



## Opportunities

- The current EU legal framework on public procurement focuses on the best balance between quality and price, as well as supporting innovation;
- Public procurement allows for a fair competition between suppliers to pay the 'right price', while taking into account additional factors.

## Challenges

- Adaptation of procurement rules;
- Comparison of very different offers.

## Objective

Public procurement refers to the process by which public authorities, such as government departments or local authorities, purchase works, goods or services from companies. The new legal framework on public procurement sets the "Most Economically Advantageous Tender" (MEAT) as a principle guiding the contract awards' criteria. This enables the contracting authority to take account of criteria that reflect qualitative, technical and sustainable aspects of the tender submission – as well as the price.

Moreover, public procurement is becoming a political strategy instrument. Under the new rules, public purchasers will be enabled to implement environmental policies, as well as those governing social integration and innovation.

## Involvement of Infrastructure Managers

Public procurement plays an important role for the railway sector and especially for Infrastructure Managers (IMs) since they usually manage large and costly projects which need to be procured under national and EU law.

## EIM in action

- EIM advocates a public procurement system which takes into consideration not only the price but also criteria related to innovation, sustainability and social corporate responsibility.

