



Webinar

Fighting COVID-19 thru Public Procurement

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020
10:00 - 13:00 EDT Time

The challenges presented by COVID-19 represent an opportunity to analyze and rethink the role of public procurement as a strategic tool to respond to the real needs of citizens. In this context, it is necessary to have adequate knowledge, the technological tools and technical instruments to strengthen the public procurement systems, along with coordination and cooperation between key actors to face this type of emergencies.

To this date, national public procurement systems have responded with measures and actions based on their institutional capacity. **How have countries been able to respond? What requirements were “relaxed” in facing the emergency and need for immediate response/action? What challenges have been faced? What lessons have been learned thus far?**

This webinar session will provide a space to share regional experiences and global initiatives, in public procurement which have been implemented to achieve greater transparency, integrity, innovation, cooperation, and access to the market in fighting this global pandemic

Moderators:

Helena Fonseca, Coordinator, Public Procurement Program, Organization of American States (OAS) and Technical Secretary, INGP.

Adriana Salazar, Procurement Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Douglas Fraser, Head of Procurement, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Johanna Pelaez, Procurement Specialist, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Nicolás Penagos, Manager, Latin America Region, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP).

Agenda

10:00: Start and keynote:

Ms. Maureen Barrantes, INGP President / Director General, Management of Goods and Administrative Procurement, Ministry of Finance, Costa Rica. (10 min).

10:15: Transparency in Public Procurement: A lot has been discussed recently around the issue of "sacrificing" the terms (standard times) in public procurement processes, especially when requesting estimates / quotes or conducting market studies, how to do to avoid or control exorbitant prices through open data which may allow for fair and equal benchmarks for the procurement of essential goods needed to face the pandemic? How have electronic platforms responded to the COVID-19 crisis? What new tools were developed to guarantee greater transparency, traceability and access to the information related to contract awards and actions to face this emergency? How can the use of open data benefit the control of public spending and accountability? (45mins aprox.)

Moderator: Nicolás Penagos and overview of the tradeoff between transparency and efficiency principles during the pandemic (10 min).

Silvana Vallejo, Director, Public Procurement National Service (SERCOP), Ecuador. (10 min)

Pablo Seitz, Director, Public Procurement (DNCP), Paraguay. (10 min)

Andres Redin, Regional Advisor for Public Procurement | Latin America and Caribbean Region UNOPS. Observatory on Procurement of Pharmaceuticals. (10 min)

11:00: Integrity in Public Procurement: What are the main risks that countries' public procurement systems face in relation to integrity during the emergency? What practical tools are available to identify/ analyze these risks? (30 mins aprox.)

Moderator: Douglas Fraser, CDB. (5 min)

Ben Koberna, EasyBuy. (10 min)

Carlene Radix, Head of Health, OECS Commission. (10 min)

11:30: Innovation in Public Procurement: What is the role of innovation in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic? What new strategies or initiatives have been implemented as a result of this situation that help facilitate the purchase of necessary goods and the approach of new suppliers? What recommendations can be given to countries to incorporate innovation initiatives that allow them to tackle challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic while responding to real needs? (20 mins aprox.)

Moderator: Johanna Pelaez, CDB. (5 min)



Sandra Sinde, Director in Innovation & CPI. IDOM: Madrid Connects Platform. (10 min)

11:50: Supply Chain and the Market: What are the challenges in regards to Market behavior? What are the most effective methods to solve supply, logistics and distribution problems? (30 mins aprox.)

Moderator: Adriana Salazar, BID. (5 min)

Michael Griffin, Strategy and Partnerships Technical Officer for the Operations Support & Logistics Unit at WHO/ Global Pandemic Supply Network (10 min)

Joshua Wert, Office of Chief Administrative Officer (OCAO) Branch Chief -Disaster Support Branch, FEMA, USA (10 min)

12:20: Regional cooperation in Public Procurement to respond to the pandemic: What regional public procurement mechanisms are available to countries to face the crisis? What methods have been implemented by countries for the emergency procurement of health goods and services? (30 mins aprox.)

Moderator: Helena Fonseca, OAS. (5 min)

Pilar Alfredo Lagos, Coordinator of the Medicines and Other Health Technologies Unit of the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA. (10 min)

Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA-CARICOM). (10 min)

12:50: Final reflections/Remarks: Helena Fonseca, OAS.