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EPS Frameworks recently published on the OGP Buyer Zone

- [Library Databases for HSE Libraries](#)
Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the Provision of Library Databases for HSE Libraries (BDB090F)
- [Print Books and Audio-Visual Material to Public Libraries](#)
Framework Agreement for use by public libraries for the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

Any queries on the above frameworks should be directed to support@ogp.gov.ie or Tel: 076 100 8000. Information can also be found on the [EPS website](#).

At EPS we were delighted to head into 2021 having secured the prestigious Excellence in Business award from the "Public Sector Magazine". We were then honoured with two awards from our peers at the National Procurement Awards in a hugely successful virtual awards ceremony. One of which 'Best Procurement Internal Collaboration Project of the Year' was not just a great win for the team but a massive step forward in the recognition of the importance to the Education Sector of the Multi Annual Procurement Planning forecasting model. As we head into a busy period of planning activity with the OGP and the other CPBs, Head of Corporate Services Denise O'Malley provides a look ahead to the programme of work in this edition of the Newsletter.



2020 also saw a jump in the growth and diversity of projects taken on by the EPS team. This has resulted in an expansion of the service for 2021, to further support the sectors procurement sourcing and planning requirements.

Another development early in 2021 was the live rollout of the Contract Management System (CMS). The system will provide a tailored workspace to record and manage day-to-day tasks and activities for all of the project requirements that are managed from a sourcing, tendering and contract management perspective. EPS has undertaken the implementation and configuration of the base product/system on behalf of Education partners. David Mangan, EPS Portfolio Manager, has expanded on the benefits of this system inside our Newsletter.

We look forward to continuing our work with the support and collaboration of all our stakeholders across the Education Sector.

PHILIP GURNETT, EPS Director



Multi-Annual Procurement Plan (MAPP) Programme 2020-2022



MAPP DATA



Denise O'Malley,
Corporate Services
Manager

EPS Winners of "BEST PROCUREMENT INTERNAL COLLABORATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR"

As we look back at the significant achievements of 2020, EPS would like to acknowledge the successful collaboration built through the pro-active and ambitious shared objectives and goals for the effective management of procurement practices and performance with its HEI and ETB education partners. And as we look forward to the programme of work for the year ahead, we are efficiently enabled due to the high standard and quality of data received in the 2020-2022 MAPP submissions. We would mention particularly the co-operation we have received from our sector partners in providing the clarifications and supplementary information necessary to fully comprehend and represent the information provided in the MAPP line items. Work is now underway at EPS to incorporate the latest dataset into the 2021 suite of Sector Summary and MAPP Category Reports and we will be communicating with our stakeholder groups at each stage of programme development. The Category Reports will provide the basis for the next tranche of Sourcing Workshops with the OGP and other sector hubs with responsibility for Category Management of the common goods and services under the central procurement model.

The reports will analyse the education sector spend and level of activity under cover of the frameworks and arrangements available. We will review and measure level of improvements in areas central to discussions at last year's Workshops and Clinics and identify key metrics for continued progress. Following the positive response and feedback received on the benefits derived locally at individual institute departments from the 2020 Sourcing Workshop Output Report, EPS has incorporated plans to issue a similar report in 2021. We welcome all feedback, particularly where benefits are realised so that we can make every effort to provide continued supports in these areas. EPS remains committed to improving delivery of central arrangements to its education sector partners.



Email MAPP related queries to:
mapp@educationprocurementservice.ie

Brief snapshot of the 2021 MAPP Programme of Work:



Sectory Summary Reports
Category Reports

Sourcing Workshops
Sourcing Workshop Output Report

Individual Institution Reports
Clinic Engagements

"MAPP is a great forecasting and modelling tool. It delivers efficiently to the overall strategy to buy for the spends under management and it will effectively be driving the right procurement decisions for the future and for the extended stakeholders. Excellent collaboration and very concrete and positive results. Thoroughly articulated the process and benefits of creating an organisation wide integrated procurement planning approach"

Excerpt from Judge's Comments – National Procurement Awards 2020

All the Team at EPS wish you and yours a very happy and safe Easter



Contract Management System (CMS) for Education

EPS has implemented a Contract Management System (CMS) which will provide an automated system to capture and report all tender and contract management activity. The system provides a tailored workspace to record and manage day-to-day tasks and activities for all of the project requirements that are managed from a sourcing, tendering and contract management perspective. EPS have undertaken the implementation and configuration of the base product/system on behalf of Education partners. Asite Solutions Limited, were appointed to the Single Party Framework on foot of a tender process for the provision of a Cloud based solution.

The EPS Project Team followed an agreed timeline with Asite to complete the implementation of the system. Early engagement was critical to the success of the rollout, setting out parameters and getting commitment and sign off on milestones. Stakeholder feedback was crucial and setting up a sandbox/QA Test Environment as early as possible so you're trouble-shooting from the beginning.

