

MAPS assessment of public procurement in Moldova

Main findings and recommendations

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Moldova MAPS - a three-year journey

- ✓ Late 2017 – Preparation/Application
- ✓ Early 2018 – Approval
- ✓ October 2020 – MAPS report
- ✓ March 2021 – Project Closing

What went well

- ✓ Full and continuous implication and support from the Government of Moldova
- ✓ High interest from public sector, including control bodies
- ✓ High interest from the private sector and NGOs
- ✓ Good quality feedback on public procurement received from all stakeholders
- ✓ High level of participation during consultation workshops
- ✓ Openness of data holders to provide data

Challenges

- ✓ Timing
- ✓ Quality of data
- ✓ Many holders of data at the central level

The Four Pillars

- ✓ Pillar I: Legislative and Regulatory Framework
- ✓ Pillar II: Institutional Framework and Management Capacity
- ✓ Pillar III: Procurement Operations and Market Practices
- ✓ Pillar IV: Accountability, Integrity and Transparency

Things to keep in mind

- ✓ As presented in the approved MAPS assessment report
- ✓ Reflect status at the end of the assessment (mid-2020)
- ✓ Basis for high level policy review and reform decisions
- ✓ Some measures already taken, others being worked on
- ✓ Need for strategy finalisation, resource mobilisation and implementation management

Legislative and regulatory framework

Key findings:

- Primary legislation aligned; secondary partly outdated
- E-procurement system lacks some procedures & criteria
- Standard docs detailed, rigid; – limit value for money
- Publishing not conducive to easy access, search, analysis

Recommendations:

- Update and revise as needed
- Match e-procurement with what the law allows
- Simplify use; facilitate focus on outcomes
- Publish on central website, in machine readable format

Institutional framework and management capacity



Key findings:

- Annual cycle limits smooth operation, longer term focus
- Contracting authority duties & abilities mismatched
- “Working groups” lack first hand focus on procurement

Recommendations:

- Adjust rules so as to allow regular, continuous work
- Reduce CA numbers, ensure minimum skills & resources
- Set up dedicated, permanent procurement function in CAs

Institutional framework and management capacity

II

Key findings:

- Procurement profession not recognised, no specialisation
- Few framework agreements, little centralised purchasing
- Procurement data incomplete, weak policy making evidence

Recommendations:

- Recognise profession, define positions & requirements
- Determine scope & approach, implement as suitable
- Use e-procurement system for full data generation

Procurement Operations and market practices

Key findings:

- Actual practices & skill gaps little known: needs unclear
- Participation barriers little known: difficult to address
- Weak public procurement skills & capacity
- Weak knowledge of supply market, sustainability scope

Recommendations:

- Monitor practices; use for focused info, tools & training
- Identify barriers; fix policies & practices to raise trust etc.
- Determine, address capacity building needs
- Consider procurement when framing development policy

Accountability, integrity, transparency



Key findings:

- Civil society interest not matched by data accessibility
- Many supervision bodies; gaps, overlaps in duties
- Internal audit well regulated but not yet put into practice
- Little external audit focus on outcomes; weak follow-up

Recommendations:

- Facilitate CSO monitoring, observe consultation rules
- Harmonise roles; give more effect to remedies, sanctions
- Intensify internal audit roll-out, include procurement
- Focus on performance audits, stronger enforcement

Accountability, integrity, transparency



Key findings:

- Risk of conflicting signals from supervisory authorities
- Measures against corruption & fraud not clear & effective
- Debarment inefficient; lack of supplier performance data

Recommendations:

- Institutionalise consultations on interpretation, measures
- Raise transparency of review, strengthen enforcement
- Revise debarment system; publish supplier performance

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