

Group4

Companies which continue cooperation with Russia or Belarus and are participating in public procurements.

Problem description

- Companies continue cooperation with Russia and Belarus importing/exporting goods that are not in sanction lists.
- There is no limitation for public procurement to reject an offer based on if the business is importing/exporting goods to Russia or Belarus.
- It is difficult to know if a business is importing/exporting to Russia or Belarus directly.

Data used in the project

The data for this is not publicly available as there is no public or open list of importers from Russia and Belarus.

The Central Statistics Bureau of Latvia published list of companies that kept exporting goods to Russia and Belarus (information till June 2023).

Open data regarding public procurements in Latvia and beneficiaries of Latvian companies.

Scheme and/or prototype

The idea we had is to create a tool/solution that would help with identifying if a business that sent in an offer for the public procurement is itself importing goods from Russia/Belarus or working with businesses that import such goods.

A short summary of what was done during the groupwork in the hackathon

We used CSB data with Latvian companies that continue exports to Russia and Belarus. We crosschecked these companies with available open data of public procurements. We also checked companies, whose beneficial owners were Russian or Belarusian nationals and won in public procurements.

By import/export

Year	Number of procurements	Number of companies
2022	784	98
2023	760	103
2024	48	28

By beneficial owners

Year	Number of procurements	Number of companies
2022	36	11
2023	44	14
2024	6	4

Future applicability and vision for the things needed to be improved

Lack of public list of importer/export per country. (National and European) European union could publish their aggregated data.

Lack of public list of companies transacting with countries.(National and European).

In order to prevent the possibility of commercial companies participating in public procurement and winning contracts, while avoiding unwarranted restrictions on competition, the Procurement Monitoring Bureau of Latvia, in collaboration with the Competition Council of Latvia, would need to promote changes in national regulations in the field of public procurement.

To enhance transparency, the State Revenue Service should publish information on import operations carried out by commercial companies from third countries as open data, identifying the respective companies. The countries and territories subject to these regulations are determined by Cabinet of Ministers regulations. For more convenient use of this data it should be published similar as sanction lists. Within the framework of public procurement, procurement candidates are subject to verification.

Participants and their roles

Dace Bērziņa – insight in procurements/available data for audits

Rūdolfs Streičs – compilation of available data

Reinis Znotiņš – research of available data/compilation of ideas

Pēteris Strazdiņš- insight in import/export procedures and CPV

Kristaps Punculis - presenter

Laima Amatniece - consulted about available open data/case examples

Aivis Brutāns (mentor) – provided CSB data, assisted with available open data

Tambert Artma and Janne Peltola – helped with information regarding importers/exporters in Estonia and Finland