

University of Ottawa
Economics Directed Research Project
Inclusive Procurement / Supplier Diversity

Organization:

- Global Affairs Canada, Office of the Chief Economist
- Contact: Aaron Sydor, Director, Economic Analysis (aaron.sydor@international.gc.ca)

Description:

Inclusiveness and environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns are a growing focus for both governments and large business. There is a growing trend for large companies and governments to make use of their purchasing, also known as procurement, to diversify their supplier network with the aim of achieving inclusive and ESG goals. These are also sometimes known as supplier diversity initiatives. Inclusive procurement or supplier diversity practices can include having targets or set-asides for specific groups such as small businesses, or businesses owned by women; Indigenous, Black or racialized entrepreneurs; members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community, or other groups. There does not currently exist a common template for designing such programs and the evidence as to how effective such programs are is still in its early stages. The focus of this project is to review different models of inclusive procurement and to provide a critical assessment of various models including what is known about their impacts.

Deliverables:

Produce a 10-12 page report in English consisting of three primary components:

1. An overview of what is inclusive procurement, its main objectives, and how it is being used by governments, organizations, and businesses internationally.
2. A review of the literature on inclusive procurement, using a framework that will allow for comparison across various models and options, such as targets vs. set-asides, the groups covered, how inclusive status is determined and other key elements of the program.
3. A review of the literature on what is seen as being the most effective design for inclusive procurement programs for both governments and the private sector.

Qualifications:

The work will involve examining different models of inclusive procurement and thus will require the ability to find the needed information, to parse a large amount of written text, and to develop a framework for analyzing and communicating the key elements. Good written communication skills will also be needed.