



Centralising e-procurement activity in Lower Saxony



Public Procurement Principle: **E-procurement**



Procurement Stage: **All stages**



Audience: **Policy maker, Procuring entity**

Description

Four central purchasing bodies lead procurement in the state of Lower Saxony. Logistics Centre Niedersachsen (LZN) procures a range of goods and services, and IT Niedersachsen focuses on IT procurement. The State Office for Road Construction and Building handles public works, and the State Office for Construction and Real Estate procures government property. In principle, these four bodies conduct all procurement in the state. The only exceptions relate to goods or services that are not suitable for centralisation, such as products or services that are heavily specialised or fast-paced. The four CPBs collaborate to cover procurement in a state that does not have a central co-ordinating body and operates with rigid “department principles” – i.e. principles that mandate that ministries remain completely independent.

An e-procurement platform operates centrally and covers a number of stages of the procurement lifecycle in Lower Saxony, including the publication of offers, bid submission, communication with bidders, contract award notices and electronic approval and signature of contracts. Individuals within each central purchasing body undertake procurement activities through the e-procurement platform. These individuals base their procurement activities on a thorough collection of needs from contracting authorities. This collection of needs is corroborated with historic purchasing data.

The fact that procurement activity is conducted within a single system means that central purchasing bodies can conduct analyses of metadata collected by the system. Lower Saxony is in the early stages of exploring the use of this data to inform policy making and commercial decision making.

Source: OECD (2019), [Public Procurement in Germany: Strategic Dimensions for Well-being and Growth](#), OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris

