



Terms of Reference

2026 INGP Public Procurement Innovation Award



Overview

Recognizing the growth importance of innovation and digital transformation in public procurement, the Organization of American States (OAS) as Technical Secretariat of the Inter- American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) and The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is pleased to present the "2026 INGP Public Procurement Innovation Award".

This initiative, aimed at INGP member countries, seeks to identify and highlight high-impact solutions in public procurement developed across the region, with the goal of fostering institutions that are increasingly open, transparent, innovative, efficient, and responsive to the needs of citizens.

As part of this competition, outstanding initiatives will be recognized in the following categories:

- 1. Innovation in the implementation of new technologies and digital tools.**
- 2. Innovation in institutional reform and/or regulatory framework.**
- 3. Institutional change management, strategic vision, and innovation culture.**
- 4. Innovation in fostering openness and collaborative strategies with other stakeholders.**

Objectives

- To improve and highlight the efforts of public procurement entities to modernize and enhance their national procurement systems.
- Highlight the various efforts made by public procurement entities to modernize and enhance their national procurement systems.
- Promote the sharing of information to inspire, replicate, and scale up different solutions.
- Foster cooperation among public procurement stakeholders.



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- Recognize best practices in innovation and digital transformation to strengthen the regional public procurement ecosystem and support the development of policies aimed at process optimization.
- Showcase the region's capabilities and progress to strengthen its global positioning.

Who Can Participate?

The contest is open to public procurement entities from all sectors and levels of government (national, federal, local or equivalent) in the member countries of the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP).

Eligibility criteria

- Submit a public procurement initiative that began implementation no more than three years ago (2023) from the launch of this call for applications, and no later than one year ago (2026). Ongoing initiatives may be submitted, provided they show significant progress and demonstrate a clear impact.
- Complete the registration form available on the INN-Site platform and fill in all required fields within the deadlines specified in the schedule
- Be an entity from an OAS members country.

Guidelines for applicants

- 2) Go to the INN-Site website: <https://inn-site.ricg.org/index.php/home-en>
- 3) Click on the main banner that says "INGP Public Procurement Innovation Award".
- 4) Identify the fields required in the application form and compile the information.
- 5) Enter the application form by clicking on the "Registration Form" button.
- 6) Fill in the requested information and upload the required documents.
- 7) Submit the application.



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Categories



1. Innovation in the implementation of new technologies and digital tools

It includes all initiatives focused on the optimization of government procurement processes, through the integration of emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, big data, virtual reality, among others. Likewise, it will include those solutions based on the use of digital tools such as web platforms, mobile applications, software or hardware development, among others.



2. Innovation in institutional reforms and/or regulatory frameworks

It refers to any efforts in normative regulation that encourage and facilitate both innovative practices and the adoption of technology in government procurement processes, such as public procurement for innovation, regulatory sandboxes, public policies, among others.



3. Institutional change management, strategic vision, and innovation culture

All initiatives and strategies carried out within the organizations, focused on change management, strategic vision for innovation and/or promoting the adoption of an innovation culture. This also includes the creation of innovation cells, staff training, internal innovation contests, innovation labs, communication strategies, innovation leadership programs, among others.



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4. Innovation in fostering openness and collaborative strategies with other stakeholders: It refers to the set of strategies and initiatives that involve the participation of citizens, universities, government and companies, within the framework of public procurement. Such innovations may include hackathons, open innovation challenges, contests, collaborations for the generation of studies on innovation and technology, among others.

Award criteria

Criterion	Score
1. Impact of the public value generated: measurable outcomes based on quantitative and qualitative indicators, resulting in clear benefits for one or more stakeholders.	45%
2. Innovation: refers to the originality of the proposal within the geographic context covered by this call. The goal is to highlight particularly novel efforts within the region.	25%
3. Sustainability over time: considers the initiative's potential for long-term continuity, its ability to withstand political transitions, adaptability to changing environments, and capacity to evolve or transform.	15%
4. Replicability: this award aims to highlight the most outstanding public procurement initiatives that can serve as a source of inspiration and cooperation for other entities. In this regard, the potential for replication and transfer to other countries in the region will be taken into account.	10%



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5. Finally, full points will be awarded for this criterion to entities that complete the self-assessment measuring the level of innovation and digital transformation adoption. The result of this assessment must be uploaded in the designated field within the application form	5%

Evaluation Panel

The evaluation panel will be composed of two (2) representatives from the Organization of American States (OAS), serving as the Technical Secretariat of the INGP, two (2) representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and one (1) innovation expert.

Recognitions

There will be one (1) overall winner and one (1) special recognition in each of the categories described in this Terms of Reference.

The entity awarded the prize will receive funding for the participation of one (1) representative in the XX INGP Annual Conference 2026, to be held from August 12 to 14 in the city of Monterrey, Nuevo León-Mexico, where the prize will be formally awarded to the winning initiative.

Finally, both the overall winner and the finalists will receive a certificate issued by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of American States (OAS). In addition, both organizations will promote the competition results through their respective communication channels.



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Key considerations

- Each entity may submit up to two (2) initiatives in total, each of which must be completed using a separate application form.
- All information provided in the application must be accurate and truthful. If, at any stage of the process, it is determined that this requirement has not been met, the application will be subject to disqualification.

Schedule

Activity	Date
Call opening	May 14, 2026
Deadline for submissions	July 12, 2026 (11:59 p.m. Washington D.C.)