iProcureNet

Innovation by developing a European Procurer Networking for security research services

Key findings – April 2023

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1 The iProcureNet project

iProcureNet is a five-year project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon2020 programme for research and innovation and coordinated by the French Ministry of Interior. It aims to create an ecosystem of procurers, prescribers, legal advisors and other key stakeholders of public security procurement, to share procurement trends and needs, and open pathways for innovation in public procurement and joint public procurement across EU member states.

In an innovative three-cycle process, iProcureNet will map the European procurement environment, compare national investment strategies, identify innovation needs, and analyse security markets.

iProcureNet Toolbox

A methodology, guidelines and a knowledge base of joint procurement practices in Europe

iProcureNet Network+Community

Institutions and individuals involved in security procurement

Trainings, Workshops & Conferences

Networking, dissemination, peer learning and capacity building

Established Buyers' Groups

Countries which have found common ground and are ready to procure together

Figure 1: iProcureNet outputs

Find more information on the project and how to get involved as a public security procurement expert on www.iprocurenet.eu.

2 What iProcureNet did in the past six months

iProcureNet will deliver a public report on its findings twice a year. We will start with a summary of how we kept ourselves busy in the past six months, i.e. from October 2023 until April 2023:

The Network+Community Work-Package was very busy in this period.

- We re-launched our Community Platform using a new social tool, it is available at iPOP and you can register to join today for free.

- We re-launched our Topical Groups with a first meeting of the Community held on 16 March 2023. We also created a new group called 'Suppliers and Innovators'. You can find more information about the group and its purpose here.

  We created a video explaining the goals and benefits of the Network+Community for your organisation. Check it out here.

During the last six months, two Deliverables were completed within the Work Package WP3:

- Revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP for the 3rd Cycle (Deliverable D3.6) – completed and provided in December 2022.

- Description of Methodological Process for Common Procurement, WP3 - Feasibility analysis and recommendations (Deliverable D3.7) – completed and provided in February 2023.

In addition, there were also tests related to the analysis of suitability and best performance of new Toolbox and Content Management system regarding Knowledge Factory and its content.

The Toolbox, Workshops, Webinars and Trainings Work-Package (WP5) was also very busy.

- Using findings of the last cycle from the WP2 to WP4, we added a lot of content to our Toolbox. Find the latest version here. We have also designed specification for usability improvements.

- We organised and delivered a webinar on 'Managing IPR in public procurement' with Prof Aleksei Kelli and Prof Mari Ann Simovart from University of Tartu. You can see the recording on Youtube here.

Finally, we organised and delivered our 2023 Annual Conference.

KEY FINDINGS

2.1 Revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP for the 3rd Cycle (D3.6)

The deliverable D3.6 presented the revised list of the most promising segments for Joint Cross-Border Public Procurement (JCBPP) for the 2rd project cycle. The methodology for analysing and suggesting the most promising segment is briefly the following. The analysis and suggestions for possible JCBPP are organised in three identical cycles spreading over the five year duration of the iProcureNet project. At the beginning of each cycle, iProcureNet collects from the Procurers' Groups in the field of internal security, the procurement trends as included in their investments plans as well as the needs for innovative solutions from the TGs. This is collected in WP2 and is subject to the feasibility analysis in WP3. Cycle by cycle the focus has been transferred from procurement of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) products to procurement of innovative solutions. In the third project cycle, in the Deliverable D3.6 the main focus was on procurement of innovative solutions.

The feasibility study is composed of the following parts:

- legal analysis:

  - critical assessment of the European Union legal framework applicable to JCBPP of security solutions;
  - review of the means of JCBPP currently relevant for purchasing in the internal security sector: purchasing via a central purchasing body (CPB) and by an *ad hoc* collaboration of contracting authorities.
  - establishing the legal issues that are in need of further attention in the course of this project, in particular issues specific to procuring innovation as opposed to OTS products.

- analysis of the most relevant financial tools and actions able to support the future buyers decided to proceed to JCBPP;
- research of any other aspects of JCBPP possibly considered relevant for or important by the procurers and suggestions for JCBPP.

