

**10th Conference of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network**  
**Manila, Philippines, 11-12 December 2024**

**Giuseppe Busia, ANAC, Italy - Collecting the procurement data and outreach**

Thank you for giving me the floor and many thanks for organizing this so inspiring event.

It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to intervene in this important conference about public procurement and digitalization in Asia.

Digital technologies represent a powerful ally in the promotion of transparency, integrity and accountability, and to foster civic engagement in the prevention of corruption, *thanks to the opportunities they offer* - to enhance the accessibility of information, - to facilitate the participation of citizens - and to connect people.

The availability of huge quantities of data, and the low cost to analyze them, has promoted the development of *data and evidence-based governance*.

The *Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority*, that I have the honor of presiding, has the institutional objective of preventing corruption and maladministration.

The Italian legislator decided to *concentrate* in a *single Independent Authority* the supervisory and regulatory functions concerning not only prevention of corruption and promotion of transparency, but also public procurement

It was a good choice, considering the huge amount of funds at stake in the public procurement sector and the related potential risks of corruption.

For more than twenty years, our Authority has been considering digitalization as the most powerful lever to implement its mission and to involve other stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

Digital technologies and big data offer new tools to promote transparency, simplification and compliance at the same time.

We have gained this awareness in particular through our experience in the regulation of public procurement sector, where we exploited data-driven regulation, through the *National Data Base of Public Contracts (BDNCP)*.

We collect and integrate in our Public Procurement database BDNCP data and information concerning the entire life cycle of public contracts and, starting from 2020, we made available all the set of

information on public procurement contained in BDNCP as Open Data, regarding works, services and supplies.

We strongly believe that the availability and transparency of public procurement data, but more in general, about public spending, allows an inclusive approach to the prevention of corruption.

To prevent corruption and malfeasance, it is necessary for everyone to do their part:

- the media continuing to monitor the issues of organized crime and corruption to keep the attention of public opinion high;
- civil society, through widespread control and participation in the life of "public affairs" and performing the watchdog role;
- public officials and representatives of institutions, exercising their role in a competent, qualified and transparent way, using discretion and political power to ensure citizens the best services.

In order to help citizens to exploit the data we collect about public procurement, ANAC also made available a self-service analysis dashboard for guided access to public procurement open data, and a Portal with a set of corruption risk indicators.

These quantitative indicators are meant to facilitate a systemic approach in the prevention of corruption, with a specific focus on public procurement and public spending. The purpose is to support a data driven, evidence-based risk assessment for public procurement and other administrative processes.

The results of the project are organized in a specific web portal, with data, information, bibliographies, infographics, media materials related to the topic of corruption risk measurement, but the core of our portal is the section related to the dashboards to release datasets and corruption risk indicators, to facilitate the identification of the areas more exposed to corruption and the implementation of preventive and law enforcement measures.

Among other digitalization projects, ANAC is working to develop two other important instruments:

The *National Platform for transparency*, that is an innovative and smart platform that will be a “one-stop shop” to foster transparency and integrity policies and practices in the public sector, aimed at both simplifying transparency obligations and improving the participation of stakeholders.

The *Virtual company dossier*, that is a powerful tool to guarantee the *once-only principle* of data release for the participation to public tenders.

Currently, ANAC is working to integrate the Public Procurement data with other open data sources and to extend the scope beyond procurement, to design and validate risk indicators for corruption at local, municipality level.

In addition, we are leading some actions in the Italian Open Government National Plan, to empower Civil Society Organizations and NGOs in their capability to analyze our data, to connect them with other data sources and we also collaborate at European and international level with like-minded institutions and organizations, for example the Open Contracting Partnership. With them we co-organized and hosted a conference in Rome last September and we hope that this network and mutual support approach reaches a wider audience.

Finally, let me only mention a project coordinated by ANAC in the context of the *Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities (NCPA)* aimed at producing a Compendium of good practices entitled “*Using innovative tools and technologies to prevent and detect corruption*”.

This *Compendium* represents an important opportunity to promote further public debate on the use of ICT tools to fight corruption, and to encourage the spread of good practices and lessons learned in the international arena.

Finally, let me underline that the digitalization of *processes and services* has to be interpreted not merely as the transposition of *analogic* models into *digital* models, but also as a boost to innovation as a “*game changer*”.

For this reason, we must remember that the core of the innovation challenge is not only in finding technological solutions, since the most important element and the key to success in preventing corruption and fostering transparency are the ideas, the models, and the approaches that are inspired by ICT and the people behind those ideas, who are able to put them into practice, and so also Conferences and meetings to exchange idea like this one.