

Role and Functions of the Public Procurement Authority

Session1-July 2025

This activity is implemented in collaboration with Expertise France under the EU funded Project "Supporting progress in key areas of public administration reform in Lebanon" (2023-2027).



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"The Knowledge Lab" in Public Procurement (KLPP) is a collaborative initiative by the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan (IOF) designed to develop specialized learning content and reform-driven expertise in public procurement. The ultimate objective is to empower a national network of experts and bridge the gap between evolving procurement laws and real-world professional application.

Objectives

- Standardize Knowledge: Align trainers on technical topics and international best practices.
- Content Creation: Develop interactive, rapid-learning materials for continuous education.
- Professional Support: Equip officials with practical tools for informed decision-making.
- Policy Impact: Drive legislative reform and a culture of critical thinking.

Methodology

The program follows a practical, four-phase collaborative process:

- Identification: Selecting priority technical topics.
- Preparation: Nominating an expert facilitator to co-design content with IOF.
- Delivery: Conducting focused, interactive sessions using case studies and simulations.

Output: Finalizing high-impact learning materials and sector-wide resources.

Overview

The first session entitled "Role and Functions of the Public Procurement Authority (PPA)" aimed at leveling the knowledge about PPA's position, responsibilities, and its interaction within the broader public sector landscape.

A group of procurement trainers and experts participated in this knowledge lab, in addition to the PPA President and staff. Participants also included practitioners, judges and lawyers from several public institutions and administrations such as Ministry of finance, Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), Electricite du Liban (EDL), Ministry of Telecommunication, General Security, Lebanese Army and others. This first session was hosted by the PPA at their premises.

Session Structure and Key Discussions

The first session of the Knowledge Lab, "Role and Functions of the Public Procurement Authority", was divided into three main parts, as detailed below:

Part One: Classification and Functional Divisions of the Public Procurement Authority

This segment initiated with an emphasis on the main function of the Public Procurement Authority as a regulatory body (وظيفة معيارية كهيئة ناظمة) under which all other functions fall. Participants were then divided into three interactive groups, each assigned two specific functions of the PPA for in-depth analysis.

- › **Group One** focused on the Advisory and Statistical functions.
- › **Group Two** focused on the Technical, Executive, and Oversight functions.
- › **Group Three** focused on the Disciplinary, Penal, and Protection functions.

Each group referred to articles in the PPL 244/2021 to categorize and align the various duties and responsibilities mentioned in the article with their assigned function. This activity was highly engaging and led to diverse opinions and detailed discussions among participants regarding the proper matching of the PPA's roles and mandates to the six functions. The session concluded with a comprehensive summary, highlighting

that the Public Procurement Authority primarily embodies three core functions: 1) a Regulatory Body (هيئة ناظمة), 2) a Control Body for all public procurement activities (هيئة مراقبة), and 3) a Policy Body (هيئة سياساتية).

Part Two: Defining the Regulatory Authority and Formulating a Unified Definition

Part Two focused mainly on defining the Public Procurement Authority. It provided a practical explanation of what the PPA is and its legal nature. Questions were raised to clarify its identity and some participants described it as a *public institution*. However, it was emphasized that this is not the case. The PPA is an **independent authority**, both administratively and financially, with its own separate budget, and it does not fall under the control of any other entity. It is a **collegial authority**, meaning its decisions are made collectively by its five members based on the majority of votes.

Part Three: Four Axes for Discussion

Part three of the Knowledge Lab session 1 in Public Procurement delved into four of the most asked questions/ topics identified during trainings.

- **Executive Role of the Authority**, including classification criteria and approvals on the two-stage tendering.
- **Amendments to the Law Regarding Planning**: Discussions focused on amendments to the law concerning procurement planning (Article 11).
- **Amendments to the Law and Classification/Qualification Standards**: This segment addressed amendments to the law related to the pre-approvals of the PPA on the classification / qualification criteria (Article 76).
- **Reviewing Tender Documents by PPA v/s Issuing Standard Tender Documents**: The discussion revolved around the PPA's role in reviewing tender documents, the importance of issuing standardized tender documents, and the importance of preventing the Authority from being overwhelmed by executive tasks.

