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# Best Practices in the Field of the Reduction of the Administrative Burden

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## What is Sigma?

*Support for the Improvement of Governance and Management in Central and Eastern European countries*

- joint EU/OECD Programme
- financed principally by EU
- implemented by OECD
- to assist beneficiaries countries
  - EU candidates
  - EU potential candidates
  - EU neighbourhood



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## Not only a PP motto, rather a must of Good Governance

- *From Weberian bureaucracy to New Public Management*: it goes along with objectives of quality, customer satisfaction, efficiency, the rule of law
- ...And the switch to the Information Society
- Nevertheless, new dilemmas appear
- Finally, an overall challenge



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## “best practices”, an elusive concept

- No one-size-fit-all recipee
- A success story in a given context...
- ... can turn out a total failure in another one



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## How to define administrative burden (AB)?

- For SMEs, rather about administrative culture than the EU legal framework
- Over-regulation or access to information?
- A perception as much as factual data
- The necessity to assess AB
- A systemic issue
- Why reducing AB?



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## Typical issues

- Guarantee
- Exclusion and suitability checks
- Short and simple standardized forms and certificates
- From central purchasing to a set of solutions
- The advantage of co-operation?



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## Reduction of AB as the main driver for e-procurement

- One only or several websites?
- Additional facilities beyond notices
- Real achievement if the whole process up to payment is streamlined



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## The principle of proportionality is key

- Risk-based enforcement
- Helping officials make informed decisions
  1. Data on Bidders/contractors
  2. Former procurement contracts (type, price)
  3. Execution of the contract (performance)
  4. Trends & patterns of procurement overall
    - The Central Contractor Registration (CCR)
    - The Excluded Parties Lists System (EPLS)
    - The Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS)
    - The Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)





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## When comparing the EU PP regime to others: it could be worse...

- Usual misunderstanding on the restricted procedure
- Control versus review & remedies
- State owned enterprises

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## Questions for discussion

- Is there merit in continuing to mandate targets for proposed reductions in administrative burdens?
- Developing e-proc': is the carrot better than the stick?