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MONITORING MOLDOVA'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

ANA LUCA: I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO CONTINUE PROMOTING THE VALUES OF TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



Photo: mf.gov.md

Ana Luca has served as Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance since July 2023. From the beginning of her mandate, she accepted, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, a partnership with civil society, represented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul" (IDIS), which at that time was implementing the project "Strengthening Integrity in Public Procurement." The project aimed to support public procurement reforms in Moldova and to increase transparency and fairness by empowering citizens to hold relevant institutions accountable.

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ANA LUCA: I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO CONTINUE PROMOTING THE VALUES OF TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

««« CONTINUED FROM [PAG. 1](#)

In my capacity as Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova, I have been an active promoter of public procurement reform, government transparency, and the digitalization of public processes. My activity over the last year reflects a strategic vision focused on efficiency, integrity, and the alignment of the Republic of Moldova with European Union standards.



toward modernizing the administration of public funds and increasing institutional transparency. We promoted the exchange of international good practices, supporting the training of specialists and the development of digital skills in procurement.

At the same time, I coordinated the implementation of the project “Supporting Efficiency and Value for Money in Public Procurement in Moldova,” financed by the World Bank through the M-GROW Multi-Donor Trust Fund—

We have strengthened dialogue with international partners and local stakeholders involved in modernizing public procurement. We coordinated public consultations on the draft of the new Law on Public Procurement—an essential document for transposing European directives and ensuring a modern, competitive, and transparent legislative framework.

Through my active involvement in the National Platform for Public Procurement and the Public Procurement Monitoring Coalition, I have contributed to stronger dialogue among contracting authorities, civil society, and the business community.

The development of the partnership between the Republic of Moldova and Lithuania—through the Central Procurement Organization (CPO LT)—also played a central role. This collaboration laid the foundations for the centralization, professionalization, monitoring, and digitization of public procurement—an essential step

an essential step for increasing institutional performance and transparency in the use of public money through the development of a new e-procurement information system.

During 2024–2025, my work also focused on the continuous training of specialists in local public administration through training dedicated to financial management and effective procurement. Through these programs, the Ministry of Finance contributed to strengthening the capacities of local authorities and to implementing the principles of accountability and integrity in the management of public resources.

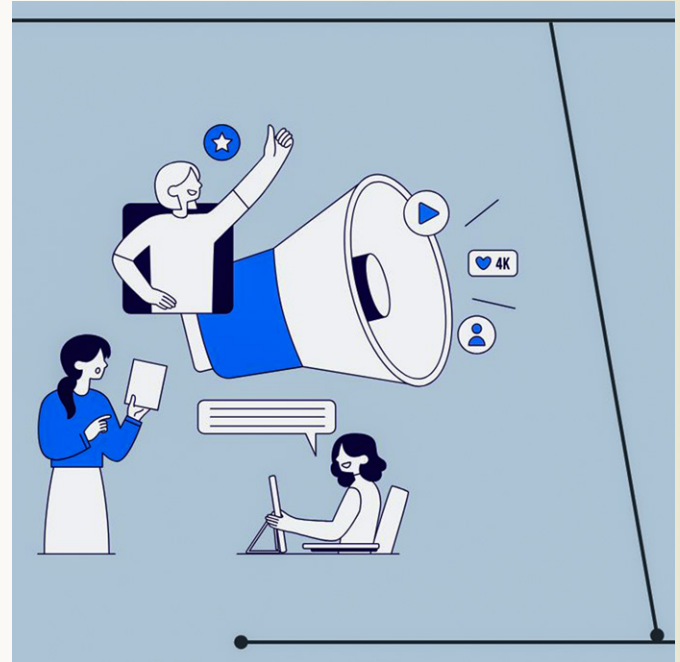
I will do my utmost to continue promoting the values of transparency, efficiency, and international cooperation, transforming the public procurement system into a model of modern, open governance for the benefit of citizens and in close cooperation with the Republic of Moldova’s development partners.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REFORM IN MOLDOVA – A NEW EU-FUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY IDIS "VIITORUL"

» The Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul" (IDIS), with financial support from the European Union (EU), has launched the project "Supporting Moldova's public procurement reform in the EU accession context," which runs from September 2025 to September 2026. The project aims to develop a transparent, efficient, and EU-aligned public procurement system that strengthens good governance, public accountability, and citizens' trust in state institutions and supports Moldova's EU accession path.

The project is aligned with the Republic of Moldova's Growth Plan for 2025–2027 and with commitments undertaken in the EU accession process. Through planned activities, IDIS "Viitorul" will support the Ministry of Finance, the Public Procurement Agency, the Center for Information Technologies in Finance, and other relevant stakeholders in modernizing and implementing public procurement reform.

