Turkey*

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

Turkey’s “Programme for Technology Development and Domestic Production through Public Procurement” is one of the 25 primary transformation programmes within the frame of 10th National Development Plan (2014-18). The Grand National Assembly of Turkey approved the programme in 2013. The aim of the programme is to use public procurement to promote innovation, domestic production, technology transfer and innovative entrepreneurship. The programme’s scope comprises several aspects: considering a domestic R&D and innovation contribution requirement in public procurement and establish a right to use allocations; promoting innovation, domestic industry and technology transfer; and increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) by policies implemented in public procurement. The programme is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology.

After the adoption of the Tenth Development Plan and Priority Transformation Programs by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, a (stand-alone) action plan for “Program for Technology Development through Public Procurement” has been prepared under the co-ordination of Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. The action plan consists of 17 policy issues under 5 main components and 17 actions assigned to a consortium of ministries, public bodies, NGOs and chambers of industry.

This procurement for innovation action plan is not part of the country’s general innovation or procurement strategy. The “Program for Technology Development through Public Procurement” is part of the 10th Development Plan, but not part of the National STI Strategy 2011-16 or part of the strategy on public procurement.

The “Program for Technology Development and Domestic Production through Public Procurement” within the frame of 10th National Development Plan (2014-18) has the following concrete targets:

- increasing the share of domestic firms in medium-high and high technology sectors in public procurement
- supporting international branding in high-technology sectors and increasing the number of branded products
- increasing R&D expenditure by means of the public procurement system
- increasing FDI by policies that will be implemented in public procurement.

The performance indicators to monitor these targets include the following:

- share of domestic production in public procurement
- share of SMEs in public procurement
- share of domestic production based on public purchase guarantee in total public procurement

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The programme contains the following components:

- reorganising the public procurement system in a way that promotes R&D and innovation
- developing a financing and organisation model
- developing a legislative infrastructure
- increasing entrepreneurship and innovation capacity of the private sector by using public procurement
- developing institutional capacity.

**Implementation**

Specific actions: Aside from the “Program for Technology Development and Domestic Production Through Public Procurement” within the frame of 10th National Development Plan (2014-18), there have recently been further efforts to enhance innovative capacity by procurement.

The Supreme Council for Science and Technology (SCST), which is the highest policy making body for STI issues, since 2011 has issued decrees calling for “improved public procurement mechanisms’, ‘licensing to foster innovation, localisation and technology transfer’, ‘more digital content in education’ and ‘greater use of technology in government service delivery’.”

To foster R&D-based procurement methods, Turkey launched the “Public Institutions Research and Development Projects Support Program” (TUBITAK-1007) in 2005. The programme has been designed to fulfil the R&D needs of public institutions via dedicated calls for R&D projects by universities, industry and public research institutes. R&D-based requirements of the public sector are met by means of results-oriented R&D projects with no budgetary limitations.

Best practices have yet to materialise, given that the programme to support procurement for innovation and its action plan have only recently been launched.

**Challenges, risks and solutions to overcome obstacles**

The co-ordination between stakeholders, public-public and public-private sector interaction; as well as the need for improvement in the legislative framework regarding the public procurement and right of use allocations in a way that will promote innovation and technology transfer was few of the major challenges.

The co-ordination challenge was overcome by inclusive workshops with the stakeholders and strong dialogue between high level officials.
Key lessons learned

Turkey considered a key lesson learned that inclusive policy-making process, engaging all related parties, leads to a more accepted strategy are necessary. Support from high policy levels enables the implementation of the strategy to be more thorough.

Measurement and impact assessment

The Tenth Development Plan, with a strategic perspective at its core, covers economic, social, sectoral and regional areas, as well as setting forth the critical priority areas of intervention through its priority transformation programmes. Programmes are composed of public policies for priority areas that cover more than one sector and facilitate monitoring and implementation of plans. Programme details, sub-components, implementation activities and projects, budget requirements and legislative infrastructure have been transformed into action plans with joint participation and contribution of co-ordinator and responsible institutions for the components. The Ministry of Development monitors the progress through “Programme Monitoring Reports” which are due every six months. The High Planning Council is the authority with the right of revision of the programmes if needed, considering the implementation results.

The impact of the “Programme for Technology Development and Domestic Production through Public Procurement” is monitored by performance indicators, which are defined during the development stage (see above “Strategic framework”). The targets have not yet been achieved.

There are no impact assessments, evaluation studies and/or studies of state of play regarding any type of procurement for innovation.