Minutes of the expert groups

Minutes
8th meeting of the Multi-stakeholder expert group on eProcurement (EXEP)
Brussels, 8-9 March 2017

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was a regular meeting of a Commission expert group, taking place in line with the previously agreed upon schedule.

3. List of points discussed

Opening:
- COM informed the group that the three subgroups (on contract registers, accreditation/certification and e-catalogues) have been working on their draft recommendations. The e-catalogues subgroup has performed a survey.
- COM reminded the group of the importance of passing on information from EXEP to colleagues in other institutions back in the MS.
- COM informed the participants of the upcoming events relevant to EXEP: contract registers workshop (22 March), Strategic public procurement conference in Paris (2 June).

Presentation of experience of transition to e-procurement by Member States:
- Hungary presented its concept for the Hungarian e-procurement system: a single sign-on central state system that will be mandatory as of beginning of 2018. Some existing services such as Electronic Notice Sender System (EHR) will be integrated to the Hungarian electronic public procurement system (EKR).
- France presented its experience in the transition to e-procurement which is happening in a very complex environment consisting of approx. 130.00 public buyers with 3.000 that buy above EU thresholds. The speakers identified accreditation as a major issue in this transition.

Commission initiatives:
- Procurement of IT services: COM informed the participants on the ongoing work in sectorial policies for public procurement, especially in the area of IT procurement. The ongoing work includes: organising dedicated workshops, guidelines, data-intensive work, and bilateral engagements with EU Member States. The work so far focused mainly on direct award and software.
- E-procurement knowledge survey: COM informed the participants about the importance of keeping the information about the state of affairs of e-procurement up to date and that there are several alternatives under analysis to make the updating process as simple as possible. Solution planned to be presented in the next meeting.

- E-procurement prize: COM introduced the idea of an e-procurement prize to the participants. The details will be discussed in subsequent meetings.
- eForms were discussed in the world café session.

Commission initiatives:
- COM reported on the new service – the "E-invoicing Readiness Checker" and on the most recent developments from the e-invoicing forum.

ESPD session:
- COM informed the group that the current e-ESPD service developed and maintained by the Commission will be phased out in the future, as EU Member States develop their own implementations of e-ESPD.
- Future work on e-ESPD could be organised in a separate subgroup of EXEP that would form a user community.

"World café session":
- "World café" session covered topics related to ESPD, funding for implementation of e-procurement solutions and technical assistance, TED and the new standard forms.

Subgroup work (2nd day):
- Second day of the meeting was taken up by work in subgroups, clarifying the three recommendations and the accompanying papers on: e-catalogues, contract registers and accreditation/certification.

4. Conclusions
- The subgroups are supposed to finalise their papers and recommendations on time for them to be endorsed at the next meeting of EXEP.

5. Next steps
- E-catalogues subgroup and certification subgroup will meet for a face to face meeting in Brussels before the summer in order to further work on their papers. Contract registers subgroup will continue working online, as well as the other two groups.
- Papers will be consulted with the group before the next meeting.

6. Next meeting

- The next meeting will take place in September.

7. List of participants