The project provides support for developing secondary legislation and for implementing the National Program for the Development of the Public Procurement System and the Reform Agenda related to the Growth Plan of the Republic of Moldova for 2025–2027. This includes preparing analytical documents and policy proposals on centralization, certification, and training of professionals, as



well as recommendations for modernizing the electronic public procurement system (MTender).

The project will also facilitate policy dialogue and inclusive consultations through round tables and meetings of the Public Procurement Monitoring Coalition and the National Platform for Public Procurement (NPPP)—a participatory mechanism bringing together government institutions, civil society, and the business community to discuss ongoing reforms.

A significant emphasis is placed on public information through explanatory notes, infographics, newsletters, and regular updates on the PulsAchizitii.md portal, ensuring that citizens and SMEs have access to clear, accessible information about public procurement reform in the context of Moldova's EU accession.

More details are available in the press release on pulsachizitii.md



NPPP MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE MECHANISM FOR CONDUCTING JOINT PROCUREMENTS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC FORMS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS

» The members of the National Platform for Public Procurement (NPPP) met on Monday, 20 October 2025. During the meeting, the Ministry of Finance presented the Government Decision approving standard forms for publishing announcements for public, sectoral, defense and security procurement, as well as concessions. IDIS "Viitorul" experts presented an analysis of the mechanism for conducting joint procurement and the factors that hinder association. The event took place in partnership with the Ministry of Finance within the project "Supporting Moldova's public procurement reform in the EU accession context," implemented by IDIS "Viitorul" with financial support from the European Union (September 2025–September 2026).



At the beginning of the meeting, **ANA LUCA**, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance, noted that discussion sessions on public procurement are increasingly in demand and that more and more stakeholders request to participate in such initiatives where recommendations are formulated and important decisions are taken on the public procurement reform undertaken by the Ministry of Finance. She emphasized that NPPP meetings contribute to increasing transparency; that standardized electronic forms (eForms) enhance the digitalization of public procurement in the Republic of Moldova; and that associated procurement, while carrying risks alongside multiple benefits, requires additional measures for authorities to use it effectively.

to the Republic of Moldova, appreciated the platform's activities as an efficient mechanism for promoting transparency, efficiency, and integrity in public procurement. Referring to the introduction of the eForms system, he noted that it underpins the digitalization of the national public procurement system and is an essential tool for the business environment, facilitating the participation of economic operators—especially small enterprises that lack the resources of larger firms. Regarding associated procurement, he acknowledged that the mechanism is "interesting but complex," offering numerous benefits—from financial savings and time efficiency to a more judicious use of public funds—while requiring careful case-by-case assessment.



CAROLINA UNGUREANU, Deputy Director at IDIS "Viitorul" and Project Manager, stated that this dialogue is essential for civil society, as all those interested in public procurement can openly discuss reform. In the context of European integration, alignment with the *acquis communautaire*, implementation of the national program on public procurement, and the economic growth program, civil society must directly address the critical topics that need to be advanced.



Present at the meeting, **WOJCIECH PACZYNSKI**, Programme Manager at the EU Delegation

*More details
can be found in the press release
on pulsachizitii.md.*

THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT MONITORING COALITION DISCUSSED THE MECHANISM FOR AND BARRIERS TO JOINT PROCUREMENT



» **Members of the Public Procurement Monitoring Coalition met on Wednesday, 15 October 2025. The Coalition's activity continues under the project "Supporting Moldova's public procurement reform in the EU accession context," implemented by IDIS "Viitorul" with the support of the European Union (September 2025–September 2026).**

At the beginning of the meeting, Carolina Ungureanu, Deputy Director at IDIS "Viitorul" and Project Manager, emphasized that, thanks to the EU-funded project, the Coalition formed

by organizations monitoring public procurement is consolidating its activities and becoming stronger.

Present at the meeting, Wojciech Paczynski, Programme Manager at the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, underlined the importance of such coalitions for the proper functioning of a democratic and transparent society. He added that the EU supports these initiatives because they increase transparency, strengthen trust between citizens and institutions, and align the Republic of Moldova with European standards in public procurement. Such initiatives, which bring together civil society, public authorities, and the private sector, are essential for fostering constructive dialogue and promoting good governance, even if organizing them can be complex and requires considerable effort.

