Announcement

The TBFY project partners are pleased to announce that TBFY is going to have a stand at the European Big Data Value Forum (EBDVF) in Helsinki from 14-16 October. The EBDVF is the main event of the European Big Data and Data-Driven AI Research and Innovation community. Around 700 industry professionals, business developers, researchers, and policymakers from 40 different countries are expected to attend. Your TBFY contact at the stand is Mr Philip Turk (pictured below) from SINTEF – do stop by for a chat about how TBFY makes procurement fairer and more transparent.
Business intelligence and blockchain in public tenders: efficiency, transparency and a boost for Spanish companies

At Oesía we believe that process reengineering is an essential pillar of the digital transformation that allows organizations to take full advantage of the potential of ICT for more efficient public services. In addition, process reengineering is a great opportunity to provide simpler and easier to understand public services that help bring administration closer to citizens. This redesign considers that the element of greatest value to an organization is the information available to it. Such an approach allows for better decisions to trigger actions, which requires laying the foundations of data-based processes. Once the information is contained in data, organizations can grow with Big Data, AI and Machine Learning tools. The aim is to automate certain decisions that will facilitate a more agile and rationalized Administration.

These approaches will become a trend in the coming years following a number of high-profile initiatives, such as the Directive (EU) 2019/1024 of the European Parliament, the Council of 20 June 2019 on open data and the re-use of public sector information, the Legislative Resolution of the European Parliament of 17 April 2019 on the regulatory proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027 for the development of artificial intelligence, high performance computer science, cybersecurity and digital skills.

Within the Public Administration contracting context in Spain, with Law 9/2017, of November 8, on Contracts of the Public Sector, through which the European Parliament and Council Directives are transposed into Spanish law 2014/23 / EU and 2014/24 / EU, of February 26, 2014, the efforts are mainly aimed at providing greater transparency, requiring the publication of announcements in the Official Journal of the European Union, in addition to incorporating new options to automate and simplify the public contracting process and introducing new concepts such as the electronic fingerprinting of offers.

This technology and legal framework has generated many opportunities for both public administration and private companies. In this spirit, Oesía is developing the business case COPIN (Compra Pública Inclusiva, in English Inclusive Public Purchase) as part of TBFY. We are creating a web platform to provide information and analytics of tenders among the EU. The main purposes are:

- To help public administrations improve their efficiency in their procurement processes and results. The information provided will allow a better understanding of the specific markets and communicate how other administrations specify and evaluate similar tenders. Additionally, the platform will provide analytics to help transparency policies of the institutions.

- To support public administration and associations of enterprises, a tool for providing companies tender information with strong searching and analysis capabilities will be made available. This is expected to impact small enterprise business opportunities in particular. While large companies can absorb the cost of seeking and applying for tenders, SMEs are typically locked out of markets, simply due to the high cost of finding the right information. Likewise, SME and large companies can boost sales and extend presence in foreign markets. They can also have the opportunity to connect with other companies and join efforts to present an offer.

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<th>Public Administrations:</th>
<th>SME and large businesses:</th>
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<td>Efficiency in process purchases</td>
<td>Increase business and internationalization:</td>
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<td>Knowledge of specific markets</td>
<td>Information for more business</td>
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<td>Evaluation criteria experience</td>
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<td>Understand public purchasing processes</td>
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For Oesía, this business case means to improve the current offer of ICT services and products designed to empower public administration management, procurement, online services and public policies.

Outside of TBFY but regarding the procurement process, as a case of innovative use, Oesía can provide real experience in the production of public contracting services based on blockchain. In particular, we have developed the service of distributed registry of tender offers and their automated evaluation for the Government of Aragon. With this project, the Government of Aragon aims to explore and take advantage, through a concept test in production, of all the advantages that the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) may carry in the field of administrative management and in the concrete application in the relationship with the agents involved in the hiring process, such as bidding companies and citizens. This provides the maximum guarantee of independence, security and transparency, as well as elements that provide a true differential value compared to other technologies – particularly regarding the immutability of records, management based on the identity of private data and the traceability of the entire process.

In addition, this blockchain based project helps to obtain valuable information about the true potential of the DLT with a general perspective. Its application, which is certainly novel today in any field of management, is revealing a whole set of technological or legislative challenges, but at the same time it is enabling us to understand its transformative capacity in a public administration that strives to provide better services that are more efficient, accessible and transparent.

Oesía Networks

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**Procurement data visualisation:**
**Visualising the procurement data pipeline**

The TBFY project has undertaken a detailed benchmark study of the state-of-the-art in procurement data visualisation. This study supports the front-end work that is carried out across several of the project's main project themes. It aims to guide project partners in their choices of visualisation schemes based on their specific business cases and customer...
demands. In our study, we provide an overview of the exciting work that is being done in procurement analytics with a strong focus on end-user facing aspects, in particular visualisations. We aim to provide practical support regarding common challenges of presenting a complete, yet compact guide on data visualisation design from established theories and practices. The study also provides updates on the visualisation and interaction work done in the project overall.

Popular examples of data visualisation techniques

What is the status quo in procurement data visualisation?
We have analysed 28 different data portals by starting our search from the website of Open Contracting Partnership and then iterated and expanded our search based on the results we found. Portals were designed for specific purposes based on their specific data requirements. Each portal we analysed focuses primarily on relatively few analyses. Some of the approaches under investigation (for example, tenders or contracts divided by different dimensions) are more popular than others and many portals have provided data visualisations to support them. For any type of analysis, several types of data visualisation techniques are available to best support the case.

How can the TBFY guidelines help you communicate insights better?
The TBFY team produces guidelines for project partners to identify the gaps between the analyses that their products support and those supported by the existing procurement data portals. In addition, project partners can use the data visualisation and interaction guidelines to review their current work. Outside the TBFY consortium, the review and guide that we're putting together can be used as general instructions for dashboard design and for visualisation optimisation, especially in areas with strong focus in analytics.

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