PROFESSIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN TURKISH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Mustafa Çağatay Taşyürek
Acting Head of International Relations Department
Public Procurement Authority
Introduction

• Public Procurement accounts for a significant share of gross domestic product of countries (OECD average is 13%).
• Therefore, effective, transparent and competitive public procurement system is of great importance in terms of effective use of public resources.
• Professionalization of public procurement has crucial role to achieve value for money and better results in public procurement.
• It is necessary for public authorities to have an adequate number of trained procurement experts to conduct procurement process in accordance with the law and to increase efficiency and effectiveness in public procurement system.
Public procurement in Turkey is regulated by Public Procurement Law No. 4734 which entered into force on January 1, 2003.

Public Procurement Law has created a modern procurement system in line with international instruments on public procurement (EU Procurement Directives, UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement, World Bank Procurement Guidelines, etc.).
Turkish Public Procurement System

- Basic Principles of PPL are:
  - Transparency
  - Reliability
  - Fullfillment of Needs
  - Competititon
  - Confidentiality
  - Equal Traetment
  - Public Supervision

Efficient Use of Resources

Taxpayers’ Expectations
Public Procurement Authority

- Public Procurement Authority (PPA), which was established in 2002, is a regulatory and supervisory body in public procurement area.
- PPA has administrative and financial autonomy.
- It is independent in fulfillment of its duties. Nobody can issue orders or instructions for the purpose of influencing the decisions of the Authority.

- PPA is assigned and authorized for the accurate implementation of the principles, procedures and acts specified in the Public Procurement Law.

www.kik.gov.tr
The main duties of the PPA are:

- Regulation
- E-Procurement
- Gathering Information and compiling statistics
- Dispute Resolution
- International Relations
- Training

According to Article 53 of the Public Procurement Law, it is duty of the Public Procurement Authority to provide training on procurement legislation.
Key Players of Procurement Trainings

- Universities
- Private Education Centers
- Economic Operators
- NGOs
- Professional Organizations
- Contracting Entities
- Public Procurement Authority
One of the challenges faced in procurement function is the lack of qualified public officials who have capacity to handle complex procurement tasks.

Procurement is a long process from the designation of the needs to management of contract and a lot of staff are involved in the procurement cycle.

In 2015, more than 12,000 contracting entities awarded at least one public contract in Turkey, which means that there are thousands of public officials in need of training.

Therefore, the PPA pays a great attention to the training of the personnel who are responsible from the procurements.
Public Procurement Trainings

- PPA is the main provider of procurement training in Turkey:
  - Delivers training courses almost the entire pool of government units responsible for procurement as well as staff of economic operators
  - Has partnership protocol with some universities on procurement training and sends its own trainers to training events organised by them (e.g. University of Ankara, Atatürk University)
  - A certificate is issued to participants in some of the procurement trainings
  - Delivers trainings at various locations
Training Department of the PPA

- A specialised Training Department within KIK was founded in 2012 which coordinates and conducts procurement related training

- According Regulation on the Organization of Public Procurement Authority, Training Department is responsible from the following items:
  
  1. To provide training with or without certificate
  2. To provide training to assistant public procurement experts working for Public Procurement Authority.
  3. To provide on-the-job training activities for the staff of the Public Procurement Authority.
  4. To work in coordination with the other persons or entities to provide training programmes needed.
Public Procurement Trainings

- Trainings in coordination with academic institutions
- Trainings Organized by the PPA
- Trainings Based on CAs Requests

- Training of Assistant Experts
- Training of Other Staff Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Number of People Participated to Trainings Organised By PPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8.563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7.602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5.847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7,284</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>29.296</td>
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Various training activities are organized by Public Procurement Authority and the subjects covered in these training activities include:

- Public Procurement Law
- Public Procurement Contracts Law
- Amendments in public procurement legislation
- Prohibited acts and conducts
- The process of tender notices
- Common provisions
- Specific provisions of service, goods and construction procurements
- Electronic public procurement
- Framework agreements
- Remedies
- ...
Training Activities

- [www.kik.gov.tr](http://www.kik.gov.tr)
  - Training
    - Procurement guides
    - Certified public procurement training programmes in cooperation with universities (PPA has signed protocols with universities for this type of certified training programmes.)
The PPA was one of the beneficiaries of a “Training in Public Procurement in Western Balkans and Turkey” Project, implemented by the EC/DG Enlargement and executed by a Consortium formed by the International Centre of the ILO and ADETEF.

The project contributed towards upgrading operational performance and professionalism within the public procurement system.

As part of the Project, more than 30 public officials were trained in training of trainers programme to provide training to contracting authorities as well as economic operators.
Centralized Purchasing

Centralised purchasing is relevant in professionalization, because small public authorities generally lack sufficient expertise and knowledge to run the public procurement functions.

This increases the risk of misimplementation of the law, whereas bigger contracting authorities have better capacities to deal with complex public purchasing.

Turkish Public Procurement System gives importance to centralised purchasing. State Supply Office and Public Hospitals Union procures some goods and services on behalf of other contracting entitites. In addition, needs of various contracting authorities subordinate to a Ministry may be procured by the central organisation of that Ministry.
Conclusion and Recommendations (Experiences)

• Professionalization of procurement function is necessary to achieve efficiency, effectiveness and value for money.

• Regulatory framework on public procurement is changing quickly, therefore sustainable and continuous delivery of procurement training is vital.

• Online training material and guidance should be available to handle professionalization of large number of procurement officials.
THANKS