



## EU Cohesion policy: Commission and EBRD promote innovative use of data in public procurement involving EU funds

Brussels, 27 November 2020

The European Commission, the [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) (EBRD) and the [Open Contracting Partnership](#) are joining forces to improve the quality and transparency of public tenders co-funded by EU funds in Greece and Poland. Thanks to their support, two pilot projects will provide expertise and hands-on support to public authorities in both countries, with a focus on digital innovation.

By promoting the smart use of innovation and open data, the two pilots will help public administrations to better plan, implement and monitor the procurement of works, goods and services. This will improve the use of public resources and increase opportunities for businesses, especially for small and medium companies (SMEs). Moreover, thanks to a cooperation with local civil society organisations, this initiative will also favour transparency of public spending and stimulate citizens' participation in the monitoring of investments with a direct impact on the community, such as investments in sustainability, local development and social inclusion.

### The two pilot projects

- In **Greece**, the project will aim at consolidating and integrating all databases into a single smart public contract register. This will enable online access for bidders and citizens, improve quality of data and facilitate the use of data-driven analytical tools for monitoring the procurement process.
- In **Poland**, the initiative will support Polish national and local authorities to introduce open data in public procurement and promote automated collection, standardisation, and consolidation of procurement data on all tenders.

The two pilots will run until the end of 2021 and their results will be disseminated in order to ensure a successful roll out in other Member States.

Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa **Ferreira**, said: *"In the programming period 2021-2027, Cohesion policy will continue to support Member States and regions in their economic recovery following the coronavirus pandemic, as well as boosting competitiveness through new investments in research and innovation, digital transition and the implementation of the European Green Deal agenda. Through the use of new technologies, national and local public authorities managing EU funds will be able to spend public money more effectively ensuring the best possible results for citizens and businesses"*.

Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, added: *"Transparency in public procurement is essential to ensure efficiency of public investments, in line with the EU strategic policy goals aiming at a greener, digital and more resilient Europe. Public authorities can rely on the EU's public procurement framework, tools like the electronic procurement systems and open data for an efficient use of public funds."*

The EBRD Vice-President, Pierre Heilbronn commented: *"The EBRD is committed to support legal and institutional reforms aimed at ensuring that procurement laws and practices are modern, in line with international standards and can swiftly respond to emerging challenges. Together with Open Contracting Partnership, we are sharing the experience of successful civil society procurement monitoring based on open data. Our joint efforts aim to create a framework for enlisting civil society organisations to support public procurement reforms and use open data to monitor procurement."*

### Background

In the context of the next long-term EU budget, more than €370 billion from Cohesion policy funds will be invested to support the digital and green transitions of the Member States. Every year, public authorities in the EU spend around 14% of GDP on public procurement, amounting to more than €1.9 trillion. Almost half of Cohesion policy funding is channelled through public procurement. The Commission has promoted [a series of initiatives](#) aimed at helping Member States to improve the way

administrations and beneficiaries use public procurement for EU investments. These include the [Integrity Pacts](#) to ensure more efficient and transparent tenders and safeguarding EU taxpayers' money. The Commission also took [action](#) to facilitate citizen engagement for better governance and effective Cohesion policy investments.

### **For More Information**

[Factsheet](#)

[Kick-off workshop on 2 December 2020](#)

IP/20/2209

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