The components of the feasibility study are illustrated in the Figure 2 hereunder:

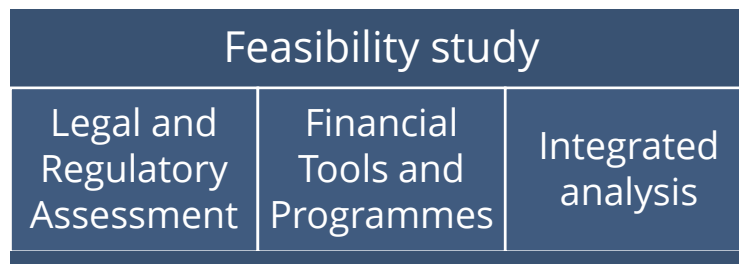| Feasibility study		
Legal and Regulatory Assessment	Financial Tools and Programmes	Integrated analysis

Figure 2: The components of feasibility study for the list of most promising segments for JCBPP

As a result, the activities are related to integrated analysis of the initial list for JCBPP (as produced by work package WP2) and, based on that, to suggest a revised list of candidates for JCBPP.

Legal analysis is the assessment of the interested countries' transpositions of the European public procurement directives and the potential conflicts of the national laws resulting from these transpositions. It also covers regulatory analysis, i.e., verification that the identified segments are not subjects to national, regional, or local regulatory restrictions blocking the JCBPP.

Financial programmes and tools analysis covers the most relevant financial tools and actions able to support the future buyers decided to proceed to JCBPP, such as European Horizon, European Strategic Investments, Migration and Border Management, Internal Security Fund (ISF) and other possibilities, but also JCBPP using national budgets of the organisations, if possible.

The activities of the third cycle of work package WP2 of the iProcureNet project resulted in collection of the following list of potential common interest and needs[1] (as presented in the Deliverable D2.3)[2]. Identification of segments for JCBPP as the initial candidate list for the third cycle (focusing on innovative solutions that are not yet on the market) is presented hereunder:

- Climate change and its consequences
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

  o Applications using AI for search and rescue mission (interested partners: Cyprus, PPA)
  o Use of artificial intelligence in the analysis of data collected through audio-visual and other means application of artificial intelligence in the field of online / offline image evaluation, face reco, search for persons and identifiers in the granetet deepnet, darknet, search in text documents, such as bank account numbers, phrases, etc.

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[1] There should be pointed out that no "dual-use" products and services will be in realty produced or procured during the project. The analysis made in this deliverable D3.6 will concentrate only on the possibility for JCBPP of the candidate list that base on real needs for LEAs. Moreover, firearms and ammunition used by security to protect civilians are not listed in the Regulation 428/2009 which targets components and systems aiming at building of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The research aspects of the project do not in any way concern the development of new ammunitions or weapons; nor do they concern the enhancement of military capacities. Research conducted within the project only concerns different aspects of joint procurement in the civil use in the field of security (which includes weapons used by state forces to protect civilians).

[2] iProcureNet Deliverable „D2.5 – THE INITIAL CANDIDATE LIST FOR THE THIRD CYCLE".

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- o AI to support criminal investigation – AI and Machine Learning, causing a disruption in the traditional ways of working, allowing new approaches and greater speed of processes within the scope of criminal Investigation.

- Big data analysis

  - o Analysis of data in real time – with the exponential growth of the volume of data to be analysed by the security forces, Big Data and Analytics solutions will enable significant improvements in the quality and analysis of data in real time.
  - o Customisation of solutions – even though some solutions are available on the market, they need to be tailored to the specific need of our organisation.

- Drone/antidrone solutions

  - o Identifying and taking control of unknown UAVs and other devices in order to increase the level of physical security.
  - o Protection against unauthorised use of drones.
  - o Drone management and anti drone control.

- Drones

  - o Unmanned aircraft systems, their operation being useful in making the execution of specific missions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs more efficient.
  - o Sensors and Robotics can also bring high efficiency in the investigation actions, namely in the use of unmanned vehicle.

- Video protection – flow management, abnormal movement detection, security of goods and people, detection and identification of suspicious packages, infrastructure protection.
- Hypervision systems – aggregation of multiple and heterogeneous data) allowing better central coordination/forces deployed in the field.
- Cybersecurity.

