

procure



European Commission
Information Society and Media



eTEN

A public **procurement platform**
shared by **public authorities**
within a **region** used by **SMEs**
and **connected together**
for **cross-border tendering**



A ONE STOP SHOP



The Procure platform is a web-based tool, usually shared between authorities at a regional level.

It lets all participating public buyers within a region publish and easily manage all their tenders - whatever their value - in compliance with European and local regulations. Businesses, especially SMEs, can access tenders, communicate with buyers and bid online, using robust forms of electronic identification when required.

It runs on open-source software. The development costs are shared across all the regional platforms, making it affordable to maintain and easy to adapt to suit specific needs.

OUR PHILOSOPHY: FUNCTIONALITY THAT FITS WITH USERS' NEEDS

The Procure platform has been developed with the needs of both buyers and sellers in mind:

- Authorities get a tried-and-tested technology that integrates all steps of public procurement in a single, easy-to-manage web space.
- The system is suitable for low value contracts.
- Registered companies can set up alerts for relevant tenders.
- Tender submissions adhere to a standard format, making it quicker for companies to prepare tender submissions and easier for buyers to compare responses.



YOUR PROCURE CD

This CD includes:

- A video presentation of the Procure solution
 - Links to existing solutions
- The public deliverables of the project

A SOLUTION DEVELOPPED BY USERS, FOR USERS

This solution was pioneered in Burgundy, France. In 2005 the e-bourgogne platform brought together around 900 public bodies running all their procurement activity via a single website.

The platform's functionality is based on input from user groups, buyers and sellers – and the tool continues to evolve to meet the demands of users.

In Uddevalla, Sweden, and the Piedmont region of Italy, Procure is adding cross-border capabilities to existing eProcurement platforms. Uddevalla and Brittany are also looking at ways to increase SME registrations and participation. Guadeloupe and Central Bohemia, however, are getting the full Procure solution. This deployment will provide the partners with valuable lessons on system implementation.



WHO IS BEHIND THE PROCURE CONSORTIUM?

The Procure project, funded under the EU's Sixth Framework Program, was led by the Regional Council of Burgundy in collaboration with:

- Atexo
- Sopra Group
- Municipality of Uddevalla
- Mégalis Bretagne
- Regional Council of Guadeloupe
- Regional Council of Central Bohemia
- CSI-Piemonte
- Marakanda
- University of Bremen
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris

Sopra
group

ATEXO
Trust Business Integration

Two industrial partners are ready to adapt and deploy the solution for your region:

- Atexo - a leading IT integrator, specialising in services for public administrations.
- Sopra Group - a major European Consulting, Systems Integration, Application Outsourcing and Applications Solutions company for for implementation of new services

LEARN MORE!



The screenshot shows the eTEN Procure website in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The page title is "eTEN Procure - Executive summary". The URL is "http://www.eten-procure.com/". The website has a blue header with the "Procure" logo and a navigation menu with tabs: Presentation, Portal, Work plan, Partners, News, Documents, and Contact. The main content area features a "Presentation" section with a sub-header "The eTEN Procure project aims at enabling electronic bids for public procurement procedure through safe and intuitive web services for SMEs, across 5 pilot regions in the EU." Below this, there is a "Latest news" section with three items, a "Newsletter" sign-up form, and an "Identification" section with fields for Username, Password, and Remember me. The footer contains the text "This project is funded the European Union via the eTEN programme. eTEN is a".

The project website is available in five languages at www.eten-procure.com

It features a full description of the different partners and the work packages within the Procure project.

If you would like to find out how our platform could be used to benefit public procurement in your region, please contact us at : contact@eten-procure.com

Our platform can be integrated with existing software or provide a complete, off-the-shelf eProcurement solution.

Cross-border tendering: building a common market for public procurement

IT makes public procurement faster, cheaper and more efficient. We believe it can also bridge borders to create a common market for public procurement in Europe.

Single sign-on, access all regions

Searching and bidding for tenders online should be simple for companies, not a time consuming trawl through dozens of websites. Our single sign-on lets suppliers access public tenders for an entire region – any region using the platform. Companies spend less time managing multiple accounts and more time bidding for new business.

Multilingual environment

Language is a big barrier to cross-border public procurement. Four linguistic engine help companies read tender main information and bid for contracts using interface in their own language”. Public buyers can now award contracts to the company best able to meet the brief, no matter where they are located.

PROCURE - the political context

- The EU puts major emphasis on the ‘digitisation’ of all aspects of government, including public procurement.
- eProcurement makes public tenders fairer for smaller suppliers, increases innovation and EU-wide competition - and cuts costs.
- EU Directives make mandatory the EU-wide publication of tenders for higher value public contracts.
- Targets for 100% availability of eProcurement - and at least half of tenders to be run electronically - by 2010.
- €15M EU funding for on-going eProcurement projects.
- EU research and trials in cross-border tendering, including the Large Scale Pilot project on eProcurement (Peppol).



What eProcurement can do

- Integrate every step of public procurement, including online bidding, contract awards and invoicing.
- Reduce the administrative burden and cost of public tendering.
- Provide better value for money.

SAVING PUBLIC FUNDS

Sharing a platform within a region

It is too costly for each local authority to acquire an e-procurement solution of its own. But national systems often experience poor buy-in at the local level. A regional platform strikes a good balance between cost-sharing efficiencies, ease of deployment and a common target market for all the buyers.



In Burgundy, every euro spent on the shared e-bourgogne platform saved around four euros being spent on separate eProcurement solutions for each public body!

Sharing development costs between several regions

Further savings are possible because the Procure solution is an open source product. Thus, a new development made by one region can be used by all the others using the platform. In this way, regions can be sure that their service will evolve to meet end-user demands at a reasonable cost. Buyers can focus more on training users than paying for software development.

- Public procurement is worth about one fifth (up to €2 trillion) of EU GDP.
- eProcurement can halve the administrative cost of public tendering.
- eProcurement can reduce the final value of public contracts by 10%, saving significantly saving taxpayers' money.
- About 2% of high value European tenders involve direct cross-border submissions.
- More than 80% of public contracts are below the EU value threshold and not covered by EU legislative controls.
- The European Tenders Electronic Daily website is updated with as many as 1000 new notices a day.
- SMEs are awarded less than half the total value of public contracts in Europe.

