National Public Procurement Strategy in the best interests of the country’s citizens

As part of its work on developing public procurement, the Government has adopted a national strategy for public procurement. It contains suggestions and advice on what contracting authorities and entities can do to develop their strategic work on public purchasing.

Why a national procurement strategy?
The public sector procures goods and services annually to a value of approximately SEK 625 billion. This is money that could make a big difference at both local and national level, if used strategically. The national procurement strategy is intended to encourage and make it easier for contracting authorities and entities to use procurement as a strategic tool in their organisation. For example, it may serve to promote healthy competition in the market, to support the achievement of sustainability objectives and to ensure that our shared resources are used efficiently.

The Government’s ambition is that the strategy should also help the public sector live up to citizens’ expectations of an efficient, legally certain and innovative system of public administration.

The Swedish model of public administration, with far-reaching delegation of responsibilities to government authorities, is a prerequisite for a modern central government administration. At the same time, it is important that this administration is characterised by a holistic approach and shared responsibility for how public resources should be used.

How should the strategy be implemented?
The national procurement strategy is aimed primarily for representatives of the central government authorities, but it is also intended to serve as support for representatives and employees of municipalities, county councils and other contracting authorities. The hope is that other organisations and enterprises also will be inspired by the strategy and find use for its content.

The national procurement strategy has seven policy objectives. Linked to these objectives are practical suggestions and advice on what the organisation can do to achieve them.
The seven policy objectives of the procurement strategy

1. Public procurement as a strategic tool for doing good business.
2. Effective public purchasing.
3. A multiplicity of suppliers and well-functioning competition.
4. Legally certain public procurement.
5. Public procurement that drives innovation and promotes alternative solutions.
6. Public procurement that is environmentally responsible.
7. Public procurement that contributes to a socially sustainable society.

The strategy may be downloaded (in Swedish) in unabridged form from regeringen.se/upphandlingsstrategin. Further information on the seven policy objectives that form the basis for the procurement strategy is also available there.

English translation made in cooperation with The National Agency for Public Procurement.