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# The value of standardizing procurement data: Introduction to OCDS

**OPEN  
CONTRACTING  
PARTNERSHIP**

# Agenda

- 1 What is Open Contracting Partnership?
- 2 What is Open Contracting Data Standard?
- 3 How and why to implement OCDS?



1

# What is Open Contracting Partnership?

What do we do?

How can we help you?

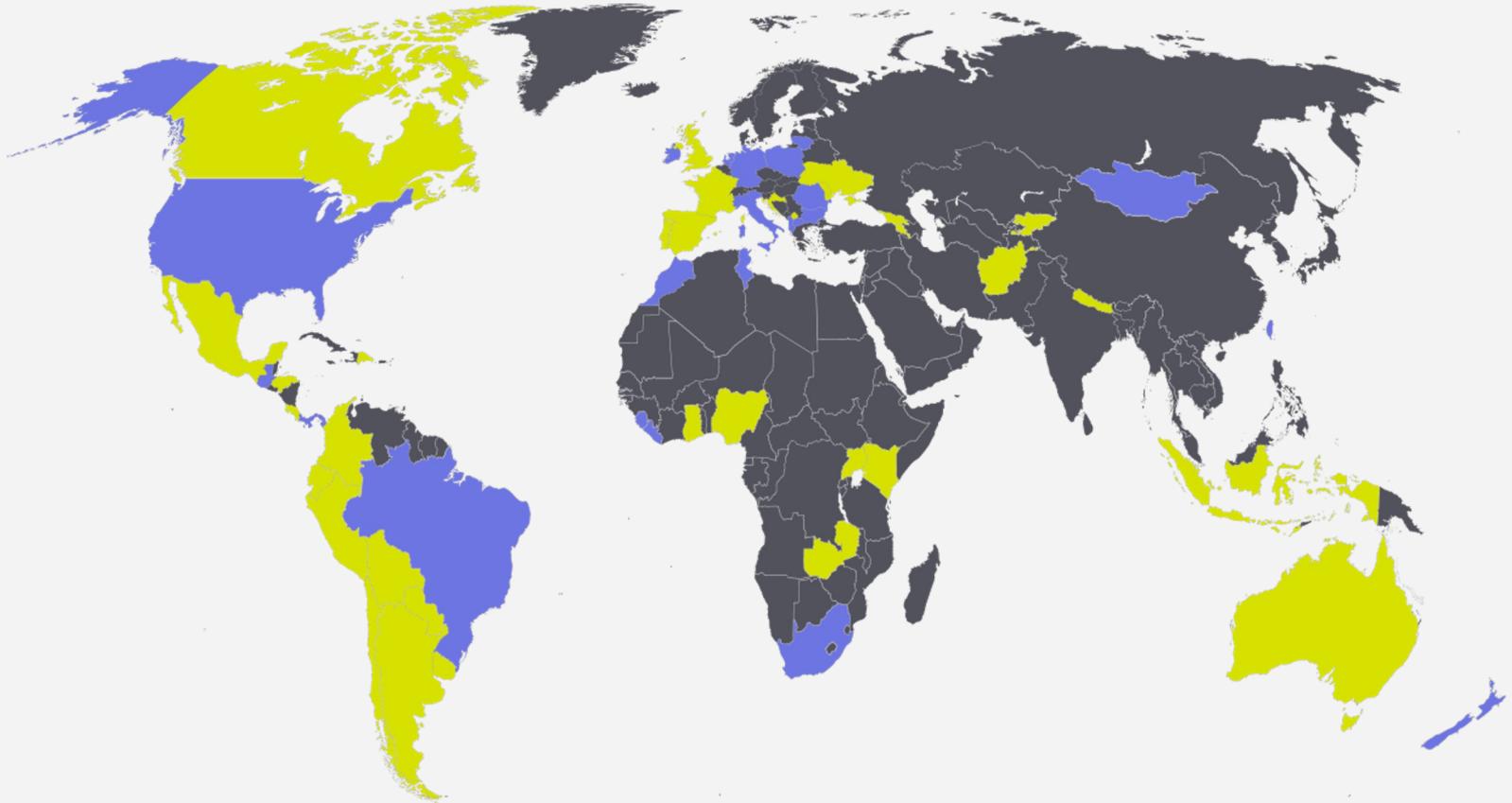
**OPEN**  
**CONTRACTING**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

# Our mission

**Transforming public contracting, so it is open-by-design, fair and efficient**

We build a global community for change and support powerful examples of what is possible when governments, businesses and citizens work together. We measure and share results from open contracting, including increased competition, better value for money, and improved efficiency, integrity and trust in public markets.

