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# MONITORING MOLDOVA'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

NEWSLETTER

No. 16 (February 2026)

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**DIANA ENACHI,**  
*public procurement expert at IDIS "Viitorul"*

Starting in January 2027, the Republic of Moldova will have a new public procurement law. On December 29, 2025, the Parliament adopted the new law on public procurement, which will enter into force in January 2027, replacing the current law. 131/2015.

On December 29, 2025, the Parliament voted in the final reading of the draft of the new law on public procurement, which will replace the current law. 131/2015. The current legal framework in public procurement does not always ensure equal treatment, impartiality, and transparency across all procurement stages. Still, it does ensure fair competition, coupled with mechanisms to prevent anti-competitive practices. The current framework remains predominantly oriented towards the lowest price, paying insufficient attention to quality, sustainability, and environmental protection elements. Our monitoring practice in recent years has demonstrated that the existing mechanisms for preventing conflicts of interest and corruption are formal, transparency is not always ensured, and the prevention of anti-competitive practices is almost non-existent. In the absence of clear rules and practical monitoring tools, these vulnerabilities continue to erode public trust and the efficiency of spending public money.

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## A NEW LAW ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IS ADOPTED

» The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted at its meeting on December 29, 2025, in final reading, the draft of the new law on public procurement. The Ministry of Finance developed the document and transposed the European Parliament and Council Directive on public procurement into national legislation. According to the authors, the proposed new legislative provisions are necessary to ensure transparency, efficiency, and fairness in the use of public funds.

Among the most important provisions of the draft law is the introduction of differentiated thresholds for awarding contracts. Thus, for social works, the value threshold will be 1,000,000 lei, and for goods and services, 600,000 lei. This provision will ensure greater administrative efficiency, fairness, and transparency in the management of public money.

The document also contains provisions to reduce administrative barriers and eliminate disproportionate requirements that hinder economic operators' fair access to public procurement processes. Strict measures will also be introduced for the publication and reporting

of information on public procurement, ensuring transparent and easy access to all procurement opportunities and results.

For the second reading, the legislative initiative was supplemented with an article stipulating that the evaluation factors, the concrete scoring methodology, the categories of goods, services, or works that contribute to achieving the objectives of balanced regional development, integration into a short supply chain, and the promotion of SMEs will be approved by a Government Decree. In this way, the award criteria "best value for money" or "best quality-cost ratio" will be applicable.

Source: [Parliament of the Republic of Moldova](#)

## THE NATIONAL PROCUREMENT PLATFORM DISCUSSED THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON SECTORAL PROCUREMENT

» Members of the National Platform for Public Procurement (NPPP) met in session on Wednesday, 3 December 2025. The Ministry of Finance presented the Draft Law amending the Law on sectoral procurement. Also, the expert at the Association for Efficient and Responsible Governance (AGER), Olga Diaconu, presented an analysis of the trade-off between transparency and efficiency in sectoral procurement.



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 EU support.

At the beginning of the meeting, Wojciech Paczynski, program manager at the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, noted that transposing EU directives into national legislation would be more difficult than transposing ordinary public procurement directives.

Constanția Grosu, senior consultant within the Public Procurement Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Finance, said that the amendment to Law No. 74/2020 on procurement in the energy, water, transport and postal services sectors aims to ensure the complete and compliant transposition of the EU Directive, given the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Moldova in the European integration process and within the bilateral screening exercise for Chapter 5 – "Public Procurement".

The analysis of sectoral procurement carried out by Olga Diaconu, an expert of the Association for Efficient and Responsible Governance (AGER), a member organization of the Public Procurement Monitoring Coalition, showed that some recommendations previously formulated by civil society in the process of working on Law No. 74/2020 were taken into account. However, the monitoring results show that errors and violations persist at all stages, from planning and publication to execution of sectoral procurement contracts.

At the same time, during the meeting, Karolis Granickas, director of the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) for Europe, mentioned that the financial volume of public procurement has been increasing for more than 10 years. At the same time, greater transparency in public procurement is a positive trend. However, the negative side of this development is that there is currently a very high level of regulatory uncertainty and excessive discretion.

