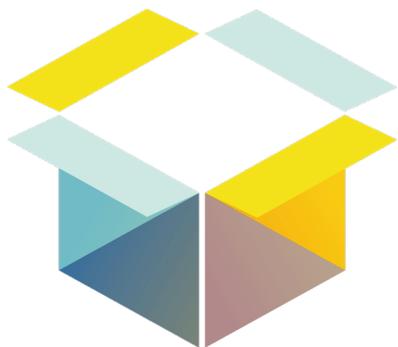


# 2019 OECD Public Procurement Forum

**Mainstreaming effective responses to complex challenges**



## Agenda

**22 October 2019**

**OECD Conference Centre**

**Paris, France**

Joint initiative by:  
Directorate for Public Governance  
Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

## Mainstreaming effective responses to complex challenges

All countries around the world are facing ever-increasing complex challenges and are exploring how environmental, societal and technological issues could be best addressed. Considering its sheer economic volume and its critical contribution to the delivery of many public services (from internet connectivity to health services), public procurement is often seen as having the potential to influence the outcomes of government policies on societies.

**63% of public procurement spending is carried out at sub-central levels in OECD countries.**

Source: OECD 2017, Government at a Glance

Yet, a strategic approach to public procurement brings additional layers of complexity, from increased stakeholder engagement to sometimes hard-to-reach objectives and reinforced impetus for measurement.

Such complexity further impacts where public procurement matters most: at local level. Therefore, in an attempt to identify responses addressing today's challenges in public service delivery, this Forum will discuss how public institutions at all levels are leveraging on public procurement to support the effective implementation of a host of public policies.

### 2019 OECD Public Procurement Week

The 2019 OECD Public Procurement Week starts with the high-level Forum on Mainstreaming effective responses to complex challenges on 22 October, a joint initiative of the Public Governance Directorate (GOV) and the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE). It will be followed by a technical workshop on Generating value out of growing complexity: delivering infrastructure on 23 October.

The meeting of the Working Party of the Leading Practitioners on Public Procurement (LPP) will share experiences and insights on how to align human capacities, strategies and procurement outcomes with a changing world on 24-25 October.

Contact: [Public.Procurement@oecd.org](mailto:Public.Procurement@oecd.org)

**09:15-09:45 Opening: Launching of the Report on the implementation of the 2015 OECD Recommendation on public procurement**

Public procurement is taking an increasingly strategic direction as its full potential is realised to support ever wider economic, social and environmental outcomes. Globally, the strategic use of public procurement is addressing increasing challenges to ensure that the wellbeing of all citizens is progressively achieved.

The Report on the Implementation of the Recommendation on Public Procurement was approved by the PGC on 7 June 2019 and declassified by the OECD Council on July 2019 [C(2019)94/FINAL]. It presents progress made across Adherents in implementing reforms of their procurement systems. The report provides cogent insights into the decisive impact that public procurement's strategic outcomes have on the delivery of better, smarter and more innovative public services. It also sheds light on the contribution of public procurement reforms to governments' crosscutting initiatives such as digital transformation or public workforce development. The Report tasked the PGC to continue the monitoring of the implementation and issue report on progress in five years.

**Keynote speaker**

**Mr. Jeffrey Schlagenhauf**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

**Speaker**

**Mr. Marcos Bonturi**, Director, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

**09:45-11:15 Session 1: Tone from the top: progress made in implementing the OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement**

The 2015 OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement provides an integrated vision of what constitutes an internationally accepted, sound and robust procurement system. Besides identifying foundational elements of such a system, the Recommendation emphasises the multidimensional nature of public procurement. Now that three years have passed after its adoption, it is time to take stock of progress achieved by countries in reforming their procurement systems to transition from a traditional administrative role to a strategic function.

Therefore, this session will discuss the many benefits achieved by countries and highlight not only the remaining but also the emerging challenges ahead. The session will debate how public procurement systems and institutions progressively became integral to the effective implementation of public policies. It will also discuss the challenges that come along with increased interest from civil society and appetite from policy makers: the ability to demonstrate tangible impacts and the development of a leading public workforce.