OCP works in **50+ countries and cities** on open data & open government to transform public contracting



We develop and maintain two open data standards. We help governments and municipalities across the world to implement these standards

### **OCDS**

The Open Contracting Data Standard is meant for publication of data related to the planning, procurement, and implementation of public contracts

### **OC4IDS**

The Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard is meant for data disclosure about infrastructure projects

Better access to affordable medicines, healthier school lunches, and improving competition are just some of the results we are

Highlighted impact

seeing

[Read all stories](#)



Partners in crime prevention



Patients, experts, and openness

### Open contracting impact around the world

**BLOG**



**Going 100% green in Lithuania**

17 OCT 2022  
KAROLIS GRANICKAS

[Read](#)

**BLOG**



**Behind Italy's 'small revolution' in the fight for corruption-free contracts**

21 SEP 2022  
SOPHIE BROWN

[Read](#)

**BLOG**



**Co-creation of the city: Manizales puts innovation and data at the heart of its strategy**

25 AUG 2022  
SOFÍA GARZÓN

[Read](#)



**COLOMBIA**

**Improving competition  
through open contracting**

# CHANGE IN COMPETITION 2018-2019



## More bidders

3.6 average bidders per tender, up from 3.2



## More tenderers

7443 unique tenderers, up from 6571



## Fewer 1-bid tenders

33.3% single-bid tenders, down from 36.8%

## COLOMBIA: IMPROVING COMPETITION AND EFFICIENCY THROUGH OPEN CONTRACTING

6% decrease in direct contracts in favor of competitive awards

17% increase (3.6 from 3.2 before) in the average number of bidders among national agencies

Increased supplier diversity with 55 suppliers, specialized companies & providers from 14 before





# UKRAINE PROZORRO.SALE

**Government's first online store driven  
by open data.**

# THREE YEARS OF PROZORRO.SALE



**More  
revenue**

870 million USD



**More  
volume**

20,370 auctions per  
quarter



**More  
bidders**

15,740 participants

An aerial night photograph of a city, likely Nuevo Leon, showing a dense urban area with many lights. In the foreground, there are modern buildings, some under construction, and a road with a few cars. The sky is dark blue. A large text overlay is centered on the image.

**Nuevo Leon**

**More transparency  
& competition**

## How a multistakeholder coalition made Nuevo León's infrastructure projects more transparent & competitive



Nuevo León,  
Mexico

+25%

The average number of bidders per tender increased by 25%, from 6.5 in 2017 to 8.1 in 2020.



Using the Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS) has increased oversight of project performance, competition, and cost savings.

93%

93% out of a total of 230 tenders had multiple bidders.



A multistakeholder committee united all actors to achieve the reform goals.