*The full press release can be read on [pulsachizitiu.md](https://pulsachizitiu.md)*

## IDIS "VIITORUL" ORGANIZED OPEN LESSONS FOR STUDENTS FROM ASEM AND USM ON OPEN GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



» **Almost 90 first-year students of the Academy of Economic Studies (ASEM) participated on November 18, 2025, in an open lesson titled "Transparent Procurement for Involved Youth". At the same time, over 90 second- and third-year students of the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the State University of Moldova (USM) participated on November 27, 2025, in an open lesson on the same topic.**

The events were organized within the "Open Governance for Engaged Citizens" project, implemented by IDIS "Viitorul" with the support of the European Open Government Partnership (OGP EU) through the "EU for Integrity" Programme under the Eastern Partnership initiative, financed by the European Union (EU).

Angela Casian, first vice-rector of ASEM, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, doctor, associate professor, congratulated the students on the occasion of International Students' Day, marked annually on November 17, wishing them always

to be open and full of energy, because today's students are the most valuable resource of tomorrow's society. "I urge you to be active, ask questions, and view this open lesson as an opportunity to delve deeper into a topic relevant to any professional field," said Angela Casian.

"You, the young people, are the generation that can change the way integrity, accountability, and good governance are viewed. Understanding public procurement is no longer just for civil servants and specialists; it is also for citizens who want to actively participate in community life and improve the way public money is spent," said Maria Cojocaru, PhD, associate professor at the Faculty of Economic Sciences at USM.

The young people expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the open lesson, noting that, for some of them involved in public activities, this session was not only informative but also motivating. They also said that they understood how important it is for public money to be managed responsibly and that they discovered how they can better contribute to promoting integrity and efficiency in public administration.

***More information about the open hours organized at [ASEM](#) and [USM](#) on [pulsachizitii.md](https://pulsachizitii.md)***



## A NEW LAW WILL REGULATE THE PROCESS FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS IN THE PUBLIC, SECTORAL, AND CONCESSION PROCUREMENT SECTORS

» The Government of the Republic of Moldova approved on December 10, 2025, the draft Law on remedies and appeals in the award of public, sectoral, and concession contracts. The law constitutes the first separate regulatory act dedicated to the National Agency for Complaints Settlement (NACS), strengthening its role in the procurement process and underscoring the importance of a fair, efficient, and transparent complaint-resolution procedure.

The new law optimizes the appeals review process through more precise, more efficient, and predictable mechanisms. The main elements include: establishing a single 10-day deadline for submitting appeals; introducing an 11-day waiting period for awarding contracts; and requiring contracting authorities/entities to report on the implementation of remedial measures.

The adoption of the new law will generate a significant positive impact for the business environment and public administration, including through: improved access to rapid and effective remedies for economic operators; increased transparency and predictability in public, sectoral

and concession procurement; reduced number of legal disputes through efficient resolution at the administrative level; protecting the public budget and increasing the efficiency of procurement processes.

The project also provides for adjustments to the NACS's institutional structure, including renaming the NACS as the Authority and renaming the advisor position as a member.

The law is scheduled to enter into force on April 1, 2026.

Source: [Ministry of Finance](#)

# PUBLIC PROCUREMENT VS ELECTRONIC AUCTION

## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

## ELECTRONIC AUCTION

**FACTSHEET No. 1** presents, in an accessible form, the concept of public procurement, types of procurement, applicable value thresholds, as well as official sources of information and transparency in the field of public procurement in the Republic of Moldova.

**FACTSHEET No. 2** explains what electronic auctioning is, when it is applied, how it works in the MTender system, and the basic rules, illustrated by a concrete example: a public authority purchasing office furniture.

**Servicii**

Servicii IT, inginerie, curățenie, instruire, consultanță

**Bunuri**

Produce alimentare, mobilier, echipamente medicale, echipament electronic, combustibil, autovehicule

**Lucrări**

Lucrări de construcție, lucrări de instalații pentru clădiri

**Cum procură autoritățile publice bunuri, servicii și lucrări?**

<b>Bunuri, servicii, lucrări</b> < 50000 lei În baza facturii de plată	<b>Bunuri, servicii</b> 50 000 - 150 000 lei Achiziție de valoare mică directă	<b>Lucrări</b> 50 000 - 200 000 lei Achiziție de valoare mică directă
<b>Bunuri, Servicii</b> 150 000 - 300 000 lei Achiziție de valoare mică cu publicare	<b>Lucrări</b> 200 000 - 375 000 lei Achiziție de valoare mică cu publicare	<b>Bunuri, Servicii</b> 300 000 - 800 000 lei Cererea ofertelor de prețuri
<b>Lucrări</b> 375 000 - 2 000 000 lei Cererea ofertelor de prețuri	<b>Bunuri, Servicii</b> ≥ 800 000 lei Licitație deschisă	<b>Lucrări</b> ≥ 2 000 000 lei Licitație deschisă

