

OPEN EXCHANGE SERIES:  
LEADING PRACTITIONERS ON PUBLIC  
PROCUREMENT

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**AGENDA**

24 October 2023

OECD Conference Centre

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## Leading Practitioners on Public Procurement Open Exchange Series

### Leveraging strategic procurement to deliver public services transformation

*Tuesday 24 October 2023*

Countries around the world are facing increasing demands from citizens to design and deliver public services that better serve their needs, that demonstrate governments' capacity to address major societal challenges and propose a more secured future. Better aligning public services with expectations from citizens ultimately reinforces their belief in democracies, in administrations capable of keeping up with promises that made them elected.

As governments can only deliver public services – health, education, public infrastructure, defence or transport to name a few – with the resources and expertise of the private sector, public procurement strategies and practices need to account for this call to deliver values for taxpayers' money. Besides economic efficiency (*doing it right*) public procurement is more and more accountable for policy effectiveness (*doing the right thing*).

The 2023 OECD Public Procurement Week will discuss the many values that are now attached to public procurement strategies, how they influence procurement outcomes and ultimately help public administrations meeting citizens' expectations. As revealed by the most recent crises, people are expecting public services, including underlying procurement strategies, to be responsive to external shocks and pressures. More resilient public services require better informed decision-making when developing public procurement strategies.

The digital transformation of public services is moving at fast pace across OECD countries. Central to these transformational initiatives is the creation of a procurement ecosystem demonstrating agility, user-centricity and effectiveness. The OECD's Good Practice Principles on Public Service Design and Delivery in the Digital Age [[GOV/PGC/EGOV\(2022\)1/REV1](#)] highlight the importance of curating an ecosystem of enabling tools, including procurement processes.

Public administrations also need to implement public procurement strategies fully embracing the digital transformation. Initiatives in this regard are trying to meet demands on the provision of digital public services, improving people's experiences with public administrations while minimising risks posed by emerging technologies.

This open exchange series will provide a platform to digital government policy makers and leading procurement practitioners to discuss how public procurement strategies could best deliver public services digital transformation.

**Master of Ceremony:**

- **Ms. Erika Bozzay**, Senior Policy Advisor, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

**Links for virtual participation:**

Main link for all plenary sessions and Breakout Session 2 (Room CC12):

[https://meetoeed1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ftkgjYaR8yW8aeOmbnDrg](https://meetoeed1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ftkgjYaR8yW8aeOmbnDrg)

Link for Breakout Session 1 (Room CC15):

<https://meetoeed1.zoom.us/j/97199241097?pwd=RkVCTnRJdZvYVZYSDBJMXZ3S1MzZz09>

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9:00 – 9:15

**Keynote by Co-chairs of the meeting**

- **Mr. Paul Quinn**, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Government Procurement, Ireland; Chair of the OECD Working Party of Leading Practitioners on Public Procurement (LPP)
  - **Mr. Frank Leyman**, Head of International Relations, Digital Transformation Office, Belgium; Chair of the OECD Working Party of Senior Digital Government Officials; (E-leaders)
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9:15 – 10:45

**Government-as-a-Platform (GaaP), can public procurement support this paradigm shift?**

The famous adage called “Conway’s law” states that “organisations which design systems... are constrained to produce designs which are copies of the communication structures of these organisations.”<sup>1</sup> This is often what happens when governments are deciding to digitalise their public services. The tax office develops its own digital tools which are not the same as those developed by the social security service although they might hold the exact same function (e.g. authentication, processing payments, etc...). This is because digital services are designed around organisational structure of governments rather than people’s needs. Life events entail dealing with different administrations and providing the exact same information to various services.

However, some countries are leading the way to break these organisational silos and offer cross-government public-facing services. This session will discuss how tailoring public procurement strategies and practices could help cross-government collaboration, citizens’ engagement and multi-sided supplier exchanges.

**Moderator:**

- **Ms. Barbara Ubaldi**, Head of Digital Government and Data Unit, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

**Panellists:**

- **Mr. Frank Leyman**, Head of International Relations, Digital Transformation Office, Belgium
- **Mr. Jon-Paul Williams**, Director of Procurement and Grants Information Systems, Department of Finance, Australia

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<sup>1</sup> Melvin E. Conway, “How do Committees Invent?” *Datamation*, 14, no. 5 (1968):28–31

- **Mr. Clemens Taube**, Beschaffungsamt des BMI, Germany

**Discussant:**

- **Mr. Paul Quinn**, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Government Procurement, Ireland

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*10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break*

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11:15 – 12:30

**Are digital opportunities fully exploited by public procurement practitioners?**

Besides the procurement of digital solutions changing the way public services are delivered, the increasingly digitised environment could also reshape procurement practices and open avenues for unprecedented analytical capabilities in support of procurement professionals. Across OECD countries, public authorities realise the untapped potential of a digitalised world to create an exponential number of data sources. However, increased data availability is of little use to inform procurement strategies if these data points are not structured, interoperable and connected.

