



## A TRANSEUROPEAN E-PROCUREMENT PROJECT FOCUSING ON SME'S

The **PROCURE** inter-regional network project aims at enabling electronic bids for public procurement procedure, through a safe and intuitive web site. By strengthening access to information and making direct e-tendering and e-bidding possible, these interregional platforms will simplify both the work of persons in charge of public procurement and that of local economic operators - especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) - with public bodies. **PROCURE** will also explore cross-border issues linked to interoperability and the legal framework in compliance with the Lisbon Agenda.

Limited dissemination and insufficient competition are the main problems that public entities have to tackle when organising calls for tender. Furthermore many firms and especially SMEs are often prone not to participate in public tenders because of fragmented announcements and complicated formalities. However, new communication technologies allow for a new approach, leveraging on the dematerialization and simplification of the procurement procedures.

The main objective of the **PROCURE** project is to adapt, integrate further technologies and deploy the existing Burgundy public procurement dematerialization service ([www.e-bourgogne.fr](http://www.e-bourgogne.fr)). By launching new regional e-procurement sites, this solution will provide a wide range of new and useful tools such as trans-European functionality and an "electronic safe" for the tenders' legal documents.

**PROCURE** seeks to enhance the efficiency of public expenses, to bring more small and medium enterprises to the public procurement process and to address cross-border issues between the EU Member States.

To ensure an effective acceptance of the solution by local actors in the targeted regions, the deployment will be systematically preceded by studies on local legislation and on the market issues. Subsequently, all appropriate channels will be used to communicate with the stakeholders groups (Local Authorities, private companies small or large). Furthermore, experiments are conducted simultaneously in all of the regions, but with individualised management providing speedy feedback and adjustments which will permit the **PROCURE** solution to remain as close as possible to local market expectations.

To carry out the field of market validation in the domain of the European e-government solutions, the following international consortium has been created which includes local public entities as well as professional and industrial partners:

- Burgundy Regional Council (coordinator, France)
- Guadeloupe Regional Council (France)
- Consortium MEGALIS (Brittany Region, France)
- Catalonia Region (Spain)
- Central Bohemia Region (Czech Republic)
- Municipality of Uddevalla (Sweden)
- Atexo
- Sopra Group
- Marakanda
- Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- University of Bremen

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	3,417,800 €
<b>EU FUNDING</b>	2,059,481 €
<b>DURATION</b>	July 2007 - December 2008
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.eten-procure.com">www.eten-procure.com</a>
<b>CONTACT</b>	Louis-François FLERI - e-mail : <a href="mailto:lffleri@cr-bourgogne.fr">lffleri@cr-bourgogne.fr</a> or phone +33 (0)3.80.44.36.63
<b>PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES</b>	Czech Republic, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden



<http://www.epractice.eu/cases/2079>  
<http://www.epractice.eu/cases/1925>