, not monitored

F R A N C E

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry (http://www.economie.gouv.fr/). The legal department (Direction des Affaires Juridiques) is in charge of the Public Procurement Code.
Other relevant bodies	The ADAE (Agency for the Development of e-Administration — Agence pour le Developpement de l'Administration Electronique) was created in 2003 to modernise the functioning of public administrations and is now integrated into the DGME (Direction Generale de la Modernisation de l'Etat). http://www.marche-public.fr/Marches-publics/Definitions/Entrees/ADAE.htm

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	France does not have a specific national plan for e-procurement, but the National Code for Public Procurement includes dispositions for the development of e-procurement.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	Since January 1, 2010, contracting authorities may decide to use e-procurement for any purchase. Since January 1, 2012, contracting authorities cannot refuse any electronic communication in any procurement process, of value over the €90,000 threshold (Article 56 of the Public Procurement Code — approved by decree no. 2006-975 of 2006).
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	None specific.
For further information		https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/?page=entreprise.EntrepriseHome http://delegation.internet.gouv.fr/actions/administration.htm http://www.economie.gouv.fr/daj/lobservatoire-economique-lachat-public http://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/directions_services/daj/marches_publics/oeap/publications/lettre/2011/lettre20.pdf http://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/directions_services/daj/marches_publics/conseil_acheteurs/guides/guide-pratique-dematerialisation-mp.pdf http://www.marchespublicspme.com/documents/guide-repondre-dematerialisation-marches-publics.PDF http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/tic/certificats/%20to%20acquire%20electronic%20certificates
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		No specific incentive. For facilitations, the time limit for tender procedures is shorter for e-procurement (Code de Marchès publics, 2006).
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific.
		Obstacles: Foreign tenderers must submit certificates of compliance with social security and tax obligations equivalent to those requested of French operators, issued by their national administrations. In addition, for e-submission, they must have a French e-signature or e-signatures which have been verified to comply with French national standards (interoperability barrier). Furthermore, when submitting an electronic bid, economic operators have to submit an electronic (CD) or paper-based backup copy.
SME participation in e-procurement:		**Facilitations:** None specific.

facilitations/obstacles	
	Obstacles: For e-submission, tenderers must have a qualified e-signature, compliant with the French national standard, subject to the acquisition of a certificate authorised by the Ministry of State Reform: this procedure requires a face-to-face authentication process. The submission of an electronic bid must always be accompanied by paper-based backup copies or a CD.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	A voluntary quality labelling system called dem@pe was launched in 2008, testing the compliance with a set of criteria defined with the support of users' feedback. A joint label committee comprising the Ministry of Finance, the Edibuild Association and the Federation for Public Works decided on a set of criteria covering 10 categories and a process to award the label. The label is awarded for two years. The criteria are improved and augmented each year. The objective of the label is to help promote confidence in electronic tendering and foster good practices. It aims to develop interoperability, security and interchange of electronic data and documents. The label committee is open to other contributions. Currently the label has been awarded to Edisys, Agysoft and CG10, which run a long series of public procurement platforms in France. Furthermore, it is planned that the Ministry of Home Affairs will provide accreditation of the platforms addressed to submission of electronic documents. http://www.epractice.eu/en/cases/demape http://www.observatoire.info/

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, for all contract notices above €90,000. Since 2010 contracting authorities must publish eRFPs (electronic requests for proposals) over the €90,000 threshold.
For which contracting authorities?	For all.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all.
Above which threshold(s)?	Above the €90,000 national threshold.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, only for the national government authorities on the Place des Marchés Interministérielle (PMI). https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/?page=entreprise.EntrepriseHome

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases.
For which contracting authorities?	e-Submission is mandatory for IT tenders over the €90,000 threshold for all contracting authorities. Since 2012, contracting authorities cannot refuse electronic submissions of tenders for contracts over the €90,000 threshold, nor e-invoicing. Furthermore, all contracting authorities can require the electronic submission of tenders, whatever their value.
For which goods, services and public works?	IT procurements over the threshold.
For which procedures?	All.
Above which threshold(s)?	Above the €90,000 national threshold.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Place des Marchés Interministérielle (PMI) https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/?page=entreprise.EntrepriseHome	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedure, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS and negotiated procedure	Not applicable
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	GIP e-bourgogne http://www.e-bourgogne.fr/jsp/site/Portal.jsp?page_id=1	Yes	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Planned
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedure, framework agreements, DPS and negotiated procedure	Planned

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The Place des Marchés Interministérielle is managed by the Service des Achats de l'Etat (SAE). The SAE has a double mission: to lead the process of professionalising the procurement function throughout the state administration, and to award pooled contracts in current areas of procurement. SAE provides e-procurement services on the platform Place de Marche Interministerielle, available at https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/. This e-procurement platform is mandatory for central contracting authorities.

The e-Bourgogne project is a non-profit organisation using the legal structure of a Public Interest Group (Groupement d'Intérêt Public, GIP). The GIP supports regional competitiveness with an e-government platform. In June 2012, more than 1,100 local government entities in the Burgundy region, 40% of educational and health entities and more than 22,000 enterprises used an array of e-government online services such as e-procurement, one-stop shop for public grants, collaborative work, e-learning and e-archiving.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to National Framework Agreements	
Office furniture	Hardware, software and services connected with telecommunications facilities and services
Transport services	Building maintenance
Non-specialised vehicles	Fuel
Printing equipment and services	Energy and financial services

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government monitors the use of e-procurement and purchases made by contracting authorities above €90,000. The monitoring activity is performed through an offline annual survey. The report is presented online (http://www.economie.gouv.fr/daj/recensement-des-marches-publics-2010). Contracting authorities are obliged to report monitoring data about e-procurement to the national government for purchases above the €90,000 threshold. Contracting authorities consolidate the data yearly and monitor on a quarterly base their data about e-procurement. Concerning the level of take-up, the policy maker highlighted that it is an uncertain measure, as it is based on the notices having at least one electronic offer; in addition, concerning both the number of contract notices published online and the number and type of suppliers, the policy maker underlined that it is possible to monitor this data only for signed contracts. The contracting authorities interviewed (belonging to the Conseil Général de la Sarthe) highlighted the need for data concerning the benefits achievable through e-procurement.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	NO	
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	NO	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	NO	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

GERMANY

Updated to December 21, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) drafts legislation and provides guidance and information related to public procurement procedures compliant with the law. The Federal Ministry of Interiors is responsible for the modernisation of internal administrative processes across the federal government. Together they develop the national plans for e-procurement. Since Germany is a federal state, Länders and municipalities have complete autonomy of regulation in this area.
Other relevant bodies	The Procurement Agency of the Ministry of the Interior (Beschaffungsamt des Bundesministeriums des Inneren) is responsible for centralised procurement of the ministry, its subordinate agencies (such as the Federal Police) and all federal agencies. It is also responsible for the development and rollout of the e-Vergabe system, which is the primary German e-procurement platform, and carries out public procurement competitions. It also runs the Federal e-Catalogue system (Kaufhaus des Bundes) for the management of framework agreements. More recently, it started promoting a project to achieve coordination with the main state and local platforms (XVergabe). http://www.bescha.bund.de/cln_091/DE/Home/homepage__node.html?__nnn=true

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The e-procurement plan is based on a resolution of the federal government in 2004 and a further development for 2008–2010. It is mainly focused on the centralisation of procurement for federal authorities through the use of centralised e-procurement platforms (Public Procurement Online — Öffentlicher Eink@uf Online Programme). The initial resolution ("resolution to optimise public procurement") identified 7 steps to enhance the introduction of e-procurement in Germany. The additional plan defined 3 steps to introduce mandatory e-submissions on federal tenders. Their implementation is still ongoing. Länders and municipalities are completely autonomous for e-procurement and many of them have developed independent e-procurement platforms. However, the procurement agency has launched the project XVergabe to harmonise the different e-procurement platforms by using a multiplatform client. The XVergabe client was scheduled to go to market in autumn 2012. The objective is to create a single entry point for suppliers.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The overall goal driving the introduction of e-procurement is to increase efficiency and competency while procuring products and services. To achieve this objective, the following steps were identified in the "resolution to optimise public procurement" and have been implemented: • Publication of tender procedures by federal administrations on the central portal of the federal administration (www.bund.de), regardless of whether they are carried out electronically or paper-bound. • All federal agencies must transfer their procurement procedures successively to a legally compliant and secure electronic tendering system. The developed e-procurement system for electronic awarding should be used for this (www.evergabe-online.de) except in cases where extensive economic, legal or technical reasons prevent from doing so. • Standard services and products will usually be bought through framework agreements. Framework agreements will be concluded by the central procurement agencies. Standardised guidelines (including contract components) will be examined for tenders as well as awarding framework agreements. • A Virtual Department Store ("Kaufhaus des Bundes") will be set up. Framework agreements will be managed and provided to federal authorities to order products and services online. • A standard catalogue for appropriate goods and services will be developed by federal procurement agencies and provided to all federal departments. • An integrated (electronic) procedure will be developed between contracting authorities and tenders and essential gateways defined. • Responsibility for coordination and implementation is with the federal Ministries for Interior and Economics.

	- The technology infrastructure targeted by the plan has been implemented. The actual take-up of the e-procurement systems by federal agencies has grown more slowly, following the implementation of the centralised framework agreements and electronic catalogues. There was a strong acceleration in usage in 2010–2011. The additional plan was intended to encourage private organisations to use the e-procurement system (www.evergabe-online.de). It was developed by the Ministry of Economics and Industry and established three deadlines after which federal administrations would be required to accept only electronic submissions as follows: - Stage: since 01.09.2007: paper-bound submissions for ICT must no longer be accepted by federal administrations - Stage: 01.10.2008: paper-bound submissions for vehicles must no longer be accepted - Stage: 01.01.2010: paper-bound submissions for all other products and services must no longer be accepted
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No
For further information	http://www.bescha.bund.de/cln_091/DE/Home/homepage__node.html?__nnn=true Regulation: http://www.bescha.bund.de/cln_100/nn_663642/DE/Rechtsgrundlagen/NormenRechtsvorschriften/node.html?__nnn=true
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	None specific.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Foreign suppliers must have a German e-signature to submit bids electronically, but they can be obtained online relatively easily. **Obstacles:** None specific. Almost all administrations specify that bids can be submitted only in German.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific. **Obstacles:** None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases.
For which contracting authorities?	It is mandatory for federal contracting authorities. Some state and local administrations are making it mandatory as well, including: - The state of Hessen, where the online publication of tender notices is mandatory for all contracting authorities on the state portal - The state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where it is mandatory for all state authorities - The state of Saxony, where it is mandatory for the state authorities and municipal clients
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all.
Above which threshold(s)?	Above the direct procurement threshold which is €500 for products and services, €10,000 for public works (free-hand allocation).
Is there a one-stop portal where	Only for federal contracting authorities. Federal authorities must publish their contract notices on the

	central e-government portal (http://www.bund.de/DE/Home/homepage_node.html).
all contract notices can be accessed online?	Regional and local administrations must link their portals, if they have one, with the national one for e-notification.
	The Hessen e-procurement platform is available at http://www.had.de/
	The North Rhine-Westphalia e-procurement platform is available at http://www.vergabe.nrw.de/auswahl/index.html
	The Saxon e-procurement platform is available at http://www.vergabe-sachsen.de/

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases.
For which contracting authorities?	For national contracting authorities. e-Submissions are enforced by the above described resolution of 2008. Accordingly, federal contracting authorities must not accept paper-bound submissions since 01.01.2010 and should use the federal platform eVergabe to do so. However, some federal agencies may not yet have transferred their procurement procedures to e-procurement due to extensive economic, technical or practical reasons, and thus may allow paper-based submissions. The use of centralised framework contracts on the Federal Administration Store platform is also mandatory, including e-ordering. For state and local authorities e-submission is voluntary, unless this is regulated differently at local level.
For which goods, services and public works?	In principle for all. The mandatory use of the Federal Administration Store applies only to the products and services covered by framework agreements.
For which procedures?	For all on eVergabe, only for framework agreements on the Federal Administration Store.
Above which threshold(s)?	For federal authorities for e-tendering, above the direct procurement threshold (above €8,000). For federal authorities for the Federal Administration Store, above the EU threshold.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Public e-Procurement Platform	The Procurement Agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior runs the e-tendering platform http://www.evergabe-online.de/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	For all
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiated procedure, framework agreements	Framework agreements
National Public e-Procurement Platform	The Federal Administration Store Kaufhaus des Bundes is focused only on the management of framework agreements for federal authorities	No	Yes

http://www.kdb.bund.de/		
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	For goods and services covered by Framework agreements
For which procedures?	Not applicable	Framework agreements

Comments: The Federal Procurement Agency (http://www.bescha.bund.de) runs the e-procurement platforms eVergabe and Kaufhaus des Bundes presented above. eVergabe provides pre-award services to federal authorities (which are required to use it) and to all other authorities. It currently has 100 registered federal agencies and 250 regional-local contracting authorities. It provides services above and below the EU threshold. Its use grew sharply from 2011 to 2012, with an increase of 237% in electronic tenders. It is mandatory for federal agencies, unless they have demonstrable economic, technical and/or practical reasons preventing them from using the electronic tools. The Kaufhaus des Bundes offers e-ordering and e-catalogue services to manage framework agreements and its use is mandatory for several federal procurement bodies. In June 2012, it had 483 federal public agencies registered, and 453 framework agreements for 70,000 products. The value of calls processed increased by 25% in 2011 to €105 million from €84 million in 2010.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services of eVergabe	
Labour market services	Construction
Clothing, furniture and printing	Energy
Finished products	IT
Communication and electricity	Automotive
Food	Machinery
Medical products and services	Secondary raw materials

Main Categories of Products and Services of Kaufhaus des Bundes Framework Agreements	
Office supplies	Tools
IT products and services	Furniture
Cleaning equipment and supplies	

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

There is no formal process of monitoring e-procurement for the whole country. Monitoring is decentralised at the federal state level. The Procurement Agency of the Ministry of Interior, which runs eVergabe, the e-tendering platform for central authorities, provides monthly monitoring reports on its activities, focused on the number of contracts and tenders, while data on value, take-up, benefits, drivers and barriers is not collected and evaluated systematically. Similarly, the Federal Department Store (Kaufhaus des Bundes) monitors on a mandatory basis the use of e-procurement and reports the collected data to the federal government. There is no policy on measurement and benchmarking e-procurement, therefore it was not possible to prioritise the type of data most needed and to complete the table below. The contracting authorities interviewed seem to monitor only the process of tenders through the electronic phases and not value and benefits of e-procurement, where an information gap is perceived.

