



Digging into public procurement to investigate public health

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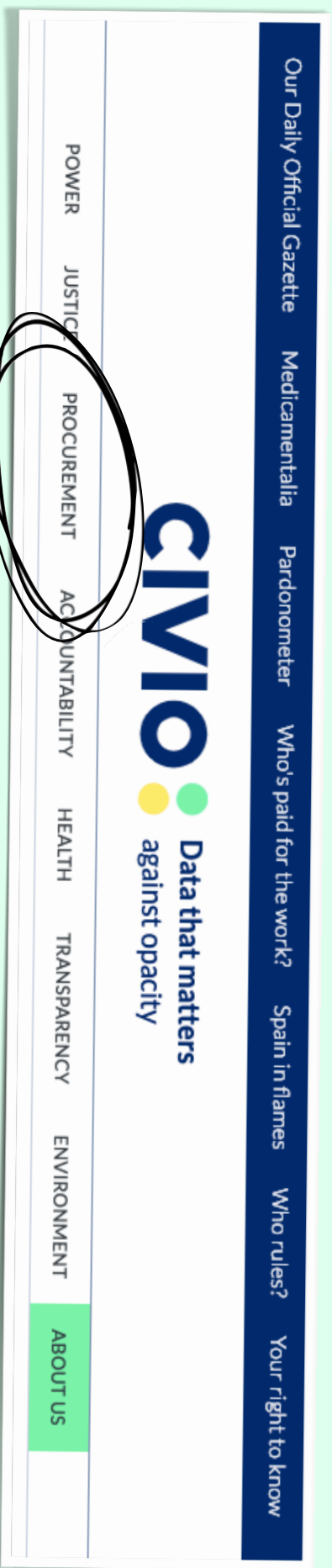
Who are we?



Data and investigative journalism in Spain and cross-border.

Independent and non-profit.

Public procurement





Individual stories

Campañas de publicidad institucional que incumplen la ley

La Comunidad de Madrid publicará una campaña para presumir de política fiscal antes de las elecciones



La Comunidad de Madrid elimina el autobombo de su campaña de publicidad institucional sobre política fiscal

Illegal institutional advertising

CIVIO • El BOE nuestro de cada día

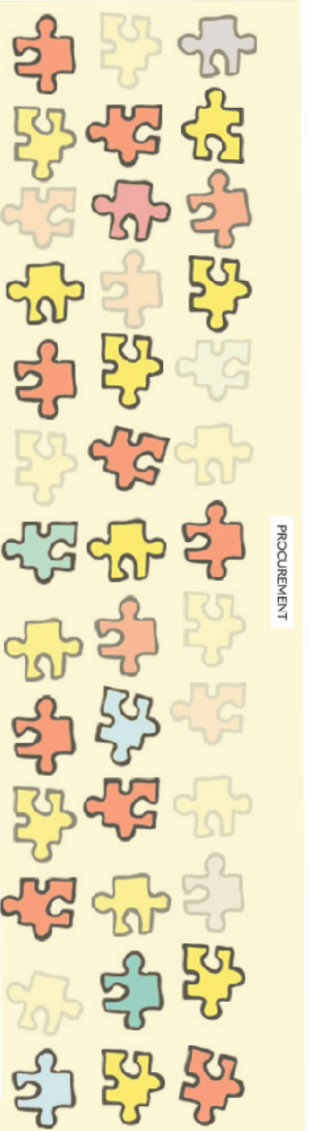
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El Gobierno mintió a IU: sí hay escoltas de altos cargos contratados a empresas privadas

Fact-checking

Big things (here comes the data)



Thousands of public contracts fail to comply with the law to avoid competitive tendering

In the first seven months of 2019 alone, over 6,500 contract awards have failed to comply with the regulation that prevents public authorities from directly awarding several smaller contracts exceeding €15,000 or €40,000 to a single company.

CIVIO Who's paid for the work?

PROCUREMENT

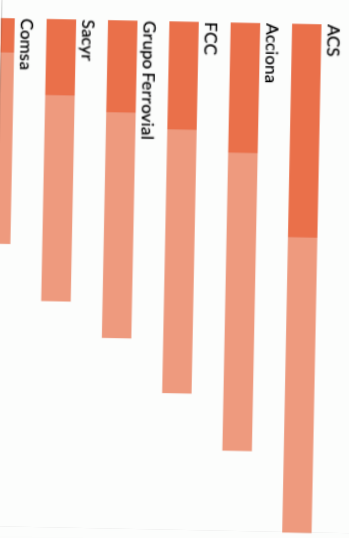
The Kings of Bricks and Mortar

10 construction companies raked in 7 of every 10 euros allocated in the Official State Gazette (OSG) since 2009, in contracts for public works.

