Strengthening Public Contracting in Puerto Rico
Who we are

Mission
Harvest knowledge, tools and inspiration to strengthen Civil Society advocacy efforts for more transparent, responsible, inclusive and efficient government practices.

Vision
An informed, engaged and alert civil society that actively collaborates with government to maximize public resources for the long-term well-being of Puerto Rico (PR).

A Piece of the Puzzle
We support individuals and organizations working to increase transparency and public participation in government practices, focusing on advocating for, developing and maintaining public procurement systems that prevent corruption.
Our Team & Partners

Team:
• Issel Masses, Executive Director
• Juan Jiménez, Public Policy Analyst
• Arielys Rodríguez, Institutional Development Analyst

Board of Directors:
• Susana García, Permanent Mission of Mexico before the OAS
• Edouard Al-Dahdah, Public Sector Specialist at the World Bank
• Jeanette Ortiz, Private Law Practice, Puerto Rico
• María Concepción, Program Manager, Oxfam América
• José Cedeño, Cybersecurity Specialist, United States Department of Defense

Advisors & Reviewers
• Dr. Luz Mairym López, University of Puerto Rico
• Tomás Campero, Former Director of ChileCompra
• Prof. William Vázquez Irizarry, University of Puerto Rico
• Dr. Víctor García San Inocencio, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico
• Dr. Javier Morales, Expert in Psychology and Corruption
• Steven Davenport, Public Sector Specialist at the World Bank
We start with Public Contracting because it is where...

1. A significant portion of the government’s budget is spent to support service provision
2. The market and the government come into contact
3. Processes are often complexed, with contradictions and gaps
4. Significant savings can be achieved
5. Quality of services can improve, and competition can increase
6. Civil society must be part of the solution

How damaging can weaknesses in public contracting be?
What it costs $$$

Using global estimates, and looking at an annual budget of ~25 Billion, of which 30-50% is allocated to contracts, this is what corruption in PR’s public contracting system could be costing Puerto Rico annually.

As low as...
USD 740 Million

...As high as
USD 3.1 Billion

Sources: Estimates based on how corruption in public contracting are costing many countries between 10-25% of its contracting budget. Sources: Open Contracting Partnership, OGP, Oficina del Contralor de PR
Through a multi-stakeholder approach, Sembrando Sentido aims to develop and sustain robust, transparent, and inclusive public contracting processes.
Our Proposal – Contratos En Ley

A digital platform that opens, monitors and evaluates public contracting, through the following components:

1. **Search Engine**
   Centralizes, integrates and facilitates the search and analysis of public contracting data.

2. **Evaluator**
   Assesses public procurement processes, including its legal framework, current policies, and impact, to identify key weaknesses and propose solutions.

3. **Monitor**
   Identifies public procurement corruption risks in real-time, allowing public officials to respond and address risks before these materialize.
What are the key weaknesses in public contracting?

- The Law
- The Regulation
- Controls and Procedures
- Behavior and Values
- Transparency
- All of the Above
- Other

Current State:
- Derechos Humanos y Corrupción (CDC, 2015)
- Proyecto Sobre el Mal Uso de los Recursos del Gobierno (OCPR y UPR, 2010)

Progress:
- Initial Assessments
- First MAPS (Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems) Evaluation

Aspiration:
- MAPS – Sector (Energy, Education)
- MAPS – Topic (Emergencies, Capacity Building, PPPs)
- PEFA (Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability) Evaluation
How can we monitor public contracting?

30+

Govt. portals with contracting data

Decentralized

Incomplete

Unfriendly Formats

Poor Quality

Transparency and real-time monitoring are increasingly essential components in public procurement anti-corruption efforts.
Open Contracting Platforms

#PuebloFiscalizador
#TransparenciaRadical
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#ContratandoACieegas
#ContratosEnLey
#ContratosAbiertos