

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN EFFICIENT GLOBAL SOLUTION FOR PUBLIC E-PROCUREMENT

Synergies between interoperable e-procurement platforms at the European level are the main issues addressed by the Procure project. The original experiment of user-friendly multifunction virtual public marketplaces thought for the local authorities and enterprises.



Innovative European e-administration by regions

This scenario is actually the path chosen by *e-bourgogne*, a renowned e-procurement platform launched in January 2005 by the Regional Council of Burgundy and shared by all public entities on its territory. These days the services includes also a single access point for all public aids and measures accompanying small business, tests new solutions related to the legal archiving and plans for tomorrow various e-services of proximity for citizens.

This Burgundy solution was based on Open Source standards, so that other regions may easily re-use it without having to spend for developments already done. The technical work was assumed by the Atexo, a French leading society in the domain of e-government tailor-made solutions, with assistance by an experienced consulting society Sopra Group.

Procure project to foster the single market

Assuming its pioneering role, experience and a strong will to share best practices, Burgundy with its industrial partners have decided to spread the e-procurement solution through Europe. Co financed by the Commission within the eTEN Program, the service is currently being tested in Brittany and Guadeloupe (France) and in the Central Bohemia region (Czech Republic). In addition, as the objective is not only to bring more enterprises to the public markets but as well to propose a global e-procurement service, a logical bus is set up between European portal and the local e-procurement solutions in Uddevalla (Sweden) and Piedmont (Italy).

Provided the proliferation of diverse e-procurement solutions and bearing in

CT to improve public services

Making public procurement digital has plenty of advantages and the European Union has clearly expressed its commitment to this process in the Lisbon Agenda. This paper foresees in 2010 all calls for bids published on dedicated platforms and half of bids placed on-line and encourage all partners to deploy relevant services.

Virtual marketplaces are legitimately considered mainly as an opportunity to better spend public money, by enhancing concurrence, transparency and fluidity. It is also a great mean to cut the costs and environmental impacts of paper-consuming procedures.

On the other hand, e-procurement also boosts local economic operators' activity. Hence, on some platforms any SME can register, enter its preferences and receive systematically an e-mail containing links to last calls for bids corresponding to its profession from a precise zone (for instance 30 kilometers from its abode) or from a whole region.

What's interesting for the local governance issues, this high added-value service may be subsequently a subject of related developments, like e-archiving, e-invoicing, e-workflow of signature and others. One can even anticipate building in the long term a real platform of e-services for all (public bodies, enterprises and citizens) beginning with electronic market.



mind the economic integration between the EU members states, we consider the interoperability issues are critical in this domain. To address this challenge, a common platform gathering tenders published on the local platforms has been developed as shown in the illustration below. The potentially interested businesses can profit from a single access to all the public markets in the case published by the Procure pilot regions when public buyers considered that European visibility was necessary. The tender's documentation can then be withdrawn

directly on the local platforms, with the same single-sign-on access.

Furthermore, the results of this unique experimentation and the preliminary studies done on the gaps in national implementations the 2004/18/EC directive will be an input for the future regulation on e-services. For instance, if cross-border tendering should be possible between all pilot regions, the main obstacle remains the lack of a common framework for the mutual recognition of e-signatures.

Want to acquire the Procure platform, just get more information or simply curious? Please do not hesitate to contact us, we will be happy to answer your question!

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Architecture with e-procurement platforms linked each other through a European portal

