

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED
BY IRELAND**

ARTICLE 9, PARAGRAPH 1 UNCAC

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

IRELAND (THIRTEENTH MEETING)

1. Information requested from States parties in relation to promoting the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for the implementation of the Convention

Use of online platforms for the management and oversight of public procurement to prevent corruption, enhance transparency and ensure competition and objective criteria in decision-making

Public procurement in Ireland takes place within rules set out in EU Directives and national Regulations. To prevent corruption, enhance transparency, and ensure competition and objective criteria in decision-making, both the Directives and Regulations mandate the electronic submission of public procurement tenders. There is a legal obligation to advertise contracts above the EU thresholds in the Official Journal of the European Union ([OJEU](#)). In Ireland, all public contracts above €25,000 excluding VAT, and some below this value, should be published on Ireland's national public procurement portal, www.etenders.gov.ie. Notices published on eTenders are sent to the OJEU automatically. Tender documents are available to registered users for download from the platform. eTenders is free: users are not charged for the use of the platform.

In addition to the electronic submission of public procurement tenders, Member States must use the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), a standard self-declaration form used in OJEU-level public procurement procedures by contracting authorities and economic operators across the EU. Its purpose is to remove some of the barriers to participation in public procurement, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The ESPD serves as a 'business passport' for companies bidding for tenders anywhere in the EU. The eESPD consists of an ESPD request that is generated and issued by buyers to which suppliers submit an ESPD response. An eESPD is integrated into the eTenders platform, which supports contracting authorities in specifying the selection and exclusion criteria for a specific contract type. These criteria must align with EU and national public procurement rules. Economic Operators complete their ESPD response as part of their tender submission. This response takes the form of a self-declaration including in relation to conflicts of interest, insolvency, payment of taxes and social security contributions etc. eESPD is integrated with eCertis, a mapping tool provided by the European Commission used to identify national law and compare evidence required in public procurement procedures across the EU.

To further enhance transparency in public procurement, Ireland is working to implement eForms, digital procurement notices relevant to public procurement. Established under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1780 (September 2019), eForms must be implemented in national eProcurement systems for mandatory use from 25 October 2023, with voluntary use allowed from 14 November 2022.

Identifying and analysing risks of corruption

Responsibility for enforcing competition and consumer protection law lies with the [Competition and Consumer Protection Agency](#) (CCPC). With regard to public procurement, the CCPC works to prevent bid rigging, cartels and other fraudulent procurement activities, and are considering the use of digital tools for dealing with issues in this regard. They offer training for procurement professionals and operate a confidential whistleblowing service. The CCPC publishes [annual reports](#) detailing their actions taken in a given year to protect competitiveness.