

E-Procurement in Hungary

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Abstract

This study aims to show the process of how public procurement has moved from a "paper" to an electronic process. Initially, the whole process was "paper-based", with the Közbeszerzési Értesítő (Public Procurement Bulletin, PPB), which included calls for tender, being published on paper. In addition, in the case of the centralised procurement system, an electronic procurement system was largely in place from 2 June 2004, when the legislation came into force. The PPB was then published online and finally the paper version was discontinued. The notices opening and modifying the public procurement procedure and the notices of the results of the procedure also had to be sent electronically after a certain period of time. The technical documentation for public procurement also started to become electronic and tenderers no longer had to take several kilograms of plans and technical specifications to the offices of the organisations carrying out the procurement. The registration of contracts concluded following the procedures also became electronic. But tendering itself and procedural acts remained essentially paper-based for a relatively long time. The first attempt to make the procurement process itself an electronic process failed in early 2010. The new EU public procurement directives of 2014 also required Member States to introduce electronic public procurement. Finally, the use of the e-procurement system became mandatory on 15 April 2018. At the end, potential future developments are briefly described.

Keywords

Public procurement, electronic public procurement, legal history, administration, digitalisation.

