The iMonitor approach and its results

iMonitor
select • monitor • report

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Agenda

I. Overview of iMonitor approach

II. Achievements and lessons learned:

- Data collection and analytics
- Skill development programme
- Engagement and network-building
- Monitoring and reporting

III. Future and sustainability

I. Overview of iMonitor approach

Project aims

iMonitor

Data
Improve the timely availability of public procurement data, with high-precision, validity-tested integrity risk indicators and easy-to-use data analytics

Skills
Improve the skills of civil monitors for better public procurement contract monitoring

Network
Create sustainable networks of public authorities and civil monitoring organisations
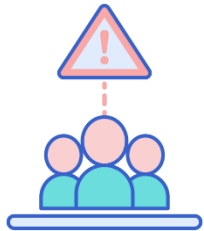
AC Action
Provide precise, relevant and timely information for contract supervision and investigations of potential fraud and corruption in public procurement

iMonitor monitoring approach

SELECT

We draw on an established risk assessment methodology to select contracts where corruption might be more likely to happen

MONITOR

Monitors collect information on contracts and suppliers, conduct field visits and assess the state of contract implementation

REPORT

Findings are submitted through reporting tool; in case of uncovered irregularities, reports are forwarded to public partners for further action

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II. Achievements and lessons learned

Data collection and analytics

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Achievements

❏ Opentender.eu improvements:
  ○ Weekly/monthly data updates for iMonitor countries
  ○ Updated risk assessment methodology with 3 new integrity risk indicators

Lessons learned

❏ Changes in external data sources made data collection/processing more resource-intensive
❏ Integrity risk indicators need to be complemented with local (qualitative) information

Skill development programme

Achievements

- ❏ 2-module training programme covering PP basics, corruption risks and contract monitoring techniques
- ❏ Training materials aligned with the project's tools and tailored to national contexts and languages

198 monitors trained, 95% satisfaction rate with training

Lessons learned

- ❏ Mentoring by NGO partners needed to support less-experienced monitors
- ❏ Future training rounds will incorporate more hands-on activities

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Engagement and network-building

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Achievements

- ❏ Networks of motivated individuals and local civic organisations, facilitating collaboration between civil society and public actors
- ❏ Broad engagement strategy leveraging partners' existing networks and previously tested engagement methods

120 active monitors, 27 organisations involved

Lessons learned

- ❏ Flexible strategy was essential to allow tailoring engagement approaches to each context
- ❏ Experience sharing among monitors was valuable and shall be strengthened in the future

Monitoring and reporting

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Achievements

❏ Infrastructure for monitoring process, including:
- Collaboratively designed reporting template
- Online reporting tool and integration with Opentender data platform

96 monitored contracts

Lessons learned

❏ Comprehensive, yet accessible reporting template with clear guidance was a good balance to ensure usability

❏ Obstacles and delays in accessing information observed in all 4 countries

III. Future and sustainability

Sustainability perspective

❏ Low cost, adaptable and scalable approach based on volunteer engagement and existing monitoring infrastructure

❏ Some cost-intensive elements remain (e.g. data infrastructure maintenance, mentoring activities by national NGO partners)

❏ Mixed strategy for engagement and network-building (targeting different monitor profiles) has proved successful

❏ Modular structure of the project offers a good basis for funding diversification (e.g. smaller grants for replication in specific countries or for selected activities)
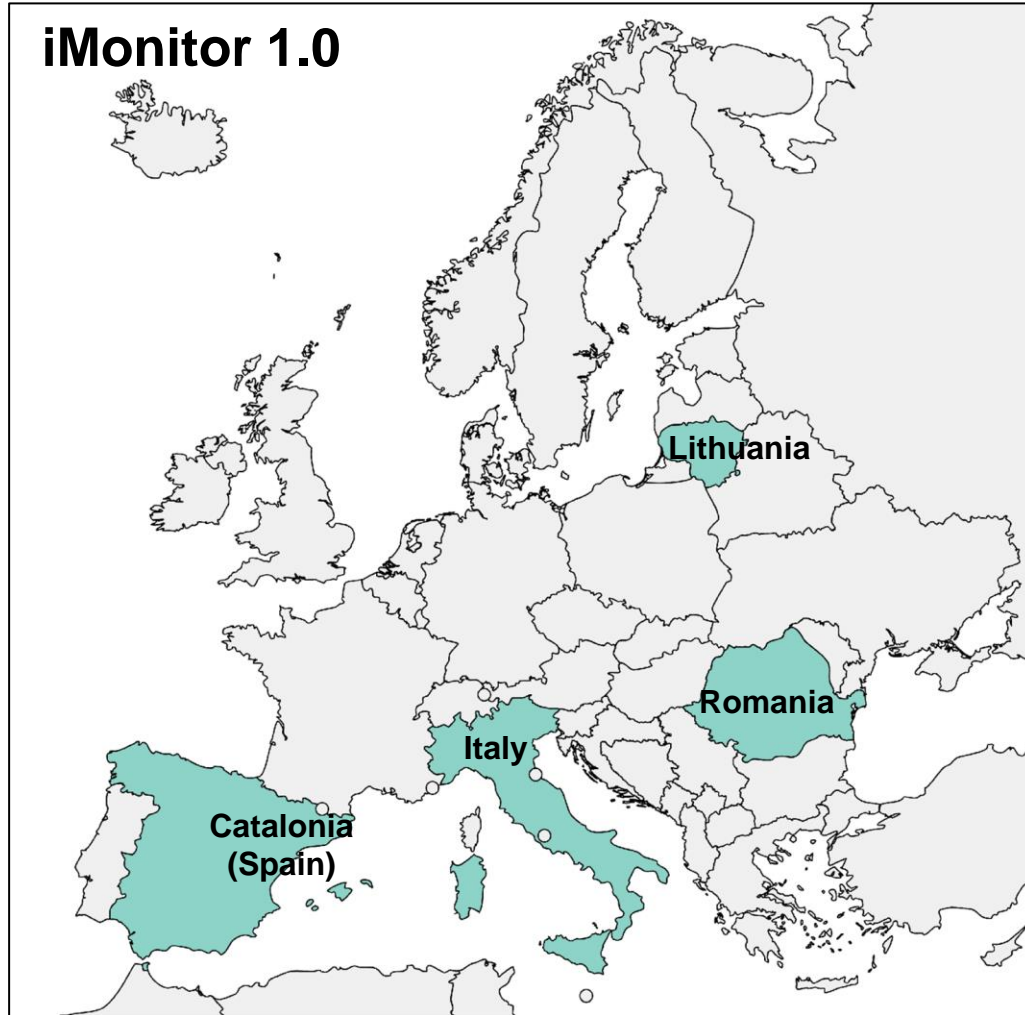
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Next phase: iMonitor 2.0