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO		
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES		
Number and type of suppliers	YES		
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

G R E E C E

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Single Public Procurement Authority — SPPA. This authority has been set up in order to coordinate a national strategy on public contracts, to reduce and control state expenditure on public contracts, to facilitate and encourage the participation of economic bodies involved in public tenders, to develop competition in tendering procedures in accordance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment, and to ensure compliance with the rules and principles of European and national legislation on public procurement.
Other relevant bodies	The SPPA is under the Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping (http://www.mindev.gov.gr/). The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (http://www.minenv.gr/) is consulted for green public procurement.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	There is a national strategy (NSFR plan: National Strategic Reference Framework 2007–2013) which also includes e-procurement, agreed with the EU, IMF and ECB, overseeing Greek reforms.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The development of the national e-procurement platform, which should be ready to offer e-submission for use by all contracting authorities in the public sector in 2013.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	The plan foresees mandatory e-procurement for all government bodies by the end of 2013. Note that the mandatory use of e-submission will be implemented gradually.
For further information	NSFR: http://www.espa.gr/en/Pages/staticWhatIsESPA.aspx	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	None specific.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Planned. No, the national e-procurement system is under development and it is planned to be operative by January 1, 2013.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.

Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Not applicable.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Planned. As the national platform will be deployed, all contracting authorities will be obliged to use it. e-Procurement will be compulsory by the end of 2013.
For which contracting authorities?	Planned for all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	Planned for all goods, services and public works.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
Private Advertising Portal	Tender Service EPE (Greek branch of the Tender Service Group) http://www.promitheies.gr/	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Planned — it offers e-notification only	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	Gnomon Informatics S.A. http://www.gnomon.com.gr/web/guest/home	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Everything but public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Planned — procedures supported: open procedures, framework agreements, e-auction	Not applicable
Private e-Procurement Platform	CosmoONE Hellas Marketsite S.A. http://www.cosmo-one.gr/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Goods, services and public works

	For which procedures?	e-Auction, electronic marketplace	Electronic marketplace

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government plans to monitor the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. Neither policy makers nor contracting authorities have set a monitoring system for e-procurement. The interviewed contracting authority belongs to the General Secretariat of Commerce, Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness. The obligation to report monitoring data about e-procurement is planned and it will be effective as the national platform will be deployed. In line with this plan, the type of information that will be subject to monitoring will be defined.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	NO		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO		
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement	NO		
Number and type of suppliers	NO		
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO		
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO		
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO		
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

H U N G A R Y

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry for National Development (http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-National-development) is responsible for the regulatory side for e-procurement; it monitors public procurement procedures and creates guidelines to develop best practices.
Other relevant bodies	The Public Procurement Authority was established by Act XL of 1995 on Public Procurement and was defined as a central budgetary organ. The new Act CVIII of 2011 on Public Procurement (referred to as the PPA) basically left its structure intact. The authority is subordinated to parliament. It operates under the Public Procurement Council and its main functions cover the participation in public policy development, the support function in procurement procedures, and the publication and control of notices. (http://portal.kt.hu/magunkrol/magunkrol/) The Directorate of Central Services is responsible for centralised procurement.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The New Public Procurement Act (http://www.kozbeszerzes.hu/nid/PP_Act)
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The national platform development (carried out by the Government Procurement Authority) is in progress. The beta version of the new portal is ready at http://portal.kt.hu/.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information	New Public Procurement Act (http://www.kozbeszerzes.hu/nid/PP_Act)	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	No formal incentives. Contracting authorities are worried about security and technical issues, which is a constraint against take-up of e-procurement.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: No. There are no specific requirements (e-ID) for foreign suppliers engaging in e-procurement.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities (Act CVIII of 2011 on Public Procurement — "PPA"; MfND Decree 92/2011 of December 30).
For which goods, services and public works?	All goods, services and public works.
For which procedures?	All, except negotiations without announcement (direct procurement) according to ordinance

	2004/18EK: e-notification is not mandatory in this procedure.
Above which threshold(s)?	Thresholds above which e-notification is mandatory: • HUF 25,000,000 for public supplies and services (€83,333) • HUF 150,000,000 for public works (€500,000)
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes. The Public Procurement Authority website (http://www.kozbeszerzes.hu/)

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No. e-Submission is voluntary. It is only potentially available because it is offered by private platforms focused on the private market.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Advertising Portal	Public Procurement Authority provides only e-notification services http://www.kozbeszerzes.hu/ http://www.kormany.hu/hu	No	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable
Private e-Procurement Platform	Electool Hungary Ltd http://www.electool.com/hu/	Yes, but focused on utilities and the private market, and mainly within e-auctions	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Goods, services and public works
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction and electronic marketplace	Framework agreements, electronic marketplace
Private e-Procurement Platform	eeebid.com Inc. https://home.eeebid.com/site/index.php	Yes, but focused on the private market	Yes

| | For which goods, services and public works? | Goods, services and public works | Goods, services and public works |
| | For which procedures? | Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction and negotiated procedure | Framework agreements |

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: eeebid.com Inc. is an e-procurement solution and service provider. It offers complete e-procurement services including e-ordering, workflow management, catalogue management, public tenders, public auctions, private tenders, private auctions, contract management, spend analysis, dashboard views, supplier evaluations and management, and document management. Electool claims to be the leading regional e-procurement service provider with an extensive software portfolio supporting strategic and operational procurement processes and commodity expertise in many areas. Besides many governmental organisations, Electool's clients include the largest utility and financial service companies.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Info-communication	Telecommunications
Office equipment	eGovernment services
Office furniture	Paper and office supplies
Vehicles	Fuel
Medical supplies	Travel services

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government occasionally monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. The Public Procurement Authority produces an annual report on public procurement with some data on the number of contract notices published online, the use of e-auctions and the type of e-procurement services used by contracting authorities. Some contracting authorities are obliged to report their use of e-procurement to the national government (Gov. Decree 46/2011 as of March 25). The public platform does not offer e-submission yet, and there is no analysis of the take-up of e-submission by volume and value. The policy maker would not provide assessments of the relevance of data to be collected because e-procurement is still limited. Contracting authorities are also mainly using e-notification and do not carry out systematic monitoring, nor have criteria to assess the relevance of data needed.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO		
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO		

Number and type of suppliers	NO		
Drivers and barriers	YES		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO		
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO		
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO		
Drivers and barriers	YES		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

IRELAND

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The National Public Procurement Policy Unit (NPPPU), established by the Department of Finance, is responsible for public procurement, the e-tenders platform and the hosting of a network for those involved in e-procurement throughout the public sector. NPPPU is also a central procurement body.
	http://www.procurement.ie/
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	Strategy for the Implementation of e-Procurement in the Irish Public Sector (2001).
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The national strategy has the following goals: - To update functionality of the e-tenders website to allow better management information reporting. This is subject to deliverability of the updated e-tender portal (4Q11–2Q12). - To include measures on e-tenders to support procurement reform by providing automatic notifications to buying organisations that planned tenders could be procured using NPS/HSE/local authority frameworks, and e-auctions (www.procurement.ie) (4Q11–2Q12). - To ensure greater compliance with the requirement to publish tender award notices including value of awards (1Q12 ongoing).
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	The proposed targets for the take-up of e-procurement were supposed to be achieved by the end of 2007 (90% of tender competitions above the EU threshold to be carried out electronically — 80% of payments to be electronic).
For further information		http://www.procurement.ie/ http://e-tenders.gov.ie/guides/Guide_Download.aspx?id=1222
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		None specific.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** There is no specific regulation facilitating cross-border e-procurement. However, Ireland has one of the highest take-up levels of cross-border e-procurement in the EU (5% value of contracts and 15% number of contracts assigned to foreign suppliers). In Ireland, many non-domestic suppliers compete for public tender opportunities: most of them are from Northern Ireland and the UK, thanks to the common language and the geographic closeness.
		Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Yes. The government introduced the Circular 10/10 (Department of Finance): Facilitating SME Participation in Public Procurement. Two guidance documents were issued with this circular. The first document is entitled "Guidance for Contracting Authorities: Facilitating Participation of SMEs in Public Procurement" and sets out principles and approaches for public procurement generally. The second document relates specifically to the procurement by public contracting authorities of public works and works contractors' services. All contracting authorities are strongly encouraged to engage fully with the National Procurement System in its various initiatives to improve the public procurement function across the public sector, including measures to enhance competition and improve the access of SMEs to public procurement opportunities. In addition advertising contracts above €25,000 on e-tenders is a requirement of Department of Finance Circular 10/2010. It was introduced to provide accessibility to public contracts for the SME sector. Circular 10/10 states that contracts above €25,000 be advertised on e-tenders.

	http://e-tenders.gov.ie/guides/Guide_Download.aspx?id=1862
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	For all.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all: supplies and general services (including public works) and ICT.
For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, competitive dialogue.
Above which threshold(s)?	Value exceeding €25,000 for products and services and €10,000 specific for ICT.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the national e-procurement platform. http://www.e-tenders.ie/

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	e-Tenders http://www.e-tenders.ie/	Yes	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, competitive dialogue	Not applicable

Comments:

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The NPPPU monitors monthly the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. There is a dedicated online portal for the data collection and all the contracting authorities are invited by the Department of Finance to provide their data. The policy maker points to only one area of information gap, concerning the benefits achieved through e-procurement. The contracting authority (Ministry of Justice) interviewed does not collect data on e-procurement, with the exception of the number of contracts awarded. There is a wide information gap, as there is interest in this data.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO	YES	X
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

ITALY

Updated to December 21, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	There is no specific body responsible for policy and regulation of e-procurement. The Department for European Union Policies under the Presidency of the Council of Ministries is responsible for coordinating all public administrations in order to prepare the national position on EU draft law and the transposition of EU law into the national legislation.
	The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport is responsible for the compliance of the national law to the EU directives. The Supervisory Authority of Public Contracts (Autorità di Vigilanza sui Contratti Pubblici — AVCP) supervises the correct application of laws and regulations in the field, while verifying the frequency of awarding procedures and the economic efficiency in contract execution.
	The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) is responsible for the Rationalisation Programme on Public Spending and participates in the EU Commission e-Procurement Working Group, through its agency Consip Spa.
Other relevant bodies	Consip is a public limited company wholly owned by the MEF, responsible for the development of the Programme for the Rationalisation of Public Spending on Goods and Services for all Administrations, and for providing IT consultancy to the MEF and to the Court of Audit. Consip acts as the national Central Purchasing Body (CPB), and owns and manages the national e-procurement platform acquistinretepa.it (https://www.acquistinretepa.it/).
	The Supervisory Authority of Public Contracts (Autorità di Vigilanza sui Contratti Pubblici — AVCP) is responsible for monitoring public procurement, manages a website where all public contracts should be announced with their unique identification number (CIG), and once a year publishes a monitoring report for parliament. Moreover, according to the recent anticorruption law n. 190/2012, it will publish on its website, in a section freely available to all citizens, the information transmitted by contracting authorities (on the subject of the contract notice, the economic operators invited to tender, the successful contractor, the amount of the award, the time limit for completion the work, service or supply, the amount paid). The authority collects and processes data on the public procurement market to be reported to parliament and the European Commission. The authority reports both to the parliament and the government on particularly serious cases concerning nonobservance or distorted application of public procurement legislation; it also proposes legislative modifications to the government on the same matter and suggests revisions to implementing regulations to the Minister of Infrastructure.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Planned	No current plans. In June 2012, the Government Decree (Decreto Sviluppo 2012) introduced urgent measures to accelerate the adoption of electronic means for the public procurement (without specific targets relating to take-up) and enforced the role of Consip. The decree also introduced the obligation to publish online the tender notices since January 1, 2013, as part of a more general e-government strategy aimed at dematerialising the activity of the public administration. The decree foresees that the public administrations use the e-marketplaces (the MEPA by Consip or others) to purchase goods and services under the EU threshold. However, the national framework of e-procurement is in a transitional stage. It is presumed that new measures and targets related to e-procurement will be introduced in the near future.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	NA	The new government decree must be followed by implementation measures to specify objectives and methods.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	At the moment objectives in value are not foreseen.

