

Public Procurement for Infrastructure in the EU Public Private Partnerships & Traditional Procurement

What is this about?

Over 14% of EU GDP is generated through public procurement. The value-added use of public funds depends on the level of competition that is achieved in the procurement/tendering process. Knowledge of the level and structure of competition is valuable in selecting the most appropriate procurement method or structuring the tender process accordingly.

A recent preliminary study, which public procurement information, can be found

<https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/competition-infrastructure-projects-ppp-europe.pdf>

The scope of this new study is to revisit and extend the above report, by assessing the level and structure of competition in Europe with respect to the PPP delivery of (transport) infrastructure projects and the identification of factors /relations leading to the identified competition.

Which-way & what-withal?

To achieve the transparent use of public funds and competitiveness, the EC sets respective procurement rules. More specifically, over a certain procurement budgetary threshold, which varies by sector, public authorities are obliged to follow rules in the announcement of their tender as defined in the respective directives (see <https://ted.europa.eu/en/simap/european-public-procurement>).

At the end of the tendering process, contracting public authorities are obliged to submit "Contract Award Notice" (CAN). This is a standard, rich in information, document- public announcement. The EC keeps these announcements in publicly available databases.

The above-mentioned study-report was based on data referring to years 2006-2016. A key shortcoming is that PPP procurement information could not be identified and, therefore, different sources of data were compared when considering PPPs. Since, 2016, all PPP procurement in Europe follows the same standards. Hence, PPPs may now be identified.

In order to conduct this study, CAN datasets need to be retrieved, validated and transferred to an appropriate analysis tool (eg SPSS) for statistical analysis and potential generation of models.

Why?

Findings may be used to describe the level of competition in the sector of infrastructure delivery. Provide contracting public authorities with information on how to prepare tenders that will improve competition allowing for the achievement of public value for money.

Who would be appropriate for this study?

The topic may be addressed by one person or a team. The latter could be very effective when collecting and editing "records" from the EC database. [apart from transport projects, social infrastructure projects could also be collected].

Then, everyone, could work on a separate topic using the same dataset.

The scope would be to produce a journal paper or very high-level conference one (eg. TRB 2025 full paper submission 1st August 2024).

Kindly note that you would need to demonstrate a **working knowledge of statistics and modeling** and have an interest in competition and public procurement.

The thesis may be written either in Greek or English.

How to express interest?

Send your CV and grades to Prof. ATHENA ROUBOUTSOS (Department of Trade, Shipping and Transport) at athena@aegean.gr