

Launch of the report

Public Procurement Laws and Practice in the EBRD region

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On 22-23 September 2011 the EBRD's Legal Transition and Knowledge Management team and the Procurement Department organised an event dedicated to the launch of the EBRD Public Procurement Assessment report. The event was held in Saint Petersburg, Russia and consisted of a plenary session (22 September) and Public Procurement Reform Workshop (23 September).

The EBRD Public Procurement Assessment report provides an evaluation of the public procurement legal frameworks and local procurement practice across the EBRD countries of operations, including the application of sustainability policies in public procurement practice. The Public Procurement Assessment embraced the entire region. It drew on contributions from local lawyers, procurement advisers and more than 100 contracting entities from central governments, municipalities and the utilities sector. The assessment results are based on an evaluation of the public procurement legal framework in force on 30 June 2010 and local procurement practice surveyed in early 2011.

Key public procurement regulatory officials from the region were invited to the event to discuss the research findings and debate the reform agenda in the EBRD region. **Natasha Khanjenkova**, the EBRD Managing Director for Russia, **Olga Anchishkina**, Director of the Department of Federal Contract System Development, Russia and **Artem Lobov**, Deputy Head of the Department for Public Procurement Monitoring, Federal Antimonopoly Service, Russia welcomed the participants and opened the plenary session.

The first part of the plenary session was moderated by **Jan Jackholt**, Head of Procurement Department, EBRD and focused on a review of the Assessment results. **Eliza Niewiadomska**, Legal Transition Programme, EBRD explained the scope and focus of the 2010 survey of public procurement laws and practice in the EBRD region, while **Evgeny Smirnov**, Procurement Department, EBRD presented main findings on public procurement legislation and practice. Mr. Smirnov's presentation was followed by a discussion of main findings on efficiency of review and remedies procedures, presented by **Spyros Panagopoulos**, Public Procurement Monitoring Unit (EL), Greece. The three presentations were followed by an interactive question and answers session, where the participants had a chance to verify any issues raised during the presentations.

The second part of the plenary session discussed proposals for public procurement reform. **Olga Anchishkina** presented public procurement legal framework reform in the Russian Federation. During her presentation Mrs. Anchishkina discussed comprehensive operational cycle of procurement procedures, process and technology cycle within federal acquisition system and social and business effects.

Artem Lobov, talked about the ways of improving the public procurement system in the Russian Federation. Mr. Lobov analysed the main directions of an integrated improvement system and discussed the aims of creation of a comprehensive procurement system.

After his presentation, Mr. Lobov was joined by **Pavel Volkov**, Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Economic Development, Russia in moderating a panel discussion. **Stefan Creanga**, Head of Public Procurement Agency, Moldova, **Kubilhan Ertugrul**, Senior Advisor, Public Procurement Authority, Turkey, **Daniel Ivarsson**, Senior Advisor, OECD / SIGMA, **Jan Jackholt**, Director of Procurement, EBRD, **Ludmila Yurchenko**, Public Procurement Department, Ministry of Economy, Belarus and **Gustavo Piga**, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy provided their input to the lively discussion.

Towards the end of the plenary session, **Michel Nussbaumer**, Head of Legal Transition Programme, EBRD provided concluding remarks and the session was closed for the day.

The public procurement reform workshop, which encompassed country delegates' presentations, was moderated by **Dilara Bashirova**, Head, Legal Unit, Department for Public Procurement Monitoring, Federal antimonopoly Service, Russia and by **Pavel Volkov**.

The reform workshop presentations were delivered by **Klodiana Cankaja**, General Director, Public Procurement Agency, Albania; **Nihat Akhundov**, Deputy Head, Public Procurement Agency, Azerbaijan; **Dina Foco**, Director, Public Procurement Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Mare Bogoeva Micovska**, Director, Public Procurement Bureau, FYR Macedonia; **Anita Boros**, Head of Department Public Procurement Council, Hungary; **Stefan Creanga**, Head of Public Procurement Agency, Moldova; **Amgalan Luvsandagva**, Senior Officer, Public Procurement Department Ministry of Finance, Mongolia; **Mersad Mujevic**, Director, Public Procurement Bureau, Montenegro; **Ravshan Karimov**, Deputy Director, Public Procurement Agency, Tajikistan; **Abdullah Korkmaz**, Head of International Relations and Coordination with EU, Public Procurement Authority, Turkey and **Vladislav Zubar**, Deputy Head Department of Public Procurement and Public Order, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ukraine. The delegates discussed local public procurement frameworks and recent legislative amendments to public procurement laws in their respective countries.

The country delegates' presentations were followed by a discussion of new public procurement reform initiatives in the CIS region. As some of the countries are included in the EU Neighbourhood Policy, **Piotr Nils-Gorecki** provided a detailed explanation of OECD/SIGMA's framework and aims for these countries. Mr. Nils-Gorecki discussed SIGMA's activities and lessons learned from facilitating public procurement reform in the ENPI countries. While **Alexey Stukalo**, Deputy Coordinator, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities presented EBRD UNCITRAL Initiative on Enhancing Public Procurement Regulation in the CIS countries and Mongolia. Mr. Stukalo provided a detailed description of the initiative and its future steps and activities.

Mr **Michel Nussbaumer** and Mr **Jan Jackholt** concluded the roundtable with their presentation of the EBRD technical cooperation initiatives for the CIS transition countries.