For further information	http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?o=vc&lm=2&id_cat=57
	http://www.consip.it/online/Home.html
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	None specific.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.
	Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific. However, MEPA, the national e-marketplace for contracts only under the EU threshold, is a tool specifically designed to stimulate the participation of SMEs in the national e-procurement system (4,500 out of 5,000 suppliers registered in MEPA are SMEs).
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Planned. For each contract notice, contracting authorities are required to ask for an identification code (CIG) to the Authority for the Supervision of Public Contracts, to be reported in contract notice or in the letter of invitation, however named. According to law 136/2010, contracting authorities must request the CIG to the authority, even if it does not have to pay for the contribution fee (law n. 266/2005). By law n. 136/2010 the CIG, together with CUP (Unique Project Code, assigned by the Public Contracts Official Register), represents the main tool of traceability of the financial service system. Online publication of tender documents for downloading (now on a voluntary basis) will become mandatory from January 1, 2013.
For which contracting authorities?	Planned for all authorities. Some regional and local governments have already implemented mandatory e-notification:
	• Lombardy for regional contracting authorities and healthcare authorities
	• Emilia Romagna for regional contracting authorities and healthcare authorities
	• The Province of Bolzano for the provincial authorities
For which goods, services and public works?	Planned for all. Currently public works tendering is excluded by Consip and some regional platforms (Emilia's Intercenter).
For which procedures?	All except direct procurement for low value purchases.
Above which threshold(s)?	€40,000 for goods, services and public works, for all authorities. Some administrations lower it to €20,000 (e.g., Region Lombardy).
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	No, there are multiple portals. Tender notices are published on the main e-procurement platforms including:
	https://www.acquistinretepa.it/
	www.centraleacquisti.regione.lombardia.it
	http://www.intercent.it/portal/page?_pageid=201,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
	http://www.bandi-altoadige.it/
	Suppliers can find tender opportunities on other websites and portals of regional and local administrations.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases. Mandatory for regional authorities in some regions.
For which contracting authorities?	There is an obligation (articolo 1, comma 450, legge 296/2006) for national contracting authorities to use framework contracts managed by Consip for the procurement of all the categories of office supplies and services and MEPA (electronic marketplace) for purchases below the EU threshold. In June 2012, a government decree (Decreto Sviluppo 2012) made compulsory for the national authorities the use of the framework agreements and the e-marketplace for all types of goods and services. However, contracting authorities can avoid using these tools if they demonstrate that they can purchase the same products/services on better terms. Both of the above mentioned tools digitally handle requests for quotations (RfQs) and the submission of tenders online. \n\n e-Submission is voluntary for regional and local administrations. Some regional/local administrations have mandated the use of e-procurement: \n\n • Lombardy for regional contracting authorities and healthcare authorities \n • Emilia Romagna for regional contracting authorities and healthcare authorities \n • The Province of Bolzano for the provincial authorities
For which goods, services and public works?	In principle for all. In practice, the implementation occurs mainly for goods and services covered by the national framework agreements managed by Consip and/or offered within MEPA.
For which procedures?	For all, excluding direct procurement for low value purchases.
Above which threshold(s)?	For the framework agreements the threshold is €120,000 for the central contracting authorities. Regional authorities mandating e-submission refer to the type of authority and the type of procurement rather than the value threshold.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Public e-Procurement Platform	https://www.acquistinretepa.it/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	All except public works	All except public works
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, DPS, e-marketplace	Framework agreements, DPS, e-marketplace
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Central Procurement Agency of the Region Lombardy \n\n www.centraleacquisti.regione.lombardia.it	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	For all
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiated procedures, framework agreements and e-auctions	Framework agreements
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Intercent-ER (e-Procurement Platform of the Emilia Romagna Region) \n\n http://www.intercent.it/	Yes	Yes

	For which goods, services and public works?	For goods and services (public works are excluded)	For goods and services (public works are excluded)
	For which procedures?	Framework agreements, e-auctions, e-marketplace	Framework agreements, e-marketplace

Comments: On the national platform AcquistinretePA, framework agreements stipulated by Consip are mandatory for central contracting authorities for the procurement of 8 categories of office supplies and services. Acquistinretepa.it also offers the e-marketplace, MEPA, for purchases below the EU threshold.

The regional platforms of Lombardy and Emilia Romagna are mandatory for regional contracting and both regional governments have made e-procurement a key policy target.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Furniture	Cleaning products
IT (HW and SW)	Training and education services
Stationery	Electric material and air conditioning equipment
Surgical instruments	Gas provision
Individual protection devices	Print and copy equipment
Electric maintenance services	Laboratory equipment
Elevator maintenance services	TLC products
Office and road signals	Office cleaning services

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government (the Ministry of Economy and Finance), within the frame of the programme for the rationalisation of public spending, annually monitors and collects data on the e-procurement flow of the national platform (www.acquistinrete.it) handled by Consip. The monitoring activity and reporting are mandatory by national law only for the national platform run by Consip. Monitoring covers the main categories of data indicated in the table below: an information gap is mentioned by the policy maker only for the level of take-up, which is not measured.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	**YES**	**YES**	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	**YES**	**YES**	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	**YES**	**YES**	
Number and type of suppliers	**YES**	**YES**	
Drivers and barriers	**YES**	**YES**	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

The information reported has been collected by interviewing 2 contracting authorities that carry out their electronic purchases through their own e-procurement platforms. The main information gaps concern the identification of the benefits achieved through the use of e-procurement and the drivers/barriers to greater adoption of e-procurement.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	**YES**	**NO**	
Volume and value of e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	**YES**	**NO**	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Number and type of suppliers engaged	**YES**	**YES**	
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

L A T V I A

Updated to January 31, 2013

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Finance (for public procurement policy and legislation) in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (e-government policy making and legislation).
Other relevant bodies	The Procurement Monitoring Bureau is responsible for supervision, complaints examination in accordance with the Remedies Directive, publication of tender notices, and methodological support for contracting authorities/entities. The State Regional Development Agency is responsible for the development and implementation of the national e-procurement system.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The Plan for the Improvement of the Electronic Procurement System was accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers via Order No. 123 on February 19, 2009. http://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=40148587 There is a new Plan for the Development of the National Platform on e-Tendering and e-Auctions under discussion by the Cabinet of Ministers. http://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=40251123
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	Main objectives of the plan are the establishment of the e-auction and e-tender infrastructure at a national level, improvement of the electronic documents infrastructure (for verification of compliance to the exclusion criteria) and increase of the number of e-catalogues in the existing electronic procurement system (e-catalogue system).
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information	http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=208575 https://www.eis.gov.lv/Categories/CategoryList.aspx http://www.iub.gov.lv/iubsearch/pt/_pr/	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	The Procurement Monitoring Bureau and the State Regional Development Agency provide training to the contracting authorities through jointly held seminars on the procurement legal framework and e-procurement benefits.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Latvia supports the virtual eParaksts (e-signature), a qualified (secure) electronic signature for online use in the website www.eparaksts.lv to sign documents, perform document verification, shared documents to be signed by multiple parties, and bulk signing. This is available to foreign suppliers without the need for physical presence.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** There is no specific regulation for SME access to e-procurement. Nevertheless the State Regional Development Agency has divided procurements for the e-catalogue system to facilitate SMEs, depending on the regional principle and the object of procurement. Also requirements for suppliers' qualification depend on the amount of each separate lot, so smaller lots lead to lower requirements and a lower entry threshold for SMEs.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, all the contract notices must be published on the national portal (http://www.iub.gov.lv/). Information about procurements must be published also on the web page of the corresponding contracting authority together with procurement documentation.
For which contracting authorities?	For all.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all (except for the "Part B" services where information must be published only on the corresponding contracting authority's web page).
For which procedures?	For open, restricted, competitive dialogue and negotiated procedure as well as simplified open procedure for the thresholds indicated below.
Above which threshold(s)?	e-Notification is mandatory for the procedures indicated above and for contracts of value over LVL 20,000 (€28,730) for supply and services contracts and over LVL 120,000 (€172,383) for public works contracts.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the Procurement Monitoring Bureau's website (http://www.iub.gov.lv/).

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases. It is planned to become mandatory for all the contracting authorities and all procedures (starting no later than 2016).
For which contracting authorities?	For national contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For the goods and services covered by framework agreements.
For which procedures?	From 2016 it will be mandatory for all procedures. Currently, e-submission is mandatory for contracts under the framework agreements concluded by the State Regional Development Agency for the post award phase. The implementation of framework agreements may foresee mini-tendering procedures between the selected suppliers, using e-submission and/or e-auction (for procurements above LVL 20,000, or €28,730).
Above which threshold(s)?	Above LVL 20,000 (€28,730). In future the thresholds will be the same used for e-notification.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Electronic procurement system managed by the State Regional Development Agency https://www.eis.gov.lv/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Only for goods and services covered by framework agreements	Only for goods and services covered by framework agreements
	For which procedures?	Framework agreements, e-auctions, electronic marketplace	Framework agreements
National Advertising Portal	The Procurement Monitoring Bureau offers only e-notification http://www.iub.gov.lv/	No	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments: The State Regional Development Agency (Valsts reģionālās attīstības aģentūra — VRAA) runs the electronic procurement platform which provides e-catalogues and e-ordering services for the management of the centralised framework agreements, as well as limited e-submission for reopening of competition within FA. The plan is to offer e-submission for all procedures in the future. Multiple framework agreements are established with different suppliers to ensure a competitive marketplace. e-Payment services are provided on another platform: http://www.kase.gov.lv/?object_id=349.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Computer and server hardware	Office equipment
Standard software and software development	Networking services
Household goods, medicine, foods	

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments

The national government, through the Procurement Monitoring Bureau System, monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities on an annual basis and is obliged to produce an annual report for the Cabinet of Ministers. The following table presents the type of information monitored. The Procurement Monitoring Bureau has visibility on all types of data achievable from the platform activity except for the type of barriers and drivers to the adoption of e-procurement.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	**YES**	**YES**	

	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	NO	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

L I T H U A N I A

Updated to January 10, 2013

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Economy shapes the overall public procurement policy, coordinates with other ministries and responsible institutions, and submits proposals to the government concerning policy. It is also responsible for the compatibility of the national public procurement policy with EU policies.
Other relevant bodies	The Public Procurement Office coordinates the procurement activities, supervises compliance of procurement activities with public procurement law and implements legislation. The Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) is the central purchasing organisation responsible for providing procurement services to contracting authorities through the e-catalogue information system (since January 1, 2013, functions of the central purchasing body will be transferred from CPMA to CPO LT). The CPMA (since January 1, 2013, CPO LT) acts also as the national central purchasing body.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The strategy for 2009–2013 (launched on October 14, 2009) for the development and improvement of the Lithuanian public procurement system.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The strategy includes the improvement of the national e-procurement infrastructure.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	The strategy for improving and expanding public procurement systems in 2009–2013 includes a specific e-procurement target for take-up that should be 70% of the value of public contracts by 2013. Specifically for e-tendering, the presentation made by Irina Zalužnaja (see below for link) states that, since September 15, 2009, it is mandatory to implement no less than 50% of procurement value per year in CVP IS.
For further information		http://www.kozbeszerzes.hu/static/uploaded/document/Irina_Zaluznaja_angol.pdf http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=355759&p_query=&p_tr2=
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		There is no specific facilitation, since contracting authorities are mandated to use e-procurement for at least 50% of their total procurement.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Tender notices can be accessed and downloaded without using a national ID.
		Obstacles: Qualified digital signature required to submit tenders online and contract signature must be done physically.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** One aim in Lithuania's public procurement system improvement and expansion strategy for 2009–2013 is to promote SME participation in public procurement. The Public Procurement Office created recommendations on how to promote SME participation in public procurement. In addition the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania, Public Procurement Office, and municipalities organise training and information events for SMEs on public procurement issues.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, on the national portal.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	All, except simplified procedures if the contract value (net of VAT) is less than LTL 100,000 for goods and services or less than LTL 500,000 for public works.
Above which threshold(s)?	• For goods €28,962 • For services €28,962 • For public works €144,810
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the Central e-Procurement System CVPIS https://pirkimai.eviesiejipirkimai.lt/login.asp?B=PPO&target=&timeout=

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in some cases. The national law set mandatory take-up targets: contracting authorities have to do e-tendering (which includes e-notification, e-submission and e-awarding) through the Central Public Procurement Information System for at least 50% of their total procurement value per year. If this target is achieved, then since January 2014 e-submission will be requested in at least half of the competitions.
For which contracting authorities?	All except Lithuanian Republic diplomatic representatives, consulars abroad and Lithuanian Republic representatives under international organisations.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	Framework agreements.
Above which threshold(s)?	• For goods €28,962 • For services €28,962 • For public works €144,810

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Central System of e-Procurement https://pirkimai.eviesiejipirkimai.lt/login.asp?B=PPO&target=&timeout= National portal available at: http://www.cvpp.lt/	Yes	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	For all	Not applicable
National Public e-Procurement Platforms	Central project management agency (http://www.cpva.lt/); e-Catalogue system (http://www.cpo.lt/)	Yes (within the reopening of competition in the framework agreements)	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	For goods and services covered by framework agreements	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Framework agreements, e-auction, DPS	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The Central Public e-Procurement Portal (www.cvpp.lt) is part of the Central Public Procurement Information System (https://pirkimai.eviesiejipirkimai.lt/). In general, it is the same system which is reachable by different addresses. The national e-procurement platform is mandatory for e-notification and e-submission for all the contracting authorities. The Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) establishes framework agreements for the contracting authorities. CPMA, since January 1, 2013, CPO LT, acts as the central purchasing body in Lithuania. CPMA carries out framework agreements for products, services and public works, which are managed through an electronic catalogue, CPO.lt.

