Serbia*

Strategic framework, action plan and scope for procurement for innovation policy

Considering that there is no strategic framework on procurement for innovation in Serbia, the country follows on World Bank procedures, slightly modified and simplified to be more tailored to the best practice and well-established private sector procurement methods. These amended procedures (i.e. the commercial practice) are described in a manual.

The scope of procurement for innovation policy is in line with the World Bank procurement guidelines. The Project Implementation Document (or Manual) describes the basic guiding principles and acceptable procedures applicable to the loan. For example, there are mandatory provisions that beneficiaries of the loan shall not award contracts to their parent or affiliate companies unless there is an established arms-length arrangement. Also, the following needs are to be determined:

- assessing the capacity of the beneficiaries to carry out procurement efficiently
- approving acceptable plans for the procurement of goods, works, and non-consulting services, and the selection of consultants
- agreeing to supervision and oversight arrangements for the procurement to be carried out by the beneficiaries so as to ensure compliance with the agreed private sector methods and commercial practices
- maintaining all relevant records for the World Bank’s post review and audits when requested.

Implementation

There are no specific actions to support procurement for innovation at the national/central/federal level in Serbia. There have been initiatives which were implemented and supervised by the Innovation Fund (IF). However, these initiatives are related to the IF activities only.

Challenges, risks and solutions to overcome obstacles

A major challenge in Serbia was contract management. This challenge has been overcome to some extent.

Key lessons learned

A key lesson learned in Serbia relates to the importance of good timing and reviewing of deliverables, as well as the inspection of goods delivered.

Measurement and impact assessment

A system is not in place to measure the impact of actions related to procurement for innovation.