The legal analysis was performed using mainly legal dogmatic and empirical research methods. In order to gather knowledge of the actual recent procuremet practice that can be relevant for the iProcureNet purposes, there was monitored the contract notices published in TED, and analysed that information in the light of the lessons learned in the course of iProcureNet as well as the regulatory framework, case-law and legal research. The purpose of analysis is to establish clear trends in legal choices, identify possible national deviations as well as legal risks.

Unfortunately, collecting adequate data on procurement notices from TED can be unexpectedly difficult and can fail to provide comprehensive information. For instance, the search engine for TED does not provide the option of focusing on JCBPP or even joint procurements.[3] Results of

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[3] Ivo Locatelli, 'Do European Public Buyers Purchase Together? An Assessment of Joint Cross-Border Procurement Contracts Published in TED in 2017 and Beyond.' [2019] Ius Publicum 47 <http://www.ius-publicum.com/repository/uploads/05_06_2020_19_28-IusPublicum_JointCBP_Locatelli_def.pdf>. Albert Sanchez-Graells, 'Joint Cross-Border Procurement in the EU/EEA (plus UK) 2019-2021 -- Update on Locatelli's (2019) TED Analysis' (*How to Crack a Nut*) <https://www.howtocrackanut.com/blog/2021/7/19/joint-cross-border-procurement-ted-analysis-2019-2021> accessed 26 May 2022. Mari Ann Simovart and Jozef Kubinec, 'Pathways for (Quasi-)Institutionalised Joint Cross Border Public Procurement in the Security Sector – Is There a Will and a Way?' (2022) accepted for publishing Public Procurement Law Review.

searches by a specific text phrase (such as "central purchasing body", "collaborative procurement", "joint procurement") are not only burdensome, but can provide deceiving or inadequate results – in particular, due to different wordings in English and other languages. Therefore, the results of monitoring are not complete or comprehensive.

Earlier deliverables of iProcureNet project that concern legal feasibility of JCBPP (in particular D 3.2, D 3.4, D3.5), have established the basic legal regulation of JCBPP, pointed to legal issues that might benefit from the attention of the EU legislator as well as challenging aspects of JCBPP that contracting authorities must pay particular attention to in the course of JCBPP. Those findings have also been introduced to wider audiences in the way of Presentations at public procurement conferences[4] as well as in legal research articles.[5] Main legal challenge concerns unclarity and controversy about the national law applicable to different stages of a JCBPP projects[6] and the related choices in designing a JCBPP project.

There was reviewed a number of financial programs that would be suitable for purchasing tools and solutions in the list of most promising segments for JCBPP: all clusters of Horizon Europe (EU framework programme for research and innovation), other Heading 1 programmes (Euratom Research and Training Programme, ITER, InvestEU Fund and Portal, Connecting Europe Facility CEF), Heading 2 programmes (European Regional Development Fund ERDF, Cohesion Fund CF, Recovery and Resilience Facility, Technical Support Instrument, Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting – e.g., regarding AI, big data analysis and cybersecurity areas, Union Civil Protection Mechanism and sub-program rescEU, EU4Health, European Social Fund+, Justice Programme, Creative Europe, Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, and Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme). As the security and safety aspects are in great deal related to different areas of societal, community and environmental security, therefore in the Heading 3 there were analysed European agricultural guarantee fund EAGF, European agricultural fund for rural development EAFRD, European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, Programme for Environment and Climate Action LIFE, and Just Transition Fund. In the Heading 4 there were analysed Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund AMIF, Integrated Border Management Fund – BMVI and Customs Control Equipment Instrument CCEI. In addition, there was more deeply analysed options for LEAs from Internal Security Fund and other calls and possibilities in Heading 5 – Security Policy Cluster and Defence Policy Cluster. The analysis also covered Heading 6 of financing options (Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, Humanitarian Aid, Common Foreign and Security Policy, Overseas Countries and Territories, and Pre-Accession Assistance). However, the Heading 6 was not directly suitable for JCBPP between internal security and public safety authorities.

