



n general:

Responsibility for government procurement in Switzerland is at three levels:

- federal
- cantonal
- local



National experience with the coverage of the GPA

What did the GPA change?

First international agreement on government procurement also for subfederal level

but:

Implementation remains at the federal, cantonal and local level



National experience with the coverage of the GPA

Before 1996:

- only guidelines
- no challenge procedure

Since 1996:

- federal and cantonal laws
- challenge procedures at the federal and cantonal level



National experience with the coverage of the GPA

Monitoring by a Commission of the confederation and the cantons which can also

- Mediate in specific cases
- Make proposals concerning on-going negotiations in international fora
- Give recommendations on the application of government procurement rules



What has the experience been at these levels?

In general:

Procurement procedure is now transparent, non-discriminatory and foreseeable

→ more participation on a national and international level

Enhanced market access

→ make sure that this is also the case in GPA partners

Challenge procedure is possible

→ as a means of last resort



What has the experience been at these levels?

Procuring entity must better prepare what actually wants to procure

→ makes procurement process more efficient

Reduction of costs for procuring entity

→ more competition in bid procedure



Lessons learnt

- Government procurement cannot solve all problems (reduce unemployment, regional preferences)
- Better market access means better information on procurement opportunities, especially for SME's (tailor-made list of projects)



Lessons learnt

- New developments require adjustment of the rules (e.g. E-procurement)
- Harmonisation of federal, cantonal and local rules is an important objective (even though not required by the GPA)