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**How to reform to address problems, the interaction between legal arrangements and civil society activism**

***Discussion***

Big data with local impact: Using open data to improve public procurement

European Parliament, Brussels, January 29, 2018



A new  
(procurement)  
world

Chapeau to DIGIWHIST

Yes, we can!



Post-Examiner

## Artificial Intelligence could spell the end of the human race

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BY PAUL CROKE · JUNE 9, 2015 · NO COMMENTS



A revolution is  
coming



New world:  
good or bad?  
**Governance**  
matters  
for **reform**  
effectiveness and  
risk management



## What could go wrong?

### MIGHT NOTHING CHANGE? FROZEN DATA

- Data might be available but no “handyman”: the role of **competence**
- Does data availability improve society or does society improve data availability? Data are often hidden (Bandiera, Prat and Valletti, AER) or incomplete (see Italian ANAC database)
- What might make data release and availability more palatable? See later.

### MIGHT THINGS GET WORSE? BURNING DATA

- Sure! Imagine a **journalist** getting a hold of data that show that procurer A bought an item at a lower price than procurer B. How many will blame procurer B?
- **Civil society**? Analysis of the use of the word «corruption» in social networks points to partisan use of it, not investigative or analytical.
- What might prevent the wrong use of data?
- Competence **and selectivity** in data user?

Data in  
procurement  
show  
**integrity?**

Bandiera, Valletti, Prat on **waste**:

**Data** are key for waste in  
procurement

The «integrity»  
issue with data

Bandiera, Valletti, Prat on **waste**:

« $X\%$  of waste is due to corruption  
( $1-X\%$ ) to inefficiencies».

The «integrity»  
issue with data

Bandiera, Valletti, Prat:

«17% of waste is due to corruption,  
83% to inefficiency».

Integrity? Framing effect



## Data

Data are tales.

Tales are narrative, stories, fables: Powerful!

Negativity Bias exist: it is easier to  
remember bad things  
(see Trip Advisor)

Confirmation Bias exist: I look for I what I  
want to find

Lack of **Trust** through Bandwagon effects  
exist

Trust, the vicious  
circle

One datum on corruption might  
entail belief that system is corrupt

Lack of Trust in Procurement

More rules, risk-aversion, no  
innovation, **no data**

**No trust**

Alternative  
Governance?  
Risk-  
Management?  
Trust

- Directive is based on **trust** and accountability: why not data management?
- Why not exalt best practices through tales based on data?
- Why not engage the Public Administration rather than civil society? More competent!
- If benchmarking, why not benchmarking with respect to one's own (past) data and not with respect to others? More precisely accountable, less stressful (esp. for EU!), more rewarding, more incentives!

**Would this allow for greater openness and data availability?**

Trust, the  
virtuous  
circle

One (dozen) data on competence  
might entail belief that system is  
competent

Trust

Discretion with accountability  
through **data**, innovation,  
resources

Trust and no corruption

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