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4 M. Simovart, J. Kubinec. Cases and examples of Joint Procurements. MEDEA Civilnext iProcureNet PCP / PPI Workshop , May 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OZakQ4bMSs; Mari Ann Simovart, 'Joint Cross-Border Public Procurement in the Security Sector - Introducing IProcureNet & Some Legal Challenges.' (2021) <https://nohrcondk.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/dk/EpK5sZQSg1dCsgRvllBC7mUBF00mHsyjstS-pxtontVT7g?e=38Qq3H>.M. Simovart. Presentation on iProcureNet and pathways of JCBPP made at the PPGR XI Conference at June 13, 2022, https://event.crowdcompass.com/gr11

5 Simovart and Kubinec (n 2). Mari Ann Simovart, 'Choice of Law Applicable to Joint Cross-Border Public Procurement by Central Purchasing Bodies or under Occasional Collaboration Agreements.' (2021) 1 UrT <https://www.urt.cc/?q=node/270> accessed 15 November 2022.

6 Simovart (n 4). Simovart (n 3).

Based on the legal assessment and on analysis of financial programmes, the initial candidate list resulted as the revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP for the third cycle. The suggested candidate list remained the same as initial, but the results of the feasibility study with additional remarks are presented in the Table 1 hereunder.

Table 1: The revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP

No	Candidate	Legal analysis
1	Climate change and its consequences	Suitable for JCBPP as innovation provurement or innovative implementation of solutions since usual COTS products are not available. From the legal point, there should be considered: • the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1). • the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2). • the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3). From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered: • The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds. • Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account: ○ Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable. ○ The Euratom Research and Training Programme programme, ITER programme, InvestEU, the InvestEU portal, and Connecting Europe Facility could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions. ○ Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.
2	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Suitable for JCBPP as innovative implementation of solutions since no usual COTS products exist and solutions should always be customised. From the legal point, there should be considered: • the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1). • the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2). • the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3).

No	Candidate	Legal analysis

		From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered:
		
		• The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds.
		• Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account:
		
		   o Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable.
		   o The InvestEU, the InvestEU portal, the Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting programme, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Justice Programme and the Connecting Europe Facility could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions.
		   o Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.

3	Big data analysis	Suitable for JCBPP as innovative implementation of solutions since no usual COTS products exist and solutions should always be integrated to information systems and possible suitable existing open source products customised.
		
		From the legal point, there should be considered:
		
		• the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1).
		• the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2).
		• the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3).
		
		From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered:
		
		• The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds.
		• Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account:
		
		   o Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable.
		   o The InvestEU, the InvestEU portal, the Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting programme and Connecting Europe Facility could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions.

No	Candidate	Legal analysis
		o Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.
4	Drone/antidrone solutions	Suitable for JCBPP as COTS or as innovative implementation of solutions. The integration and specific implantation of the system is normally taylor-made. From the legal point, there should be considered: • the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1). • the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2). • the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3). From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered: • The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds. • Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account: o Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable. o The Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Connecting Europe Facility could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions. o Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.
5	Implementation of drones	Suitable for JCBPP as COTS or as innovative implementation of solutions. The integration and specific implantation of the system is normally taylor-made. From the legal point, there should be considered: • the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1). • the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2). • the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3). From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered: • The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds. • Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account:

No	Candidate	Legal analysis
		o Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable o The Connecting Europe Facility and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions. o Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.
6	Video protection	Suitable for JCBPP as innovative implementation of solutions since no usual COTS products exist and solutions should always be customised. From the legal point, there should be considered: • the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1). • the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2). • the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3). From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered: • The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds. • Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account: o Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable. o The Connecting Europe Facility could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions. o Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge
7	Hypervision systems	Suitable for JCBPP as innovative implementation of solutions since no usual COTS products exist so far for internal security and public safety domain and solutions should always be customised. From the legal point, there should be considered: • the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1). • the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2). • the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3).

No	Candidate	Legal analysis

		From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered:
		
		• The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds.
		• Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account:
		
		    ○ Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable.
		    ○ The Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Connecting Europe Facility could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions.
		    ○ Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.

8	Cybersecurity	Suitable for JCBPP as COTS or as innovative implementation of solutions, depending on the focus.
		
		From the legal point, there should be considered:
		
		• the applicable directive (Section 4.2.1).
		• the suitable award procedure (Section 4.2.2).
		• the suitable type of contract, e.g., framework agreement (Section 4.2.3).
		
		From the financial point, the following calls and financial programmes should be considered:
		
		• The item is suitable for JCBPP from national budget or funds.
		• Considering EU funds, the following should be taken into account:
		
		    ○ Internal Security Fund, Horizon Europe and Migration and Border Management (Heading 4) could be the most suitable.
		    ○ The Connecting Europe Facility and the Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting programme could be monitored to find possible cooperation or gain additional background information on new trends and solutions.
		    ○ Other programmes may be useful for broader knowledge.

