

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital Single Market  
**Digital Innovation and Blockchain**Brussels,  
CNECT.F.3/PZ/LB**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Dear Madame/Sir,

The Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission has awarded a service contract to Corvers Procurement Services to implement the European Assistance for Innovation Procurement initiative in 2019-2020 ([www.eafip.eu](http://www.eafip.eu)). For the implementation of this contract, Corvers Procurement Services is supported by the following subcontractors: Vtrek, IrRADIARE, MSM, UniZar, JADS, Prof. Nicola Dimitri, Dr. Georg Zellhofer, Ms. Sara Bedin, Dr. Steven Van Garsse and a network of lawyers across Europe.

Using public procurement strategically to drive forward the development and the deployment of innovative solutions is essential to modernize public services while creating also business opportunities for companies in Europe. In the coming years, the quality and efficiency of public services will be able to benefit from a new wave of transformative digital innovations – e.g. in the field of blockchain, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, cyber security - that are of strategic importance for European competitiveness. In the majority of European countries, the national digital / ICT strategies recognise the strategic importance and encourage the wider use of innovation procurement to reap those benefits. However, in order to turn these ambitions into actions, there is a need to flank these policy initiatives with capacity building and assistance on innovation procurement for public procurers.

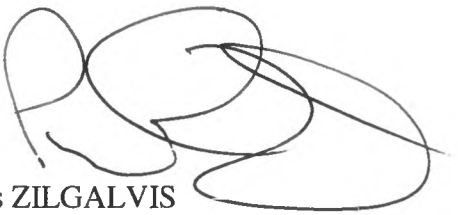
The European Assistance for Innovation Procurement can help make this happen. Its planned activities are:

1. It provides free of charge technical and legal assistance to public procurers across all EU Member States in the preparation and implementation of innovation procurements of ICT based solutions (<http://eafip.eu/assistance/>). This includes local assistance for pre-commercial procurements and public procurements of innovative solutions supported by local lawyers that speak the local official EU language ([http://eafip.eu/assistance/lawyer\\_network/](http://eafip.eu/assistance/lawyer_network/)). The assistance is open to all types of public procurers at all levels (local, regional, national) across all domains of public sector activity (e.g. security and safety, health and social services, transport, energy, water, environment, education and culture, construction and housing, public administration / e-government).

2. It promotes good practices and reinforces the evidence base, in particular on the impacts achieved by completed innovation procurements around Europe. In this context, the eafip website and the innovation procurement toolkit will be updated with new evidence and good practices (<http://eafip.eu/toolkit/>). The three toolkit modules for policy makers, procurement decision makers and their legal departments provide step-by-step guidance with examples on how to design an innovation procurement policy and how to prepare and implement an innovation procurement.

Hereby, I kindly invite you to favourably consider the invitation of our contractor to promote eafip and to participate in the above activities. Please be ensured that when you provide information to the contractor, it is securely bound by confidentiality agreements through its contract with the EC. I thank you in advance for your valuable time to supporting our work.

Yours faithfully,



Peteris ZILGALVIS  
Head of Unit