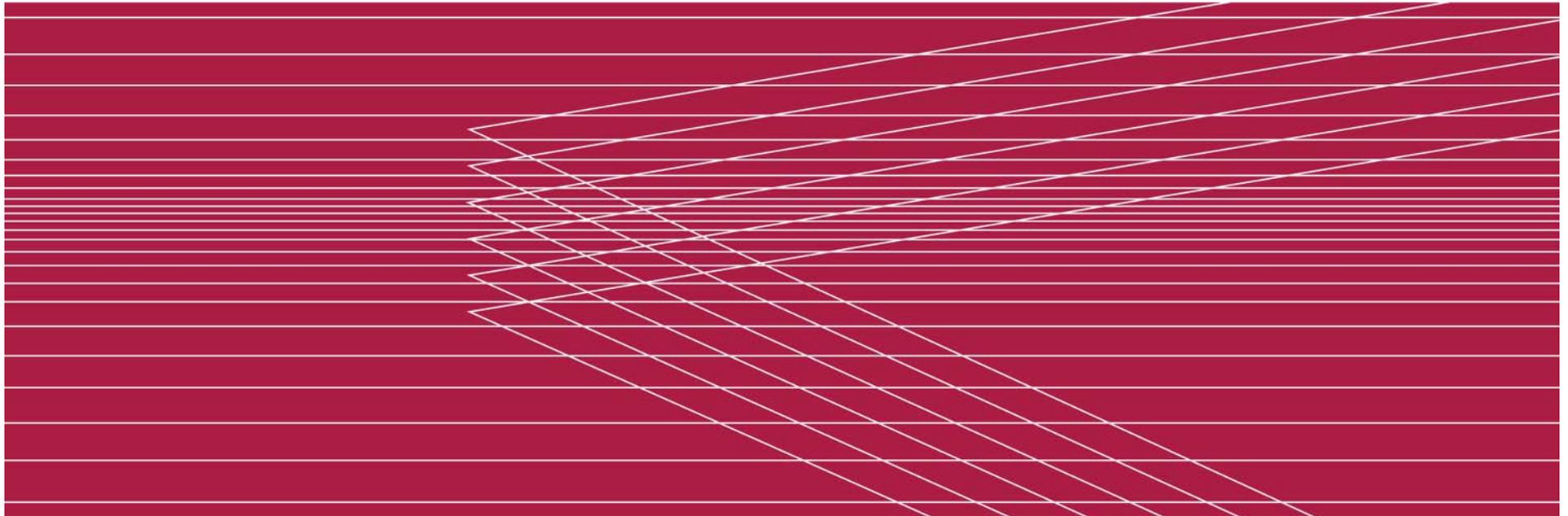


# Exceptions to full and open competitions: How to ensure integrity?



Hans Sundström, OECD Symposium on Mapping out Good Practices for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement.  
Paris 2006-11-29

## Procurement coordination

Provides savings for the State through more efficient co-ordination of all State procurement activities.

Creates better terms and lower costs for public administration when purchasing IT and telecom services and equipment.



# Verva Department of Procurement

Co-ordinates State procurement activities.

Co-ordinates Public procurement in the area of information and communication technology (ICT).

Procures general framework agreements for the Public Administration of ICT services and equipment.

Promotes the development of e-procurement and e-business in the public sector.



