

# Open Contracting in BOLIVIA

*At a glance*



**Open contracting** can transform public procurement through better data, analysis and engagement with businesses and civil society. It involves (1) disclosure of open data and documents about the planning, procurement, and management of public contracts; and (2) engagement with civic and business users of information, leading to improved accountability and redress by government agencies or contractors through acting on the feedback received.



## COUNTRY FACTS

Uses e-procurement system	YES
Implements Open Contracting Data Standard	NO
Active open contracting infomediaries	NO



## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The government recognizes the right of citizens to access state procurement information.

SICOES is the country's contracting information gateway: [www.sicoes.gob.bo](http://www.sicoes.gob.bo).

Bolivia has a proactive plan to improve transparency in public management.



## OPEN CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES IN BOLIVIA

High-level politicians should make a commitment to approve the Transparency and Access to Information Law.

Strategies should be developed to empower media and civil society organizations to become effective infomediaries and to better understand and analyze open contracting information and data in order to give credible feedback to the government.

It is essential to improve public servants' capacity to give useful, timely data to citizens to help enhance transparency.

It is important to increase monitoring of public contracting, including through awareness campaigns and capacity-building programs.

This report provides an overview of the country specific conditions for open contracting in the summer of 2017. Given this limited scope, the report is not intended for cross-country comparisons, measurement or scoring.



Open  
Contracting  
Partnership



## EVALUATION OF OPEN CONTRACTING READINESS IN BOLIVIA

### **LAW:**

Bolivia is one of the few countries in the region that does not have a Transparency and Access to Information Law. However, it has a set of proactive regulations that deal with anti-corruption, participation and social control, and e-government.

Although national regulations oblige all institutions to publish information on public procurement, this access is often limited by administrative or technical issues.

### **POLICY:**

Access to information on public procurement is a complex subject, spanning multiple government agencies, and it touches on four main areas: access to information as a right; transparency and the struggle against corruption; participation and social control; and e-government initiatives.

### **INSTITUTIONS:**

In Bolivia, all public contracts must be registered in the State Contracting System (SICOES), under the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, which is part of the Administration System of Goods and Services.

### **DISCLOSURE:**

Understanding open contracting in Bolivia requires extensive training and in-depth knowledge of the public bureaucratic structure, the legal framework, and the public institutions in force and their internal regulations. It is essential to build citizen capacity, so that the public can exercise the right to access procurement information.

### **PARTICIPATION:**

There is a broad legislative framework that promotes social participation, although there are weaknesses, such as the lack of a governing entity responsible for the application of this framework in public management. This means that each public entity is responsible for developing its own rules for social participation and control.