Main Categories of Products and Services of eCatalogue	
Office supplies	Fuel
Mobile communications	Computers and office equipment
Construction and building maintenance	Medicine

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments

The national platform monitors the use of e-procurement by contracting authorities quarterly, with an obligation to report the collected data to the national government. The following table presents the type of information monitored. The items highlighted in red are the types of information (benefits achievable through e-procurement and drivers and barriers to e-procurement) derivable from the platform's activity that are not monitored at the moment but which are of interest to the national government.

	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

Gap = Needed, not monitored

	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	**YES**	**YES**	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

Gap = Needed, not monitored

L U X E M B U R G

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure — Department of Public Works (http://www.mtp.public.lu/). The department is responsible for both public procurement and for e-procurement policy, legislation and implementation.
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The new e-government plan includes implementation objectives for e-procurement. The plan is called "Plan Directeur de la mise en oeuvre des technologies de l'information au sein de l'État 2010–2014". http://www.fonction-publique.public.lu/fr/publications/documents-strategiques/plan-technologies-information.pdf A former plan (e-Government Master Plan 2005–2010 (http://www.fonction-publique.public.lu/fr/publications/documents-strategiques/plan-directeur.pdf) developed the e-procurement platform.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The plan includes the development of the national public platform electronic services including the offering of e-notification and e-submission.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information		Regulation: Marchés publics — Communication du Ministre du Développement durable et des Infrastructures concernant la fixation des seuils en euros applicables aux marchés publics couverts par les directives 2004/17/CE et 2004/18/CE. http://www.legilux.public.lu/adm/b/archives/2011/0106/b106.pdf#page=10
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		Planned. Luxemburg is discussing an e-procurement adoption plan which should include targets for adoption and facilitation to promote it.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** e-Signatures are needed for e-procurement, but certification authorities provide e-signatures also to foreign operators that do not have offices in Luxemburg.
		Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities.

For which goods, services and public works?	All.
For which procedures?	All.
Above which threshold(s)?	€55,000
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes. Portal de Marchés Publics. Entry point: http://www.marches.public.lu/fr/index.php Portal: https://pmp.b2g.etat.lu/?page=entreprise.EntrepriseHome

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No. e-Submission is not available yet on the national e-procurement platform; it is planned to be available from 2013. Luxemburg does not plan to make e-submission mandatory.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Portal de Marchés Publics http://www.marches.public.lu/fr/index.php https://pmp.b2g.etat.lu/?page=entreprise.EntrepriseHome	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.
Comments: Marchés Publics plans to make e-submission operational by the end of 2012.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government annually monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. The national e-procurement platform is obliged to report monitoring data about e-procurement to the national government. The policy maker highlighted a gap in data about the number and type of suppliers. The contracting authority interviewed belongs to the Ministère du Développement Durable et des Infrastructures and does not perform any monitoring activity of e-procurement, but believes that all types of data are important. Therefore there is a large information gap.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	NO	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	NO	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO	YES	X
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

M A L T A

Updated to March 14, 2013

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Department of Contracts (www.contracts.gov.mt), within the Ministry for Finance (http://finance.gov.mt/). The main mission of the Department of Contracts is to provide the necessary administrative structures to carry out public procurement on the principles of fairness, transparency and non-discrimination between economic operators. The aims, objectives and responsibilities of the department are set out in the Public Procurement Regulations, Subsidiary Legislation 174.04.
Other relevant bodies	The Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA —https://www.mita.gov.mt/Default.aspx) is the prime government agency with a mandate spanning from information and communications technology (ICT) policy to programmes and initiatives in Malta. MITA manages full implementation of IT programmes in government focusing on enhancing public service delivery and provides the infrastructure needed for the provision of ICT services to government. MITA is also responsible for the diffusion of ICT within society and the economy; MITA also promotes and delivers programmes aimed at enhancing ICT education and the use of ICT as a learning tool.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	The Department of Contracts, as part of the Ministry of Finance, manages the regulatory framework including the implementation of electronic procurement across the Maltese islands. The Maltese government has among its goals strict adherence to the EU targets which concern electronic procurement. In fact, the Department of Contracts is taking a leading role to assist Maltese contracting authorities that are directly involved in public procurement, as well as economic operators that play a vital role in the procurement process. The holistic approach adopted by the Department of Contracts considers both sides of the coin as equally important for the effective implementation of electronic procurement.
		An important milestone of the plan was the transition of all public procurement with an estimated cost of €120,000 or above, from traditional to electronic procurement by January 1, 2013. Although there are no specific targets for below-threshold tenders, the strategic approach of the Department of Contracts shows that by the end of year 2013, the great majority of below-threshold procurement will also be performed electronically.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	No	The Department of Contracts is managing the adoption of e-procurement in Malta as a matter of policy, rather than in terms of a national plan. The department aims to have all contracting authorities transit to e-tendering even though no formal plan is set to increase take-up.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	The e-procurement regulatory framework includes an important target date of January 1, 2013, to carry out all public procurement with an estimated cost of €120,000 or above to electronic procurement.
		Although there is no fixed date for below-threshold procurement (below €120,000), it is expected that by the end of 2013 the great majority of below-threshold procurement will also be performed electronically.
For further information		https://mitc.gov.mt/MediaCenter/PDFs/2_NISCO-24%20.pdf
		https://www.mita.gov.mt/MediaCenter/PDFs/1_MITA%20Strategic%20Plan%202009-2012%20%28web%29.pdf
		http://www.mra.org.mt/Downloads/Legislations/LN2005_178.pdf
		The Public Procurement Regulations may be viewed at the following URL:
		www.contracts.gov.mt
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		The Department of Contracts engaged in intensive training for contracting authorities to help them in the transition towards electronic procurement. This training was delivered in collaboration with the Centre for Development, Research and Training. During 2012 alone, more than 400 public procurers were trained on how to operate through the EPPS (national e-procurement platform).

Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Foreign economic operators can participate in e-tendering by following this registration process:
	• Register themselves online on the website • Download, compile and send a form (self-certification letter) to obtain authorisation to use the e-procurement system • The Maltese System Administration Team verifies the letter • The account is activated allowing the use of the platform tools • Verification and authentication are normally conducted immediately as the letter of authorisation is received: according to the system administrators the process requires a short time and is considered to be user-friendly
	Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Tenders are divided into small lots: this tendering structure has been designed to involve SMEs in e-procurement.
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	No. Malta has procured a single e-procurement platform that will serve all e-tendering requirements of all local contracting authorities, irrespective of their legal nature, in line with the Public Procurement Regulations 2010.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, it is mandatory for all contracting authorities.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all goods, services and public works.
For which procedures?	For open and restricted procedure, competitive dialogue, negotiated procedure, excluding direct procurement.
Above which threshold(s)?	e-Notification is mandatory for purchases above €120,000. For purchases between €6,000 and €120,000 e-notification will eventually become mandatory, and is currently voluntary depending on the procedure selected.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Planned — EPPS will become the one-stop portal. Currently, contract notices are published on the Department of Contracts' website, as well as on the main public authorities' websites.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes, since January 2013.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all.
Above which threshold(s)?	For tenders with an estimated cost of €120,000 or above.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Department of Contracts — Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) https://www.etenders.gov.mt/epps/home.do	Yes	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, negotiated and competitive dialogue procedures	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comment: EPPS is designed to eventually become the single electronic procurement platform for all tenders issued by government departments and public organisations. The EPPS is operated by the Department of Contracts with the support of the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA). Currently, Malta is still in a transition phase so there are still government departments and organisations that issue tenders in the traditional manner; however, in the short to medium terms they will also have to make the shift to e-procurement. On the other hand, some organisations such as MITA are also planning to introduce post-award services, including e-ordering, e-invoicing and e-payment, whereas few major corporations (Schedule 5 Authorities, Enemalta Corporation and the Water Services Corporation) deal with public procurement autonomously, but will converge on EPPS in the short term.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The Department of Contracts, as Malta's Central Government Authority, is driving the transition to e-procurement. As such, it is assisting other contracting authorities and monitoring developments. In the government's opinion, all main categories of data are monitored and they are all needed, so there is no information gap. The contracting authorities interviewed (the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs, the Department for Local Government, Ministry for Home and Parliamentary Affairs, and the Ministry for Education and Employment) collect basic data on the usage and value of e-procurement, which is monitored annually and occasionally on a need to know basis. There is no obligation to report e-procurement monitoring data to national government. However, there is an information gap because contracting authorities do not monitor the other main categories of data and consider them relevant.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	YES	YES	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

NETHERLANDS

Updated to February 1, 2013

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Economic Affairs.
Other relevant bodies	PIANOo (Professional and Innovative Tendering, Network for Government Contracting Authorities) is an expertise centre and part of the ministry of Economic Affairs. It aims to professionalise procurement and tenders for contracting authorities and contracting entities. TenderNed (the Dutch system for e-procurement) is managed by PIANOo (http://www.pianoo.nl/about-pianoo). Logius is the digital government service of the Netherlands Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) that offers a cohesive ICT infrastructure to public service providers so that citizens and businesses can reliably, quickly and easily conduct electronic business with them (http://www.logius.nl/english/).

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	There are operational plans in the Netherlands related to the e-government strategy, to finalise regulation which will make it mandatory to use the public platform TenderNed for all tender opportunities. There is no national plan for e-procurement adoption. The Public Procurement Act, which has been adopted by parliament and will enter into force in April 2013, obliges all contracting authorities to publish their tender announcements on the website TenderNed.nl.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The Public Procurement Act makes e-notification mandatory (see above). The operational plans include the development of the national public platform TenderNed, which will offer mandatory e-notification services and other e-procurement services.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	None specific.
For further information		http://www.tenderned.nl/sites/default/files/Factsheet_English.pdf http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2011/03/28/nota-naar-aanleiding-van-het-verslag-aanbestedingswet.html
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		No specific incentives. The new Public Procurement Act contains an obligation for contracting authorities and contracting entities to publish contract notices on TenderNed. TenderNed offers online support throughout the procurement process. TenderNed is free of charge for both contracting authorities/entities and economic operators. Facilitation by PIANOo. This body brings experts in specific areas together, pools knowledge and experience, and provides advice. It also fosters dialogue between government contracting authorities and private sector companies. TenderNed is managed by PIANOo.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific.
		Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** TenderNed also provides an electronic vault and a database for company details. Relevant documents, including specifications and information notices, will be made available online. This enables all enterprises to register only once and to be able to participate in many tenders without sending their documents again. This is particularly relevant for SMEs.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Planned since April 1, 2013, on the national platform TenderNed for all public contract notices.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all types of procurement.
For which procedures?	For all public procurement procedures, excluding direct procurement.
Above which threshold(s)?	The threshold is not relevant, only the selection of the procurement procedure.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	As of the entry into force of the new Public Procurement Act (April 1, 2013) TenderNed will be the one-stop information point. TenderNed automatically publishes contract notices that exceed the EU threshold on Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) (http://www.tenderned.nl/).

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No. e-Submission is currently voluntary and provided by the national public platform TenderNed and private platforms. Full digital support on the platform is available.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	TenderNed http://www.tenderned.nl/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	No restriction	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, negotiated procedure and limited bidding procedures (pre-selection of potential suppliers)	Not applicable
Private e-Procurement Platform	Private platform https://platform.negometrix.com/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable

	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, e-auctions, DPS, electronic marketplace, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
Private platform	http://www.ctmsolution.nl/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, electronic marketplace, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
Private platform	http://www.aanbestedingskalender.nl/	No	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
Private platform	http://www.projectned.nl/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
Private platform	http://www.commerce-hub.com/nl.html	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, e-auctions, negotiated procedure	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government does not monitor formally the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. However, the policy makers believe that the data listed in the table below is useful and needed, so there is currently a large gap between data collected and data needed. As of the entry into force of the new Public Procurement Act, TenderNed will provide statistical information on public procurement in the Netherlands. The most important data needed is the number of tenders processed online and the level of take-up. Two contracting authorities were interviewed, the Ministry of Economic Affairs itself for its own procurement activities, and a provincial government. The ministry does monitor its own procurement for all the categories of data identified, excluding the drivers and barriers, which it would like to have. The provincial government does not currently monitor its e-procurement activity.