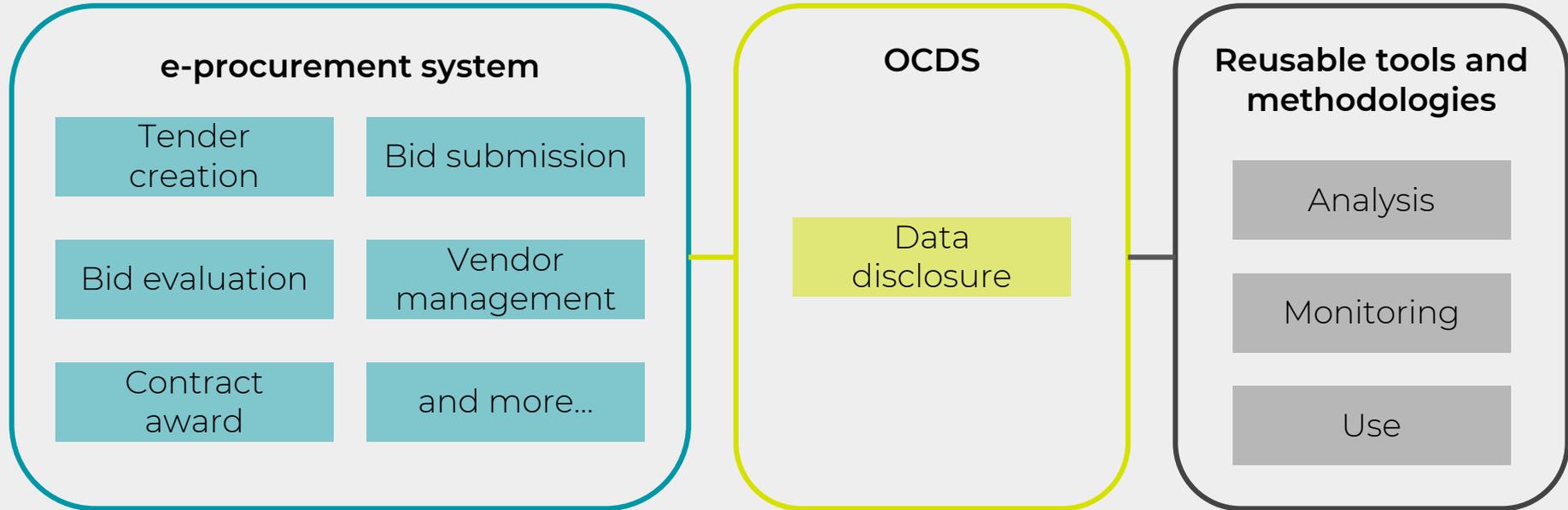
2

# What is Open Contracting Data Standard?

And why do you need it?

**OPEN**  
**CONTRACTING**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

OCDS is **not an e-procurement system**, it's a standard for the disclosure of data



**OPEN**

**CONTRACTING**

**DATA**

**STANDARD**

**OPEN**  
CONTRACTING  
**DATA**  
STANDARD

**OPEN**

**CONTRACTING**

**DATA**

**STANDARD**

OCDS is the **only international open standard** for the publication of information related to the planning, procurement, and implementation of public contracts



**Open Contracting Data Standard**  
v1.1

- Primer
- Guidance
- Reference
- Getting Help
- Governance
- History

Data Review Tool

Developed by



Version  Language

[Docs](#) > Open Contracting Data Standard

[View page source](#)

## Open Contracting Data Standard

Governments around the world spend an estimated **US\$13 trillion** through contracts every year. Yet, contracting information is often unavailable for public scrutiny.

The Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process by defining a common data model. It was created to support organizations to increase contracting transparency, and allow deeper analysis of contracting data by a wide range of users.

The OCDS documentation is made up of several parts, designed to help you use the OCDS effectively.

- **Primer:** Introducing the key concepts and features of the OCDS
- **Guidance:** Step-by-step instructions on how to design and implement an OCDS publication, including practical examples
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The Open Contracting Data Standard is a core product of the [Open Contracting Partnership](#) (OCP). If you are interested to learn more about Open Contracting advocacy and how it can be used to support wider reform and measurable improvements in public contracting, please visit [www.open-contracting.org](http://www.open-contracting.org).

### Note

This is the English (and canonical) version of the OCDS documentation. You can switch to the Spanish and French translations using the language switcher.

# There are many **reasons** for introducing data standard

Often very limited  
published data on  
contracting

Publication often  
covers only one stage  
of the contracting  
process

It is difficult to join up  
data from different  
stages of the  
contracting process

There is a mismatch  
between the data  
governments publish  
and the data users need

Published data is hard  
to interpret

How would an analyst or computer program work with **dates in different formats?**