It can be concluded that all segments in the candidate list for the third cycle are in principle suitable for JCBPP. Suitable programmes that can help finance the procurement of such products were presented in the Table 1 above.

The legal assessment and financial programme analysis was made using the available information. Since there can be modifications as detailed information about some calls for 2023 and 2024 were still not available, the dynamic should be monitored, and the concrete choice should be made when the specific programmes and calls will be chosen.

Based on the list of most promising segments for JCBPP and initial procurement plans, collected by work package WP2, a number of buyers' groups can be established, as already described in the Deliverables D3.2 and D3.4. Although the buyers' groups share common needs and interest for procurement of COTS or innovation, the establishment of buyers' groups is dedicated process.[7]

For the current candidate list for JCBPP, the following 14 buyers' groups can be suggested as illustrated in the Table 2 hereunder.

Table 2: Potential buyers' groups for the revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP

Group No	Items
1	Item No 1. Climate change and its consequences.
2	Item No 2.1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) – applications using AI for search and rescue mission.
3	Item No 2.2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) – use of artificial intelligence in the analysis of data collected through audio-visual and other means application of artificial intelligence.
4	Item No 2.3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) – using AI and Machine Learning for criminal investigation.
5	Item No 3.1. Big data analysis – to enable significant improvements in the quality and analysis of data in real time.
6	Item No 3.2. Big data analysis – tailoring and customisation of the potential solutions.
7	Item No 4.1. Drone/antidrone – identifying and taking control of unknown UAVs and other devices in order to increase the level of physical security.
8	Item No 4.2. Drone/antidrone – protection against unauthorised use of drones.
9	Item No 4.3. Drone/antidrone – drone management and anti drone control
10	Item No 5.1.Drone – unmanned aircraft systems, their operation being useful in making the execution of specific missions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs more efficient.
11	Item No 5.2.Drone – sensors and robotics that can bring high efficiency in the investigation actions, namely in the use of unmanned vehicle.
12	Item No 6. Video protection – flow management, abnormal movement detection, security of goods and people, detection and identification of suspicious packages, infrastructure protection.

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Group No	Items
13	Item No 7. Hypervision systems – aggregation of multiple and heterogeneous data) allowing better central coordination and forces deployed in the field.
14	Item No 8. Cybersecurity.

The actual buyers' groups shoud be formed based on the chosen legal and financial mechanism and agreed in the future (e.g. after the market analysis in Work Package WP4).

The main results of the feasibility study are:

- There is composed the third revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP.
- There exist legal and regulatory pathways for JCBPP for innovative procurement as well as for purchasing of COTS products or solutions with innovative implementation, if necessary.
- It can be concluded that all segments in the candidate list for the third cycle (climate change and its consequences, Artificial Intelligence, big data analysis, drone/antidrone solutions, implementation of drones, video protection, hypervision systems and cybersecurity) are in principle suitable for JCBPP. Since the items are highly innovative, innovation procurement is preferred. Suitable programmes that can help finance the procurement of such products were presented in the Deliverable.

As a result of the feasibility study, it can be concluded that the task of work package 3 is fulfilled. Still further support is needed to make LEAs choose JCBPP mechanisms instead of own, separated procurement.

2.2   iProcureNet Toolbox R2 (D5.3)

The main purpose of the Toolbox is to be an instrument that must enlighten the feasibility of public buyers to attract innovation and innovators to their procedures. Therefore, the Toolbox must show ways of achieving this, identifying the challenges to overcome, the organisational, legal or financial issues, the existing types of JCBPP and that different tools may be used to promote JCBPP in the security sector.

In this second release, the following changes, improvements and additions were applied:

1) Change of the structure and the of the Table of Content;

2) Revised list of segments for JCBPP;

3) Analysis-based suggestions for cross border procurement process legal aspects;

4) Deepen information regarding financial tools and programmes;

5) Deepen information regarding innovation procurement procedures;

6) Market analysis results;

7) Benchmark cases;

8) Ethics in public procurement.

