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GSP II Reflection Learning Sharing

Public Procurement

Supply Chain Management (SCM) Professionalisation Toward Building Service Excellence

Supply Chain Management (SCM) is a core function of Public Financial Management (PFM) and an important element of service delivery. The lack of coordination in the professionalisation of practitioners is a key SCM challenge, having a significant influence on the public sector institutional performance. Due to a lack of coordinated SCM professionalisation activities in the country, a need for the establishment of an SCM Council was identified by academia, government, private sector and professional bodies and professional associations.

Overview

The overall objective of the project was to support the establishment of a Supply Chain Management Council and to coordinate SCM professionalisation activities in South Africa. The establishment of an Interim Supply Chain Management Council (ISCMC) was approved in February 2018 by the Director-General of National Treasury.

The focus area has been to establish and locate organisational requirements for a permanent structure - through the following activities :

- Set up of the Interim Council Secretariat and development of a council charter.
- Development of an international benchmarking study for a suitable design of the permanent SCM Council.
- Development of a financially sustainable support model for the SCM ; and
- Provision of support for the registration of the SCM Council as a legal body.

The project has been executed under the auspices of the executing agencies of the individual Study and Expert Fund (SEF)- measure: the Office of the Accountant-General (OAG) and the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (OCPO) at National Treasury (NT). The Interim Supply Chain Management Council (ISCMC) includes members representing key stake-holder groups, namely private and public sector, academia, professional bodies, and associations.





What was done

1. The Interim SCM Council's (ISCMC) activities included:

- On 23 September 2019, the ISCMC hosted the professionalisation roadmap information session with the Zambia Institute of Procurement and Supply (ZIPS).
- The ISCMC participated in the SCM learning journey (SCM -LJ) to the Netherlands and Germany from 14 - 31 November 2019. The Learning journey was conceptualized through a two-day pre-learning journey workshop held on 21 - 22 August 2019 and culminated with the two days post-learning journey reflection workshop held on 04 - 05 March 2020.
- The ISCMC participated in the annual Smart Procurement World Indaba held on the 16 - 19 September 2019, Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, Johannesburg and the provincial Smart Procurement World Indaba held on 23 - 26 January 2020, University of Free State, Bloemfontein.
- The Interim SCM Council conducted a benchmarking and comparative study on existing Codes of Conduct and Ethics for SCM practitioners to assist in developing a standard Codes of Conduct and Ethics.
- The ISCMC participated in the annual Smart Procurement World Indaba held on the 23 - 26 November 2020.
- On the 22nd of October 2020 a meeting was held between the Interim SCM Council and the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) to discuss the Interface between Engineering and Supply Chain Management; ECSA roadmap on professionalisation of the Engineering discipline; ECSA roadmap on development of standard and competency framework; and ECSA business and operations model.
- On 2nd November 2020 a virtual meeting between the Interim SCM Council and Council for Higher Education (CHE) delegates was held to discuss matters of common interest and the process to be followed in the development of SCM Technical Standards and Competency Framework for Professional Practice.
- On 12th November 2020, the Executive Committee of the Interim SCM Council met with representative of the South African Council for Social Services Professions (SACSSP) led by its Registrar. The purpose of the meeting was to benchmark the business and operational models as well as a roadmap undertaken by SACSSP as statutory professional regulatory body.

2. Completion of an international benchmarking study for a suitable design of the permanent SCM Council in South Africa.

- The report recommended that the Council be established as a regulatory body in terms of the Act of Parliament. A decision for promulgation of an Act to establish the Council is being processed within the partner (National Treasury) internal decision process.

3. Development of a financially sustainable model to ensure the functionality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the permanent SCM Council.

- A business plan including suitable legal, institutional, organizational design & business management framework was adopted by the Interim SCM Council.

4. Development of SCM technical standards and competencies for academic qualification

- First stakeholder sessions that included Government Departments, Municipalities, State Owned Enterprise's, and Public Entities, institution of Higher Learning (Universities), Professional Bodies, Quality Councils and Sector Authority, and SCM professionals were held between 19th - 22nd April 2021.

5. A study report and memorandum for the legislation / bill / act that supports the legal status of the permanent SCM Council has been submitted to National Treasury

- NT is currently processing a decision, internally on the social and fiscal impact of the envisaged proposed Act.

6. Development of advocacy, stakeholders and communication strategy document and corresponding network platforms.

- The Council's website www.scmcsa.org is online.

Reflection and Learning

The results and lessons learned from the GSP II including GOPA support in the partner municipalities in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga provinces have been made available to the ISCMC members through the governance advisor who was recruited from the start of the SEF measure to support its implementation.

Lessons learned on the establishment of the ISCMC will be packaged as part of Knowledge management (KM) to be placed in the National Treasury, GIZ and other relevant KM platforms. In this way, knowledge management will play a crucial role in translating tacit knowledge gained through this intervention into overt knowledge. The governance advisor has packaged knowledge products / tools developed under this measure for inclusion in the GSP II knowledge management project.

The Governance Support Programme (GSP II) is a Technical Cooperation programme co-steered at national level in a partnership between the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), the National Treasury (NT), the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the latter responsible for the implementation of the German development contributions on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The programme was co-financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID).

The GSP II provided technical, policy and process advice to support the South African public sector. The programme strengthened capacity for local government planning, financial management and oversight and was executed in the Provinces of Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Country Office South Africa Government Support Programme (GSP II) P.O. Box 13732, Hatfield 0028 Hatfield Gardens, Block C, 2nd Floor, 333 Grosvenor Street Pretoria, South Africa Phone: +27 (0)12 423 5900 Fax: +27 12 342 0185 giz-suedafrika@giz.de www.giz.de/southafrica	As at	October 2021
		On behalf of	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)