03/07/2020

07/03/2020

03/07/20

07/03/20

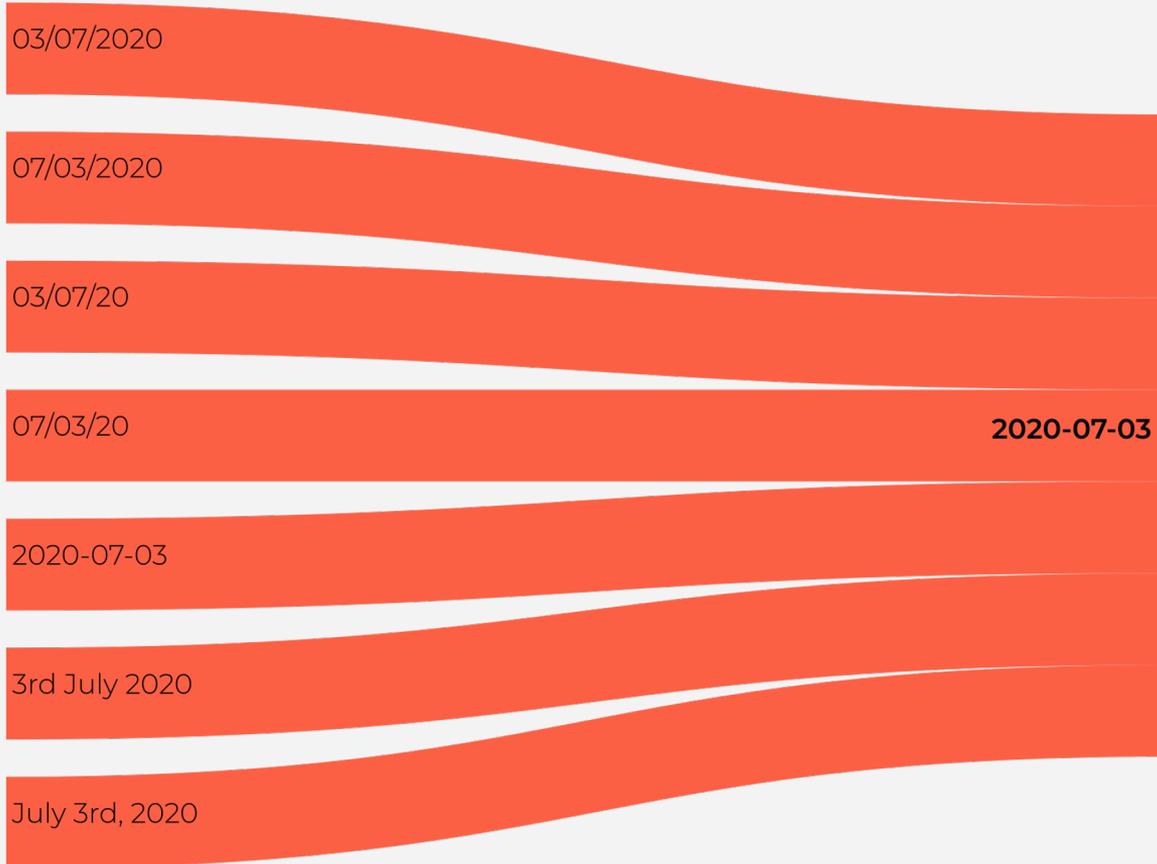
2020-

07-03

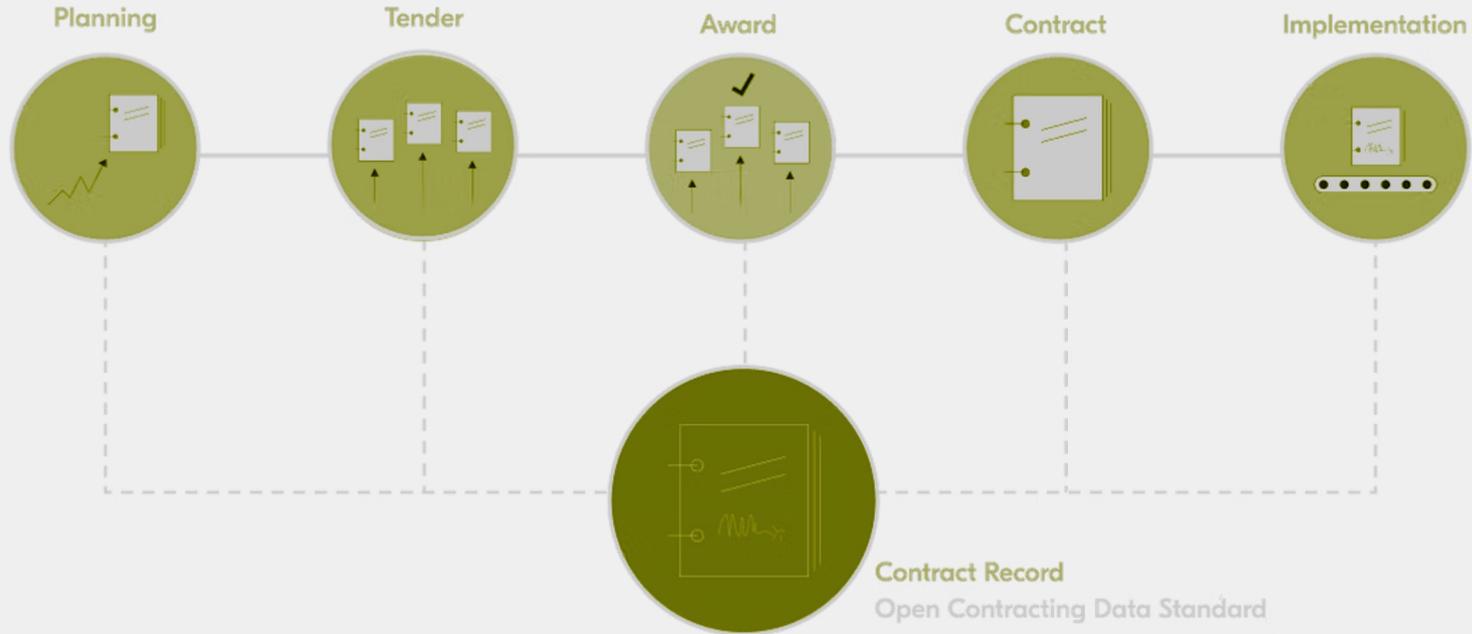
3rd July 2020

July

A data **standard resolves ambiguity**, and helps different systems work out how to interpret information



# OCDS describes a **way to model and publish data** along the whole public contracting process



# There are three key components to OCDS

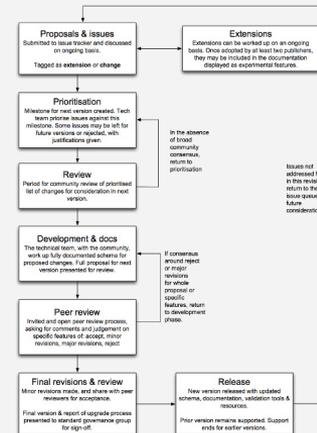
## Schema

```
▼ status: {
  title: "Award status",
  description: "The current status of the award drawn from the [awardStatus codelist] (http://standard.open-contracting.org/latest/en/schema/codellists/#award-status)",
  type: [
    "string",
    "null"
  ],
  enum: [
    "pending",
    "active",
    "cancelled",
    "unsuccessful",
    null
  ],
}
```

## Documentation

The screenshot shows the 'Releases and Records' section of the OCDS documentation. It includes a navigation menu on the left with items like 'Getting Started', 'Users and role sizes', 'Building Blocks', 'Releases and Records', 'Tools', 'Publication Formats', 'Schema Reference', 'Implementation guidance', 'Governance', 'Support and governance', and 'Validate'. The main content area is titled 'Releases and Records' and contains two circular icons representing releases and records. Below the icons, there are sections for 'Releases' and 'Records' with descriptive text and bullet points.

## Governance





3

# How and why to implement Open Contracting Data Standard?

What is an implementation journey?

## Implementing OCDS involves **4 key phases**



- **Design** your implementation
- **Map** your data to OCDS
- **Build** or update IT systems
- **Publish** data

