

Best Practices observed in Bucharest-Ilfov Region

Regional Context

The Bucharest-Ilfov region demonstrates significant potential for adopting innovation procurement to address public sector challenges. However, resistance to change, fear of failure projects within the public sector, and limited expertise have hindered progress in fully leveraging innovation procurement.

Importance of identifying good practices

Identifying good practices is crucial to overcoming these barriers, fostering collaboration between public and private sectors, and ensuring the scalability and sustainability of innovative solutions in public services.

Moreover, it is essential to fill the gap in such literature on the topic to strengthen the basis of policies that support innovation procurement and change a mindset with historical roots consisting in a reciprocal suspicious consideration between public and private sectors.

Best practices observed – Regional Expertise

Two notable initiatives are the iBuy Project and the SEAP Digital Platform.

The [iBuy](#) Project is a groundbreaking effort aimed at equipping public authorities in Bucharest-Ilfov with the tools and expertise necessary for innovation procurement. Supported by the Interreg Europe Program, the initiative has been focused on creating an environment where public entities can confidently adopt innovative solutions to address pressing local issues. Through iBuy, a [practical guideline](#) was developed tailored for public authorities, offering clear steps to establish a Public Procurement of Innovation Competence Center.

Complementing the iBuy Project is the [SEAP Digital Platform](#), a cutting-edge tool designed to streamline public procurement processes while fostering transparency and innovation. This platform simplifies how public entities identify and address specific challenges by inviting private sector solutions through open calls. The process begins with public consultations and workshops, where specific needs are identified and later published on the platform. From there, detailed specifications are collaboratively developed, ensuring that solutions are scalable, interoperable, and sustainable. Proposals are then evaluated not only for their cost-effectiveness but also for their potential to revolutionize public services. The SEAP platform's modular nature allows for phased implementation, making it adaptable to varying local conditions.





Closing Remarks

The iBuy Project and the SEAP Digital Platform illustrate Romanian efforts to win resistance towards Innovation Procurement. These initiatives alone despite their immediate benefits for the region, and also for the entire country, are unfortunately insufficient. Nevertheless, they gave important input that thanks to PREPARE project is intended to be leveraged and create, among other potential policy measures, ad hoc funding regional schemes specifically for Innovation Procurement in addressing Public Administration challenges, covering the risks of eventual failures intrinsically within any attempt of innovation, and driving economic growth.