Millennium Challenge Albania

Threshold Agreement PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMPONENT FACT SHEET

Increasing Public Procurement Transparency and Efficiency

Graduate students from the University of Tirana attend the Master's course on Public Procurement offered for the first time in Albania through the support of the Project.

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OVERVIEW

The Public Procurement component of the Millennium Challenge Albania Threshold Agreement project aims to improve the capacity of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), which serves as the hub of public procurement in Albania, to conduct transparent procurements, as well as to enable the private sector to monitor effectively the public procurement procedures.

The two-year, $13.85 million Millennium Challenge Albania Threshold Agreement between GoA and Millennium Challenge Corporation, administered by USAID, assists the GoA to reform and modernize tax administration, public procurement, and business registration through IT solutions and legislative improvements.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The Public Procurement Component works to achieve these results:

Regulations and Explanatory Guidance Developed and Implemented. This includes producing regulations that provide guidance on the new legal framework, as well as explanatory direction for PPA officials and businesses.

PPA Capacity for Transparent Procurement Process Institutionalized. This refers to the development of the e-procurement system which integrates government procurement offices, monitors compliance, and establishes audit trails.

Businesses Empowered to Hold the PPA Accountable for Compliance. This includes the establishment of the Procurement Advocate office, and the undertaking of a country-wide multi-media campaign to educate businesses on their rights and responsibilities.

RESULTS TO DATE

- Following the successful pilot e-tender by the Albanian Electric Corporation (KESH) to purchase the annual supply of electric power valued at 220 million Euros, as of December 4th, 2007, the E-procurement System (EPS) has been formally approved for use by the Government of Albania.
- With the onset of the 2008 public procurement procedures, fifteen Contracting Authorities have already submitted electronic tenders through the EPS.
- An enhanced PPA website, www.app.gov.al, which is now the e-procurement portal, allows economic operators to read all public tender notices, download free of charge tender documents, make inquiries and receive replies in anonymity, as well as submit bids online. System User Manuals are available for downloading from the website. All transactions in the system take place in a secure environment now certified also by VeriSign.
- The office of the Procurement Advocate, www.avp.gov.al, a new independent monitoring and investigative institution in public procurement and concession procedures, is now open to address concerns by economic operators, and is engaged in a public outreach effort to implement an ambitious communications strategy.
- Intensive training on the PP law and procedures, as well as e-procurement has taken place for 890 contracting authority procurement officials at the central and local level, and 302 businessmen and women, as well as to certify 31 trainers.
- Between March 26 and May 21, 2008, graduate students from the University of Tirana attended a newly-offered Master's course on Public Procurement.