OPEN CONTRACTING IN MEXICO

1. Introduction

Open Contracting (Contrataciones Abiertas in Spanish) is an **international initiative** promoted by Open Contracting Partnership[1] (OCP) which aims to increase the supply and quality of information related to government contracting procedures; in addition to enhancing its comparability and usefulness through the adoption of its main instrument: the **Open Contracting Data Standard[2]** (OCDS, or EDCA in Spanish), to promote participatory processes with different actors including civil society, journalists and the private sector in order to improve services and public works.

In Mexico, the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data (INAI) along with OCP promote, with the support and leadership of the Local Guarantor Organisms (OGL) of the **National Transparency System** (SNT), the implementation of this initiative in the obligated entities of the three levels of government, through the adoption of a **technological tool** and a viewer built for this purpose.

2. Initiative objectives

1. Produce and **publish information** in **structured, open and accessible** formats of the entire public procurement cycle, in accordance with the OCDS.
2. Promote **citizen involvement** and surveillance of public institutions to monitor the use of public resources.
3. Increase the **efficiency and effectiveness** of public management to improve the quality and price of goods, services and works contracted.

3. Work strategy

Each year a convocation is issued with the purpose of giving continuity to this agenda in the country. On one hand, promoting the implementation in the OGLs that are not yet part of the initiative and also, in the cases where the OGL has already implemented the initiative, collaborating to promote it among its local obligated entities of the three levels of government.

To participate, each implementer takes the following steps: 1. Express interest in joining the initiative. 2. Prepare a Publishing Commitment in order to know what content will be published, the period covered by the information and the frequency with which it will be updated. 3. Identify where the information to be published is stored and relate the data to the OCDS. 4. Publish the **Publishing Policy**, which will serve as a guide as to what is to be published as well as the rules for its access, use and reuse. 5. Define and use a **technological tool**, which may be the Open Contracting tool[3] generated by INAI, or the implementer's own system. 6. **Capture and validate** the information to be published in open data. And 7. Promote the installation and participate in an **Open Data State Network** of the corresponding state, integrated by the OGL, the implementing institutions, civil society, academia, the private sector, media, among others.

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[1] More information at https://www.open-contracting.org/

[2] Open Contracting Data Standard, available at: https://standard.open-contracting.org/latest/en/

[3] Tool repository: https://github.com/datosabiertosmx/contrataciones-abiertas-infraestructura

To this day, **19[4] OGLs (plus INAI)** have expressed their interest in implementing Open Contracting and **11** of them have published their contracting procedures, which represents **$1,047,392,319 MXN** made transparent, corresponding to public contracting in open data and structured in accordance with the Data Standard.

In addition, there are **7[5] obligated entities from other levels of government**, which remain active and continue to carry out the activities planned to achieve the publication of their procurement procedures in open data in accordance with the Data Standard.

Finally, during 2022, 3 **Open Data State Networks**[6] were installed.

4. Collaboration areas

The initiative is led by INAI, in collaboration with the OGLs and with the participation of civil society, academia, the private sector, the media and the community specialized in open data.

Through dialogue and collaborative work with public and private organizations at national and international level, it is expected to form alliances to achieve agreement and harmonize norms, standards and strategies to strengthen transparency and allow a more comprehensive analysis of information in order to improve services and public infrastructure.

5. Further information and contact

To learn more about the Open Contracting initiative, visit the informative microsite at contratacionesabiertas.inai.org.mx, or write to contratacionesabiertas@inai.org.mx.

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[4] Local Guarantor Organisms from the states of Aguascalientes, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Ciudad de México, Durango, State of Mexico, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Veracruz, Yucatán and Zacatecas.

[5] Municipality of Guadalajara, Jalisco; Executive Secretary of the Anticorruption System of the State of Quintana Roo; Superior Auditing Organ of the State of Veracruz; Executive Secretary of the Anticorruption System of the State of Veracruz; Universidad Veracruzana; Municipality of Mérida, Yucatán; Secretary of the Comptroller General's Office of the Government of the State of Yucatán.

[6] State of Mexico, Veracruz and Yucatán.