**Bunuri, servicii, lucrări**  
 Orice valoare (de ex. pentru situații de urgență sau lipsa de oferte la o licitație/COP)  
 Negociere fără publicarea unui anunț

● **Publicare în MTender.gov.md**

● **Fără publicare**

**Unde sunt disponibile public datele privind achizițiile publice?**

**Achizițiile cu publicare (licitație deschisă, COP și, parțial, achizițiile de valoare mică): pe platforma MTender.gov.md**

Date: valoarea estimată, anunțul de participare, caietul de sarcini sau specificațiile tehnice, documentația standard și DUAE

**Achizițiile care au fost contestate: MTender.gov.md arată dacă o achiziție a fost contestată**

Date: contestațiile depuse (compania care a contestat, obiectul contestației, data depunerii contestației) și deciziile ANSC pe pagina ansc.md

**Datele privind contractele atribuite de autoritățile publice: pe tender.gov.md**

Date: autoritatea publică, compania contractantă, numărul ofertelor depuse, data și valoarea contractului, obiectul achiziției, link-ul la achiziția din MTender.

**CE reprezintă?**

**procedură de achiziție**

**„Instrument specific de atribuire a contractelor de achiziții utilizat în cadrul unei proceduri de achiziție”**

Aceasta reprezintă un proces repetitiv care implică mijloace electronice de prezentare, în ordine descrescătoare, a noilor prețuri și a noilor valori referitoare la anumite elemente ale ofertelor, care intervin după o primă evaluare completă a ofertelor, permițând clasificarea lor în baza unor metode automate de evaluare

**CÂND se aplică la o procedură de achiziție?**

OBLIGATORIU

Cererea ofertelor de prețuri (COP) pentru achiziția bunurilor și serviciilor

Excepții: achiziții de servicii care au drept obiect activități intelectuale, precum proiectarea de lucrări

FACULTATIV (la decizia autorității)

licitația deschisă, licitația restrânsă, COP pentru achiziția lucrărilor, negocierea cu publicarea unui anunț de participare, achiziția de valoare mică

**CUM ARE LOC în sistemul MTender la modul practic?**

În sistemul electronic de achiziții MTender, licitația electronică are loc în 3 runde (fiecare licitare durează 1 min) conform pasului minim stabilit de autoritatea publică (valoarea sau procentul cu care ofertanții pot reduce din prețul inițial ofertat);

Licitația nu este obligatorie, ofertanții au dreptul să-și mențină prețul licitat inițial;

Dacă un ofertant nu participă la licitația electronică, prețul final va rămâne cel ofertat inițial, fără să afecteze oferta sa.

Exemplu de achiziție publică: o autoritate publică procură mobilier de birou cu valoarea estimată de 300.000 lei, fără TVA, cu utilizarea licitației electronice. Pasul minim stabilit de autoritatea publică – 0.1% din valoarea estimată (echivalent cu 300 lei). La procedura de achiziție participă 3 ofertanți cu următoarele propuneri de preț:

	Ofertele inițiale de preț	Runda nr.1	Runda nr.2	Runda nr.3
Ofertant A	302.500	302.500	302.500	302.500
Ofertant B	316.000	301.300	300.700	300.100
Ofertant C	328.300	301.900	301.000	300.400

Ofertant B: Oferta câștigătoare

● În cazul în care la o achiziție a fost depusă o singură ofertă, licitația electronică nu are loc!

Both materials are informative tools intended for citizens, economic operators, and civil society, emphasizing transparency, public access to information, and the monitoring of public procurement.

Source: [pulsachizitii.md](http://pulsachizitii.md)

## THE INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE TAX ON APPEALS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LED TO A CHANGE IN THE BEHAVIOR OF ECONOMIC OPERATORS

» Six months after the entry into force of Law No. 94 of May 8, 2025, which established the state fee for filing appeals filed within the procedures for awarding public procurement contracts, sectoral procurement contracts and concession contracts, the analyzed data indicate a significant reduction in unfounded appeals, an acceleration of the file examination process and a streamlining of public procurement procedures, with a direct impact on investments and budget execution.

