



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

# **DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCUREMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

**JULY 2022**

## **1. Introduction**

The Agency is creating a Community of Practice for procurement practitioners in Eswatini. In order to realize this, it is incumbent upon the Agency to develop a pool of procurement professionals and practitioners. For this reason, the Agency invites all procurement practitioners from the Public and Private sectors, Non-Governmental Organizations and other sectors to be part of this Community of Practice.

A community of practice refers to a shared platform, forum or social network, where procurement practitioners can exchange knowledge and experience, ask questions, share documentation or collaborate on common projects. Having such a space is important because, very often, knowledge and expertise in public procurement is dispersed throughout the different layers of the different sectors, with pockets of highly skilled procurers within some institutions or regional areas, but more limited knowledge elsewhere. With the creation of a community of practice, knowledge can be more easily centralised and subsequently disseminated, without the need to build up extensive capacity. Thus, a community of practice is potentially relevant in countries that have limited access to central level expertise and are starting the path to professionalising procurement.

## **2. Aims of establishing the Community Practice**

The community of practice will be fostered through the creation of a platform that will gather procurement practitioners with similar professional interests to achieve the following;

- a) To gather information on available procurement practitioners in the country
- b) Develop a centralised database of procurement qualified professionals and practitioners that will act as a procurement human resource centre for organization's recruiting purposes which will be published on the ESPPRA website for public viewing
- c) A database of procurement experts who can engaged as consultants for the Agency's stakeholder trainings.
- d) Provide opportunities for the establishment of a procurement professionals association
- e) Provide a pool of procurement professionals who will participate as resource persons upon development of e-learning platform
- f) Professionalization of public procurement space in the country
- g) Provide a platform for professionals and practitioners to meet and engage on procurement issues
- h) Monitor trends which can inform interventions aimed at developing the profession

### 3. Role of the Community in Professionalization

It is envisaged that the community of practice will contribute as follows:

#### I. Online platform:

- a) *E-Learning Forum*: The procurement practitioners will use this platform to share views on the topic of discussion with the aim of sharing their own practical experience and knowledge on the subject matter.
- b) *Key FAQs Forum*: there will also be a Frequently Asked Questions Forum where the procurement practitioners in the Community of Practice Database will provide answers to the questions posted in the forum.
- c) *Promote knowledge and experience sharing*: Through the exchange of knowledge and experience, practitioners will learn from the experience of their peers, making them less likely to make mistakes and better able to achieve value for money.
- d) *Best practices*: better access to resources and the ability to ask questions of experienced peers through the community of practice will promote best practice in conduct of procurement activities.
- e) *Continuous professional development*: To provide constructive and evidence-based feedback and advice on training and development needs.

#### II. Setting standards

- Set ethical and behavioral standards for the procurement professionals
- Set professional standards for the procurement profession

### 4. Membership

Membership is open to all Procurement Personnel from Public and Private Sectors, Non-Governmental Organization and other sectors who are willing to join the community of practice and should meet the following criteria:

- a) Possess a Public Procurement/Procurement Qualification (**or studying towards obtaining one**)
- b) Membership in a procurement professional body
- c) Experience in the procurement function

- d) Proven experience in conducting procurement activities **(For Non-Procurement qualification holders)**
- e) Willingness to adhere to a code of conduct for the community of practice

## **5. Registration modalities**

Interested prospective members should self-register and create a profile where they will be able to update their information as per the need.