

Regional Workshop

“Smart Procurement 4 Strong Governance: Boosting Competition, Digitalisation and Value for Money under the EU Growth Plan”

20–21 October 2026, Skopje, North Macedonia (Club of MPs)

Organised by ReSPA, in cooperation with the Centre of Excellence in Finance (CEF) and SIGMA/OECD

AGENDA

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 20 October 2026

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATION / LEAD
09:00–09:15	Registration of participants	All participants
09:15–09:45	Opening Remarks	ReSPA / CEF / SIGMA / Ministry of Finance of North Macedonia
09:45–11:00	Session 1 – State of Play: Public Procurement in the Western Balkans Key findings of the 2024 SIGMA Monitoring Reports (SIGMA Paper No. 76): legal alignment, institutional set-up, practice and results, and the main enforcement gaps. Positive-practice spotlight: Albania's Public Procurement Agency, cited in the 2024 SIGMA Monitoring Reports as a valuable model for procurement monitoring and enforcement. <i>Presentation & Discussion</i>	SIGMA/OECD, with the Albanian delegation
11:00–11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15–12:45	Session 2 – Competition, Single-Bid Tenders and Market Participation Why more than half of competitive procedures in some administrations attract a single bid, and what tender design, market consultation and outreach can do about it. Short country presentations followed by open peer discussion. <i>Country Presentations & Discussion</i>	CEF moderates with Public Procurement Bureau (North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, BiH) / delegations
12:45–13:45	Lunch	
13:45–14:45	Session 3 – Value for Money, Contract Management and Green Procurement Moving from price-only awards towards the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) criterion, life-cycle costing, green and innovation-friendly criteria, and risk-based use of e-procurement data for contract monitoring. Draws on North Macedonia's Guidelines for Green Public Procurement as a regional reference. <i>Presentation & Group Work</i>	CEF with participants
14:45–15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00–15:45	Session 4 – CIPFA Spotlight: Professionalisation and Contract-Management Standards A 20-minute keynote on CIPFA good-practice standards, followed by a CIPFA-moderated discussion with participating countries on related topics such as quality assurance and contract-management competencies.	CIPFA with Procurement Units from administrations

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATION / LEAD
	<i>Keynote & Moderated Discussion</i>	
15:45–16:00	Wrap-up of Day 1	ReSPA

DAY 2 – Wednesday , 21 October 2026

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATION / LEAD
09:00–09:15	Arrival of participants	<i>All participants</i>
09:15–10:30	Session 5 – Digitalisation and Interoperability of E-Procurement Systems The Electronic System for Public Procurement (ESPP) as a regional reference point, with comparative examples of interoperability and functionality gaps from across the region. <i>Presentation & Discussion</i>	<i>SIGMA moderates' discussion with delegates</i>
10:30–11:30	Session 6 – Integrity, Transparency and Corruption-Risk Management Using beneficial-ownership and open-contracting data to detect collusion, conflicts of interest and hidden ownership, featuring North Macedonia's negative-reference (red-flag) system for unreliable economic operators as a regional case study. Group work on red-flag scenarios and mitigation measures. <i>Presentation & Group Assignment</i>	<i>CEF with Public Procurement Bureau (North Macedonia) / Open Contracting Partnership</i>
11:30–11:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:45–12:45	Session 7 – Panel: Experience from Procurement Units Across the Region Representatives of central procurement institutions, contracting authorities, review bodies and other oversight institutions share their practical experience in applying the rules and overseeing procurement operations. <i>Panel Discussion, moderated by CEF</i>	<i>CEF with Procurement units of participating administrations</i>
12:45–13:45	Session 8 – Reform Design Lab: Country-Specific Action Points Participants draft a concrete, country-specific action point on a priority procurement reform, refined through peer feedback. <i>Group Work</i>	<i>ReSPA / CEF</i>
13:45–14:00	Closing Session	ReSPA
14:00–15:00	<i>Lunch</i>	

Note: the agenda is preliminary and subject to confirmation; session order and speakers will be finalised closer to the workshop.