According to the preliminary results of the implementation of this measure, presented by the National Agency for the Resolution of Appeals (ANSC), the introduction of the state tax has determined a clear change in the behavior of economic operators, reflected in a constant decrease in the number of complaints filed. By June 16, 2025, 737 appeals were registered in the first five and a half months of the year, with an average of 131 appeals per month, and after June 16, 2025, the number of appeals decreased to 410 by the end of November, which represents an average of 72 appeals per month. At the same time, there was a significant reduction in withdrawn appeals, often previously used to delay procedures, from 139 in 2024 to only 22 in the period June–November 2025.

The decrease in the volume of files allowed ANSC inspectors to streamline the activity of



examining and resolving complaints. In the first semester of 2025, the average resolution term was 18 days. In the period July–November 2025, the average term decreased to 14 days, with minimums recorded in August (13.5 days) and October (13.6 days). This evolution confirms the increase in the institutional capacity for the prompt resolution of disputes in public procurement.

Starting on June 16, 2025, economic operators who file appeals with the ANSC are required to pay a state fee equal to 0.5% of the estimated value of the procedure, capped at 50,000 lei. In the event of total or partial admission of the appeal, the state fee is fully refunded by the State Fiscal Service, based on the ANSC's decision.

**Source: [The National Agency for the Resolution of Appeals \(ANSC\)](#)**

## EUROPEAN MONEY WASTED IN DROCHIA

» The wastewater treatment plant in the city of Drochia, whose construction cost over 13 million lei, operated for only a few months in the eight years since it was put into operation, according to a journalistic investigation carried out by the [Cusens.md](#) team. It was built with money from the European Union in the form of a grant, as well as from public sources allocated by the National Ecological Fund and the local budget. How it got here, find out [in the investigation](#).



August 2025. Four experts from Romania came at the invitation of the municipal enterprise Apă-Canal in Drochia to conduct a technical expertise of the wastewater treatment plant. It was built eight years ago by the Drochia District Council, primarily with money from the European Union and the National Ecological Fund. In May 2018, it was put under the management of the municipal enterprise. The problems are not from today or yesterday. Since December 2016, when construction work was completed and the station began testing, it has failed several times over the course of about a year. Even though it was put into operation in September 2017, it was eventually shut down and has not operated a single day since then.

For more than an hour, Romanian experts tried to figure out what they were dealing with. However, the station was delayed by a power outage that affected the entire city, making it impossible to continue the expertise. The technical audit was proposed by Vladislav Russu, who, since

December 2023, has taken over the management of Apa-Canal Drochia, and wanted to understand the problems at the new station, especially since the old one, built during the Soviet Era, also requires investments.

The construction of the wastewater treatment plant cost over 13 million lei, of which: about 7 million lei - a grant provided by the European Union, 5.2 million lei - from the National Ecological Fund, and just over 1 million lei was the contribution of the Drochia District Council.

The project was implemented by the Drochia District Council, which hired Ruslan Babin, a senior specialist in the institution's Department of Economy, Reforms, and Investment Attraction, as project manager. In the meantime, he was promoted to Head of the Investment Policy Service within the same Council.

*The investigation can be read and viewed [HERE](#)*

## CRIMINAL CASE FOR CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS CARRIED OUT BY THE CHISINAU CITY HALL

» Ion Burdiumov, head of the Housing and Communal Development Department of the Chisinau Municipal Council, together with a subordinate and representatives of three economic agents, received arrest warrants after on Thursday, December 4, officers of the National Anticorruption Center (CNA) and prosecutors of the Balti Municipal Prosecutor's Office conducted a series of searches in a criminal case initiated on corruption in the public procurement process.



A department head within the department and other officials have received arrest warrants at their homes or are being investigated at large. The CNA announced the seizure of the equivalent of over 5 million lei after the completion of the searches. The money, in different currencies, was discovered at the homes and offices of some economic agents, as well as of officials of the Housing, Communal and Development Directorate, and the origin of the funds is to be established within the criminal investigation, the CNA announced in a press release.

Seven people, including four civil servants with managerial status within the General Directorate for Housing, Communal Affairs, and Development of the Chisinau City Hall, and three economic agents, were detained, suspected of having implemented a criminal scheme to

illegally claim, accept, and receive commissions from the value of awarded auctions, the CNA announced.