**Moderator**

**Mr. János Bertók**, Acting Deputy Director, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

**Panellists**

**Ms. Carolyne Blain**, Director General, Strategic Policy Sector, Public Services and Procurement Canada

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**Mr. John Ivil**, General Manager, New Zealand Government Procurement & Property Branch, New Zealand

**Mr. Javier Dávila**, Fiduciary Lead Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank

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**11:15-11:45** *Coffee break*

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**11:45-12:45** **Session 2: Leaving no one behind: when cities and regions are taking the lead for more inclusive public procurement**

Cities and regions have the potential to pilot innovative solutions to public needs developed by private actors that are often left out traditional public markets. Initiatives around the world have therefore challenged their way of conducting procurement to allow for more inclusive public markets by streamlining procedures, raising awareness about public procurement opportunities and supporting capacity-building strategies tailored to companies far from public markets.

The session will provide policy makers and practitioners at all levels of governments with insights on how cities and regions are connecting public needs with local economic development. The session will offer a platform for sharing experiences that proved insightful to attract companies distant from public markets, thus diversifying the pool of suppliers and mainstreaming economic benefits stemming from public contracts.

**Moderator**

**Ms. Anja Katalin De Cunto**, Funding and financing coordinator, Eurocities

**Panellists**

**Mr. Simon Hall**, Councillor, Croydon Council, United Kingdom

**Mr. Lars Ohse**, Head of the Central Purchasing Body of the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

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**12:45-14:15** *Lunch break*

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**14:15-15:45** **Session 3: Smart cities needs smarter procurement**

Smart cities incorporate information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance the quality and performance of urban public services such as energy, transportation and utilities in order to reduce resource consumption, wastage and overall costs. This integration often requires to totally rethink the way many public services are delivered, from street lightning to urban mobility.

This session will discuss how smart cities have started to adapt their procurement strategies to define new ways of delivering public services. The session will deconstruct procurement challenges facing cities when aiming at effectively delivering needed public services while navigating into the wealth of innovation the market has to offer. The session will provide insights on how to design procurement strategies so as to mainstream innovation in public contracts.

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**Moderator**

**Ms. Aziza Akhmouch**, Head of Division of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

**Panellists**

**Mr. Ser Huei Chia**, Executive Director, Resource Management Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Singapore

**Mr. Bruno Hervet**, Vice President in charge of the Smart & Resourceful Cities, Suez

**Mr. Gerrit Thell**, Expert in Economic Development, City of Vienna

**Mr. Mark Hidson**, Global Director, Sustainable Procurement Centre, ICLEI

**15:45-16:15 Coffee break****16:15-17:30 Session 4: Embedding procurement into local development strategies**

Regions and cities are where the effects of policies to promote economic growth and social inclusion are felt in day-to-day life. This is therefore also where the impact of public procurement strategies is the most salient. Indeed, from street lighting to the construction of hospitals or water distribution systems, all these critical services are significantly relying on effective procurement practices.

This session will present specific local development strategies and illustrate how public procurement strategic contributions could support their effective implementation. It will discuss ongoing work carried out by the OECD in concrete initiatives and debate future potential applications.

**Moderator**

**Mr. Stefan Appel**, Head of Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission

**Panellists**

**Ms. Ana Quintais**, Commission for Co-ordination and Regional Development of the Centro region, Portugal

**Mr. Crescenzo Marino**, Director of the Section on Research and Innovation, Region of Puglia, Italy

**Ms. Meaghan Davis**, Manager (Acting), Circular Economy and Innovation, Solid Waste Management Services, City of Toronto

**17:30-17:45 Closing remarks****Closing remarks**

**Ms. Lamia Kamal-Chaoui**, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

**Mr. Nikos Milapidis**, Head of Strategic Planning, City of Athens

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