

Cross-Border Cooperation and Competition in Public Procurement: Lessons from Polycrisis

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Abstract: In an era marked by intersecting crises - from health pandemics and supply chain disruptions to climate-related emergencies - cross-border cooperation in public procurement has become indispensable for fostering resilience and adaptive response capabilities.

This paper examines the role of international and intra-EU public procurement cooperation, extending to third-country and non-EU bidders, in addressing the complexities of contemporary polycrises. Drawing lessons from recent global emergencies, it explores how multinational procurement efforts can enhance supply chain security, increase access to innovative solutions, and optimize resource allocation. Nonetheless, these cooperative strategies introduce significant challenges, including regulatory harmonization, quality control, security considerations, and competition impacts.

Through detailed case studies, this research identifies best practices and offers policy recommendations for reinforcing cross-border procurement frameworks that prioritize robustness, equity, and flexibility in crisis contexts. Ultimately, an approach balancing open market access with strategic safeguards is essential to fully realize the potential of cross-border procurement, fostering resilience across various governance layers.