

Governments in LAC use E-procurement as a way to improve the effectiveness of the public sector and contribute to the modernisation of the state. E-procurement, defined as the use of information and communication technologies in public procurement, facilitates access to public tenders, increases competition and enhances transparency.

The use of information and communications technology increases the efficiency of the public sector by simplifying internal procedures and reducing administrative burdens, leading to substantial cost and time savings. E-procurement can also help group information, which, if made public, increases transparency and gives citizens the opportunity to access and control information about how public money is spent.

The vast majority of countries in the region have developed a single-entry procurement website serving as a one-stop shop portal for public contracts. The information displayed, both qualitative and quantitative in nature, usually includes procurement laws and regulations, the responsibilities of procuring and contract authorities, general project information, contractor information, and the value of projects by category and/or procedures. The services offered by the single-entry procurement websites in LAC countries range from notifications of tenders to electronic payment. In general, LAC countries offer services through their websites related to the pre-tendering phase, such as the possibility to search and download tender documents (100%) and access online training materials (82%). Some countries offer additional services related to the tendering phase such as the electronic submission of bids and electronic catalogues (73%), statistics and databases related to past procurement (64%), and electronic reverse auctions (55%). Fewer countries offer those services related to the post-tendering phase such as contract management templates (36%) and electronic payment schemes (36%).

Overall, the share of LAC countries that offer services through the single-entry procurement website is much higher than the corresponding share of OECD member countries. However, one exception is the limited availability (43% in LAC compared to 55% for OECD member countries) of a tool that allows for two-way communication with citizens, bidders and the general public, which reinforces transparency and accountability in procurement.

Methodology and definitions

Data are from the 2013 OECD Survey on Public Procurement, which focused on the level of transparency and participation in central government procurement processes. A total of 11 LAC countries responded to this survey; respondents were LAC country officials. Data for the 34 OECD member countries are from the 2011 OECD Survey on Public Procurement. Procurement information used for the calculations refers to public procurement laws and policies; general information for potential bidders; procurement plans (e.g. prior information notices); specific guidance on tendering (templates, forms, etc.); tender documents; selection and evaluation criteria; contract award decisions (name and amount of selected contractors); justification for awarding a contract to selected contractors; contract modifications and tracking procurement spending.

The data relate only to purchases made by ministries, agencies and departments at a central government level and exclude purchases made by state-owned enterprises.

A single-entry procurement website (portal) centralises procurement information at one single location on the Internet, which is accessible via an online address. An e-catalogue is defined as a listing of available products and/or services that can be viewed and bought in an electronic format and can include information such as illustrations, prices, and product and/or service descriptions. An electronic reverse auction is an online, real-time dynamic auction between a buying organisation and a number of suppliers who compete against each other to win the contract by submitting successively lower-priced bids during a scheduled time period.

Further country-specific data on the services offered by government single-entry procurement websites (Table 5.8) can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933090859>.

Further reading

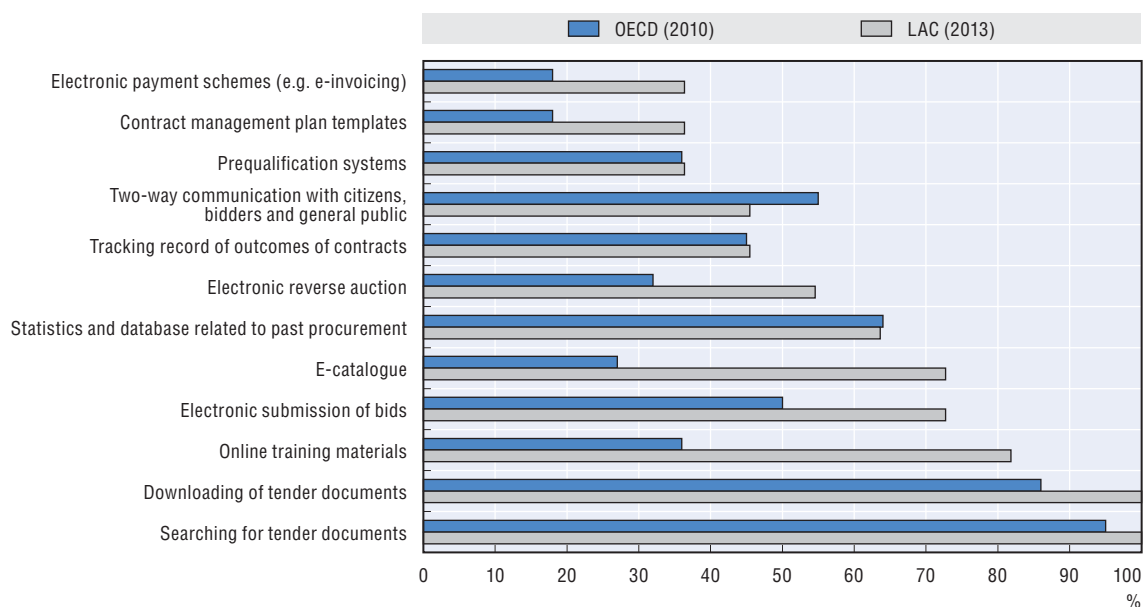
IDB, *DataGov, Governance Indicators Database*, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC, www.iadb.org/datagob/.

OECD (2013), *Implementing the OECD Principles for Integrity in Public Procurement: Progress since 2008*, OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264201385-en>.


Figure notes

5.6 and 5.7: Data for Chile and Mexico refer to 2010 and were published in *Government at a Glance* 2011.

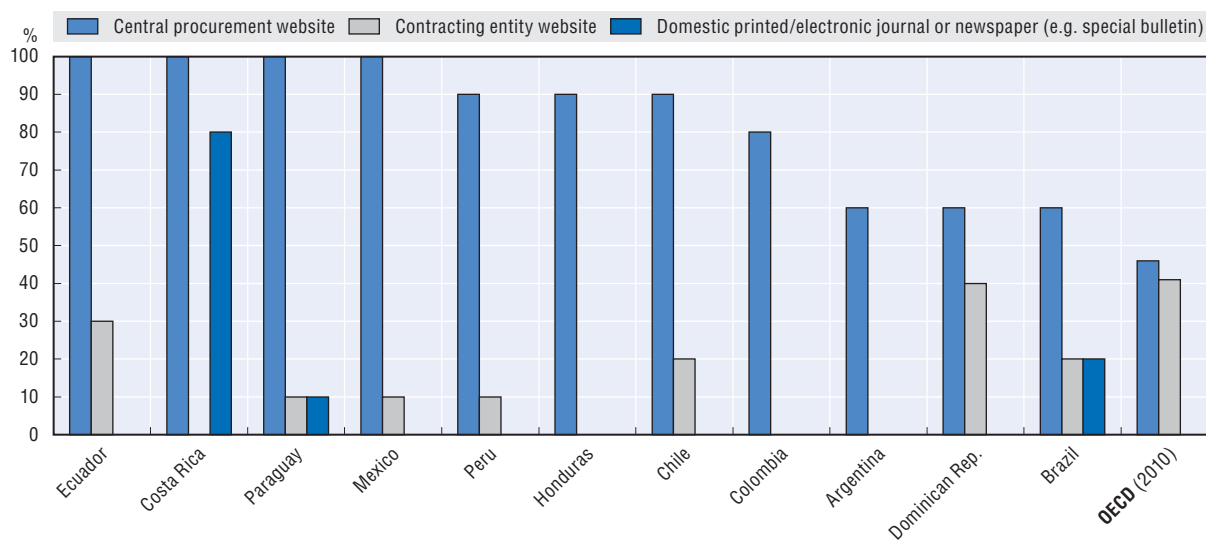
5.6. Most common services offered by the single-entry procurement website (2013)




Source: 2013 OECD Survey on Public Procurement.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933090422>

5.7. Online availability of selected procurement information (2013)



Source: 2013 OECD Survey on Public Procurement.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933090441>



From:

Government at a Glance

Latin America and the Caribbean 2014: Towards Innovative Public Financial Management

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264209480-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD/Inter-American Development Bank (2014), "E-procurement", in *Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2014: Towards Innovative Public Financial Management*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264209480-36-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area. Extracts from publications may be subject to additional disclaimers, which are set out in the complete version of the publication, available at the link provided.

The use of this work, whether digital or print, is governed by the Terms and Conditions to be found at <http://www.oecd.org/termsandconditions>.