



## Promotion of public procurement for innovation by the National Centre for Research and Development of Poland under the ESIF R&I programme



Public Procurement Principle: **Balance, Capacity**



Procurement Stage: **Pre-tendering, Tendering**



Audience: **Procuring entity, Policy makers**

### Description

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In Poland, the new Public Procurement Law of 11 September 2019, which entered into force on 1 January 2021, further supports public procurement of innovation (PPI) by implementing new solutions in this area. The law directly links the procurement of innovation with a broader perspective of national policy. The National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD) has experience in using public procurement for innovation in ESIF-funded research and innovation (R&I) projects.

The NCRD is in charge of carrying out tasks in the area of scientific, technical and innovation policy, including financing innovative solutions through R&D programmes. The NCRD decided to launch pilot research programmes based on both procurement models: pre-commercial procurement (PCP) and innovation partnership, both of which are adapted to procuring innovative solutions that cannot be specified at the beginning of the procedure, i.e. those that require research and development.

The NCRD's first experience related to PCP dates back to 2013. It was further developed in 2016 owing to the implementation of the e-Pioneer project, which aims to support talented programmers in solving identified social or economic problems with information and communication technologies. This is a joint project of the NCRD and the accelerators selected by the NCRD, which uses the PCP model.

The NCRD does not directly use PCP, but it is an obligatory project implementation tool for the accelerators selected by the NCRD. The e-Pioneer project is financed under the ESIF Operational Programme "Digital Poland 2014-2020". For example, Akcelerator Accelpoint Sp. z o. o., one of the selected accelerators in the e-Pioneer project, developed a Cleanbox to fight against COVID-19 using the PCP model. Cleanbox is an easy-to-use, modern device with antibacterial and antifungal properties, which eliminates 99.99% of microbes and bacteria, ensuring an additional antibacterial effect for up to 30 days. With its functionalities, the project helps to prevent common infections and answers the growing need for surface disinfection, contributing to the fight against the spread of coronavirus.

The MVP (a minimum viable product or, to put it simply, a demo version of the target product) was created and tests were successfully carried out using the public partner's (Municipal Sport and Recreation Centre in Lublin) infrastructure. The NCRD promoted itself as an agency which not only finances innovation, but which also carries out innovative activities. It presented new forms of research programme implementation to the market and the potential contractors to encourage a larger pool of interested contractors to participate in ESIF R&I projects. With the experience gained so far and the competences built within the organisation, the NCRD has been working since 2020 to launch further initiatives based on PCP. By doing so, it aims to ensure that this instrument is permanently included in its portfolio of support instruments.

Source: OECD (2021), Promoting research and innovation in the Slovak Republic through an effective use of European funds <https://doi.org/10.1787/f0e9d786-en>