# **Design** phase is about setting up your OCDS implementation to be a success



## **Understand your context**

What is your starting position? In which legal, technological and societal conditions are you going to work?

## **Set your goals and priorities**

What are you trying to achieve? What is your theory of change?

## **Build your team**

Find yourself a project manager, data expert, procurement expert, system architect, software developer, policy and user champions

Implementation should be focused on **data use**

The value of data lies in how it can be used, when it is analyzed and used for decision-making



# OCDS was designed around several distinct **use cases**



Market  
opportunities



Value for  
money



Public  
integrity



Service  
delivery



Internal  
efficiency

For each of the use cases, we developed a **set of indicators** for an initial diagnosis of the performance of a procurement market

Proportion of open tenders

Proportion of single bid tenders

Market concentration

Share of direct awards

Proportion of cancelled tenders

Top suppliers

Proportion of contracts with savings and overruns

Success rate of bidders

We can advise you on **identifying your use cases**, finding relevant data fields, guiding you through the best practices

- 1 Identify your stakeholders
- 2 Figure out what information they want and why
- 3 Document your user requirements
- 4 Map demand to supply and make a plan
- 5 Document use and impact

# Map phase is about documenting your sources of contracting data, and documenting how that data "maps" to OCDS



## Identify your data sources

Which IT systems capture and store contracting data and related documents?