We highlight the following topics that were inserted in this release:

1) 2022 survey about attitude and experience in joint cross-border public procurement

2) Identification and examples of benchmark cases

3) Good practices

   a) For all public procurement procedures

   b) In tender phase

   c) In post-tender phase/contract performance phase

4) Enabling factors for JCBPP

5) Challenging issues

6) Adjusting ready-to-use innovation procedures:

   a) Competitive procedure with negotiation

   b) Competitive dialogue

7) When to use PPI, key features, and examples

8) When to use PCP, key features, and examples

9) Main features of innovation partnership

10) Deepen information on funding:

   a) Integrated Border Management Fund

   b) Digital Europe Program

   c) European Defence Fund

   d) Union Civil Protection Mechanism

11) Revision of the steps to conduct market analysis

12) Revised list of segments for JCBPP

   a) Drones/Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), either COTS or innovative solutions

   b) Ballistic vests, either COTS or innovative solutions

   c) Metal detectors, either COTS or innovative solutions

13) Ethics in public procurement: examples of integrity assessment factors and the integrity pacts. The "appropriate measures" of article 18.2 of the Classical Directive. Examples.

In addition to the content and structure changes, work was done to define improvements to the user-experience, based on feedback gathered from project partners and audience members of the 2022 and 2023 iProcureNet Annual Conferences.

2.3   iProcureNet Annual conferences 4 (D6.6)

The third iProcureNet Advanced Security Procurement Conference took place at the Historical Building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava on 16-17 March 2023, gathering around 110 participants in Bratislava and 80 participants online. This conference was the largest event of the iProcureNet project to date – highlighting the growth of interest in the project and its topics.

After presenting the iProcureNet project and its main outputs, lively discussions between panellists and the audience took place on how innovation procurement, joint procurement and the role and sustainability of Networks and Communities.

The conference report includes an introduction to the event concept, a summary of presentations and discussions with key insights from all sessions and a recap of impact as well as participant statistics.

The programme of the conference was as follows:

Thursday, 16 March	
9:15	**Opening & Welcome**
	Roman Mikulec, Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic
	Jozef Kubinec, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic/iProcureNet
9:35	**Introduction to iProcureNet**

Jorge Garzon, French Ministry of Interior / iProcureNet Project Coordinator

10:00 Innovative procurement of solutions for Countering Hybrid Threats
Daniel Milo, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

10:20 Establishing procurement pathways – survey about examples of JCBPP
Jozef Kubinec, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic/iProcureNet

11:20 Legal questions concerning JCBPP
Mari Ann Simovart, University of Tartu/iProcureNet

11:50 1st part of EAFIP workshop – Innovation Procurement rationale & practice
- Anabel Peiro Baquedano, EAFIP- Corvers
- Ana Lucia Jaramillo Villacis, EAFIP-Corvers
Moderator: Stephan Corvers, EAFIP-Corvers

14:05 The challenge of Innovation Uptake of EU-funded Security Research Outcomes
Giannis Skiadaresis, Policy Officer at DG Home – European Commission

14:25 Frontex and Joint Procurement
Herve Yves Caniard, Head of Unit Legal Affairs and Procurement Unit, Frontex

14:50 New and improved services of the Europol Innovation Lab: Europol's new mandate in Research & Innovation
Ben Waites, Senior Specialist, Europol Innovation Lab

15:10 Joint purchasing and R&D in the defense sector
Expert roundtable with:
- Aris Georgopoulos, Assistant Professor in European and Public Law, Head of Defence and Strategic Procurement Research Unit, University of Nottingham
- Katrin Ametmaa, Head of the Procurement and Purchasing Bureau at Estonian Centre for Defence Investments
- Hans-Martin Pastuszka, Head of Business Unit, Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis
Chair: Mari Ann Simovart, University of Tartu/iProcureNet

Friday, 17 March

9:30 Opening and Welcome
Filomena Vieira, Legal Consultant for Portugal Criminal Police/iProcureNet

9:35 The iProcureNet Toolbox
Filomena Vieira, Legal Consultant for Portugal Criminal Police/iProcureNet

10:05 Needs and opportunities for joint security procurement
Nikolai Stoianov, Bulgarian Defence Institute

