

Civil Society Programme at the Annual Meeting 2016



Engaging civil society to promote transparent procurement

Roundtable discussion

Wednesday, 11 May, 11.30 – 13.00
CSO Meeting Room 1, Level 2

Accountability constitutes a central pillar of any good public procurement system. Without transparency and proper monitoring mechanisms, vast resources channelled through public procurement could be exposed to instances of corruption and misuse of funds. As part of the Bank's effort to promote better investment climate and governance, the EBRD has supported reforms of procurement laws and provided assistance in setting up procurement standards and transparency and integrity rules for granting public contracts in its countries of operations.

Civil society plays an important role in holding public entities accountable to its citizens in relation to public procurement practices. The evidence shows that effective civic oversight can help identify gaps in accountability mechanisms, improve service delivery and even help increase cost efficiency in the purchase of goods. However, civil society often lacks technical knowledge about procurement while many governments disclose insufficient and not easily accessible procurement data.

The roundtable discussion will look into the role of civil society in strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms in public procurement. How much have existing tools used by civil society, such as integrity pacts, independent review mechanisms and participatory monitoring, managed to improve procurement practices around the world? The discussion will address challenges related to the disclosure of information and the capacity of civil society to promote accountable public procurement with a particular focus on the EBRD region.

The event will be open to all participants of the Annual Meeting and Business Forum.

Moderator

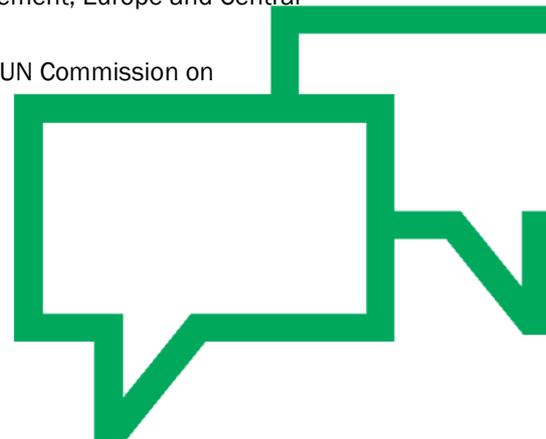
- ▶ Cristina Buzasu, Associate Manager, Civil Society Engagement, EBRD

Speakers

- ▶ Claire Martin, Technical Coordinator – Integrity Pacts and Public Procurement, Europe and Central Asia Department, Transparency International
- ▶ Tato Urjumelashvili, International Expert, Public Procurement Initiative, UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
- ▶ Alina Mungiu Pippidi, Executive Director, Romanian Academic Society
- ▶ Jan Jackholt, Director, Procurement Policy, EBRD

Discussant

- ▶ Michel Nussbaumer, Director, Legal Transition, EBRD



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Claire Martin, Technical Coordinator – Integrity Pacts and Public Procurement, Europe and Central Asia Department, Transparency International

Claire Martin works as Technical Coordinator for Integrity Pacts and Public Procurement in the Europe and Central Asia Department of Transparency International. Claire joined TI in 2011 working to address corruption in schemes designed to reduce the contribution of deforestation to climate change. Prior to joining TI, Claire spent two years working with UNDP Timor on their Climate Change portfolio, particularly on their NAPA process and four years working on agriculture and rural development for an Irish based NGO. She has a degree in Law and German from Trinity College Dublin and a Masters in Development Studies from University College Dublin.



Tato Urjumelashvili, International Expert, Public Procurement Initiative, UNCITRAL

Tato Urjumelashvili has been the Chairman of the Competition and State Procurement Agency of Georgia, in charge with the introduction of a high performance e-procurement system in Georgia. In the past Tato worked as Team Leader for Chemonics International and Legal Advisor for the Georgian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre (GEPLAC). Presently, he works as an International Expert for the Public Procurement Initiative, UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).



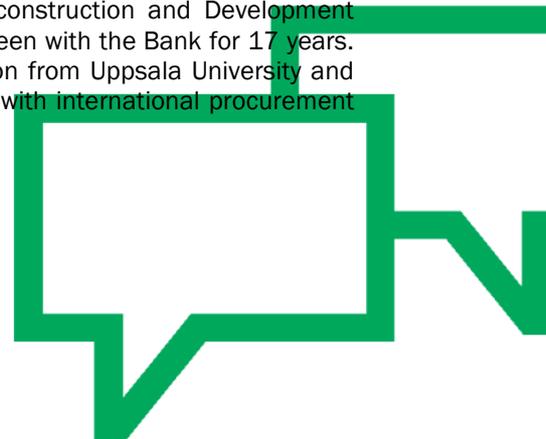
Alina Mungiu Pippidi, Executive Director, Romanian Academic Society

Alina Mungiu Pippidi is the Executive Director of the Romanian Academic Society and Professor of Policy Analysis at Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Her work on good governance is applied by a string of development organisations, as well as several EU governments and the European Commission. She chairs the civil society anticorruption coalition Clean Romania in her native country, as well as the European Research Centre for Anticorruption and State-Building at Hertie School of Governance, where she manages ANTICORRP, an ongoing FP7 research project on anticorruption. Her work also focuses on monitoring corruption in public procurement in South East Europe.



Jan Jackholt, Director, Procurement Policy, EBRD

Jan Jackholt is Director of the procurement function (Procurement Policy Department) at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Jan is a Swedish National and has been with the Bank for 17 years. He holds a Master in Business Administration from Uppsala University and has been living in several countries working with international procurement before joining the Bank.



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Michel Nussbaumer, Director, Legal Transition, EBRD

Michel Nussbaumer currently works as Director of the EBRD Legal Transition Programme, the Bank's initiative to promote an investor-friendly, transparent and predictable legal environment in transition countries. Prior to that, Michel worked as counsel in one of the EBRD banking operations teams, where he was responsible for legal aspects of various investments of the Bank, with a particular focus on SME financing. Michel has practiced as a commercial lawyer in Geneva, Moscow and London. He is a Swiss national, graduated from the University of Fribourg, received his Master of Laws from the University of California at Berkeley and was also a visiting scholar at Moscow State University.



Cristina Buzasu, Associate Manager, Civil Society Engagement, EBRD

Cristina Buzasu currently works as an Associate Manager for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), where she manages the Bank's engagement with civil society stakeholders in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. Cristina also manages technical cooperation projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of civil society organisations in the area of investment climate and governance. She has previously worked as a Policy Advisor for the European Parliament in Brussels. Cristina holds a Master's degree in European Political Economy from the London School of Economics (LSE), and has also undertaken specialisation courses at Georgetown University and Cambridge University.