During the meeting, IDIS "Viitorul" experts Silviu Plopa and Diana Enachi presented an analysis of the mechanism for conducting joint procurements and barriers to association. They analyzed the legislative framework and national and international practices to highlight the advantages of joint procurement and identify legal obstacles that prevent contracting authorities from joining forces. To determine the extent to which authorities understand association regulations and mechanisms, their benefits, and the barriers to their use, more than 60 central and local public authorities completed a questionnaire initiated by IDIS "Viitorul."



Silviu Plopa emphasized that both contracting authorities and economic operators benefit from association. For example, contracting authorities with limited budgets can obtain lower prices, as joint tenders deliver savings by attracting more favorable offers. Administrative work is also reduced compared to organizing separate tenders, saving time and resources. Smaller authorities can benefit from support from larger ones, thereby increasing the efficiency and quality of procurement.



*The full press release is available
[on pulsachizitii.md](https://pulsachizitii.md).*





FROM 1 JANUARY 2026, PUBLIC/SECTOR PROCUREMENT SPECIALISTS WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION

» On 26 August 2025, the Government approved the [Regulation on the Certification of Public and Sectoral Procurement Specialists](#). The document enters into force on 1 January 2026 and establishes a unitary, transparent mechanism for training and certifying persons involved in the management of public funds.

According to the Regulation, specialists must complete a 150-hour training program and pass a professional competency exam, earning at least 80 points. The certificate issued by the Ministry

of Finance will have an unlimited term, provided a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education is accumulated every three years.

The Regulation also introduces a Public Electronic Register of Certificates, which will reflect information about holders, including cases of withdrawal. Facilities are provided for recognizing certificates issued in the European Union, as well as for specialists with at least 3 years of experience in key procurement institutions.

The Ministry of Finance states that this reform aims to strengthen professionalism, reduce fraud risks, and align with European public procurement standards.

Source: [Ministry of Finance](#)

A NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PLANNING

» The Government has approved a new [Regulation for public procurement planning](#), which will replace the existing framework and align the process with European legislation and current realities. The decision was made at the meeting of 15 October 2025, at the proposal of the Ministry of Finance.



The primary purpose of the new Regulation is to establish the essential stages of public procurement planning—from identifying needs to developing, approving, and updating the plan, in line with the budget and strategies of public institutions. It also provides precise mechanisms for monitoring implementation and amending plans when necessary.

At the same time, the Regulation promotes the integration of social, environmental, energy-efficiency, and innovation criteria, contributing to a more sustainable and efficient public procurement process that supports the development of a modern system.

The concept of how to plan public procurement contracts in the Republic of Moldova was discussed on Tuesday, 3 June 2025, by the members of the National Platform for Public

Procurement (NPPP) and the Coalition for Monitoring Public Procurement in a working session. The Ministry of Finance presented the concept of the new Regulation, and IDIS "Viitorul" experts presented an analytical note on current policies, legislative shortcomings, and violations identified at the planning stage by non-governmental organizations that are members of the monitoring coalition.

The authors of the note made recommendations for planning that is simple and efficient for public authorities on the one hand, and transparent and open for civil society and the general public on the other. NPPP and Coalition members presented their views on the current state of the planning stage and offered recommendations for improving the vision proposed by the Ministry of Finance.

Source: [Ministry of Finance](#) and [pulsachizitii.md](#)

ABOUT 125 REPRESENTATIVES OF CENTRAL AND LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WERE TRAINED BY IDIS "VIITORUL" ON THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS



» **About 125 mayors, accountants, and public procurement specialists from dozens of local and central public administrations were trained on the entire public procurement process—from strategic planning to contract implementation.**

The last training took place on Thursday, 25 September. The four trainings were organized by IDIS "Viitorul" in August and September within the project "Open Governance for Engaged Citizens," implemented by IDIS "Viitorul" with the support of the European Open Government Partnership (OGP EU) through the "EU for Integrity" Program under the Eastern Partnership initiative, financed by the European Union.

These trainings aimed to bolster institutional capacity and enhance the competencies of procurement officials and working group members to ensure that procurement processes are transparent, efficient, and fully compliant with legal standards. The curriculum covered

fundamental procurement principles, legal requirements at each procedural stage, mitigation of errors and irregularities, strategies for optimizing resource use, and approaches to raising procurement quality standards.

Trainer Diana Enachi, a seasoned procurement expert at IDIS "Viitorul," delineated critical aspects including the legal framework governing public procurement, procedural stages, thresholds, applicable modalities, preparation of tender documentation, electronic publication and execution of procurement procedures, contract award mechanisms, dispute resolution, and other pertinent elements.

