

## Country case: The role of the *Anti-Corruption Office (OA)* in public procurement in Argentina

### Description

The Anti-Corruption Office (OA) established within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, through its Planning Policy Transparency, seeks to improve and optimize public procurement spending and promote efficiency funds. These actions following complement those carry out made by National Procurement Office (ONC).

- A. **Oversight:** the OA is called to intervene in numerous processes of the selection of bids, in order to identify problems and generate tools and mechanisms aimed at promoting transparency in public decision-making. This seeks to establish, maintain and strengthen public procurement systems.
- B. **Participation in the design of the solicitation documents:** in order to promote greater competition, the OA can collaborate with various actors of the market in the preparation of the solicitation documents and help them respect the principles of equality and transparency. This allows for higher levels of efficiency and better service at lower costs, therefore creating savings. Those interested can find the draft solicitation document and may be involved from its preparation to completion. These processes are open and allow for the involvement of all stakeholders, avoiding any undue influence and promoting a level playing field. In practice, solicitation notices are published in various media and sent to interested parties inviting them to participate in the process, provide observations and improvements in order to avoid future challenges to the procurement process.
- C. **Risk mapping in public procurement:** In 2007, the study "[The State of Public Procurement: a map of transparency conditions and accessibility in public procurement](#)" was carried out by the Planning Policy Transparency in the OA, with the financial support of UNDP and the British Embassy. The main objective of this study was to generate a scheme for strengthening transparency in the public procurement systems. A risk map was developed to identify problematic areas that favour the development of vulnerable areas for irregular or inefficient practices. The OA proposed a series of recommendations to develop transparency policy actions to narrow the problems encountered, improving the management practices in public procurement and strengthening those features that function adequately. Many of the recommendations made by the OA were considered for the 2012 update of the national regulatory procurement regime through the Presidential Decree No. 893/12. This study had a second stage which concluded with the publication, in 2009, the play "[The State of Public Procurement: In-depth study of public procurement](#)". The second stage carried out a selection of the most demanded goods and analysed in depth more than 150 purchase orders from 19 selected procurement centres.

Public Procurement  
Principle: **Integrity, Risk  
Management**

Procurement Stage:  
**All phases**

Audience: **Policy Maker,  
Procuring Entity**

- D. **Training:** Along with the ONC and the National Public Administration Institute (Instituto Nacional de la Administración Pública, INAP), the OA carries out training activities on ethics and transparency in public procurement for public officials.
- E. **Advice:** the OA provides advice and guidance in the elaboration of public procurement regulations to entities such as the [Ministry of Defence](#) that are not covered by the national public procurement regime. Based on agreements with other organizations, the OA provides advice or carries out events where stakeholders can share their views, in order to improve the quality of regulatory instruments applied by the contracting entities.

Source: OECD (2016), "[Corruption in Public Procurement](#)".