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Level of take-up of e-procurement	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**NO**	**NO**	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Number and type of suppliers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	**Planned**	**YES**	
Volume and value of e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	**YES**	**YES**	
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

Gap = Needed, not monitored

POLAND

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Public Procurement Office (http://www.uzp.gov.pl/cmsws/page/?F;356) plays a policymaking and coordinating role for the whole public procurement system. It is an independent unit within the Polish government.
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	There are many debates on e-government in general. Currently, the new proposal for e-procurement strategy is under evaluation of the Committee of Digitalisation and once approved it will be presented on the Public Procurement Office website (http://www.msw.gov.pl/portal/SZS/495/6271/). The proposed new regulation could be available in 2012.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The plan is to carry out all public procurement procedures electronically by 2016.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information		Report on functioning of public procurement system 2010: http://www.uzp.gov.pl/cmsws/page/?F;378 Polish procurement office report 2011 (available only in local language) at http://www.uzp.gov.pl/cmsws/page/GetFile1.aspx?attid=5450
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		**Facilitation:** As part of the actions taken to increase the use of electronic tools, the Public Procurement Office made available to awarding entities a free-of-charge IT system used to conduct electronic auctions and electronic bidding (the electronic bidding module was launched in 2009, and the electronic auction module on January 6, 2010).
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** No.
		Obstacles: No. If they act following the Public Law Regulation. In 2010, 570 contracts were awarded to foreign economic operators. The majority were won by operators from the United Kingdom and Germany (22% of contracts each), followed by Switzerland (7%), Italy and the Czech Republic (6% each), the Netherlands (5%), as well as Austria, France and the US (4% of contracts each).
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** None specific.
		Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		No. It is responsibility of the providers to make sure they are compliant with the regulation.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes. Contracting authorities are obliged to use the one-stop information portal of the Public Procurement Office.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and	All.

public works?	
For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiations without announcement, competitive dialogue, electronic auctions, framework agreements, DPS.
Above which threshold(s)?	For purchases above €14,000.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes. The Advertising Portal run by the Public Procurement Office: http://www.uzp.gov.pl/cmsws/page/?F;239

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Public e-Procurement Platform	The Public Procurement Office portal leads to two separate websites as indicated below: http://www.uzp.gov.pl/cmsws/page/?F;239	Yes	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Planned
	For which procedures?	e-Auction and electronic bidding	Planned
	e-Auction Platform for Public Procurement https://licytacje.uzp.gov.pl/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	e-Auction and bidding for all types	Not applicable
	e-Auction Platform for Public Procurement https://aukcje.uzp.gov.pl/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and	Goods, services and public	Not applicable

	public works?	works	
	For which procedures?	e-Auction and bidding for all types	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	Tender Service Sp.z o.o. focused on e-notification http://www.przetargi.info/	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted procedures	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The e-Auction Platform for Public Procurement (https://aukcje.uzp.gov.pl/) is run by the Public Procurement Office; the e-Auction Platform for Public Procurement (https://licytacje.uzp.gov.pl/) is similar to the one noted above but the main difference is that users must register to see listings. It is also run by the Public Procurement Office. "Electronic bidding" concerns a separate procedure for placing orders for defined goods and services which may be implemented if the contract value is less than the EU thresholds. "e-Auctions" are used as a way of selecting the best tender in open tendering, restricted tendering and negotiated procedures.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government annually monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. The Public Procurement Office is obliged to report monitoring data about e-procurement. The policy maker does not declare any information gap because it collects all the data that it feels is relevant. Unfortunately it was not possible to interview contracting authorities about their monitoring practices and needs.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	NO	NO	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices			
Volume and value of e-procurement			
Level of take-up of e-procurement			
Benefits achieved through e-procurement			
Number and type of suppliers engaged			
Drivers and barriers			

Gap = Needed, not monitored

PORTUGAL

Updated to December 26, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	Two ministries are responsible for the public procurement strategy in Portugal: • Ministry of Finance, with the support of the Shared Services Entity for the Public Administration (ESPAP, I.P., previously ANCP — National Agency for Public Procurement), concerning central purchasing. ESPAP, I.P. is, among other tasks, the managing entity of the mandatory National System for Public Procurement (SNCP). • Ministry of Economy and Employment, with the support of the Institute of Construction Works and the Estate Sector (InCI), concerning public procurement in general. ESPAP, I.P. is the managing entity of the mandatory National System for Public Procurement (SNCP). SNCP was designed for central administration and it is managed by ESPAP, with the support of the Ministerial Purchases Units (one for each ministry), in a network system, used on a mandatory basis by contracting entities from central administration and public institutes and on a voluntary basis by other contracting entities, regardless of the level of administration (central, regional and local) or its nature. ESPAP defines the rules and awards framework agreements on main transversal categories, providing the required support to contracting purchasing entities of the SNCP and leading centralised call-off procedures for defined categories. ESPAP, I.P. also manages and supervises the centralised technological tools developed to support e-procurement procedures within SNCP (www.espap.pt; www.ancp.gov.pt). Following the memorandum of understanding signed between Portuguese government, IMF, EC and ECB, Portugal launched a Project Group for the Information and Communications Technologies aimed to prepare a global strategic plan to rationalise and reduce the ICT costs in the public administration. Under this plan, among other measures, it was established that Portugal would launch a business-to-administration e-procurement system, to enlarge the coverage of the procurement cycle in the public administration. According to the Council of Ministers Resolution RCM no. 12/2012, ESPAP is responsible for the definition and implementation of this measure. InCI, I.P. has, among other tasks, the responsibility of public procurement in general, namely, the proposal of public law projects in the area of public procurement, and the transposition of EU directives, the coordination of the Monitoring Committee for the Code of Public Contracts, and the application of fines for the violation of the Public Procurement Code (http://www.inci.pt). Specifically, concerning e-procurement, InCI is responsible for the management of the Public Contracts Portal — Portal BASE (www.base.gov.pt) — website in which all the electronic platforms for public procurement (currently 8) and all contracting authorities report data relating to the formation and execution of their procedures — and for the Public Works Observatory (http://www.base.gov.pt/oop/), which is an online subsystem of Portal BASE dedicated to contracts and execution of public works.
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	Since 2003, e-procurement has become a strategic goal for Portugal, and in that year a National e-Procurement Plan (PNCE) was launched. e-Procurement is now reflected in the national law (Code for Public Contracts — CCP and Portaria no. 701-A/2008), which made e-tendering and e-awarding mandatory for all procedures above €5,000 since November 1, 2009. To insure availability, the Portuguese government developed a regulated market for private e-procurement platforms, which must be formally certified by a different public body with no other involvement in public procurement. All contracting authorities, including ESPAP, are obliged to use one of the certified e-platforms, at least for the open procedures. Along with e-platforms, the Code for Public Contracts predicted the existence of a national website in which all public procurement procedures should be published, whether by e-

platforms, or directly by contracting authorities (in the case of direct awards).

In the particular case of ANCP, the National Public Procurement Agency (Agência Nacional de Compras Públicas, EPE), created in 2007 with the mission to set up, implement and manage the National Public Procurement System (SNCP), the top priorities were:

- The development and implementation of centralised framework agreements covering categories of goods and services that aim to fulfill common needs of the public administration (16 categories so far).
- The development and implementation of a Technological Model able to provide full support to framework agreement procedures and call-offs (national e-procurement platform).
- Enhanced statistical information and reports on public procurement (goods and services), through the setting up of a comprehensive Public Procurement Information System, responding to both management control needs and EU requirements.

They have been successfully implemented and they are now planned to be improved by ESPAP. For future steps, Portugal predicts new legislation to regulate the functioning and operation of the e-platforms in order to:

- Promote the mandatory use of electronic platforms for all kind of procedures.
- The promotion of complete interoperability of all e-platforms with the BASE portal.
- The development of functionalities of electronic platforms and the public procurement national website (BASE), through the introduction of a technological system property of the Portuguese government and managed by InCI, aiming to harmonise and manage the specifications of public works.

Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The main objectives for e-procurement in Portugal were achieved: • The demUserialisation of all procedures in public procurement • The use of electronic platforms for the open procedures, assuring the transparency, accountability and simplification of procedures e-Procurement plans for the next few years are focused on improving coordination and interoperability, with the following strategic objectives: • Building common processes based on functional design, business process and supplier interfaces • Creating a shared value sustainable solution reducing investments for the government • Managing procurement as a strategy area of government • Promoting corporate governance in electronic public procurement From the point of view of development of the technology solutions, these are the main objectives: • Single platform: offering all components of the public procurement chain in one single web-based tool • Offer a single sign on system with one access point and data management for the different stakeholders • Develop a real-time data monitoring and control system for the entire procurement process • For the BASE portal, it is expected to improve the studies on the database to build up a better indicators system; it is also expected that the indicators report to the European Commission will be built on the BASE database
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	Since 2009 e-procurement is mandatory to all public entities, regardless of their nature (national, central, local, state-owned companies, etc.) or the type or object of procedure (public works, services, goods). The ultimate objective is 100% usage of e-procurement by all contracting authorities.
For further information		http://www.ancp.gov.pt/EN/noticias/Pages/ANCPnoConselhoInformalCompetitividade.aspx http://www.inci.pt/portugues/inci/estudosrelatoriossectoriais/estudosrelatrios%20sectoriais/contratacao%20publica%20-%20relatorio%20sintese%20-%202010.pdf http://www.epractice.eu/files/eGovernmentPortugal.pdf www.epractice.eu/files/DE%20CARVALHO.PPTThe Portuguese Public Procurement Case (November 2011)
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		None specific.

Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** No, there is no Portuguese law which rules on or determines aspects for cross-border e-procurement or encourages cross border e-procurement actions.
	Obstacles: Yes. Contract notices are usually only in the national language. The use of e-ID cards — qualified signatures, required for e-submission — is most of the time only accessible through local credentials.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	Yes. Contracting authorities must use certified tendering platforms for open procedures. The Governmental Informatic Networks Management Center (CEGER — http://www.ceger.gov.pt/) is the entity entitled to execute the supervision of electronic platforms and does the accreditation and monitors suppliers of electronic platforms (and the respective service) used for public purchases.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes. With the exception of direct awarding ("Ajuste Directo"), all open procedures must be advertised in the official publication, the Journal of the Portuguese Republic (Diario Republica — http://www.dre.pt/sug/2s/cp/ddia.asp). Direct awards must be published in the BASE portal before execution.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	All goods, services and public works.
For which procedures?	All procedures. Only framework agreements for centralised procurement must be published online on the platform managed by ESPAP. The direct awarding procedure is excluded.
Above which threshold(s)?	Above €5,000 all procurement procedures must be electronic.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes. All open procedures are published in the BASE portal: http://www.base.gov.pt/base2/.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	Yes. Since November 1, 2009, all public competitive (open, restricted or negotiated) procedures to start a public contract have to be conducted through e-tendering, for any type of purchase (goods, services and public works).
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities, excluding the Azores islands authorities. In addition, national contracting authorities must use centralised framework agreements for common goods and services when available. For these contracts, contracting authorities must use the ESPAP platform. UMC (Ministerial Procurement Units) also use the ESPAP platform to run centralised procedures under these framework agreements.
For which goods, services and public works?	e-Tendering obligation: for goods, services and public works. For centralised procurement: only for goods and services, not public works.
For which procedures?	For open and restricted procedures and framework contracts excluding direct awarding (below €5,000).
Above which threshold(s)?	Mandatory for all contracts above €5,000. The thresholds for centralised procurements are above €75,000 for goods and services and €150,000 for public works.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	There are 8 certified e-platforms listed in Portal BASE: (http://www.base.gov.pt/base2/html/plataformas/plataformascertificadas.shtml), namely: AcinGov — https://www.acingov.pt/ anoGov — http://www.anogov.com/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
	Mercado Eletronico: https://comprasgov.forumb2b.com/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
	Gatewit https://www.compraspublicas.com/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
	Compras PT http://www2.compraspt.com/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable

	Saphety gov http://www.saphety.com/saphetygov	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
	Vortal http://portugal.vortal.biz/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
	PT prime TradeCom http://www.tradeforum.pt/default.asp	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable
	eSPap — Public Administration Shared Services Entity, http://www.espap.pt (under construction), running the following platform: http://concursos.ancp.gov.pt . This also provides an e-catalogue platform: https://catalogo.ancp.gov.pt/catalogo/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services, not public works, for the 16 categories of centralised procurement indicated below	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, framework agreements, e-auction, DPS, negotiated procedure	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Car and motorcycle insurance	Non-mobile communications (voice and data)
Cleaning services and products	Office furniture
Electric vehicles	Paper and stationary
Energy (including electricity)	Printing and copying
e-Tendering tools	Security and surveillance services
Fuel and LPG	Software licensing
Hardware	Travel and accommodation
Meals (catering)	Vehicles and motorcycles
Mobile communications	

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities on a regular basis. Monitoring of existing public contracts is based on the registration procedures on the BASE platform (http://www.base.gov.pt/base2/) that advertises tenders. The use of e-procurement in public works is regularly monitored on the Observatorio das Obras Publicas (http://www.base.gov.pt/oop/) where contract information can be found.