This session will provide a platform to share insights on the most recent efforts to structure a procurement digital infrastructure which would help practitioners in evaluating trade-offs, assessing impacts and integrating public procurement outcomes in broader macro-economic evaluations.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Paulo Magina**, Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

**Panellists:**

- **Ms. Silke Obst**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG GROW, European Commission
- **Mr. Bongki Shin**, Public Procurement Service (PPS), Korea
- **Ms. Isabel Da Rosa**, Director, Financial, Studies and Strategies Directorate, IMPIC - Instituto dos Mercados Públicos, do Imobiliário e da Construção, Portugal
- **Ms. Janet Flynn**, Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, Ireland

**Discussant:**

- **Mr. Frank Leyman**, Head of International Relations, Digital Transformation Office, Belgium

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*12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break*

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14:00 – 16:00

**Breakout session 1 (Room CC15)**

**Procuring GovTech to accelerate digital innovation in the public sector**

GovTech refers mostly to digital products developed to support the delivery of public services to citizens and businesses or the internal operations of public administrations. Governments benefit from using GovTech because it provides access to innovations supporting both the delivery of services and opportunities for cost efficiency gains.

Public procurement offers opportunities to support directly promising technologies or innovations that suffer from a lack of investment or low numbers of initial adopters, by using public sector demand to create and shape new markets. In the case of GovTech, the public sector is the primary market. To support the emergence of a GovTech ecosystem therefore requires public sector bodies

to purchase GovTech effectively. This session will discuss opportunities and challenges in using public procurement to accelerate digital innovation.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Paul Quinn**, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Government Procurement, Ireland

**Panellists:**

- **Ms. Arune Matelyte**, Manager and Co-Founder, GovTech Lab Lithuania
- **Mr. Alfredo Molina**, Senior Lawyer, ICTU, Netherlands
- **Ms. Maria Hald**, Senior Technology Executive, Denmark
- **Mr. Michael Mills**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Government of Canada
- **Mr. Ulrich Norf**, Global Public Procurement Support Manager, and **Mr. Marc Danneberg**, Public Sector Lead, Bitkom - Digital Association, Germany

For online participants, please connect to the link below to access this breakout session:

<https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/j/97199241097?pwd=RkVCTnRJdjZvYVZYSDBJMXZ3S1MzZz09>

## Breakout session 2 (Room CC12)

### Technological disruption: can public procurement help managing risks?

Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence offer immense opportunities to rethink how public services are delivered to citizens or how public administrations operate. However, they also carry significant risks forcing world leading voices to call for a pause in their development. Public institutions are increasingly relying on AI or algorithmic decision-making systems to support public services. The rationale for this is not different from those of the private sector: increased efficiency and lowered transaction costs. However, the public sector upholds specific values – accountability and transparency – which could be severely impacted by the use of these algorithms.

This session will discuss how such technologies are impacting the delivery of public services, what are the challenges governments are confronted with when implementing disruptive technologies and how specific AI procurement guidelines could help addressing the various challenges these tools pose to the overarching principles of accountability and transparency in delivering public services.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Frank Leyman**, Head of International Relations, Digital Transformation Office, Belgium

**Panellists:**

- **Mr. Albert Sanchez-Graells**, Professor of Economic Law, University of Bristol Law School
- **Ms. Dora Ruiz**, Deputy Director, ChileCompra, Chile
- **Mr. Stephen Gallacher**, Digital Project Manager, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **Mr. Giuseppe Abbato**, International Relations Officer, Autorità nazionale anticorruzione, Italy
- **Ms. Ana Goncalves**, Audit Director, Tribunal de Contas, Portugal
- **Mr. Santiago Graña Domínguez**, Deputy Head of Digital Government Governance and Planning at the State Secretary for Digitalisation and AI, Spain

For online participants, please connect to the link below to access this breakout session:

[https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fitkgjYaR8yW8aeOmbnDrg](https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fitkgjYaR8yW8aeOmbnDrg)

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*16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break*

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16:30 – 17:30

**Closing plenary session**

Convening both breakout sessions, this will be an opportunity to report back on the discussions, reflect on next steps that could be taken to further leverage procurement techniques and processes to ensure a safe, competitive and effective digital public world.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Edwin Lau**, Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

**Rapporteurs:**

- **Professor Laurence Folliot-Lalliot**, Professor of Public Law, University of Paris Nanterre
- **Professor Tünde Tátrai**, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Operations and Decision Sciences

**Panellists:**

- **Mr. Paul Quinn**, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Government Procurement, Ireland, Chair of the LPP
- **Mr. Frank Leyman**, Head of International Relations, Digital Transformation Office, Belgium, Chair of the E-Leaders

For online participants, please connect to the link below to access this closing plenary session (Room CC12):

[https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fitkgjYaR8yW8aeOmbnDrg](https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fitkgjYaR8yW8aeOmbnDrg)

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*Background Documents*

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- Report on the implementation of the OECD Recommendation on Open Government [[C\(2023\)113](#)]
- [Digital Government Review of Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- Recommendation of the Council on the Governance of Digital Identity [[OECD/LEGAL/0491](#)]
- [Towards Agile ICT Procurement in the Slovak Republic, Good Practices and Recommendations](#)
- [Digital Transformation Projects in Greece's Public Sector](#)