"According to the evidence presented, the public figures targeted in the case are suspected of having, starting in 2024 and up to the present, implemented a criminal scheme of claiming, accepting, and receiving illegally, systematically, commissions from the value of awarded tenders. In exchange for these illicit remunerations, the officials allegedly favored certain economic operators in the process of awarding public contracts. Following the raids, several objects and documents proving the criminal activity were seized, including financial means, in different currencies," the CNA detailed in a press release.

Details on [zdg.md](https://zdg.md)

## REPAIR OF THE HÂNCEȘTI ROAD IN THE CAPITAL: COSTS, TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WORKS

» In October 2025, the periodic repair of the road surface on the Hâncești road was completed, a project that started about a year ago. Although the works have been received, the analysis of the information available in the public space, as well as the documents obtained from the General Directorate of Urban Mobility (DGMU) based on access to information requests, reveals a series of circumstances that raise questions regarding the cost estimate, the technical solutions chosen, the execution method and the impact on the quality and sustainability of the works.



An investigation conducted by Olga Diaconu, a public procurement expert at the Association for Efficient and Responsible Governance (AGER), shows that the main problem lies in the way the value of the procurement contract is estimated and in the bid estimate of the winning

contractor. The first pertinent argument in this regard is the use of estimated indicators, which in fact would not correspond to the scope of the works.

According to the initial schedule, the contract signing and the start of works were expected in September 2024, with completion in May 2025. The winter period was not included in the schedule due to its unfavorable conditions for the execution of the works. The construction contract provided for an execution period of 9 months, from November 2024 to September 2025, but this period was not respected.

Although the works are declared completed, several non-conformities can be observed on the ground: unevenness at the exits from adjacent roads, uneven areas near the sidewalks, and a lack of new parapets. All of this creates the impression of works carried out without sufficient attention to detail, with a negative impact on road safety and the comfort of traffic participants. The signage for the works was insufficient and confusing during execution. Road signs were placed too close to the work areas, forcing drivers to brake suddenly, and the lane demarcation posts, especially at night, did not provide clear orientation.

Details on [revizia.md](https://www.revizia.md)

## ROADS FROM PUBLIC MONEY WITH RUSHED TENDERS



» In July 2025, the National Road Administration (AND), formerly SE State Road Administration (ASD), initiated 16 tenders in a single week, for the repair of road surfaces on several national sections, STAKE: over 259 million lei from the road fund.

An investigation conducted by Olga Diaconu, a public procurement expert with the Association for Efficient and Responsible Governance (AGER), shows that, instead of ensuring transparency and real competition, the tender procedures raised several questions. Very short execution times, warranty periods of only one year, the lack of technical projects, and modest competition have raised suspicions about the quality of the works and the way public money was spent.

Following the analysis of the 16 tenders, the problems and red flags identified were outlined, starting with the procurement planning stage, continuing through implementation, and concluding with the procurement contracts. The

16 tenders were initiated only in July, indicating inadequate planning. Since these were very similar procurements of road surface repair works, the AND could initiate a single tender procedure, divided into 16 lots, for each section to be repaired. However, initiating a single tender procedure, with an estimated value of over 200 million lei, required the contracting authority to publish the notices of intent and participation in the Official Journal of the European Union, to ensure wider competition, and the award documentation had to ensure a minimum period of 35 days between the date of publication of the notice and the date of opening of the bids.

We note that the AND established a deadline of only 21 days between the publication date of the tender notice and the opening date of the offers for those initiated. Another aspect likely to significantly limit competition was the deadline for executing the contracts, set at only two months from their signing. And in one case, the contract appears to have been concluded on September 15, 2025, but the execution deadline is even shorter.

*The detailed analysis is on [revizia.md](https://revizia.md)*

## RIGGED BIDS FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT: TWO COMPANIES FINED 6 MILLION LEI BY THE COMPETITION COUNCIL



» Two companies from Chisinau have been fined for rigging bids for the procurement of medical equipment. [The Competition Council](#) imposed fines totaling almost six million lei.

The authority found that they formed a bid-rigging cartel in a public procurement procedure to procure automatic mechanical compression systems for the National Center for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Assistance.

Representatives of the two companies communicated before the auction and coordinated their bids by exchanging competitively sensitive information, the

Council's representatives report. One of the companies submitted a formal, non-competitive bid, designed to create the appearance of real competition, while the other prepared and submitted the necessary documents for participation in the tender, actions that confirm the imitation of the competitive process.