All procedures are carried out electronically, in accordance with the Portuguese Procurement Code. The government monitoring system does not cover data on e-procurement benefits and about suppliers, drivers and barriers of e-procurement, and this creates an information gap. Similarly, the contracting authorities interviewed (ESPAP and INCI) highlighted information gaps about the level of e-procurement take-up, the benefits achieved through e-procurement, and drivers and barriers to e-procurement adoption.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	**YES**	**YES**	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	**YES**	**YES**	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	**YES**	**YES**	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	**YES**	**YES**	
Number and type of suppliers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

R O M A N I A

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The National Authority for Regulating and Monitoring Public Procurement (NARMPP) acts as the regulatory authority for public procurement, monitoring and supervisory body, and validation of contract notices.
Other relevant bodies	The Agency for Information Society Services (ASSI) is the public institution managing the Electronic System for Public Acquisitions (SEAP, after the Romanian acronym Sistemul Electronic de Achizitii Publice). The portal is: http://www.e-licitatie.ro/Public/Common/Content.aspx?f=PublicHomePage

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	There is no active plan, but the development of e-procurement falls within the objectives of the Public Procurement Reform Strategy approved by government decision in 2005 (Government Decision no. 901/2005), followed by an implementation Action Plan 2005–2007. This led to the establishment of the national portal for tenders publication. Further objectives were established with Government Decisions (see below). Currently, the applicable law is the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 34 of 2006 regarding public procurement, which was last updated on June 23, 2009, via the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 72 of 2009. The Government Decision of March 2010 added take-up targets (see below).
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The plans included the development of the NATIONAL platform http://www.e-licitatie.ro/Public/Common/Content.aspx?f=PublicHomePage.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	Yes	According to the Government Decision no. 167 of March 3, 2010, starting with 2010, a target was established for contracting authorities to use electronic means in awarding procedures and direct procurement for at least 40% of the total value of the procurement made during the year. If the target is not reached, the contracting authorities may be fined according to Government Decision 1660/2006, as amended and supplemented. Electronic means to fulfill the rate of 40% implies: • The use of electronic auctions for the final phase by using any procedure • And/or conducting a full public procurement procedure by electronic means • And/or the use of the electronic catalog available on the Electronic System for Public Procurement, for direct purchases
For further information		http://www.anrmap.ro/ http://www.e-licitatie.ro/Public/Common/Content.aspx?f=PublicHomePage
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		None specific.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Not specifically. Although the availability of the e-procurement infrastructure has increased significantly since 2004, little progress has been made concerning cross-border e-procurement.
		Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** Yes. For SMEs the participation in e-procurement procedures is free of charge, while non-SME suppliers must pay a flat fee to participate in the e-procurement procedures on the national platform and also for publishing products in the e-catalogues.
		Obstacles: None specific.

Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, on the national platform e-Licitatie.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all types of goods, services and public works.
For which procedures?	Open, restricted, e-auction, negotiated and request for quotation.
Above which threshold(s)?	• 130,000 TRY (€29,000) for supply and services • 865,000 TRY (€193,000) for public works
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	The mandatory platform e-Licitatie serves as the single point for electronic publication (http://www.e-licitatie.ro/Public/Common/Content.aspx?f=PublicHomePage) and e-auctions.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	The Government Decision set mandatory take-up targets for e-procurement. Contracting authorities must use electronic means for at least 40% of their total procurement (this means e-notification, e-auction, pre-award e-procurement).
For which contracting authorities?	The mandatory take-up targets are addressed to all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	All.
For which procedures?	All.
Above which threshold(s)?	• 130,000 TRY (€29,000) for supply and services • 865,000 TRY (€193,000) for public works

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Sistemul Electronic de Achizitii Publice (SEAP) http://www.e-licitatie.ro/Public/Common/Content.aspx?f=PublicHomePage	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	No formal restrictions	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, e-auction, negotiated procedure, and request for quotation.	Not applicable

Comments: The award of the services and public works contracts involving intellectual performances, such as consulting and design, cannot be the object of the electronic auction. Contracting authorities must use the national platform for e-auctions and e-catalogues. Contracting authorities may use e-auctions as the final phase of offline procedures.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government occasionally monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. All contracting authorities are obliged to report their e-procurement activities to the national government. The policy maker does not highlight any information gap, since the data considered relevant is already collected. The contracting authority interviewed a utility which currently does not collect data on its activities, but would like to have data on the contracts published and the volume and value of e-procurement.

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO	YES	X
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	NO	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	NO	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	NO	
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

S L O V A K I A

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Office for Public Procurement is the Central State Administration Authority for public procurement (http://www.uvo.gov.sk/). The office was established as an independent office with an independent budget on January 1, 2000, and was founded by Act No. 263/1999 Coll. on Public Procurement. The office is responsible for the development of state policy in the field of public procurement and for the review and control of tendering processes by contracting authorities and entities (as requested by the Act on Public Procurement No. 25/2006 Coll).
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The Office for Public Procurement is responsible for the implementation of the national project "Electronic Services of Public Procurement" (2009) in the frame of OPIS (the Strategy for the Development of the Information Society).
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The plan includes several steps: - Allowing e-submission of notices used in public procurement for all types of contract and procurement procedures electronically, linking the service e-sender and building a powerful e-communication interface to encourage the creation of a collection notice by the contracting authority/entity. - Extension, upgrade and construction of a new IS central processing connected to different registers. - Creation of a link between an Office for Public Procurement (OPP) to an information system of the Office for Publication in order to send mandatory notices to the Publications Office of the EU. - Introduction of new electronic services for the creation of a contract with the support of all procedures and procurement phases. - Extend EVO IS, a separate module without the use of e-auctions as in previous phases. - Introduction of simplified e-auctions for the lowest price. - Provision of easy-to-work-with documents, using the system for implementation document management. - Creation of a high-quality and safe communication interface for communication between the contracting authorities/entities and candidates/applicants. - Availability of the "full text" search tool. - Access to the blind and visually impaired. - Provision of a higher level of classified information in the automatic mode. - More effective options for access to the system for domestic and foreign users. - Ensuring the use of basic registers for harmonisation of data and security common modules use by the Office for Public Procurement. - Introduction of safety standards to all systems as well as the standard PPO for the exchange notice, offers information and support for communication between public contracting authorities/entities and candidates/applicants. - The parts of the plan easiest to achieve are the introduction of dynamic purchasing systems, implementation of the negotiated procedure with a publication, introduction of qualification systems and independent e-auctions. Steps 1, 4 and 6 have already been implemented.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information		Information on overall statistical evaluation of public procurement: http://www.uvo.gov.sk/english/statistics.html

	The Act 25/2006 on public procurement:
	http://www.uvo.gov.sk/english/act25_2006.html
	PPT presentation about e-procurement (in Slovak):
	http://www.esf.gov.sk/documents/2010/ElektronickeVOnaSlovensku.pdf
	OPIS Plan:
	http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/3907.pdf
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	No. There is no specific incentive for contracting authorities to use e-procurement; however, government resolution 852/2007 obliges central authorities to use EVO for purchases above national thresholds.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.
	Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** There is no explicit facilitation. However, there are a few initiatives that simplify the whole process and ease the access to contracts below the threshold and contracts of small value (which are likely to be awarded to SMEs).
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	No, as there is no other platform but EVO.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	All contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	All type of goods, services and public works. http://www.uvo.gov.sk/download/2010/english/act_fullversion_2010.pdf
For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedure, negotiated procedures and competitive dialogue.
Above which threshold(s)?	National Slovakian thresholds: • €10,000 for goods and services • €20,000 for public works
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the electronic Journal for Public Procurement: http://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik/eVestnik.html.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No. e-Submission is on a voluntary base.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	The Office for Public Procurement http://www.uvo.gov.sk/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures, e-auction	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	Tender Service, s.r.o. http://www.tender.sk/	No	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The tender service platform offers services based on the collection and publication of tender notifications, informing potential suppliers about tenders in their business area, based on customised search profiles.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government annually monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities. The National Platform is obliged to report monitoring data about e-procurement to the Office for Public Procurement (OPP). The government collects all the main types of data; there is an information gap in data on suppliers. However, the monitoring of benefits is difficult, particularly savings, since pricing is a dynamic part of e-procurement. The contracting authorities interviewed (which belong to the Ministry of Economy and to the regional government of Banska Bystrica, BBSK) monitor the use of e-procurement on a quarterly basis. They are obliged to report e-procurement data to the national government. Contracting authorities highlighted an information gap concerning data on suppliers and drivers and barriers to e-procurement adoption.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	NO	
Number and type of suppliers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	**NO**	**YES**	**X**
Drivers and barriers	**NO**	**YES**	**X**

Gap = Needed, not monitored

S L O V E N I A

Updated to December 31, 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Ministry of Finance is the body in charge.
Other relevant bodies	As of 30.06.2012, based on the Act on the Termination of the Public Procurement Agency, all its tasks were transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	No current plans, even though in order to draw on cohesion funds, metrics are being developed based on the number of institutions included in e-procurement and increased number of tenders published online. Most of the objectives will not need to be met until 2016.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	No	
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information	http://www.mf.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/sistem_javnega_narocanja/koristne_informacije_za_javno_narocanje/#c199	
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	None specific.	
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.	
	Obstacles: None specific.	
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.	

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, tender notices above the thresholds indicated below must be published on the national portal.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all types of goods and services and public works, including the utilities sector.
For which procedures?	All EU and national procedures (e.g. open, negotiated, framework agreements, DPS).
Above which threshold(s)?	For goods and services by public procurement authorities, contracts with a value equal to or greater than €20,000; for public works contracts with a value equal to or greater than €40,000. For contracting entities in the utilities sector (water, energy, transport and postal services) the

	thresholds are €40,000 for goods and services and €80,000 for public works.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Yes, the national advertising portal http://www.e-narocanje.si/, which is run by the Official Gazette (http://www.uradni-list.si/).

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No. At the moment, there are no e-procurement platforms in Slovenia providing e-submission services to contracting authorities.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		**e-Submission**	**e-Ordering**
National Advertising Portal	Public e-procurement portal http://www.e-narocanje.si/	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments: The public procurement portal provides only e-notification services at the moment. There is no e-submission service in Slovenia.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government does not monitor the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities, since it is currently underdeveloped. There are no obligations to report monitoring data about e-procurement. The policy maker states that all types of data indicated in the table would be useful. The 5 contracting authorities interviewed had the same opinion: no data is currently collected but all types are needed, with the partial exception of data on drivers and barriers, which is considered less relevant by all but one of the interviewees.

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	NO	YES	X
Volume and value of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

S P A I N

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Subdirección General de Coordinación de la Contratación Electrónica (e-Procurement Coordination, a unit of the Dirección General del Patrimonio del Estado, responsible for public procurement policy within the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration). http://www.minhap.gob.es/es-ES/Servicios/Contratacion/Paginas/default.aspx
Other relevant bodies	

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	No	There is no strategic plan for e-procurement in Spain, but the e-Procurement Coordination Department of the Ministry of Finance oversees the operational plans of development of the national e-procurement infrastructure. The Spanish Digital Agenda, which includes objectives about e-tendering, is planned and under consultation until September 2012. The Plan AVANZA 2 (https://www.planavanza.es/Paginas/Inicio.aspx) 2011–2015 for the development of the information society in Spain includes objectives of implementation of e-procurement services particularly for the post-award phase, focusing on e-invoicing. Catalunya and Pais Vasco have operational plans for the development of the regional public e-procurement platforms.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	Plan AVANZA 2: • Dissemination of tools to develop electronic invoices and services • Ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities in electronic signature and electronic commerce • Define specific performance frameworks for the deployment of electronic billing solutions
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information		Regulation: Real Decreto Legislativo 3/2011. Ley 34/2002 de Servicios de la Sociedad de la Información. Papers and information about e-procurement in Spain: http://www.iese.edu/research/pdfs/ESTUDIO-160.pdf http://www.agendadigital.gob.es/ http://www.ontsi.red.es/ontsi/en/indicadores/ieurope-2010/e-admin http://www.licitacionelectronica.es/?p=117 http://www.licitacionelectronica.es/?p=28 http://contrataciondelestado.es/
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		Simplified procedures for electronic tenders. Reduction of time limits in contracting procedures. In Catalunia, the use of corporate applications to manage e-procurement cases among the contracting authorities is fostered by Real Decreto Legislativo 3/2011. The AVANZA 2 Plan provides the following support to facilitate e-procurement adoption: communication and professional training on electronic invoices.