10:35 Financing of Innovation
Expert roundtable with
- Giannis Skiadaresis, Policy Officer at DG HOME - European Commission
- Ivan Kormanik, Partner at Majernik & Mihalikova
- Stephan Corvers, Founder, Owner & CEO at Corvers Procurement Services - PREVENT PCP

	Chair: **Thierry Hartmann,** French Ministry of Interior
12:45	**2nd part of EAFIP workshop - Construction, infrastructure security & energy innovations in ICT related projects**
15.15	**The iProcureNet Network+Community** **Zoia Ansarimehr,** French Ministry of Interior/iProcureNet
15:35	**European Networks of Security Practitioners – exploring synergies andb sustainability** **Panel discussion with** • **DRIVER+, Marcel Van Berlo,** TNO Defence Safety and Security • **ILEAnet, Thierry Hartmann,** French Ministry of Interior • **iProcureNet, Jorge Garzon,** French Ministry of Interior • **Europol Innovation Lab & EUcB**, **Ben Waites**, Europol Chair: **Alessia Melasecche Germini**, META, Manager of Horizon Booster Program
16:45	**End of conference**
	Jorge Garzon, French Ministry of Interior / iProcureNet

3 What to expect from iProcureNet in the next six months

In WP1, the activities planned are the continuation of growing the Network+Community.

In WP2, the partners will continue the work on an inventory of the innovation procurement for the future JP (D2.7). This work will be finalised in April 2024.

Regarding the Work Package WP3, the following activities are foreseen for the next six months:

- The Revised list of the most promising segments for JCBPP for the 3rd Cycle (Deliverable D3.6) that is presented to Work Package WP4 and Description of Methodological Process for Common Procurement, WP3 - Feasibility analysis and recommendations (Deliverable D3.7), that is presented to Work Package WP5, will be supported by more detailed knowledge and information for WP4 team, for buyers' groups, iProcureNet Network and other interested cooperation partners.

- There will be additional activities to find the best suitable structure and environment for Knowledge Factory and to propagate it with the relevant content that is useful to support JCBPP and activities of LEAs within the iProcureNet Community.

In WP4, the team will work on the Established Buyers Groups and common purchasing performance report, as well as the methodology for the release 3 of the Toolbox.

In WP5, we will work on Release 3 of the Toolbox, due in December 2023, as well as to implement web improvements.

In WP7, we will continue the work on the sustainability of iProcureNet's Network+Community and its associated tools, to ensure continuity after the end of the funding period.

We will also prepare the interim review of our project with the European Union's Research Executive Agency and its appointed independent expert reviewers.

Annex I. Joining the iProcureNet Community

Joining the Community

The Community of experts consists of **experts and stakeholders** in the procurement of security solutions from procurement agencies and departments, from academia, industry, policy and civil society.

As a member of the Community, you represent yourself as an individual.

Joining the Network

The Network of organisations consists of **procurement organisations and departments** active in the acquisition of security solutions in each iProcureNet member state and beyond.

As a member of the Network, you are the representative of your organisation.

Two options to join:

Your country already has an IPNC

Contact your IPNC (see list **below**)

Your country does not have an IPNC yet

Contact **contact@iprocurenet.eu**, giving background on your motivation and profile.

Figure 3: How to join the iProcureNet Network+Community

Table 3: List of iProcureNet IPNCs as of March 2023

France	Norma Dauvin	French Ministry of Interior	france@iprocurenet.eu
Slovakia	Jozef Kubinec	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	slovakia@iprocurenet.eu
Bulgaria	Nikolai Stoianov	Bulgarian Defence Institute (BDI)	bulgaria@iprocurenet.eu
Estonia	Merike Klement	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PPA)	estonia@iprocurenet.eu
Cyprus	Elena Avraamidou	Cyprus Civil Defence (CCD)	cyprus@iprocurenet.eu
Portugal	Filipe Rodrigues	Portuguese Criminal Police (PJ)	portugal@iprocurenet.eu
Spain	Josef Manuel Colodras Lozano	Spanish Ministry of Interior – Policía Nacional (MIR-PN)	spain@iprocurenet.eu
Romania	George Popescu	Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs – Directorate General Logistics (RMIA)	romania@iprocurenet.eu
Lithuania	Sigute Stankeviciute	General Jonas Zemaitis Lithuanian Military Academy (LKA)	lithuania@iprocurenet.eu