

ELECTRA-WeB

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PROJECT PARTNERS



ELECTRA-WeB

...unites
our markets!

AN OPEN SOURCE ELECTRONIC PUBLIC PROCUREMENT APPLICATION FRAMEWORK

The need

Electronic Public Procurement is one of the key areas that can improve market access and strengthen the single European Market as it increases transparency in public money spending, increases and opens access to tendering information, faster processing of tenders, paperwork reduction, easier management of purchasing, and most importantly cost decrease of the purchased goods/services.

The new EU legislative framework on public procurement in 2004 provided the needed homogeneous legal framework that was lacking. The opening up of procurement markets across borders and in particular, the Western Balkan countries is a key opportunity. In view of their path to EU integration, these countries will concretely benefit from the early adoption of standardised and interoperable electronic Public Procurement systems compliant to the new EU legislative framework on public procurement. Adoption of electronically enabled EU standardised and interoperable public procurement services by Western Balkan countries will contribute in:

- More transparent procurement processes that ensure fair use of public funds
- Achieving equal opportunity to the participation of both SMEs and large suppliers within each country
- Facilitating access of EU suppliers to Western Balkan public procurement markets resulting in transfers of EU expertise and know-how to the region
- Timely preparing full participation of Western Balkan suppliers in the EU public procurement markets via interoperable electronic Public Procurement solutions.

Main challenges for the wider spread of electronic Public Procurement are how to introduce/increase the use of electronic Public Procurement solutions and how to convince suppliers to invest in systems which allow interaction with government eProcurement systems. Furthermore, the capital investment of implementing electronic public procurement practices has been identified as one of the main barriers for the deployment of electronic Public Procurement solutions in the EU but this issue is more compelling for areas under accession to the EU, such as the Western Balkan Region.

The solution

Specifically, ELECTRA-WeB leads to two "strategic actions", of mutual regional interest, by facilitating on the one hand the reform of the public procurement markets in the Western Balkan region, and on the other hand, their opening up to the EU market. The first will be achieved through the development of EC compliant, easy-to-use, interoperable and secure electronic Public Procurement solutions that will meet the specific requirements per country.

In line with the vision of the European Commission's eProcurement Action Plan 21, the ELECTRA-WeB project does not promote a "one-size-fits-all" approach but supports each country in adopting eProcurement solutions adapted to their needs. Moreover, in order to support the institutional reform process, supporting guidelines will be developed for all stakeholder involved (e.g. Public Authorities, ICT developers, and Suppliers).

The latter will be achieved by: (a) facilitating the access of EU suppliers in the region and (b) preparing for full participation of Western Balkan suppliers in the EU public procurement markets via interoperable electronic Public Procurement solutions.

Conclusively, the overall innovation of the ELECTRA-WeB project is the approach taken in facilitating the deployment of electronic Public Procurement services in the Western Balkan region by means of a domain-specific solutions' production environment. This innovative approach should be considered for the cost-effective deployment of other eGovernment solutions also.

The ELECTRA-WeB consortium will strive to develop an Open Source electronic Public Procurement Application framework that enables the development of user-friendly, robust, secure, scalable, manageable, interoperable, integratable, portable and lawful electronic Public Procurement solutions.

The innovative combination of MDE and SOA approaches selected for the cost-effective development of electronic Public Procurement solutions will facilitate integration, interoperability, easy maintenance and management of possible change in the European electronic Public Procurement environment.

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