Cross-border e-procurement:	**Facilitations:** None specific.
facilitations/obstacles	**Obstacles:** The e-procurement platforms require qualified digital signatures for interactive transactions (e-submission and e-ordering). Spanish enterprises can use the national digital signature (DNiE). Foreign suppliers may have difficulties in receiving the necessary digital signatures. According to the responsible body, a pan-European e-ID system would be the best solution.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** Yes, in principle.
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	Any system of e-tendering and e-procurement must comply with Real Decreto 4/2010 Esquema Nacional de Interoperabilidad (ENI).

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all.
Above which threshold(s)?	Over €50,000 for public works and €18,000 for supplies and services.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	Planned. National contracting authorities are obliged to use PLACE (Plataforma de Contratación del Estado). The public procurement decree in 2011 introduced the obligation for all contracting authorities to publish tender notices on PLACE, to centralise access to procurement opportunities. This is implemented only by a minority of authorities so far. Currently they publish contract notices on their regional and local portals.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Plataforma de Contratación del Estado http://contrataciondelestado.es/	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	All except framework agreements, DPS and e-auctions, including competitive dialogue	Not applicable
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Conecta Patrimonio http://catalogopatrimonio.minhap.es/ A specialised system focused on framework agreements providing pre- and post-award services. It works as an electronic marketplace providing e-catalogues.	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods and services covered by the framework agreements	Goods and services covered by the framework agreements
	For which procedures?	Framework agreements, electronic marketplace	Framework agreements, electronic marketplace
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Generalitat de Catalunya https://contractaciopublica.gencat.cat/ecofin_pscp/AppJava/search.pscp?reqCode=start&set-locale=ca_ES	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Goods, services and public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures, framework agreements, minor contracts, competitive dialogue and negotiated procedures	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	Licitaciones.es http://www.licitaciones.es/ Specialised in the publication of tender opportunities, for all types of purchases, for open procedures	Planned	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Planned for all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Planned for all	Not applicable

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The Plataforma de Contratación del Estado (PLACE) is managed by the Dirección General del Patrimonio del Estado. The contract notices published on PLACE are automatically sent to the Boletín Oficial del Estado (http://www.boe.es/) and to the OJEU. National contracting authorities are obliged to use the Plataforma del Estado for purchases above the national thresholds for the publication phase only. Both PLACE and CONECTA support once and for all registration of contracting authorities and economic operators. Different mechanisms of electronic authentication are used in both systems, depending on the transaction involved. They vary from simplified eID (for initial registration and access to tender documents) to qualified digital signatures used for e-submission and e-ordering, or e-awarding. The e-submission and e-ordering services are provided only through email so far. The government has launched a call for tenders to procure a transactional e-tendering platform.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Electricity	IT services

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

Contracting authorities do not have formal obligations to report e-procurement data. The national government does not have a formal monitoring programme but collects data on the national platform activities. The type of data not collected and needed concerns the type of CAs and suppliers involved and the drivers and barriers to e-procurement use. The national contracting authority interviewed (the Departamento de Economía y Hacienda of the region Navarra) monitors the use of e-procurement every six months and is obliged to report the data to its communidad/government. It does not collect data on value and take-up of e-procurement, or on the suppliers, which it considers an information gap. It does not seem to be that interested in the collection of data about benefits, drivers and barriers.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	NO	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO	YES	X
Number and type of suppliers	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	YES	X

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices	YES	YES	
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO	YES	X
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	NO	NO	
Number and type of suppliers engaged	NO	YES	X
Drivers and barriers	NO	NO	

SWEDEN

Updated to March 23, 2013

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The e-procurement structure is highly decentralised. At central level, responsibility for the e-procurement field is split among the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, which is responsible for the pre-award phase of the e-procurement process, and the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communication for the post-award. County councils and municipalities, however, have an independent status and are generally free to organise procurement within their respective areas of competence. They often act on their own, or sometimes collaborate locally/regionally or through the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL), which is a central purchasing body (SKI) and promotes e-procurement.
Other relevant bodies	The Swedish Competition Authority is the supervisory body for public procurement. The supervision activities are prioritised with an orientation towards illegal direct award of contracts. New rules were included in the Swedish Public Procurement Act of July 15, 2010. These rules give the Swedish Competition Authority the possibility to take cases of illegal direct awarding of contracts to court. Public procurement is governed by the Swedish Public Procurement Act (2007: 1091, LOU), which is largely based on the EU Directive 2004/18/EC. The National e-Procurement Services (Avropa) is a department within Kammarkollegiet Sweden. The organisation was established in 2011 with the main goal of supplying procuring entities with coordinated framework agreements at national regional, and local levels. National Procurement Assistance and Development is a department within Kammarkollegiet Sweden. The organisation was established in 2009. The objective is to make it easier for the contracting authorities to make proper procurements and make it easier for companies to participate in public procurement to increase the number of tenders and competition. SKI (SKLKommentus) is also a central purchasing body (www.sklkommentus.se/inkopscentral) with the goal of procuring some goods and services for municipalities and regions. The Swedish National Finance Management Authority (Ekonomistyrningsverket, ESV), Kammarkollegiet and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) are cooperating under the name SFTI (Single Face To Industry) to establish and recommend standards for e-procurement, which means identifying user requirements, agreeing on standards, and taking part in development of standards at the international and national level. In addition, SFTI is responsible for promoting the adoption of specifications and guidelines among various industries and user groups.

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	Objectives for e-procurement adoption were included in the e-Government National Action Plan of 2008. The plan was mainly focused on the post-award (e-ordering and e-invoicing) phases and addressed to all agencies under the central government. A specific e-procurement initiative with a focus on pre-award was launched in 2009 and the results are expected with the Final Report on the e-Government Action Plan, whose deadline is December 31, 2014, at the latest.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The e-Government Plan includes development of a national infrastructure for e-procurement. All governmental agencies will introduce e-ordering in 2013, except small agencies with fewer than 50 employees. e-Invoicing has been mandatory since 2008. Many municipalities and county councils/regions have e-procurement and have started it on a voluntary basis in the past 10 years.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	
For further information	http://www.kkv.se http://www.avropa.se/	

	http://www.esv.se
	http://www.sklkommentus.se/inkopscentral
	http://www.sfti.se
	http://www.upphandlingsstod.se
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement	No specific facilitations, excluding the shortening of certain time limits for the tender procedures as stated in the EU directives on public procurement.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.
	Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific.
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	Yes, in specific cases. For any contract above 15% of the value of the EU threshold.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	For all.
For which procedures?	For all. For contracts below 15% of the EU thresholds an informal procedure without a contract notice may be applied.
Above which threshold(s)?	Above 15% of the EU threshold. In the classic sector (LOU) the threshold is SEK 284,631 (€34,056). In the utilities (LUF) and defence and security sector (LUFS) it is SEK 569,262 (€68,113).
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	There is no national portal for e-notification, but several main portals exist: Visma Opic (http://www.opic.com), e-Mercell (http://www.mercell.com), Avrop (https://www.e-avrop.com/Default.aspx), Avropa (http://www.avropa.se/) and Licitio (http://www.licitio.se/).

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary. e-Submission is left to contracting authorities on a voluntary basis as the central government has not established any mandatory central e-procurement platform: this is deliberately left to private operators. Many contracting authorities practice e-submission; recently, a study was carried out by Kammarkollegiet (www.upphandlingsstod.se/rapporter).
For which contracting authorities?	Not applicable.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Avropa is the national public e-procurement system managed by the Swedish National Financial Management Authority http://www.avropa.se/	Yes	Planned
	For which goods, services and public works?	All goods and services, excluding public works	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, negotiated, simplified, simplified restricted procedure, framework agreements	Not applicable
Private Advertising Portal	e-Avrop is Sweden's free online database for procurements and agreements, focused on e-notification https://www.e-avrop.com/Default.aspx	No	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Not applicable	Not applicable
Other Advertising Portals	Visma Opic and Mercell also provide e-notification services		
Private e-Procurement Platform	Mercell Svenska AB http://se.mercell.com/Mercell	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	For all
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure, framework agreements, e-auctions, DPS, negotiated procedure	Framework agreements
Other Private e-Procurement Platforms	Visma Opic, (TendSign) http://www.opic.com Amesto (Avantra) http://www.amestosolutions.se Kommer/primona http://www.primona.se EU-supply (CTM) http://www.eu-supply.com		

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Comments: The task of Avropa, the National Procurement Service, is to supply procuring entities with coordinated framework agreements for goods and services of general use and to supply coordinated framework agreements at

national, regional and local level within the area of ICT and telecoms. Avropa helps to coordinate the needs of the central government authorities by using framework agreements. Central government authorities and, in some cases, local and regional authorities, can use "call off" procedures within the framework agreements (special procedures within FA, where the contracting authority can launch calls for the supply of a specific quantity of goods or services over a given time, subject to the prices, specifications, and terms and conditions agreed). As mentioned above, there is a central purchasing body also for municipalities and county councils for some goods and services (SKLKommentus) even if they mostly do their own procurements on their own or together with a few others.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
Stationery	Vehicles
IT supplies and services	Furniture
Flight services	

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The national government monitors the use of e-procurement by the contracting authorities through monthly reporting by Avropa, one of the national portals. Further monitoring activities are carried out by the National Procurement Assistance and Development, which periodically (bi-annually) launches a web survey addressed to contracting authorities. The table below shows the type of data collected. There is a discussion ongoing in the National Procurement Department about the relevance of data, so there is no answer on the "data needed" column. We were not able to interview any contracting authority on information needs.

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES (value)		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	PLANNED		
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES		
Number and type of suppliers	YES		
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Considered Relevant and Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	**Monitored**	**Needed**	**Gap**
Online publication of contract notices			119
Volume and value of e-procurement			
Level of take-up of e-procurement			
Benefits achieved through e-procurement			
Number and type of suppliers engaged			
Drivers and barriers			

Gap = Needed, not monitored

UNITED KINGDOM
(EXCLUDING SCOTLAND)

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the national strategy for e-procurement	The Government Procurement Service (GPS, formerly known as "Buying Solutions") is an Executive Agency under the Cabinet Office created in March 2011. Overall priority is to provide procurement savings for the UK public sector as a whole and specifically to deliver centralised procurement for central government departments. GPS is the largest professional buying organisation (PBO) in the public sector and the only one with a legal remit to trade across the whole of UK public sector (http://gps.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/).
	The devolved governments of Wales (WA) and Northern Ireland (NI) are responsible for managing public procurement and e-procurement in their regions (see below), but the policy and legal framework for public procurement in Wales and Northern Ireland must comply with the UK's EU and international obligations, and the relations with the EU are the responsibility of the UK Cabinet Office.
	Scotland separately transposed EU public procurement regulation into Scottish law (see separate profile).
Other relevant bodies — Wales and Northern Ireland	**Wales.** The Value Wales division of the Welsh devolved government runs the xchangewales programme which aims to improve procurement efficiency, increase productivity and lower the cost of doing business for both public sector buyers and their suppliers. The programme manages the Welsh procurement platform (http://xchangewales.co.uk/index).
	Northern Ireland. The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) is part of the Department of Finance and is responsible for developing and establishing the policy framework and best practice public procurement for the wider public sector in Northern Ireland. The compliance of central departments is required while the compliance of local administrations (district councils) is voluntary. The Procurement Board chaired by the Minister of Finance has responsibility for the development, dissemination and coordination of public procurement policy and practice for the Northern Ireland public sector (http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/procurement-2/cpd.htm).

National Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	UK: Yes WA: Yes NI: Yes	UK: GPS runs an e-enablement strategy to support the sourcing, procurement and management of centralised deals and suppliers, only for central government procurement: http://gps.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-government-procurement-service/training-and-recruitment/e-procurement-programme. Wales: The xchangewales programme was introduced in 2008 to create efficiencies in procurement through the implementation and use of e-procurement tools and services. Northern Ireland: The Public Procurement Policy includes the development of e-procurement.
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	UK: Yes WA: Yes NI: Yes	UK: The e-enablement strategy for central government includes the development and implementation of a set of online tools and services including a single access portal; a Dynamic Marketplace to provide a quick request for quotation service for contracts below the EU threshold of £100,000; an e-marketplace to provide online catalogue access to centrally negotiated arrangements for products and services with fixed pricing; e-sourcing tools to enable the compliant sourcing of requirements over £100,000, including contract and supplier management; category specific tools to support centralised strategies; and the Contracts Finder tool to provide a single point for all new contract opportunities over £10,000. Wales: The xchangewales programme has implemented a full set of e-procurement tools and services through the https://www.buy4wales.co.uk/ and https://www.sell2wales.co.uk/ portals. NI: The Procurement Board has the responsibility to approve strategic targets for procurement performance, and to monitor progress against those targets, including the development of e-procurement.

Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	UK: No. Wales: No, but the programme has a target of up to £200 million worth of benefits for 2008–2012 from procurement efficiencies and savings. NI: No.
For further information		
Incentives/facilitations for contracting authorities to use e-procurement		UK, Wales and NI: No incentives. The national e-procurement infrastructures makes available tools and services for e-procurement as facilitations.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** UK, Wales and NI: None specific.
		Obstacles: UK, Wales and NI: Not in legislation. The UK government does not require the use of advanced or qualified e-signatures for e-procurement from non-UK bidders, which might represent an obstacle.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles		**Facilitations:** The UK national procurement strategy has the specific target of increasing the involvement of SMEs in e-procurement and public procurement through the reduction of difficulties for small suppliers. The target for central government is 25% of expenditure to go to SMEs. GPS is attempting to facilitate greater SME participation, for example through Contracts Finder and encouraging subcontracting to SMEs. In the recently launched procurement cloud store 74% of suppliers are SMEs (source: GPS Annual Reports and Accounts, 2011/12). Wales: The Sell2Wales portal is specifically designed to involve SMEs. NI: None specific.
		Obstacles: UK, Wales and NI: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms		None.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	UK: Yes, in some cases. Wales: Yes. NI: Yes.
For which contracting authorities?	UK: For central government contracting authorities. Some local authorities also require e-notification. NI: For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	UK: For all contract notices by central government. Northern Ireland: For all suppliers, services and public works procured under simplified procurement procedures.
For which procedures?	UK: For all procedures. Wales: For all procedures. Northern Ireland: For simplified procurement procedures.
Above which threshold(s)?	UK: For contracts above £10,000. Northern Ireland: Tender opportunities under the EU threshold and above £30,000 should be publicly advertised on the eSourcingNI portal according to the NI Public Procurement Handbook.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	UK: Yes, for central government http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/ Wales: Sell2Wales and Buy4Wales portals on xchangewales. NI: Yes, the eSourcingNI portal.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	UK — No, it is voluntary.
	WA — No, it is voluntary.
	NI — No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	For all contracting authorities.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
National Public e-Procurement Platform	Government Procurement Service: https://gpsesourcing.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sso/jsp/login.jsp eSourcing Suite	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open procedure, restricted procedure or competitive dialogue procedure for tenders over the OJEU threshold, or complex tenders under the OJEU threshold; further competitions between suppliers of existing framework agreements; e-auctions	Not applicable
Private e-Procurement Platform	eMarketplace run by ProcServe: https://buyers.procserveonline.com/procserveportal/login.html; http://www.procserve.com/solutions/central-government/	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	For 9 key spend categories procured through centralised contracts; for purchases for education and policy	For 9 key spend categories procured through centralised contracts; for purchases for education and policy
	For which procedures?	Request for quote (RFQ)	e-Marketplace, framework agreements, mini competitions, e-shop

Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Wales Regional Platform: http://xchangewales.co.uk/index With two different interfaces: For suppliers (https://www.sell2wales.co.uk/) and buyers (https://www.buy4wales.co.uk/buy4wales.aspx)	Yes	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Exclusion of public works
	For which procedures?	All	e-Marketplace, framework agreement, request for quotations
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Regional platform for e-tendering in Northern Ireland https://e-sourcingni.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	All	Not applicable
	For which procedures?	Open, restricted, competitive dialogue, dynamic purchasing system, framework agreement, e-auctions	Not applicable

Comments: Since 2011, the UK government has mandated the use of centralised contracts for procurement by national departments and arms-length bodies (ALBs). GPS has launched an e-marketplace to enable departments to easily access centrally negotiated deals and transact. In 2011–2012 centralised contracts were developed for the following categories of products/services: office solutions, professional services, travel, fleet, ICT commodities, print and print management, and advertising and media. The e-marketplace is delivered on behalf of Government Procurement by the Centre of Expertise and powered by technology provided by ProcServe. The Dynamic Marketplace is used for low risk, less complex procurement. It enables online quotes from pre-registered suppliers for non-catalogue items that can then be turned into an electronic purchase order and invoice transaction. GPS also offers an eSourcing Suite, an online system supporting end-to-end procurement activity including early market engagement, issuing invitations to tender, online evaluation, e-auctions, and post-award contract and supplier management. This is addressed to procurements over the £100,000 EU procurement threshold.

OPEN, run by ProcServe, is an e-procurement system and e-marketplace that enables schools and police to buy from suppliers in three ways: e-catalogues of goods and services, as a free-text order, and by requesting a quote from one or more suppliers.

xchangewales provides a comprehensive suite of e-procurement tools and associated support services including pre- and post-award services. It has a double interface for public buyers (Buy4Wales) and for suppliers (Sell2Wales), especially designed for SMEs. e-Trading is the platform dedicated to the post-award phase and consists of three key components:

- The Hub, which enables end users to search and view online catalogues and transact electronically with suppliers, including sending e-purchase orders and receiving e-invoices.
- An optional Purchase-to-Pay (P2P) tool which enables users to raise and approve purchase orders, receive goods/services, and process invoices electronically.
- A Management Information tool through which an organisation can review and analyze its Hub transactions.

The regional platform eSourcingNI is an electronic tendering site which allows suppliers to take part in tender opportunities led by Northern Ireland public sector contracting authorities, through which all public sector procurement

is channelled. The platform is the mandatory one-stop information portal for all the tender advertisements in Northern Ireland.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Main Categories of Products and Services Subject to Framework Agreements	
ICT and telecare	Energy
Property and office solutions	Professional services
Travel	Fleet

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities — UK

The UK government does not have a centralised monitoring programme of e-procurement, which existed in the past but was discontinued because of the costs of data collection and insufficient completeness, reliability and comparability of data. The Government Procurement Service monitors the usage of its own framework agreements and services by central administrations, using the Spend analysis tools and Cognos reporting tools to provide further consolidated management information to help manage suppliers. The monitoring of benefits is not very detailed and specific. We were not able to interview contracting authorities directly for this topic but the following table is based on discussions with an e-procurement expert in the UK.

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	GPS Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES		
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	NO		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES		
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	NO		
Number and type of suppliers	NO		
Drivers and barriers	NO		

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Contracting Authorities Monitoring (Expert Assessment)		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices	YES (usually)		
Volume and value of e-procurement	YES (usually)		
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES		
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	SOMETIMES		
Number and type of suppliers engaged	USUALLY NOT		
Drivers and barriers	UNUSUAL		

SCOTLAND

Updated to June 2012

Policy Strategies and Governance

Public body responsible for the regional strategy for e-procurement	The Scottish Parliament is responsible for the transposition of EU procurement regulation into Scottish law. The Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate (SPCD) is responsible for developing and issuing central strategy, policy and guidance, including the Procurement Policy Handbook. It is also responsible for ad hoc guidance on specific policy issues, including implementing policy and setting up contracts and framework agreements for itself and the wider public sector in Scotland. SPCD recently reorganised itself to bring together the existing responsibilities of Policy and Development, CGCoPE, Procurement Scotland and e-Procurement Scotland. This change provides better alignment between its various responsibilities and brings its procurement functions closer together, including the legal framework, policies, procedures and processes, tools, strategies, and systems which drive reform and continuous improvement for procurement in Scotland.
	Within the SPCD, the Scottish government's eCommerce Shared Service brings together all the steps involved in doing business with the public sector in Scotland. It is a collaborative electronic environment that promotes improved capability across public procurement in Scotland: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Procurement.
	The Scottish public sector includes police, fire, NHS, local authorities, central government (core departments, agencies and NDPBs), and higher and further education. Defence and social security are matters reserved for the UK government.
Other relevant bodies	The Scottish Procurement Information Hub was launched in 2006 to help the public sector improve procurement efficiencies also through greater collaboration. The Hub is a centrally funded, sophisticated analytical tool helping public buyers to monitor their spending with third parties, their suppliers' portfolio, and highlight commonalities across spend and suppliers categories. Participating organisations are required to provide a detailed annual extract from their accounts payable system.
	http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Procurement/eCommerce/ScottishProcurementInformationHub
	The Hub draws information from the Pecos P2P platform which provides post-award services.
	http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Procurement/eCommerce/PECOSP2P

Regional Plans for e-Procurement

Is there a plan?	Yes	The public procurement reform programme was set up in 2006 following publication of John McClelland's report ("Review of Public Procurement in Scotland"). In January 2010, the Public Procurement Reform Board endorsed the second phase "Transforming Procurement: Accelerating Delivery". The refreshed strategy places emphasis on accelerating the pace of change and the delivery of benefits, and embedding initiatives into "business as usual".
Does the plan target objectives for the implementation of e-procurement?	Yes	The use of electronic processes in the procurement journey is an essential component of the plan. The ongoing development and improvement of the public procurement platforms, from e-notification, to e-tendering, to post-award (Pecos P2P), is among the objectives.
Does the plan include specific objectives of take-up of e-procurement in value and/or number of contracts?	No	No specific targets for take-up have been set.
For further information		Public Procurement Reform Program:
		http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Procurement/about/Review
		Public Consultation on the Procurement Reform Bill, August-November 2012:
		http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/3295/downloads
Incentives/facilitations for		There are no specific incentives, but there are facilitations. The national platform PCS-Tender includes a

contracting authorities to use e-procurement	set of nationally agreed standard pre-qualification questions which will assist in reducing the inconsistency in the selection process. A database is currently being procured which will hold common standard information that is requested from suppliers as part of the selection process. This will help to simplify processes especially for SMEs. It will reduce duplication of effort, increase efficiency in business administration, and reduce disproportionate qualification requirements and inconsistent qualification criteria.
Cross-border e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** None specific, even though procurement by non-domestic suppliers is monitored.
	Obstacles: None specific.
SME participation in e-procurement: facilitations/obstacles	**Facilitations:** The facilitations embedded in the PCS-Tender platform take into account SMEs' needs.
	Obstacles: None specific.
Accreditation and labelling of platforms	None specific.

e-Notification Under the EU Threshold

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	All Scottish contracting authorities are encouraged to use Public Contracts Scotland (PCS).
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.
Is there a one-stop portal where all contract notices can be accessed online?	PCS is the regional advertising portal for all contracting opportunities across the Scottish public sector. Suppliers registered on PCS receive a free email alert service. New functionality within PCS will allow suppliers that have won, or are shortlisted for, public contracts to advertise subcontracting opportunities to suppliers further down the supply chain.

e-Notification = The electronic publication of prior information notices, contract notices and all necessary documentation enabling suppliers to apply for public procurement opportunities. This may or may not include e-awarding (the online publication of the winners of public procurement contracts). Note: e-Notification is already mandatory for tenders over the EU threshold.

e-Submission *(Mandatory e-Submission: Yes, Partial, Planned, No)*

Is it mandatory?	No, it is voluntary.
For which contracting authorities?	All Scottish contracting authorities are encouraged to use PCS-Tender.
For which goods, services and public works?	Not applicable.
For which procedures?	Not applicable.
Above which threshold(s)?	Not applicable.

e-Submission = The submission of public procurement tenders through electronic means.

Most Relevant e-Procurement Entities

Platform		e-Submission	e-Ordering
Regional Public e-Procurement Platform	Public Contracts Scotland — Tender (PCS): regional e-procurement platform for pre-award phase: https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/web/login.html	Yes	No
	For which goods, services and public works?	For all	
	For which procedures?	Open and restricted procedures, framework agreements, e-auction, negotiated procedure	
Regional Public Procurement Platform	Regional procurement platform for post-award phase: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Procurement/eCommerce/PECOSP2P	No	Yes
	For which goods, services and public works?		For all
	For which procedures?		Framework agreements

Comments: The Scottish infrastructure for public procurement includes an advertising portal (Public Contracts Scotland, PCS), a platform for pre-award services (Public Contracts Tender), a platform for post-award services (PECOS, P2P system) providing standard electronic order, receipt and invoice functionalities. A Catalogue Content Management (CCM) hub is being implemented hosting electronic content for contracts at national, sectoral and local level. This allows suppliers and procurement teams to easily manage, approve and distribute content to public sector bodies through one central electronic repository. Public Contracts Tender provides buying organisations with a set of web-based collaborative procurement tools which include e-tendering, e-evaluation and e-auction functionality while also increasing collaborative working practices. Until May 2012 the e-tendering system provided for tenders to be uploaded electronically and bids to be submitted electronically in "sealed envelopes". Since then the platform has been piloting a more advanced e-tendering service with a single-sign-on process in place.

e-Ordering = The placement of public procurement orders through electronic means.

Monitoring of e-Procurement by Governments and Contracting Authorities

The regional government monitors e-procurement on the basis of monthly reports by PCS which cover all the data categories indicated and feed into the spend analysis by the Procurement Information Hub. According to the procurement service representative, all of this data is useful and needed, and there is no information gap. Unfortunately we were not able to interview contracting authorities about their monitoring habits.

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Policy Makers' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Number of contract notices published online	YES	YES	
Number of tenders processed online through e-submission	YES	YES	
Level of take-up of e-procurement	YES	YES	
Benefits achieved through e-procurement	YES	YES	
Type of contracting authorities engaged in e-procurement (scope, gov't tier)	YES	YES	
Number and type of suppliers	YES	YES	
Drivers and barriers	YES	YES	

Gap = Needed, not monitored

Data Monitored Versus Data Not Monitored But Needed	Contracting Authorities' Opinions		
Type of data	Monitored	Needed	Gap
Online publication of contract notices			
Volume and value of e-procurement			
Level of take-up of e-procurement			
Benefits achieved through e-procurement			
Number and type of suppliers engaged			
Drivers and barriers			

Gap = Needed, not monitored