Evaluation Results

The evaluation of this first session of the "Knowledge Lab in Public Procurement" on the role and responsibilities of the Public Procurement Authority was conducted through interactive discussions and observation of participant engagement during the group exercises and general discussions. Particular attention was given to participants' ability to apply legal concepts, engage in case-based discussions, and demonstrate understanding of the material related to the roles and functions of the Public Procurement Authority.

Overall, the results indicated a high level of engagement among experts, improved conceptual understanding, and strong potential for knowledge transfer within institutional contexts.

Outcomes

Recommendations

- Appoint PPA's members to alleviate the burden on the President, and staff the PPA with adequate resources to allow it to perform effectively.
- Finalize testing the new electronic platform, and introduce progressively new e-procurement capabilities and functions
- Enhance procurement planning through the new central electronic platform by making the publication of a procurement plan mandatory before launching any tender.
- Coordinate capacity building efforts and make IOF assessments mandatory for procurement professionals.
- Introduce enhancements to the procurement system through the creation of a coordination mechanism between key stakeholders like the IOF, PPA, MOF/Directorate of Disbursements.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Name	Institution	Position
Basma Abdul Khalek	Institute of Finance	Senior Economist
Suzanne Abou Chacra	Institute of Finance	Training Specialist
Fadi Assaf	Public Procurement Authority	Chief Auditor
Mary Atallah	Expertise France	Intern
Manal Bilal	Ministry of Finance	Contracts Supervisor
Diana Bou Ghanem	Ministry of Telecommunications	Head of Center
Bassem Chaaban	Lebanese Army	Colonel
Lina Diab	Institute of Finance	Lawyer and Legal expert
Mariam Dimasi	Public Procurement Authority	Expert
Omar El Barraaj	Public Procurement Authority	Engineer – Head of IT Department
Jean Ellieh	Public Procurement Authority	President
Emilio Elliye	Expertise France	Intern
Ghinwa Haddad	Council of Development and Reconstruction	Head of Tendering Department - Engineer
Mariam Haddad	Public Procurement Authority	Administrative Department
Charbel Hajj	Expertise France	Intern
Fida Labaky	Electricite du Liban (EDL)	Engineer - Trainer
Elie Maalouf	Court of Accounts	Judge and Procurement Expert
Haifa Mansour	Public Procurement Authority - Ministry of Finance	Contracts Supervisor
Eliane Medlej	Public Procurement Authority	Legal Department
Wassim Monzer	General Security - Ministry of Interior	Colonel
Andy Rahme	Institute of Finance	Intern
Rana Rizkallah	Institute of Finance	Public Procurement Expert
Mhammad Saif Eldine	Ministry of Finance	Contracts Supervisor
Sahar Saifdine	Public Procurement Authority	Data Entry Officer
Amal Tarabay	Public Procurement Authority	Administration

Appendix 2: Knowledge Lab Agenda

Title: Role and Functions of the Public Procurement Authority

Location: PPA Premises, Hamra

Date: July 8, 2025

8:45-9:00	Welcoming participants
9:00-9:30	<p>Welcome Words</p> <p>Speech by Dr. Jean Ellieh, President of the Public Procurement Authority</p> <p>Speech by Mrs. Lamia Moubayed Bissat, President of the Institute of Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the Knowledge Exchange Series entitled "Knowledge Lab in Public Procurement" (Objectives, Methodology, Expected Outputs) ▪ Programme of work
9:30-11:00	<p>First Session: Classification and Functional Divisions of the Public Procurement Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group work exercise
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:30	<p>Second Session: Definition of the Regulatory Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual work ▪ General discussion and definition drafting
12:30-12:45	Break
12:45-13:30	<p>Third Session: 4 Discussion Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Executive powers of the Authority ▪ PPL Amendments: Planning ▪ PPL Amendments: Classification / Qualification Criteria ▪ Requesting reviews of tender documents v/s Issuing of Standard Procurement Documents
13:30-14:00	<p>General Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In terms of learning and training ▪ At the policy level