Professionalization in Public Procurement in the Republic of Serbia

Astana, May 2016
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The Public Procurement Law
PROFESSIONALIZATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
The New System

NEW INSTITUTIONS

NEW SITUATIONS

NEW PROCEDURES

NEW INSTITUTES

THE SAME PEOPLE
Leaders in the System

- Ministry of Finance
- Public Procurement Office
- Republic Commission for the Protection of Rights
- People - experts
- Contracting authorities
- Bidders
Members of a public procurement panel:
- Graduate lawyer or public procurement officer – mandatory
- Public procurement officer
  ▪ Mandatory for procurements above ≈ 122,000 EUR
  ▪ Autonomous conducting – low-value procurements
    (≈ 4,070–40,700 EUR)
- Persons with relevant professional education in the area relating to the subject of given public procurement.

- Lack of an expert – option to contract person not employed with contracting authority.
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Introduced into the system – by Public Procurement Law of 2008.

✓ Who is public procurement officer?
   Person trained to perform task related to public procurement.

✓ Who has to employ (at least one) public procurement officer?
   Contracting authority whose total value of public procurements planned at the annual level exceeds ≈ 175,000 EUR.
Responsibilities

✓ Performing tasks related to:

- Planning
- Conducting procedures
- Monitoring execution of contract

*jointly with other persons

Special responsibility

Autonomous conducting of low-value public procurements.
CERTIFICATION

Procedure managed by the Public Procurement Office.

Requirement for acquiring certificate – passed exam.

Exams are held 2-3 times a month, for 80-120 candidates

Certificate may be acquired by a person employed with a bidder, and any other interested person.
EXAM

Written exam
✓ 30 areas
✓ 45 questions - theory and practice in public procurement
✓ Threshold - minimum 75% (45 out of 60 points)

Questions – by the Public Procurement Office.

Software – random, 2 hours prior to the beginning of the exam
Taking exam

✓ 135 minutes
✓ Papers are anonymous (under codes)
✓ Examination Board: 3 members (2 – Public Procurement Office, 1 – Republic Commission for the Protection of Rights).
Scorecard

✓ The first certification period – PPL/2008
  December 2010 - March 2013: 1,810 officers

✓ The second certification period – PPL/2012
  October 2014 – March 2016:
  ▪ Exams: 58
  ▪ Candidates: 2,057
  ▪ Passed: 1,225
  ▪ Passing rate: 59.5%

Total 3,035
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR 2014-2018

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALIZATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

• Continuing certification process (basic level)
• Introducing higher level of certification
• Improving the status of public procurement officers
• Improving awareness
• Adopting the Code of Ethics
• Encouraging the work of professional associations in public procurement
PROJECT
Analysis and recommendations for improvement of certification of public procurement officers and introduction of higher level of certification.

1. Improving the system of certification of public procurement officers

2. Introducing the second (higher) certification level
IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OFFICERS

Development and improvement of training program and examination process.

Development of application for examination in order to reduce the human factor influence and possibility for error.

Development of training materials.
INTRODUCING SECOND (HIGHER) LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION

- Certificate of public procurement officer
- Certain experience in public procurement
- Training
- Exam
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OFFICER AS A PROFESSION

- A PPO’s initiative
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of the Republic of Serbia
  - New profession
  - PP officers are acknowledged as a special category
  - Inclusion in the Catalogue of Generic Jobs
  - Special valuation
SAPPP - SERBIAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONALS

Non-govermental and Non-profit association

Member of the International Federation of Purchasing & Supply Management

- Members:
  - Public procurement officers, persons charged with public procurement related tasks in contracting authorities, bidders, in governmental bodies and institutions.
Activities (among others): 

- Continuous education and training, developing and disseminating knowledge 
- Developing and applying professional and ethical standards; 
- Exercising influence and participating in the drafting of legislation and rules – the PPO has involved the SAPPP in the drafting of secondary legislation, templates...
The role of the Public Procurement Office in professionalization

Educations – seminars, trainings, workshops...

for c. authorities
for bidders

For all stakeholders in public procurement

for local self-governments
for public authorities
towards greater cost-effectiveness and efficiency in public procurement
- contemporary approach -

Belgrade, 21.09.2015.
Analyses and guidelines 2015-16

Socially responsible procurement

Analysis of options for separate legislative frameworks for procurements in utility sector, defense, and protection of rights

Analysis of effects of application of the PPL in practice

Analysis of technical solutions applicable in the EU in e-procurements

Guidelines for centralized public procurements

Guidelines for developing public procurement performance indicators
Video tutorials

Publishing plans on the Public Procurement Portal

Publishing procurement notices on the Public Procurement Portal

Searching for procurement notices published on the Public Procurement Portal
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