



The reform on social witnesses being prepared by the State of Mexico



Public Procurement Principle: **Integrity, Transparency, accountability**



Procurement Stage: **All phases**



Audience: **Procuring entity, Civil society, Private sector**

Description

The State of Mexico, through SECOGEM, is preparing a reform on the functioning of social witnesses, which was drafted after consultation with UAEM and INFOEM. The reform proposal is under analysis at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Secretaría de Justicia y Derechos Humanos), which has to review and clear it before sending it to the State Legislature. The reform proposes the creation of two committees, one for the registration of social witnesses, which would incorporate SECOGEM alongside UAEM and INFOEM, and another to appoint social witnesses, which would be led by SECOGEM and incorporate the participation of either business chambers or the Citizen Participation Committee of the SAEMM. The registration committee would call a public process to recruit social witnesses annually or depending on need. The reform also aims to strengthen the profiles of social witnesses by requiring a minimum experience of five years dealing with procurement matters.

This need was identified by SECOGEM as it observed that the reports by social witnesses often do not make any relevant recommendations and quite frequently are “copy-paste” versions of previous reports. However, SECOGEM has no authority to sanction social witnesses in such cases. Likewise, the reform would require social witnesses to prepare interim reports in each stage of the procurement process, in addition to the final report. In summary, the reform would align the State of Mexico practice for social witnesses with the federal programme.

Source: Information provided by SECOGEM.

OECD (2021), Public Procurement in the State of Mexico: Enhancing Efficiency and Competition, OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/cc1da607-en>