Participants expressed a desire to deepen their understanding of procurement planning, emphasizing that both local and central authorities face increasing accountability to justify public expenditures transparently.

Previous trainings took place on [12 August](#), [26 August](#), and 23 September.

Details on pulsachizitii.md

IDIS "VIITORUL" MODERATED THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION "RESOLVING COMPLAINTS – NEWS, PROCEDURES, AND IMPACT"

» On Thursday, 2 October 2025, IDIS "Viitorul" procurement expert Diana Enachi participated in the round-table "Resolving complaints – news, procedures, and impact," organized by the National Agency for the Resolution of Appeals.



The event brought together representatives of central and local public authorities, civil society, the business community, and business associations, as well as practitioners and experts in public procurement, to analyze the mechanisms for challenging procedures, setting the fee, and the most recent legislative amendments and their impact on the public procurement process.

The main topics addressed focused on legislative developments in the field of appeals, the calculation mechanism and payment/refund of the newly established appeal fee, data on the number and evolution of appeals in the first months of the year, and the impact of the fee on the evolution of complaints. Participants also discussed the need to improve the fee-setting mechanism to better fulfill its purpose—discouraging appeals filed with malicious intent, which harm the

procurement process and the work of authorities. The appeal mechanism, through which economic operators can defend their rights, aims to correct a procurement process and prevent the award of a contract in violation of procurement legislation and principles.

At the beginning of the session, moderator Diana Enachi noted several essential elements: "First, in addition to data on the evolution of appeals filed with the ANSC since the establishment of the fee, it is also important to see the evolution of the share of appeals partially or fully admitted. These data allow us to draw more precise conclusions about the impact of introducing the fee. Second, I recommend intensifying efforts to develop and publish uniform practices, which will standardize ANSC decisions and ensure greater predictability for companies and authorities. Third, it is necessary to assess the impact of the fee one year after it enters into force, including a comparative analysis over the last two years, one of which follows the fee's introduction. This analysis is necessary to evaluate the extent to which the fee has achieved its purpose—reducing frivolous appeals—as well as its contribution to making ANSC's activity more efficient, reducing appeal deadlines, and increasing the quality of decisions."

More details on pulsachizitii.md



A MONITORING REPORT ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CARRIED OUT BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND JULY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS ERRORS AND RISK INDICATORS

» The Association for Efficient and Responsible Governance (AGER) organized the round table "Public Procurement under the Microscope: Errors and Risk Indicators," bringing together approximately 35 participants from public institutions, civil society, and the business community. The event provided a framework for analyzing the most frequent errors and red flags in public procurement. Participants discussed findings from AGER's new monitoring report covering February–July 2025.



Olga Diaconu, the project coordinator, highlighted the report's main conclusions, particularly challenges in planning and executing public works procurement contracts and the importance of identifying and preventing systemic risks in this field. The cases discussed concerned public procurements carried out by municipal departments and by mayoralities in the suburbs of Chisinau.

A case study was presented by Ala Revenco, president of AO "Părinți Solidari," who analyzed the process of purchasing school textbooks. Among the main challenges identified were the excessive duration of the procurement process—

which can reach two years, affecting the education process due to a lack of textbooks—low competition in textbook purchases, and the absence of sustainability standards for frequently used textbooks.

The state fee for filing appeals with the National Agency for the Resolution of Appeals (ANSC), introduced on 16 June, was also discussed. Angela Munteanu, ANSC's Director General, stated that the introduction of the fee resulted in qualitative improvements in the resolution process. The number of appeals has decreased slightly, but their consistency and argumentation have increased. According to her, errors and risks do not begin at the stage of submitting the appeal: well-written documentation prevents 90% of appeals. This shows that it is not enough to set a fee; the quality of the procurement process matters as well.

Diana Enachi, an expert at IDIS "Viitorul," presented the concept for a practical guide on award criteria for public procurement procedures, to be developed in partnership with AGER. The guide aims to support contracting authorities by providing examples of good practices and concrete recommendations to avoid errors. The guide will reflect the provisions of the new draft Law on Public Procurement, due to enter into force in 2027.

Source: [AGER](#)

SCHOOL TEXTBOOK PURCHASES BETWEEN NEW RULES AND OLD RISKS: CRUMPLED TEXTBOOKS, IGNORED LAWS, AND STUDENTS LEARNING FROM OLD BOOKS

» When there is no competition, we pay more—and often for lower quality. This observation also applies to public procurement of textbooks organized by the Ministry of Education and Research. Civil society organizations have long drawn attention to problems in this area.

