

## Country case: The development of framework agreements in Portugal

### Description

The utilisation of framework agreements (FAs) by electronic means and through e-procurement was the instrument used for connecting all users into the Portuguese national public procurement system. Framework agreements are a widely used instrument within CPBs in the European Union as it privileges the principles of rationalisation, standardisation, efficiency and transparency.

The framework agreements in Portugal cover a list of transversal goods and services and call-offs are mandatory. Contracting authorities in the central administration must use the existing FA<sup>1</sup> to buy the items, via the existing e-catalogue, in principle using aggregation processes conducted at central purchasing units at ministerial level (UMC). Each FA has a set of rules and tender documents to facilitate the launch of the call-offs. There is also a web process to authorise specific exceptions to the use of FA, upon request from the contracting authority, given by the Agency or the Minister of Finance, depending on the type and amount of the request.

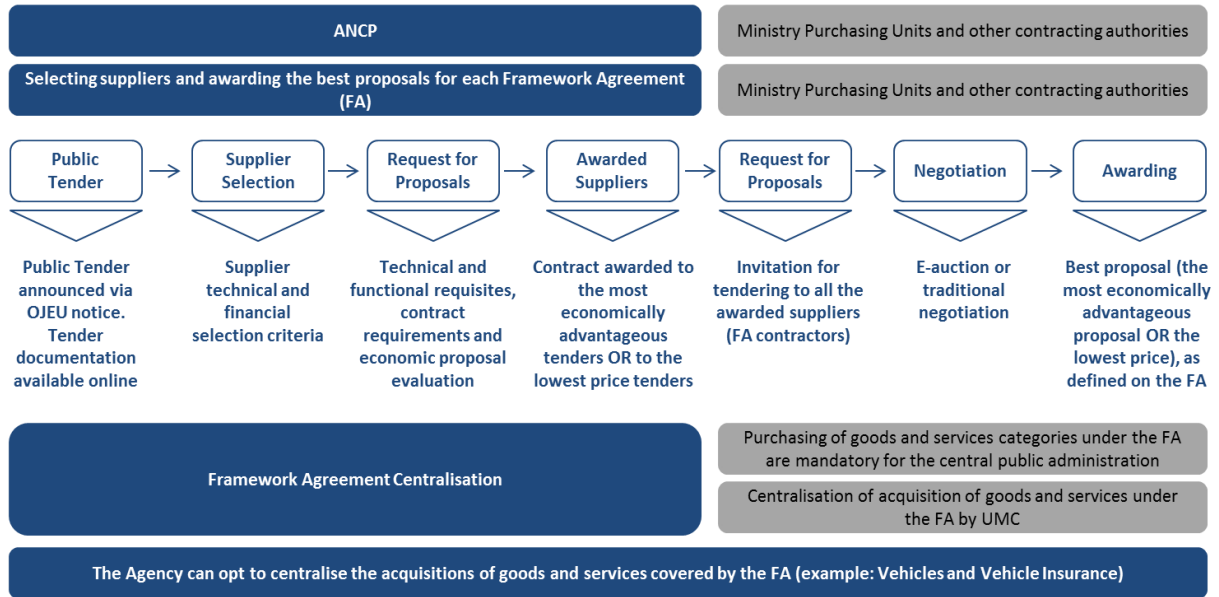
Also, the entities in the Sistema Nacional de Compras Públicas (SNCP) have to use the e-platform contracted by the Agência Nacional de Compras Públicas (ANCP) to run call-offs, free of charge, therefore allowing the Agency to better control and monitor the performance of the system.

Public Procurement  
Principle: **Efficiency,  
E-procurement**

Procurement Stage:  
**Tendering**

Audience: **Policy Maker,  
Procuring Entity**

Centralised Model – Framework Agreement (FA) for Contracts and Acquisitions



Whenever it is possible, the design of the framework agreements is done including ecological criteria, either for use in the public tender award, or during the call-off stage. Some of the FAs are included in the National Green Procurement Strategy, jointly elaborated by ANCP and by the Portuguese Agency for the Environment.

<sup>1</sup> The definition of the categories of goods and services covered by the FA is a competence of the Minister of Finance, upon ANCP's indication.

Source: OECD (2016), [The Korean Public Procurement Service: Innovating for Effectiveness](#), OECD Publishing, Paris.