The case of e-procurement in Portugal

Isabel Rosa

Public Contracts Portal Management

September, 2012
AGENDA

1. Brief History
2. Key Factors
3. The Information System
4. Public e-Procurement Assessment
5. Public Contracts Portal
6. Conclusions
2003 - Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC) creation
2005 – Pilot projects through all Ministries
2005 – General use of Electronic Platforms as SaaS
2007 – Creation of National System for Public Procurement
2008 – Legislation integration for goods, services and public works – New Public Contracts Code (NPCC)
2008 – First Framework Agreement
2008 – Transparency for Public Contracts through the Portal BASE (Public Contracts Portal)
2009 – Mandatory use of electronic tools
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Key Factors

- Pilot projects for aggregating purchases
- Mandatory use of e-tools up until contract award
- Transparency
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### System Architecture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCA</th>
<th>EP</th>
<th>OJ</th>
<th>BASE</th>
<th>OOP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buying Decision</td>
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<td>e-notice</td>
<td>Transaction</td>
<td>Published</td>
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<td>Contract Conclusion</td>
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PCA – Public Contracting Authority
EP – Electronic Platform
OJ – Official Journal
EO – Economic Operator
BASE – Public Contracts Portal
OOP – Public Works Observatory
Sample

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Stakeholders Relations

BASE

PCA 1

EP1
EO1

PCA 2

EP2
EO2

PCA 3

EP3
EO3

PCA 4

EP4
EO4

PCA 5

EP5
EO5

PCA 6

EP6
EO6
• **Survey in October 2011** with 567 replies (277 PCA + 290 EO)

• The sample includes significant groups of entities from Public Administration (PA) such as: direct administration (20%), indirect administration (20%), the regional administration and local (37%) and other groups (business sector of the state, etc..) with 23% of responses.

• The sample of business responses received also represents well the Portuguese business community containing about 87% of SMEs (according human dimension)
Contracting Authorities (PCA) and Economic Operators (EO) evaluate that electronic procurement remains positive in most major assessment dimensions:

- **RC** – reduction procedure cost
- **RT** – reduction procedure time frame
- **RB** – reduction bureaucracy
- **MC** – increase competitiveness
- **MT** – increase transparency
- **MV** - contracts best value.

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<th>PCA</th>
<th>EO</th>
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<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>Better: 35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worst: 24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>RT</td>
<td>Better: 39%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worst: 38%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<td>RB</td>
<td>Better: 35%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worst: 41%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>Better: 42%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Worst: 16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>MT</td>
<td>Better: 68%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>Worst: 4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MV</td>
<td>Better: 39%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<td>Worst: 10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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Improvements

There are some difficulties that have been pointed out among contracting authorities and economic operators:

- excessive requirements regarding electronic signatures
- cost of timestamps
- lack of coordination and interoperability between e-Platforms, Portal BASE and Official Journal.

It is time to evaluate and to promote initiatives or actions by a regulatory authority responsible to stimulate innovation and improvement of the e-platforms especially with respect to interoperability and to avoid undesirable practices. The legislations is under revising process in order to give clear attributions to a single entity to promote this type of measures.
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Savings

• Reports in 2011 referring public procurement accounts for 16% of GDP.
• There were different types of savings estimated using public procurement data from 2010 and an overall reduction between 6% and 12% can be estimated for the total public expenditure due to e-tendering and Procurement Business Intelligence.
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Public Contracts Portal

13-09-2012 Hearing on eProcurement, EESC
NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Single repository of public contracts under the Public Contracts Code.
Accountability in procurement.
National vision of acquisition procedures.
Instrument of expenditure management
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Public Contracts Portal Numbers

- Total number of contracts: 303,679
- Total value of contracts: €17,296,034,306.23
- Daily visitors: 2,000 - 3,000

13-09-2012 Hearing on eProcurement, EESC
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Conclusions

1. In all three surveys (2009, 2010 and 2011) the general feeling has been very constant and we can say that exists in Portugal a positive evaluation from contracting authorities and economic operators. It possible to say that the Procurement System introduced in Portugal has improved the Public Procurement.

2. The most prominent positive aspects between contracting authorities and tenderers are:
   a) cost reduction,
   b) reducing the time frame of proceedings,
   c) reduction of bureaucracy,
   d) transparency
   e) simplification of processes
   f) value for money
3. The less positive aspects between contracting authorities and economic operators are:
   a) excessive demands with digital certificates
   b) cost of timestamps
   c) interoperability between technology solutions and entities

4. Among the measures to promote we highlight a better coordination and monitoring of e-Platforms which are underway for legislative changes.

5. Public Contracts Code was revised in July 2012 with updates proposed by Troika.

6. Transparency has been a constant challenge and therefore from January 2012 all contracts for all types of procedures have become public, including the document itself.
Thank You

Isabel.rosa@inci.pt
CIO in INCI (Real Estate and Construction Institute)