

Report on the first tenders conducted through the e-Procurement system in the Republic of Macedonia

At the moment 5 institutions are registered to use the e-Procurement system:

1. City of Skopje
2. Municipality of Karpos
3. Municipality of Veles
4. Service for General and Common Affairs of the Government of RoM
5. Water Supply Company

Only 4 of them, City of Skopje, Municipalities of Karpos and Veles and Water Supply Company, published their first tenders through the system. All 4 Institutions completed the overall public procurement procedures through the system, starting with their internal procedure finishing with announcing the most favourable bidder, and were very pleased with the benefits of using the system in general.

City of Skopje published tender for Reconstruction and Upgrade of Computer installation of the Local Computer Network, by announcing *open call procedure* on 13th of April, 2006. This type of procurement pertains to the group: *services*. The public opening of this tender was conducted on 17th of May and it was successfully completed. City of Skopje received 4 bids, which were electronically submitted by the bidders and downloaded by the Public Procurement Commission at the moment of the public opening. The representatives of the bidding companies, who were present during the public opening, expressed their satisfaction of using the e-Procurement system as a more transparent way of bidding. The only remark, given by both - City of Skopje and the bidders - does not refer to the quality of the software, but to the slow speed Internet connection that caused download of the bids to be time consuming. Each bid had a large size (around 16 MB), which is too much even if the internet connection is faster. However, the general remark of using the e-procurement system was very positive.

Municipality of Karpos published tender for Reconstruction of Street, by announcing *restricted call procedure* on 17th of April, 2006. This type of procurement pertains to the group: *works*. The public opening of this tender was conducted on 30th of May and both - the bidders and the representatives from Karpos - were very satisfied with the system. They have received 4 bids as well. General remark for using the e-Procurement system from their point of view was that the system really facilitated their work and improved the quality of the whole public procurement process.

Municipality of Veles published tender for procurement of Insurance of Property and Fixed Assets, by announcing *open call procedure* on 5th of April, 2006. This type of procurement pertains to the group: *services*. The public opening of this tender was conducted on 15th of May and the Contracting authority has received 3 bids. The representatives of the bidders, who were present during the public opening, even those that were not selected as a winner of that tender, expressed their satisfaction of using

the system. Municipality of Veles expressed a wish to use the system even more in the future, but also suggested some modifications to the software application that would make it more user-friendly and secure.

Water Supply Company on 1st of August, 2006 has published 2 tenders at the same time. Both tenders are ongoing and conducted through an open call procedure and pertain to the group *services*:

1. Procurement of snack-bar supplies – deadline for submission of bids is 22.09.2006, 10:00 hours; and
2. Procurement of hygiene/sanitary supplies – deadline for submission of bids is 25.09.2006, 10:00 hours.

The persons responsible for the public procurements within this institution have shown great interest to use the system more frequently in the near future and have expressed high level of satisfaction with the functionalities offered by using the e-Procurement system.

Summary:

The fact that the Contracting Authorities in Macedonia have already published tenders for different types of procurements through the e-Procurement system, shows that the system fully supports the procurement of goods, services and works and it is completely irrelevant what types of commodities are being procured. The system also supports both - open and restricted call procedures - and can be used for publishing international tenders as well, but with one exception and that is the publishing of the tender in some of the International newspapers, which shall be performed additionally, not automatically through the system.

At this stage, financial indicators that would show savings gained by the Contracting authorities that used the e-Procurement system are not available.

Starting from September, this year, 7 new Contracting Authorities would be registered to use the e-Procurement system: National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia, Union of the Local Self-government Units (ZELS), Public Enterprise “Macedonian Forests” and the municipalities of: Vinica, Kocani, Radovis and Berovo.