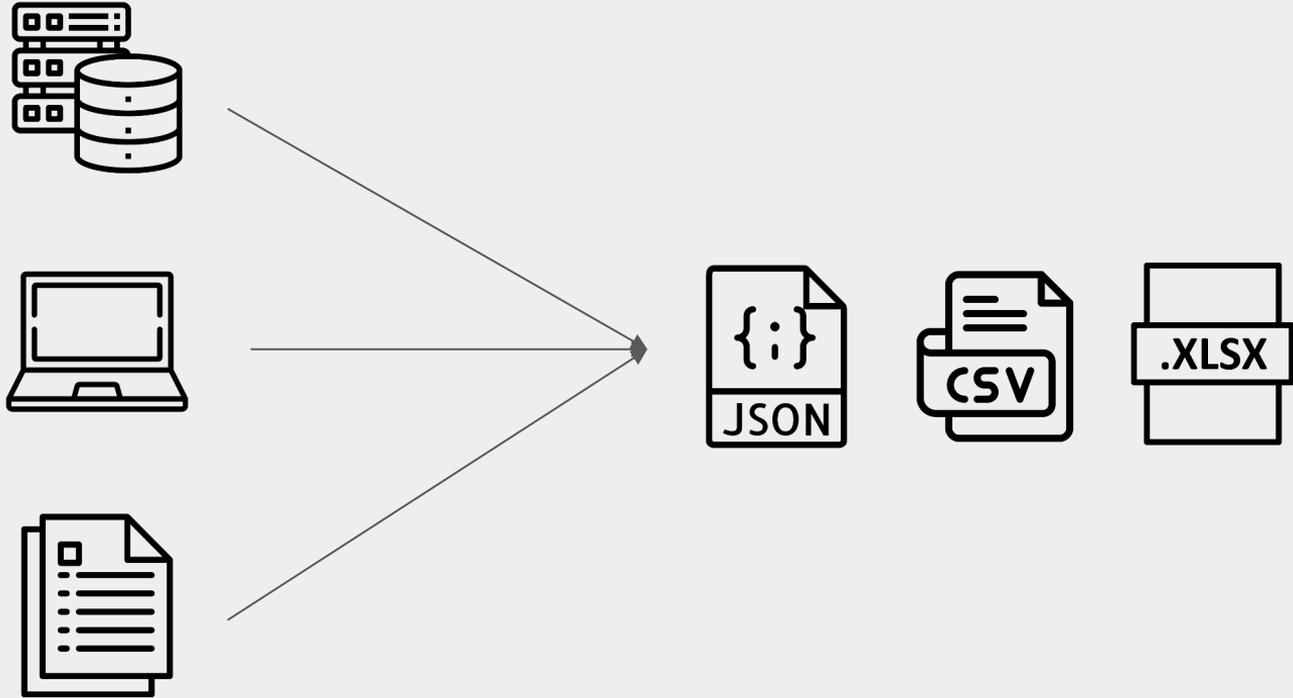
## Complete the mapping

List all the data elements within your data sources and find corresponding OCDS fields for each one of them

## Consider using extensions

Some data elements might not match any field or code in OCDS. To cover such cases, you can add fields and codes to OCDS using extensions

The process of mapping, extracting and standardizing the information allows an **exhaustive study of the available data** and its quality



# **Build** phase is about creating a new IT system, or updating an existing IT system, to implement your mapping and publish OCDS data



## **Determine your system architecture**

Your choice of architecture can determine how frequently your data is updated, whether you can publish a change history and the access methods available to your users

## **Build your data pipeline and extensions**

Depending on your data sources and system architecture, you might be able to reuse some of these OCDS tools

## **Check your data**

Use the OCDS Data Review Tool to check the structure and format of your data. This ensures that your data is compatible with OCDS tools

# **Publish** phase is about sharing your data with the world



## **Finalize your publication policy**

In OCDS, a publication policy is an essential data guide for users

## **License your data**

A license statement sets out the permission that users have to access, use and re-use the data

## **Publish and share your data**

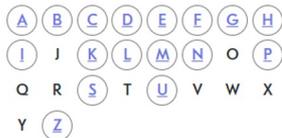
As users start using the data, there will likely be some requests for iterative improvements over time to improve the quality and usability of the data

# By publishing data in OCDS you're joining an **international community** of implementers and getting access to a wide range of reusable data tools

◀ [BACK TO REGISTRY HOME](#)

## Filters

### Country starts with



### Data date range

- All 99
- Past year 49
- Past 6 months 32

### Update frequency

- Monthly 61
- Every 6 months 37
- Annually 1

### Data contains

- Parties data 97
- Planning data 47
- Tender data 96
- Awards data 94
- Contracts data 84
- Documents data 83
- Milestones data 17

## Showing all 99 datasets



### Argentina: Ciudad de Buenos Aires

The Buenos Aires City tracks information in a centralized system (RIIC, Registro Informatizado de Información de Contrataciones de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires) within the scope of the Ministry of Finance of the City of Buenos Aires and publishes all contracts related to public goods purchases in the [Buenos Aires Compras](#) system.

