



Spreading Innovation (Denmark)



Public Procurement Principle: **Capacity**



Procurement Stage: **All stages**



Audience: **Procuring entity, Policy maker, Civil society, Private sector**

Description

In order to break down bureaucratic silos and help governments create new ways of working, the Centre for Offentlig Innovation (COI) created the Spreading Innovation guide. Its aim is to support institutions and individuals in the process of replicating innovation in the public sector, and thereby reduce the risks and costs associated with innovation. COI designed the guide in three phases over the course of a year. The process involved over 100 people and enjoyed the support of an Advisory Board of handpicked practitioners and researchers.

- In the first phase, a team of researchers carried out a literature review of processes for the diffusion of innovation in government.
- In the second phase, the COI conducted field studies in 11 Danish municipalities involved in innovation in the area of welfare technology. Using observation techniques and approaches linked to behavioural economics and “nudge”, the COI endeavoured to answer the following question: What happens when institutions spread innovation?
- In the third phase, the main findings were tested in other contexts (e.g. business growth immigration services and child care), across all levels of government (central government, local authorities, hospitals, etc.) and even in non-governmental organisations working on welfare innovation.

The result of the process was Spreading Innovation, a guide deeply anchored in concrete experience and research. As a tool, it supports dialogue between sharers (teams who want to share an innovation) and re-users (teams that want to replicate an innovation). Although any interested sharer/re-user can download and use the guide independently, the COI firmly believes that personal relationships are essential for innovation and organises networking events to facilitate matching between potential sharers and re-users.

The guide gives an overview of an otherwise complex process. It is structured around six key steps to help government officials share and reuse an innovation. For each of these steps, there is a checklist of proposed actions to take and questions in the form of dialogue tools to guide discussions between teams. This approach enables the Spreading Innovation guide to support the spreading of innovations in government, while respecting institutional conditions that may require reinvention or re-contextualisation of some aspects of innovation processes – for example, taking into account the complexities that can exist between municipal, regional and state workplaces.

Source: OECD (2020), [System Change in Slovenia: Making Public Procurement More Effective](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

