The impact of the CEB’s own operations

Procurement at the CEB

The CEB procures supplies, works and services for its own operational needs. The Bank uses external service providers to provide, among other things, IT services and a variety of other services on the organisation’s premises.

As an international organisation - to which national legislation on public procurement does not apply - the CEB has its own internal procurement rules. The organisation’s supply chain for its own operational needs is governed by the CEB’s Guidelines on the Internal Procurement of Services, Supplies and Works. The related Internal Procurement Procedures were updated in 2017.

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Principles and practice

The Bank considers that, as a general rule, these principles can best be implemented by effective and fair competition among qualified tenderers and by transparent selection based on considerations of both cost and quality.

The CEB also aims to ensure that the purchase of supplies, works and services required for the satisfactory operation of the CEB:

• Is handled in a timely, efficient and effective manner with due regard to the Bank’s needs, including a high level of qualification and quality of services (including best practices in terms of occupational health and safety), efficiency and economic use of resources.

• Takes into account sustainability issues with respect to human resources and the environment, in line with the Bank’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

Moreover, the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy has now been complemented by the Environmental Statement dated 26 July 2019, which underlines the importance of enhancing environmental and social considerations in procurement decisions for its own operational needs.

In this respect, the existence of ecological labels or the use of environmentally friendly products (e.g. in cleaning services) is taken into account when selecting a provider. The CEB is going to take advantage of the upcoming revision of its Guidelines on Internal Procurement and the subsequent procedures to consider incorporating sustainability aspects in the criteria that may be used for selecting contractors.

Procurement in CEB financed projects

For projects financed by the CEB, there are separate project and loan procurement policies and guidelines. These Procurement Guidelines detail the principles and methods to be applied when awarding contracts to be financed by CEB loans. Implementing them ensures that funds are used solely for purposes covered by the loan and that special emphasis is placed on economical and efficient implementation of the projects it finances. In parallel, the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy is incorporated into the procurement activity of the project through close monitoring of the policy’s clauses in contracts that borrowers sign with contractors. The use of recognised international contract standards (e.g. FIDIC) is an important tool in this respect.