Data date range: Aug 2011 - Jul 2021

Update frequency: Monthly

Last retrieved: Sep 2022

Available formats:

JSON  EXCEL  CSV

[See details](#)



### Argentina: Dirección Nacional de Vialidad

The [Dirección Nacional de Vialidad](#) (DNV) is the national roads authority within the Ministry of Transport. It publishes information related to its infrastructure projects through an [open data portal](#).

Data date range: Feb 2022 - Feb 2022

Update frequency: Monthly

Last retrieved: Mar 2022

Available formats:

JSON  EXCEL  CSV

[See details](#)



### Australia: Department of Finance

The [Department of Finance](#) publishes information through [AusTender](#), the centralized procurement information system of the federal government.

Data date range: Jun 2010 - Feb 2022

Available formats:

JSON  EXCEL  CSV

And you're also making **historical data available** and comparable over time





4

# How can we help you?

Reach us out

**OPEN**  
**CONTRACTING**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

# We have skills and expertise in data and policy



## **Technical assistance**

We can help you design your implementation journey, map your data to OCDS, decide on your architecture, and prepare your data for publication

## **Resources and guidance**

We have a lot of tools and resources on how to calculate many different indicators using OCDS data, or how to spot red flags in contracting data

# We can **guide** you through the OCDS implementation journey.

## We can help you in your eGP implementation and data standardization

Docs » Open Contracting Data Standard

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Open Contracting  
Data Standard

v1.1

Primer

Guidance

Reference

Getting Help

Governance

History

Data Review Tool

Search



Developed by

**OPEN  
CONTRACTING  
PARTNERSHIP**

Version

Language

# Our tools will help you to prepare data for publication, while ensuring **quality and usability**

## Featured tools for accessing OCDS data

### OCDS Kingfisher Collect

OCDS publishers [worldwide](#) publish their OCDS data using different access methods, from APIs to bulk download files. With our Kingfisher Collect tool, you can download OCDS data from the publisher's websites to your computer for your own use.

### OCDS Kingfisher Database

We also regularly collect publishers' data using Kingfisher Collect and store it in a PostgreSQL database. You can request access to this database to explore the data you are interested in.

 [USE KINGFISHER COLLECT](#)

 [REQUEST ACCESS TO KINGFISHER DATABASE](#)

## Data tools

We maintain tools to facilitate accessing OCDS data, converting it between JSON and CSV, and reviewing its quality.

**Kingfisher:** A family of tools to [collect](#), [pre-process](#), [summarize](#) and [query](#) OCDS data. It is used internally by helpdesk analysts to provide feedback to publishers of OCDS data, and by a data analyst to calculate indicators and do research (though a goal is to increase use by the wider community). Kingfisher collect also serves as a data source for other tools.

**Data Review Tool:** An [online tool](#) to report structural errors in OCDS data. It is primarily used by

Our Lift program can help teams of bold procurement reformers propel their ambitious plans towards **systemic change**

The image shows a screenshot of the Open Contracting Partnership website. The header is dark grey with the logo on the left and navigation links on the right. The main content area has a green background with a hot air balloon graphic and a call to action. Below this, there are two columns of text: one for the 'Open Contracting Lift' program and another for 'Lessons learned from Lift'.