Following the presentation of evidence, the Plenum of the Competition Council established that the two companies submitted rigged bids, eliminating real competition, suppressing the uncertainty inherent in tenders, and distorting the competitive process. Therefore, for these violations, the Competition Council imposed fines totaling over 5.8 million lei on one company and 152,517 lei on the other.

Source: [Competition Council](#)

# AFTER TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF MANDATORY REPORTING OF LOW-VALUE PURCHASES, THE SYSTEM REVEALS A PROFOUND TRANSPARENCY CRISIS

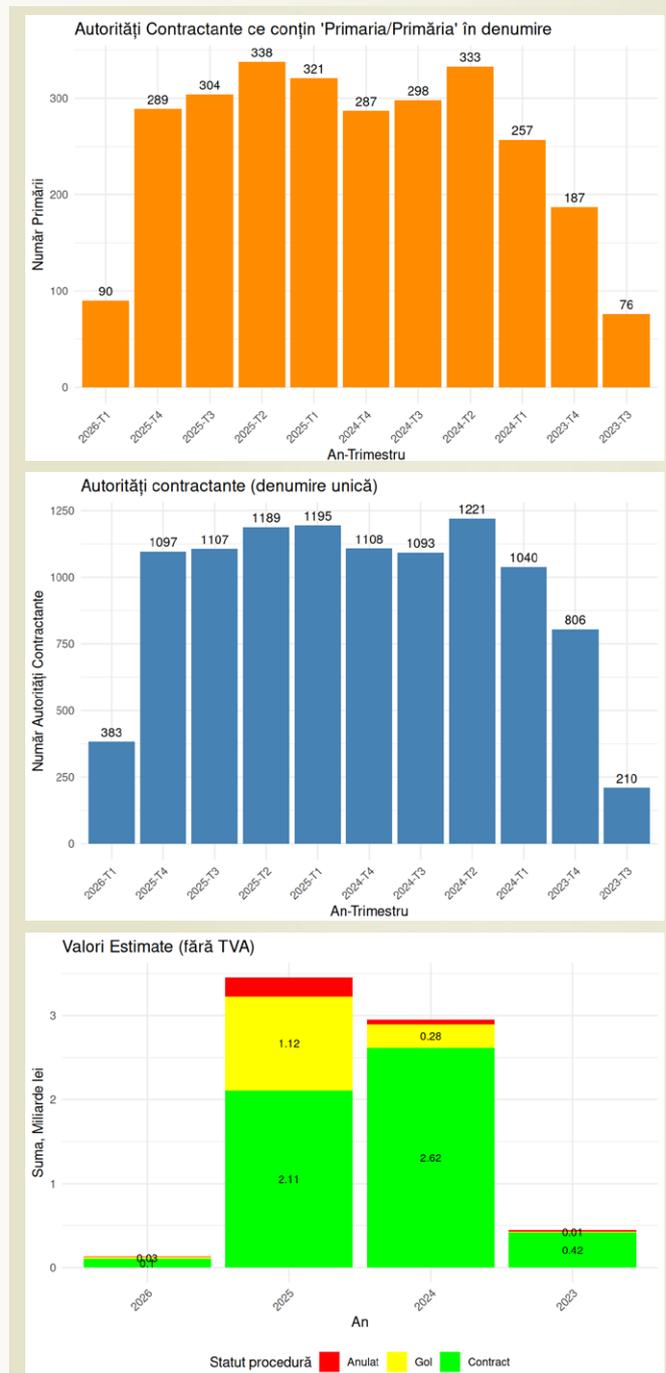
» After two and a half years of mandatory reporting of low-value purchases, the system reveals a profound transparency crisis. Very few contracting authorities comply with the legal framework: among city halls, only about 300 out of 935 publish their purchases, leaving over two-thirds of local governments outside public scrutiny.

Worse, even where reporting exists, up to 46% of it is incomplete, meaning that money has been spent, but the data that should prove legality and fairness is missing.

An analysis by monitoring expert Valeriu Ciorba shows that behind these figures are kindergartens, schools, hospitals, and cultural centers – essential institutions for communities – whose expenses remain invisible to citizens. Thus, billions of lei remain unreported or are lost annually in the gray area of the administration, where the transparency promised by law becomes an illusion, and people’s trust in how public resources are used is put to the test.

