Colombia´s commitment with Open Contracting

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History of the obligation to disclose contracts in Colombia

**Official Gazette** – the contractor was obliged to pay for the publication of the contract in order to receive the payment of the goods or services (since 18th century). The contract was published after its execution.

**Special Official Gazette** – the contractor was obliged to pay for the publication of the contract in order to receive the payment of the goods or services (1993). The contract was published after its execution.

**SECOP** – the government agencies are obliged to publish the documents related with the contractual process to be funded with public money (2007). The government agency shall publish the studies, the tender documents and the draft of the contract in advance; the evaluation report of the offers; and the contract upon execution.
Evolution of the Government commitment on Open Contracting

- Important precedents since 19th century.

- World Bank Mission on 2002 showing that the budget chain ends in the procurement system.

- Creation of SECOP (2007).

- Political Campaign insisting on Good Governance Principles (2010).

- Creation of Colombia Compra Eficiente to rule the national procurement system and achieve value for money and transparency therein (2012).
Colombia Compra Eficiente actions towards improving openness in the national procurement system

- Follow up of SECOP and identification of problems reporting information (2012-2013).
- Renewal of SECOP’s look and feel (2013).
- Regulation to remember the legal obligation related with the disclosing of all contractual process documents and creation of incentives (2013).
- Creation of an RSS system to notify the opportunities to sell goods and services to the government (2013).
- Development of an e-Procurement strategy and a management change program to incentive the use IT in the national procurement system by government agencies, suppliers and civil society (2013).
Notification system of business opportunities within the government

http://colombiacompra.gov.co/es/rss
Colombia Compra Eficiente - SECOP
Web tour around SECOP

- Contract activity.
- Acquisition plans.
- Use of the UNSPSC classification system.
- Manuals and guides.
- RSS system.
## Preliminary results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECOP publication</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount (thousand of Colombian pesos)</td>
<td>29.690</td>
<td>38.990</td>
<td>31.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Contracts</td>
<td>184.598</td>
<td>366.201</td>
<td>98.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total National Government</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount (thousand of Colombian pesos)</td>
<td>15.796</td>
<td>25.357</td>
<td>60.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Contracts</td>
<td>71.710</td>
<td>125.707</td>
<td>75.30%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Subnational Level</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount (thousand of Colombian pesos)</td>
<td>13.894</td>
<td>13.632</td>
<td>-1.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Contracts</td>
<td>112.888</td>
<td>240.494</td>
<td>113.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

- Openness of the process of public contacts matters.
- Publication is not enough.
- Disclosure + Participation are a must.
- How to create incentives for civil participation in the national procurement system?
- Open contracting encourages accountability based in the national procurement system.