**OPEN CONTRACTING PARTNERSHIP**

Data Standard Publications and tools Worldwide English Search

What is open contracting Impact Implement Data About us News & community

**Elevate public services: How will you change public contracting to radically improve goods, works or services?**

**Open Contracting Lift**

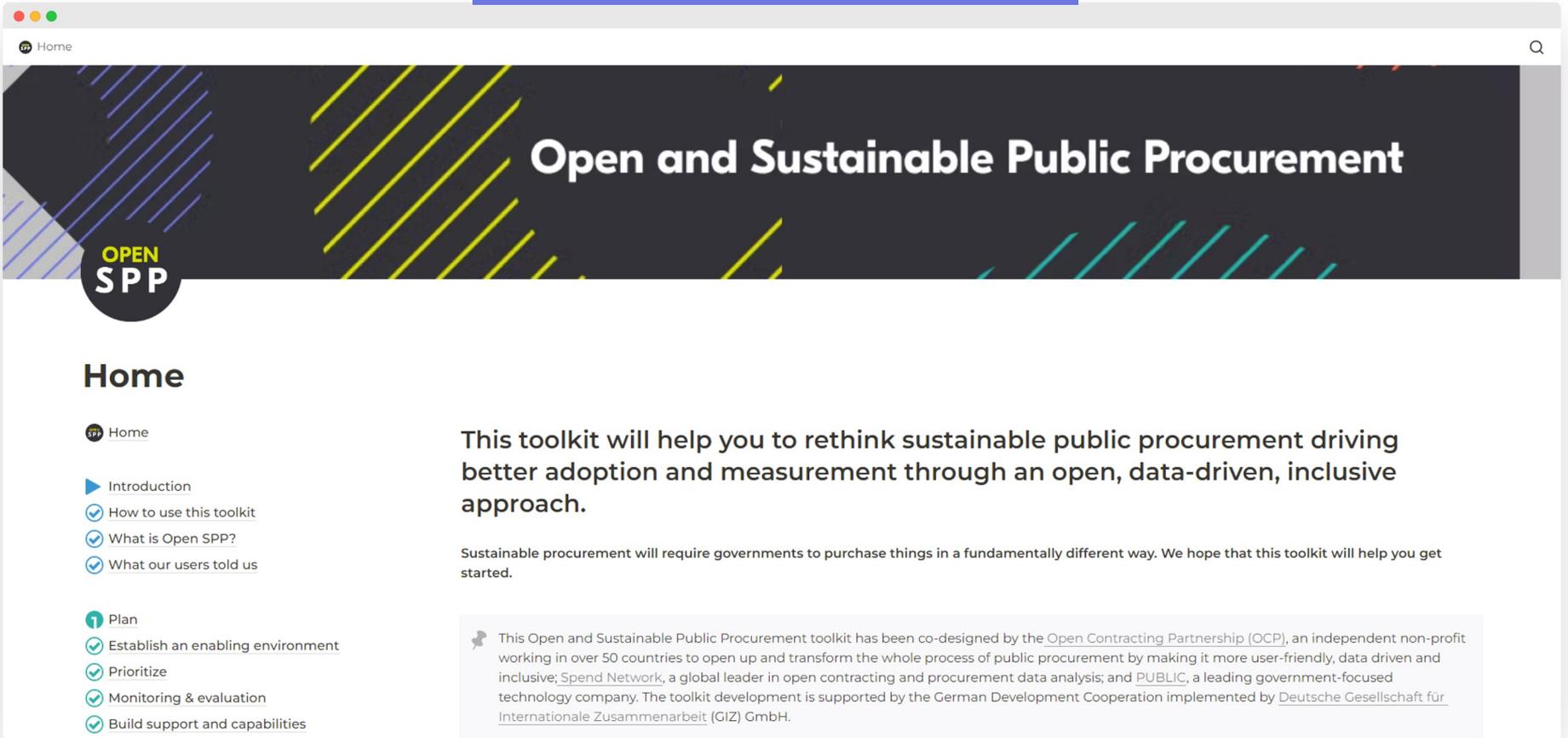
You want to use public procurement as a tool to deliver better social outcomes. Open Contracting Lift is our impact accelerator program to help teams of bold procurement reformers around the world to go further with their ideas and deliver change.

**Lessons learned from Lift**

Insights for designing and operating an impact accelerator program.

[Read](#)

Our new toolkit will help you to make public procurement  
**sustainable and inclusive**



Home

# Open and Sustainable Public Procurement

**OPEN SPP**

## Home

- Home
- Introduction
  - How to use this toolkit
  - What is Open SPP?
  - What our users told us
- Plan
  - Establish an enabling environment
  - Prioritize
  - Monitoring & evaluation
  - Build support and capabilities

**This toolkit will help you to rethink sustainable public procurement driving better adoption and measurement through an open, data-driven, inclusive approach.**

Sustainable procurement will require governments to purchase things in a fundamentally different way. We hope that this toolkit will help you get started.

This Open and Sustainable Public Procurement toolkit has been co-designed by the [Open Contracting Partnership \(OCP\)](#), an independent non-profit working in over 50 countries to open up and transform the whole process of public procurement by making it more user-friendly, data driven and inclusive; [Spend Network](#), a global leader in open contracting and procurement data analysis; and [PUBLIC](#), a leading government-focused technology company. The toolkit development is supported by the German Development Cooperation implemented by [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#).

# Questions?

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# OPEN CONTRACTING PARTNERSHIP

[www.open-contracting.org](http://www.open-contracting.org)  
[@opencontracting](https://twitter.com/opencontracting)  
[data@open-contracting.org](mailto:data@open-contracting.org)