

Executive summary

In the aftermath of the Revolution of 14 January 2011 and at the request of the Tunisian authorities, the current report assesses the public sector integrity framework in order to illuminate the kinds of measures that need to be implemented. This assessment is mainly based on the 1998 OECD Recommendation on Improving Ethical Conduct in the Public Service and the 2008 OECD Principles for Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement, which brings together the best practices and findings from OECD member countries. This report also includes references to the experiences of Middle East and North African (MENA) countries in establishing policies to promote integrity and prevent corruption.

The proposals for action contained in this first assessment provide the Tunisian authorities with a roadmap designed to enhance the integrity framework in the public sector. A particular focus is placed on public procurement, an area highly susceptible to corruption.

In order to develop an integrity framework for the public sector, Tunisian authorities could consider:

- Conducting detailed analyses of the vulnerabilities and risks existing in the public sector per activity and per sector;
- Closing the most important loopholes within the legal framework that limit the ability of authorities to define and impose sanctions on corruption and wrongdoing;
- Providing the newly created anti-corruption institutions and existing oversight institutions with the sufficient human and financial means to guarantee their independence.
- Developing specific measures intended to raise the awareness of civil servants about standards of conduct to follow and to help them better manage risks, including through tools such as codes of conduct, training and counselling mechanisms designed to help civil servants apply integrity principles in the management of public funds, as well as the reactivation of asset declarations that could serve as efficient tools to help fight against illicit enrichment.

- Enhancing specialized public sector corruption prevention mechanisms and the independence of monitoring agencies.
- Enhancing transparency and accountability in all the parties involved, notably through the development of an adequate legislative framework to promote access to information.

In order to promote transparency and integrity in public procurement, Tunisian authorities could consider:

- Rationalising their legal and regulatory system and developing guides to help public purchasers to manage risks through every step of the public procurement process.
- Professionalising the function of public purchaser and developing capacities.
- Developing objective data on public procurement that could be used, most notably, in the creation of an electronic platform for public procurement.
- Developing a partnership with the private sector for the implementation of public procurement reforms by, among other things, creating a regular mechanism for consulting and dialoguing with the private sector.
- Assuring integrity in relations between the government and potential suppliers, in particular, by reinforcing the independence of recourse mechanisms.



From:
OECD Integrity Review of Tunisia
The Public Sector Framework

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264194175-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Executive Summary", in *OECD Integrity Review of Tunisia: The Public Sector Framework*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264194175-2-en>

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