



## Digital Government Strategies: Good Practices

### Czech Republic: Contract Register

The OECD Council adopted on 15 July 2014 the Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies. The Recommendation provides a set of 12 principles structured around 3 pillars. The OECD Secretariat developed a Digital Government Policy Toolkit to support OECD member countries and non-member adhering countries with the implementation of the Recommendation. This practice was submitted by the government of United Kingdom to be considered as a good practice in the implementation of one or more of the principles contained in the Recommendation.

#### Description of the practice:

<b>Organisation:</b>	Ministry of the Interior
<b>Name of the practice:</b>	Contract Register
<b>Principles implemented:</b>	<u>Principle 1</u> – Openness, transparency and inclusiveness

#### **Description:**

The register of contracts is an information system for the publication of contracts concluded with the state, authorities, institutions municipalities and commercial companies in which the state or local government has a majority stake. Contracts with over 50 thousand CZK without VAT must be published in an open and machine-readable format including metadata.

The obligation to publish contracts is governed by Act No. 340/2015 Coll., according to which the publication of the contract in register of contracts is a condition of the contract's effectiveness, the unpublished contract is invalid. Some institutions are exempt by law (e.g. the Czech Parliament, the Supreme Audit Office, the Constitutional Court, the President Office, the Office of the Ombudsman, and several exceptions relate to the subjects and types of contracts and the nature of the other party).

The register of contracts is an instrument to increase transparency of the use of public funds. By publishing public contracts, the public has the opportunity to control the economy of handling of finances and property, and also to compare the price at which individual authorities purchase comparable goods or services. Data boxes are used to enter the contract into the registry.

<https://smlouvy.gov.cz/>



## Digital government toolkit



### Results

As of 30 September 2018, approximately 1 580 000 contracts were published by almost 8 000 entities in the contract register. The contract register is supposed to reduce corruption and clientelism.

#### **Development:**

##### Design:

Civil society, represented by the platform “Reconstruction of the State and the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic” were involved in the design of the initiative.

##### Testing:

For the professional public, the Testing Environment of the contract register has been put in place, where all interested parties could test the functionality of both the web portal and the application interface of the contract register’s information system. This testing environment is linked to the testing environment of data boxes (see <https://www.czebox.cz/>), so it is possible to test all the processes associated with the publication of the contract.

#### **Implementation:**

##### Tool:

##### Resources:

The project is implemented within the department of the Ministry of the Interior, where two people work intensively and two other people when it is needed. The acquisition of the information system of the contract register cost 1,2 million CZK.

#### **Diffusion and scaling:**

Communication with broad professional public through conferences, seminars and workshops.

There were a number of training sessions throughout the Czech Republic, methodological instructions were prepared, frequently asked questions and answers (FAQ) were processed on the MV website, the contact person handles telephone inquiries. The Ministry of the Interior runs a help desk, answering about 7000 email queries and countless phone inquiries.

##### Extension:



## Digital government toolkit

The law on contract registers has a broad personal scope and, from the point of view of regulation at the level of national legislation, contracts have to be published by almost all public bodies.

### Partnerships:

Private sector, civil society, academic and research bodies and other public sector organisations. Extensive collaboration with civil society.

### Lessons learned

It is good to set a sufficiently long legislative time limit, since it is essential for the mandatory subjects to properly prepare for the new regulation. It should be specified what exactly is to be published and what metadata should be filled in, so that the registry is data valuable. For users, a comprehensive and simply written methodology should be prepared to contribute to the unification of practice. Training is key for users.

### Conditions required:

Assuring proper material and organizational support. Enforcement of legislation.

### Formal Evaluation:

### Additional information:

<https://smlouvy.gov.cz/>

<https://www.hlidacstatu.cz/Smlouvy>

<http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/registr-smluv.aspx>