Poor planning and implementation of the textbook procurement process, inefficient use of resources, and excessive publishing costs—driven by deficiencies in the evaluation process and increases in unit prices—were the main conclusions of the [Report on Monitoring Expenditures for Providing Textbooks to Students in General Education](#) prepared by "Părinți Solidari."

Almost every year, the authorities announce changes to the legal framework intended to streamline these processes and improve the quality of textbooks reaching schools. The latest changes were made to the [Regulation on the Selection and Acquisition of School Textbooks](#) on 25 March 2025. We conducted a brief analysis of the changes to determine whether they have achieved their intended purpose.

WHAT DO THE 2025 AMENDMENTS TO THE MEC REGULATION ON THE SELECTION AND ACQUISITION OF TEXTBOOKS PROVIDE?

In 2024, the MER increased the minimum deadline for submitting textbook bids from 180 to 270 days, intended for preparing the procurement file and the content of the textbooks. Bidders were to submit textbook



Photo: Designed by [Freepik](#)

samples physically at MER headquarters within the bid submission deadline. Since March 2025, the 270-day deadline has been removed because textbook samples are no longer submitted with the offer.

Until this year, the evaluation began with the "Quality of the offer," conducted by technical experts selected by MER. Then, the working group moved on to the complete review of the textbook offers. Bidders dissatisfied with the evaluation result could file appeals with the National Agency for the Resolution of Complaints.

Details on [revizia.md](#)

TWO COMPANIES WERE FINED 5 MILLION LEI FOR ALLEGEDLY RIGGING A PURCHASE OF BODY CAMERAS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

» On Tuesday, 2 September 2025, the Competition Council announced sanctions totaling more than 5 million lei on S.R.L. "Rapid Link" and S.R.L. "Victiana" for constituting a cartel to rig bids in the procurement procedure for a portable video-surveillance system carried out by the General Inspectorate of Police, according to a press release.



In a response to the ZdG editorial team signed by Rapid Link's administrator, Victor Baciu, it is stated that the Competition Council's decision of 17 July was challenged in court by both companies.

"Rapid Link" SRL filed an action for annulment on 22 August, requesting the court to annul the decision and suspend execution of the fine, including the orders regarding the inspection. The file is under examination in the lower court, with no hearing set yet.

"The Competition Council's decision admitted a series of violations of substantive and procedural norms, being arbitrary and lacking an evidentiary basis. Sufficient measures were taken to demonstrate the illegality of Decision No. DA-28/20-22 of 17 July 2025. A crucial aspect of this case is that the documents forming the basis for establishing the violation in point 1 of Decision No. DA-28/20-22—materials seized during the unannounced inspection of 23 June 2022—were annulled in full by the [decision](#) of 5 July

2024 of the Chisinau Court (Centru seat, Judge Viorica Dodon). There is currently no final and irrevocable decision on the alleged infringement, given that:

- 1 THE LEGALITY of Decision No. DA-28/20-22 is under examination on the merits;
- 2 ORDER CC Series No. 000059 of 23 June 2022 and the inspection report of 23 June 2022 are annulled in full; *and*
- 3 WITH THE ANNULMENT of the orders, all evidence accumulated during the inspection—on which Decision No. DA-28/20-22 was based—is annulled.

The annulment of the orders by the court entails the nullity of the administrative act—Decision No. DA-28/20-22 of 17 July 2025—in its entirety. Issuing a decision by the court in this regard is a matter of time," claims Victor Baciu.

The company administrator also emphasized that "this case" raises important questions about compliance with legal procedure in the activity of the Competition Council, the quality of evidence used to substantiate administrative decisions, and the mechanisms of judicial control over the acts of regulatory authorities.

The investigation can be read on zdg.md

INVESTMENTS IN THREE HEALTH PROJECTS FOLLOWING SAVINGS ACHIEVED IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



» The roof of the Mănoilești Health Center in Ungheni district will be reconstructed, and in Șoldănești the working conditions of the Health Center's clinical laboratory will be improved. The National Health Insurance Company (CNAM) announces that these investments are possible thanks to savings generated by public procurement procedures for projects selected through competition and financed from the fund for the development and modernization of public medical service providers, IPN reports.

From the same sources, the external electrical networks will be rehabilitated and a generator—an autonomous source—will be installed for the Consultative Section of IMSP Căușeni District Hospital “Ana and Alexandru.” The investments in the three projects amount to more than 1.5 million lei.

For 2025, CNAM's fund for the development and modernization of public healthcare providers has allocated 97 million lei to finance investment projects. In total, about 100 projects are scheduled for implementation this year.

Source: unghiul.com