

THE COVID-19 RELATED STATE PROCUREMENTS

The report summarizes and reviews main statistical trends and occurred systematic problems of the state procurement process during Covid-19. The research covers the period from declaring a state of emergency, 21st of March, till 15th of November. Data is collected from the specific modules of the electronic system of State Procurement Agency - SMP (simplified procurement agreement module) and electronic tender module. The data before May 15th is collected during the two previous researches prepared by IDFI on Covid-19 state procurement.

KEY FINDINGS



Between March 21 and November 15, **GEL 200 million** was spent on the procurement of hotel and hospital services.



Between March 21 and November 15, the National Tourism Administration spent over **GEL 78 million** on the procurement of the goods and services required for the implementation of mandatory quarantine.



By the November 5, 2020 Decree of the Government of Georgia, additional funds of **GEL 35 million** were allocated to the National Tourism Administration. Together with the funds already spent, the total amounts to more than **GEL 100 million**. The additional funds are to be spent on the Covid hotels and facilitating the procurement of services related to this process.



Between July and November, the Social Service Agency requested an agreement for receiving **GEL 98,5 million** from the State Procurement Agency for the purposes of preparing additional beds at the hospitals.



The contract agreed upon by the Social Service Agency allocated a sum of **GEL 625,537** for the purposes of supporting medical personnel in quarantine/field conditions. Additionally, for the same purposes **GEL 300,000** was allocated during the month of November alone.



The procurements related to Covid-19 **are not separately** listed in the electronic procurement system and consequently are not analyzed, despite examples of such analysis seen in neighboring countries.



The electronic procurement system does not provide its users the possibility to obtain information in open processing format.



The CMR and SMP module documents pertaining to Covid-19 are often unsystematically scattered across the electronic procurement system. This, along with the absence of data in a processing format, further complicates the monitoring of this category of procurements.



The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs do not publish simplified procurement agreements to the electronic system, including the procurements related to Covid-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS:



The State Procurement Agency should guarantee the publication of the information in the electronic system in an open, processable format.



The State Procurement Agency should create a separate category for procurements related to Covid-19. Alternatively, it must facilitate the collection of the information pertaining to these procurements and publish them in a processable format.



The State Procurement Agency should control the indication of the relevant SMP codes by the procurers when the urgently requested simplified procurements are placed in the respective CMR module.



The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs should facilitate the publication of the simplified procurement agreements to the electronic system, as dictated by the law. The State Procurement Agency should conduct the relevant control and monitoring in order to eliminate such cases in a timely manner and ensure that they are not left without the appropriate attention. Moreover, convenience of concealing the agreements should be controlled.



Procuring entities should minimize using a simplified procurement method for the goods and services that are essential and can be planned beforehand with competitive conditions.



The European Union
for Georgia

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