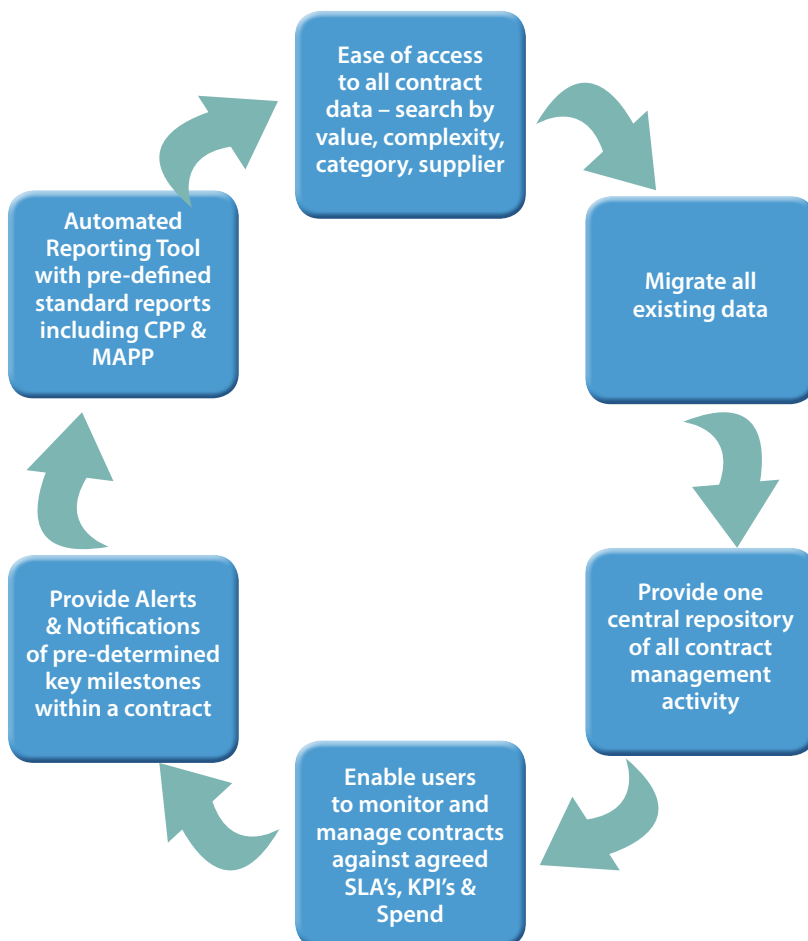
ROLLOUT TO EDUCATION PARTNERS – UNDERWAY



David Mangan, EPS Portfolio Manager, spearheaded the rollout of the system within EPS.

"The CMS will manage and store data efficiently and securely, allowing for increased collaboration, aggregation and streamlining with our Education Partners"

Roll-out documentation will be provided and Education Partners will be advised how to draw down from the Single Party Framework and commence discussions with Asite to install the CMS solution within their organisation.



Latest Testimonials

What are people saying about us?

Trinity College Website Content Management System (CMS) Tender



"The process resulted in excellent tender submissions which enabled a comprehensive evaluation. Marissa gave us great advice and diligently managed the clarification stage. I am very grateful for her support and that of all the EPS staff resulting in this contract that will deliver a world class website for Trinity."

**Kevin Ryan (PhD, PMP),
Portfolio Manager (Procurement),
Financial Services Division,
Trinity College, Dublin**



National Procurement Awards

On Wednesday, December 16th, the winners of the 2020 National Procurement Awards were revealed in front of a live digital audience.

The EPS Team were delighted to take home 2 awards from this year's ceremony. Philip Gurnett, EPS Director and Head of Sourcing Education, received the Procurement Leader 2020 award. Philip's visionary leadership was the driving force behind the establishment of EPS. Working with the Department of Education in driving the shared services plan in the sector, Philip has forged close working relationships across the complexity of representative bodies including the Higher Education Authority (HEA), Irish Universities Association (IUA), Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) and Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)



The Team brought home the Best Procurement Internal Collaboration Project of the Year award. This was a fantastic win, not only for the team and our partners in the Department of Education and Higher Education Authority but all the Higher Education Institutions and ETBs who have engaged fully with us in the rollout of the Multi Annual Procurement Planning (MAPP) forecasting model.



[Video link to the Best Procurement Internal Collaboration Project of the Year award](#)



Stay tuned to the EPS website, Twitter handle and LinkedIn pages for updates on the progression of Category Management strategy and all news related to EPS operational projects!

Starting a new job in a remote environment

Starting a new job is exciting, but can present challenges, even in normal circumstances. With Covid-19 EPS had to hire remote employees, which meant a completely virtual onboarding process. A new system was needed to replace the normal induction day where new staff pick up laptop, supplies, and paperwork, and then meet your new colleagues, all of this now had to be handled from a safe distance.

EPS quickly put a process in place to make the onboarding experience as comfortable as possible. Some of these steps included organising new staff to meet with their manager onsite at a safe distance to pick up their equipment and materials required for them to organise a remote office environment.

This meet and greet gives new starts an opportunity to ask questions around topics such as the expectations of the role and performance, the probationary period and understanding the various schemes which EPS has in place to benefit employee growth and development.

EPS has a buddy system for new employees, this has been of huge benefit to our new staff particularly in a remote working environment. It provides a 2 way engagement process and encourages knowledge sharing and team interaction. Virtual coffees are organised regularly to ensure all the teams interact and stay connected.

Since the pandemic we have had 4 new staff join us and here is what one of them had to say:

"Starting a job remotely in a new team and a new country was both exciting and daunting, but the EPS team were all friendly and supportive and kept in contact on a regular basis. The buddy system was a great way of building relationships with colleagues in a remote environment and an invaluable training tool."

Gemma Crowther, Procurement Category Specialist, Education Procurement Service

For your general enquires, specific feedback or suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please contact us:

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