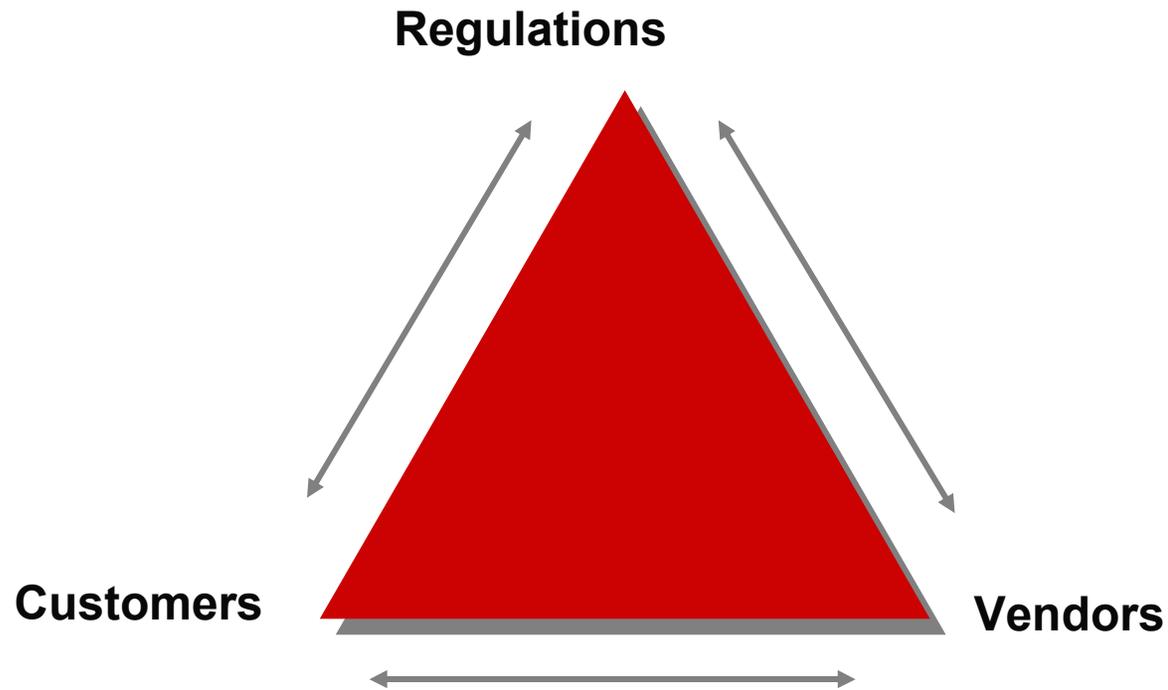
# ICT procurement

General framework agreements for ICT products and services. Above threshold.

- Standard volume products, PCs, servers, software, telecom
- Product and services to support infrastructure, e-government, secure communication, electronic signatures.
- Procurement is focused on areas:
  - that reflect the needs of the Public Administration
  - that influence infrastructure developments
  - that are ordered directly by the Government



Public Procurement Act, which is based mainly on the EU directives on public procurement. Regulation of the procurement co-operation, competition law (SFS 1998:796).



## Three different procurement procedures:

- Open procedure with no negotiations.
- Selective procedure with no negotiations.
- Negotiated procedure (rarely).



## Exceptions to full and open competitions?

- *Negotiated procedures* might be one such example.
- *Procurements in the National Defense area* are oftentimes seen as exceptions to full and open competitions.
- *Procurement below threshold* (some EUR 1.3 million) may in some specific instances be an accepted rule exceptions.
- *Direct Procurement below threshold* is counted as a special case.



# How to ensure integrity?

[1]

With laws and rules, of course, but also by means of measures with regard to

Announcements and communications.

Public databases and diaries.



## How to ensure integrity?

[2]

- Employ a clear, strict and publicly announced method of evaluation.
- The final selection decision should be made by at least two persons, preferably more.
- Auditions.
- Exposition and openness.



# How to ensure integrity?

[3]

## *The Freedom of the Press Act*

- Public access to official documents.
- Freedom of expression for civil servants and others.
- Communication freedom for civil servants and others.



## How to ensure integrity?

[4]

- Right to Access serves several ends.
- Assess government performance (track down corruption).
- Get general information and knowledge concerning government operations.
- Get information on particular cases.



## Some points noted in Sweden

- Competition ought to be looked into more than once in each and every procurement.
- Have we done enough not to stifle competition?
- Overzealous competition quests might turn the process into discrimination (of the not so big guys).
- The limited freedom of evaluation methods
- How to employ environmental requirements?
- How to promote the use of “open sources”?

