

6th Regional Integrity Week – Alliance for Integrity

Relevance of Open Data and the State-supplier relationship in public procurement in Ecuador and Peru

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Summary

The parallel session, “Relevance of Open Data and the State-supplier relationship in public procurement in Ecuador and Peru”, held within the framework of the 6th Regional Integrity Week for Latin America, aimed to discuss the importance and share experiences and insights on the use of open data in public procurement processes, in the context of Ecuador and Peru. Furthermore, during the session, the most relevant challenges and opportunities to optimize public-private collaboration on the use of open data and the prevention of corruption were identified.

Main challenges

- The distortion of competition in public procurement processes can cause harm and lead to overpricing and to affecting the state budget, as well as less investment in other social priorities.
- It is urgent to strengthen transparency, the use of public information, accountability and the principle of citizen participation, through mechanisms that facilitate access and reuse of open databases to add value in prevention, detection and investigation tasks of corruption.
- Civil society needs to be more involved so that, through open data, they can function as a social control.
- Parallely, we need to ensure a strong commitment to the corporate code of ethics

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Best practices shared

- SERCOP (the National Public Procurement Entity of Ecuador) has an open information platform with information on contracting entities and suppliers.
- Practical Guide to publish Open Data: Public Entities. This document will guide public servants in the process of publication and standardization of the information produced by the public administration so that citizens can access it freely and without restrictions.

Future recommendations

- Create regulations for procedures, requirements and conditions, as well as include criteria for the participation of small businesses and SME's.
- Establish transparency mechanisms such as citizen oversight.
- Payments must be made directly to the public entity unless there is a duly appointed intermediary
- There must be anti-bribery and anti-corruption clauses in the contracts signed.
- Promote the joint work of the superintendency and the official public contracting system
- Identification of anti-competitive practices through economic and statistical analysis
- Training for officials on competition laws and on the fight against collusion
- The technical and technological investment of the entities, the culture of information management, agreements and conventions between public entities for access to information.