One of the most significant shortcomings of the low-value procurement reporting system is the lack of confirmation that the data submitted by contracting authorities accurately reflects the whole picture. The system collects what institutions choose to report. Still, there is no mechanism to verify that all procedures have been included and that the amounts declared correspond to the actual expenditures.

One of the most significant weaknesses of the current system for monitoring low-value procurement is the fact that a significant portion of entries appear with a status of “Empty.” This term does not simply mean a lack of data. Still, it reflects poor reporting: procedures were entered into the system without the essential information that would make them verifiable and transparent.



The analysis can be read on [revizia.md](http://revizia.md)

## DIANA ENACHI: THE NEW PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW: BETWEEN THE TRANSPOSITION OF EU DIRECTIVES AND CHALLENGES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

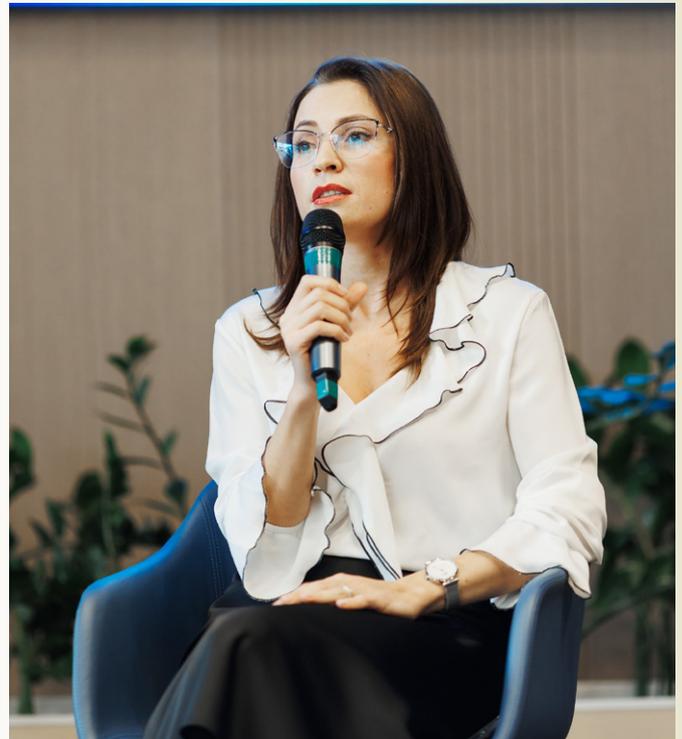
««« [CONTINUED FROM PAG. 1](#)

Regarding the public consultation dimension of the new draft law, I must emphasize that a series of public discussions were organized, facilitated by the Ministry of Finance, with the support of IDIS "Viitorul", as well as by the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Budget and Finance.

Public consultations were organized with the participation of all stakeholders - central and local public authorities, the private sector, and civil society, including on the National Public Procurement Platform (NPPP).

The new law creates the necessary premises for a paradigm shift: from procurement based on procedural compliance to procurement oriented towards more value for public money, quality, sustainability, and long-term impact. However, the new law is being developed in the context of the Republic of Moldova's accession to the European Union, which has committed to transposing the European directive. However, for the procurement reform to produce real effects, it is essential that the new legislative framework authentically reflects national-level needs and provides transparent, coherent, and enforceable mechanisms.

Among the legislative innovations introduced by the new law are: a greater emphasis on qualitative elements to the detriment of the lowest price (e.g., reducing the weight of price from 80% to 60%), more flexibility in modifying contracts, improving the mechanism for calculating abnormally low bids, more explicit rules on conflicts of interest, etc. In line with the EU directive, the new law will allow greater flexibility for contracting authorities when it is necessary to increase the value of contracts upon fulfillment of mandatory conditions. The current law has a limit of 15% in this regard, and the initial draft of the new law proposed increasing it



to 50%, which, incidentally, is also the maximum limit in the EU directive. However, we in civil society considered that, on the one hand, the authorities require greater flexibility. Still, on the other hand, it is essential to take into account corruption risks and national realities when transposing the community acquis. Accordingly, our proposal argued that a limit of 25% would ensure both greater flexibility for the authorities, risk mitigation, and the gradual transposition of the community acquis.

It remains essential that this legislative reform be coupled with coherent implementation, functional digital tools with open access to data, and an active role of civil society in monitoring procurement. The success of the new law will ultimately depend on its uniform and consistent application, the implementation of advanced digital tools, and the active involvement of all key actors, including civil society, in monitoring public procurement procedures and policies.