Country case: Korea’s public procurement data system

Description

While almost 70% of public procurement transactions in Korea occur via the Korean ON-line E-Procurement System (KONEPS), the remaining transactions, including defence procurement, procurement transactions by other public enterprises that use their own e-procurement systems and some manual transactions, are not currently captured in a centralised way. In 2013, Korea’s Public Procurement Service (PPS) launched a Public Procurement Data System project to close this gap and provide policy makers and citizens with complete procurement transaction data across the entire public sector, enabling a better understanding of the procurement market and an analytical study on the policy results.

Proper legal authority for the project was established by the modifications of procurement laws including the Government Procurement Act (July 2013) and the Enforcement Decree on the Government Procurement Act (January 2014), giving PPS the legal authority to request data and establishing deadlines for government agencies to submit the requested procurement data.

Total public procurement encompasses procurements that occur in both electronic and nonelectronic ways. Electronic procurement is carried out on KONEPS and 23 other electronic procurement platforms for specific procuring entities. Thus, data integration includes linking of the 24 e-procurement systems as well as central collection of manual records. A report will be prepared to present the data collected per government bodies, companies, and projects. Data will also be presented in infographics in order to facilitate end user comprehension.

The data integration faces some difficulties due to administrative burdens that are imposed on approximately 28,000 government agencies and delays in concomitant projects in some government agencies to improve their electronic systems, which were intended to facilitate the data integration. In order to alleviate the administrative burden on the collection of manually kept data, discussion on linking with other financial information systems is taking place, including the Educational Financial System, the Local Government Budget and Accounting System, the Local Public Enterprise Budget and Accounting System and the National Budget and Accounting System. Additionally, some difficulties arose due to the disparity of the information collected at each government agency and across different e-procurement systems. In response, new code mapping was provided to agencies where data were collected by different standards.
Provision and publication of data statistics on total public procurement on a monthly and annual basis and 103 specific reports based on the data are expected to increase availability of the data for companies and the public, and enhance transparency of the government budget. The reports will be made available on-line.