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❏ New ISF grant for project's new cycle (May 25 - Apr 27)

❏ Consortium with 11 organisations in 7 countries + 2 supporting public oversight agencies (to be extended)

❏ Prioritisation of construction and climate-related projects in contract selection

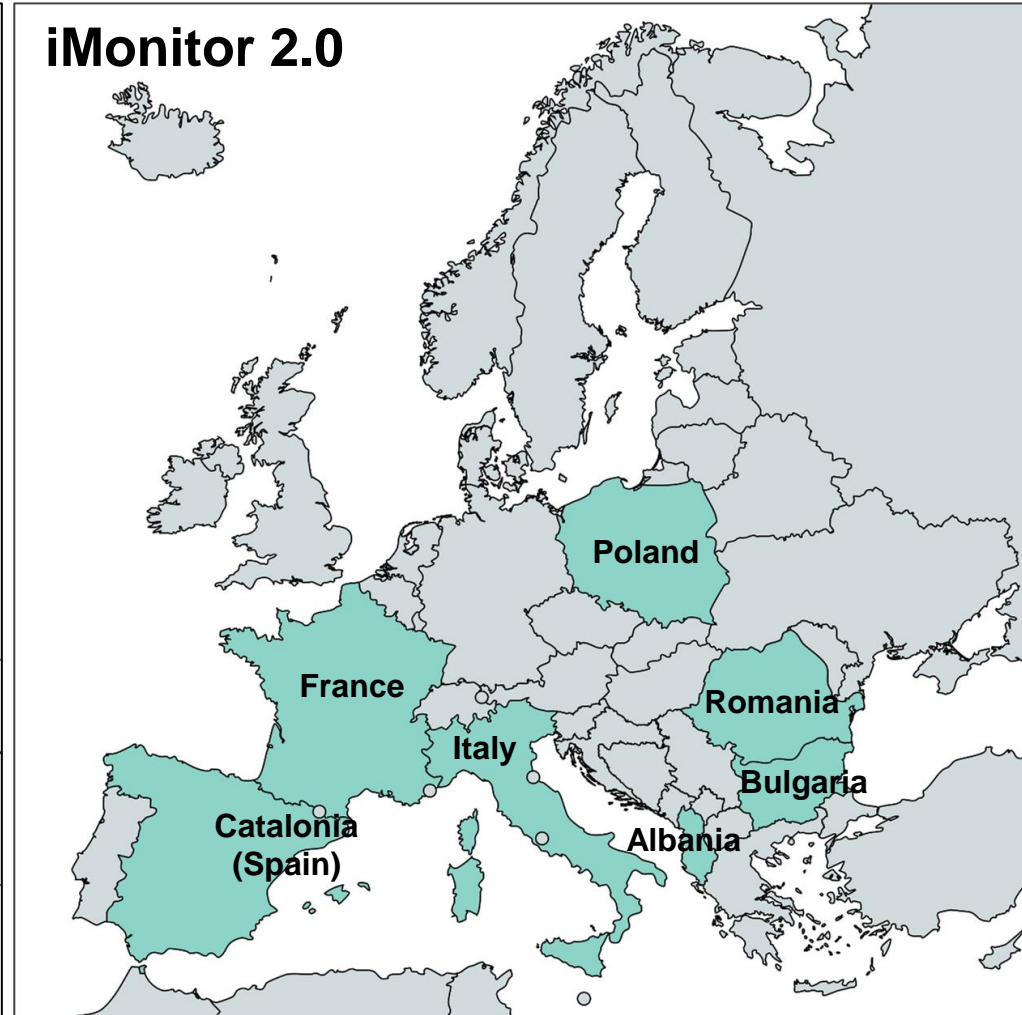❏ Further development of monitoring tools based on user experience feedback from monitors

Geographic extension

THANK YOU!

imonitor.govtransparency.eu