



Innovative procurement initiatives in Colombia



Public Procurement Principle: **Balance**



Procurement Stage: **Pre-tendering, Tendering**



Audience: **Procuring entity, Policy maker**

Description

The National Development Plan (2014-2018) specifies procurement innovation as a cross-cutting strategy targeted to generate a higher economic and social value to enhance the conditions for the development of business activities. Several projects were developed, including the following pilots:

1. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MinTic) acquired services for the development of a laboratory to develop management IT skills and information security. The purpose was to create scenarios to run security tests, cybersecurity and develop research in IT and information privacy. It is important to run tests of fictional scenarios to verify the quality of the current tools to protect information and to test new developments. Through this process, MinTic tests various security aspects in a safe and controlled environment. The direct beneficiary is the ministry itself, though other government agencies benefit from the developments too. In addition, Colombia seeks to encourage its youth to study IT; procurement for innovation in the IT sector is a good incentive for doing so.
2. The National Agency for Overcoming Extreme Poverty (ANSPE) identified the need for a programme that mixes technology and knowledge as a way to provide populations in extreme poverty with the tools and knowledge to generate income by developing soft skills. It therefore led the development and acquisition of an IT-based tool used to strengthen soft skills. Under this programme, innovation is created from the need to combine different strategies (educational, technological, etc.) to identify opportunities and knowledge to overcome poverty.
3. The Empresas Públicas de Medellín (the state owned enterprises of Medellín, or EPM) is undertaking a project to reduce wastewater by locating leaks. The project is looking through a procurement process for a system to control costs to be charged to the users within monthly bills and create awareness of the impacts of

water consumption. The direct beneficiaries will be EPM and consumers. EPM will reduce its costs of finding water leaks; consumers will not pay for water lost. In fact, the costs for water lost due to leaks are transferred to consumers and has an important environmental impact. This will lead to awareness of water consumption and cost efficiencies.

Source: OECD Public Governance Reviews Second Public Procurement Review of the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) Reshaping Strategies for Better Healthcare more info: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264190191-en>

