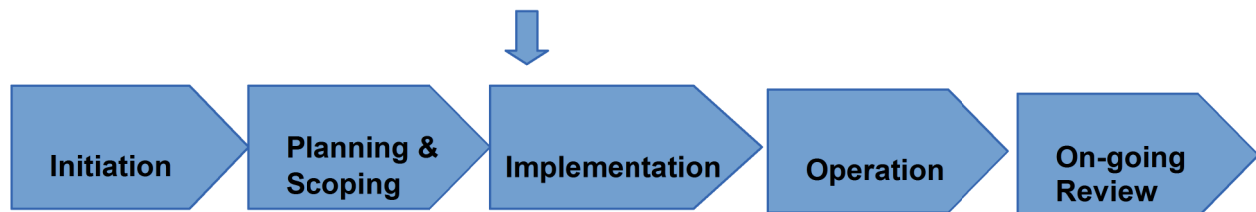


Office of Government Procurement Update October 2013

This update aims to give an overview of the progress to date in establishing the OGP and of the next steps in the process.

What has happened so far?

Like any major undertaking, setting up the OGP is a complex process involving a series of phases: initiation, planning & scoping, implementation, operation and on-going review. In practice, of course, the phases aren't strictly sequential – there is significant overlap between them – however it can be useful to visualise progress to date as follows:



Initiation:

- November 2011: The Government's Public Service Reform Plan was published, with public procurement reform being identified as one of the 14 public service reform initiatives announced.
- September 2012: The report of the “*Capacity and Capability Review of the Central Procurement Function*” (Accenture Report) was published. One of the key outcomes of this report was the decision by Government to establish an Office of Government Procurement.
- January 2013: Mr Paul Quinn was appointed Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) to lead on the reform of procurement across the public sector.
- February to April 2013: A series of intensive workshops was held in Dublin with representatives from all the main sectors to devise and validate a governance and operating model for the OGP.
- April 2013: The governance model for the OGP was approved by Government Decision. The new governance model consists of six organisational elements: a Board, a Steering Group, an Executive, Category Councils, Procurement Officers and Sourcing Teams. The Government Decision included a savings target of up to €500m over 3 years.
- July 2013: The OGP was officially launched by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Brendan Howlin TD, and the Minister of State for Public Service Reform and the Office of Public Works, Mr Brian Hayes TD.
- July and August 2013: The CPO held national roadshow workshops (Sligo, Galway, Cork, Waterford and Dublin) for public service procurement staff. The common questions that were asked by staff attending the workshops have now been collated in a “Frequently Asked Questions” format. The CPO has also engaged extensively with key industry groups (such as IBEC, SFA etc.) to outline the changes.

Planning & Scoping:

- In order to deliver on its objectives, the OGP will need experienced public sector procurement staff to join it. Over the summer, a sub-group¹ of the OGP Transformation Team began work on developing an organisational design (i.e. staffing numbers and structure) and migration strategy for the OGP. The final report of the sub-group is currently in the process of being formally validated within sectors.
- An open recruitment campaign was launched during the summer to recruit people to specified, senior positions in the new OGP. The results of the recruitment process will be announced shortly.
- Several documents have also been produced relating to the calculation of savings, the roles and responsibilities of Category Councils etc. all of which will assist in the effective functioning of the new OGP.
- Considerable work is also under way to ensure that the Vote (budget) of the OGP will be established for the 1st January 2014.

Implementation:

- The target is to have the majority of the key OGP structures in place by the end of Q1 2014.
- The interim Board of the OGP was appointed by Minister Howlin T.D. in July 2013. The Board is chaired by Minister Brian Hayes T.D. and comprises Mr Ambrose McLoughlin (SG, D/Health), Ms Niamh O'Donoghue (SG, D/Social Protection), Ms Geraldine Tallon (SG, D/Environment, Community and Local Government), Mr Martin Fraser (SG, D/Taoiseach), Ms Eileen Creedon (Chief State Solicitor) and Mr Paul Quinn (CPO). An external appointment will also be made.
- An interim Executive, chaired by the CPO, is also in place. The membership of the interim Executive is as follows:
 - Mr Paul Quinn, (Chair), Chief Procurement Officer
 - Mr Vincent Campbell, National Procurement Service
 - Mr Martin Bourke, National Procurement Service
 - Mr Brian Brogan, National Procurement Service
 - Mr John Swords, Health Service Executive
 - Ms Gwen Moore, Education and Training Boards Ireland
 - Mr Jarlath Fallon, Department of Education and Skills
 - Mr Philip Gurnett, Education Procurement Service, University of Limerick
 - Ms Christine Comiskey, Chief State Solicitor's Office
 - Mr Alec Dolan, Department of Justice and Equality
 - Mr Jason Kearney, Department of Defence
 - Mr Charlie O'Sullivan, Kerry County Council
- Work is currently underway to establish the Steering Group which will be broadly representative of the client base of the OGP.
- The setting up of the Category Councils is another activity at an advanced stage. Over 100 Business Category Leads have already been nominated by customer Departments and Agencies to sit on these councils and initial briefing for this first set of nominees was carried out over the summer. Category Council training commenced in September and a number of the Category Councils have held their first meetings.

Next Steps?

While the OGP will be head-quartered in Dublin, there are public sector staff in different locations across the country that have skills and expertise that would make a positive contribution to the work of the OGP. It is therefore planned to have a number of OGP offices in regional locations. To

¹ Sub-group members: Mr Ned Costello (Irish Universities Association), Mr Richard Thorn (Institutes of Technology Ireland), Ms Gwen Moore (Education and Training Boards Ireland), Mr Brian Kirwin (Health Service Executive), Ms Julie Ryan (Health Service Executive), Mr Colm O'Cleirigh (OGP), Mr Martin Kilbane (OGP), Mr Jim Kelly (Dublin City Council) and Mr Con O'Carroll (Department of Justice & Equality)

determine the right number of offices and their locations, the OGP has asked each sector to collate 'As Is' data to assist the OGP in identifying geographical locations where critical mass, skills, experience and expertise currently exists. The collation of this data is currently underway.

In line with the staff migration processes set out in the Croke Park and Haddington Road Agreements, an initial information and consultation session was held, at national level, with public sector unions on 5 September 2013. Once the organisation design and migration strategy have been formally validated at sector level, these will be shared with the unions with a view to commencing a formal engagement process with unions later this year.

The “look and feel” of the procurement.ie and the constructionprocurement.gov.ie websites are currently being re-developed to reflect the establishment of the OGP. The new-look sites, which are scheduled to go-live in the next few weeks, will retain the features of the current ones and will continue to assist public service buyers and suppliers with their public procurement activities.

The OGP welcomes ongoing feedback, comments and queries, which can be sent to us directly at ask@ogp.gov.ie. Further information and updates about the OGP, its plans and progress will also be published regularly on www.procurement.ie.