Certification of eTendering Platforms

Background

As of 18 October 2018, electronic procurement becomes mandatory for all contracting authorities in European Union (EU) Member States (MSs). Whether it is implemented by setting up a central and unique national platform or by facilitating operation of private service providers on the market, Member States can benefit from a national strategy that assures the best practices regarding engagements and support for contracting authorities and economic operators. In 2017, the Certification of eTendering Platforms Report was produced by the Multi-Stakeholders Expert Group on eProcurement (EXEP) to give advice to all relevant stakeholders in the process of finding the best suitable way to ensure compliance with the Directive.

Objectives

The aim of the Certification of eTendering Platforms Report is to support the reflection of each MS and offer instruments and support to each contracting authority when selecting a private eTendering platform provider, assuring that the national requirements, requirements from the EU directives, and best practices are put in place as expected. The document also provides support for the private e-tendering service providers to have access to the EU electronic public procurement platform market with equal chances.

The document does not aim to draft a recommendation towards the adoption of an all-encompassing certification scheme for eTendering platforms in all MS. Rather, it aims to introduce the topic of certification of eTendering platforms by providing structured ideas and creating a common ground within EXEP. It will attempt to draft the key elements to be considered by MSs when setting up a certification scheme.

Main Outputs

The report explains what is certification of eTendering platforms, main goals of a certification process, advantages of implementing a certification process as well as disadvantages of implementing a certification process in a Member State. The report clears the scope of certification, the legal aspects, the different functionalities for notification and tendering as well as security and quality aspects. The report points out the importance of considering the roles and responsibilities and the auditing process. It also draws attention to the value of leaving room for innovation to the platform providers.

In the report is gathered some examples of the implementation of certification in different MSs.

Links

The full version of the Report is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/26423

Keywords

eProcurement; eTendering ; digitalisation; public procurement; certification; platform