EVA BELMONTÉ November 15, 2016



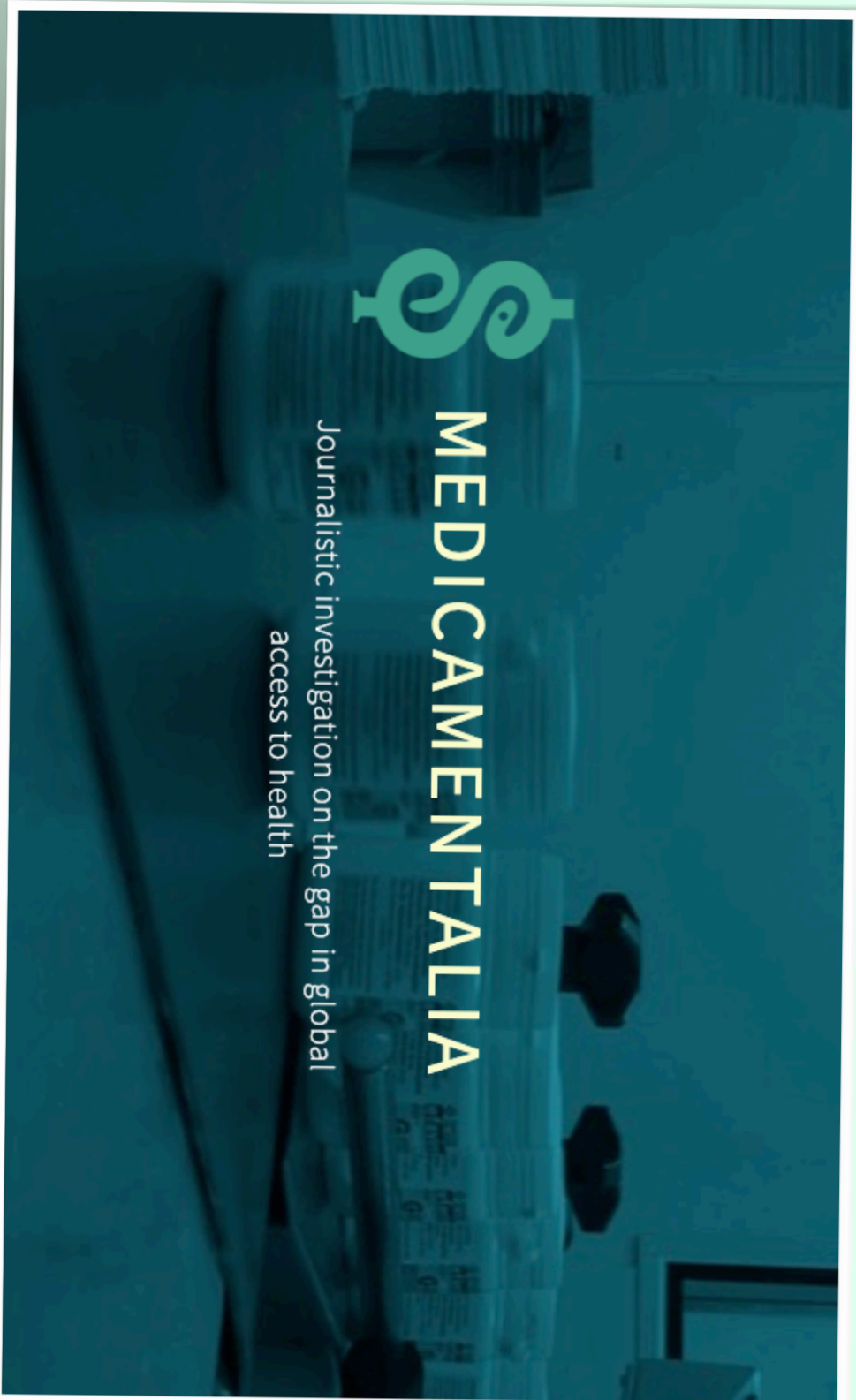
The 10 largest contractors of public works



Thousands of companies (more specifically, over 2,600) were awarded contracts for public works in the OSG between 2009 and 2015. But the playing field is by no means level. Despite a multitude of successful bidders, a large part of the monies handed out in the past 7 years, which are recorded in the OSG, is concentrated in the hands of the few.

Of the total €38.8 billion, more than

...but also health





Why procurement?

- ★ During the COVID-19 crisis: from whom is your government buying? For how much? At which price?
- ★ Afterwards: what will happen with vaccines/treatments?
- ★ Oppose traditional opacity on Pharma industry.
- ★ You can investigate medicines, but also equipments, concessions for hospitals...
- ★ Apply your knowledge to **investigate new topics**. Everything has some public procurement on it.
- ★ It's so easy to make mistakes.



Study and understand the law.



Main concepts

- ★ Tender portal. Find your(s).
- ★ Open, close (with/without publicity), below the threshold...
- ★ Centralised tender.
- ★ Ordinary, urgent, emergency.
- ★ Tender > Award > Contract (be careful with the price).
- ★ Technical and administrative documentation.
- ★ Amendments.



Prepare for the worst.

(Procurement data is ugly, very ugly.)



Prepare for the worst.

And Big Pharma is particularly opaque.



Take a look at the fine print.

(The devil is in the details.)

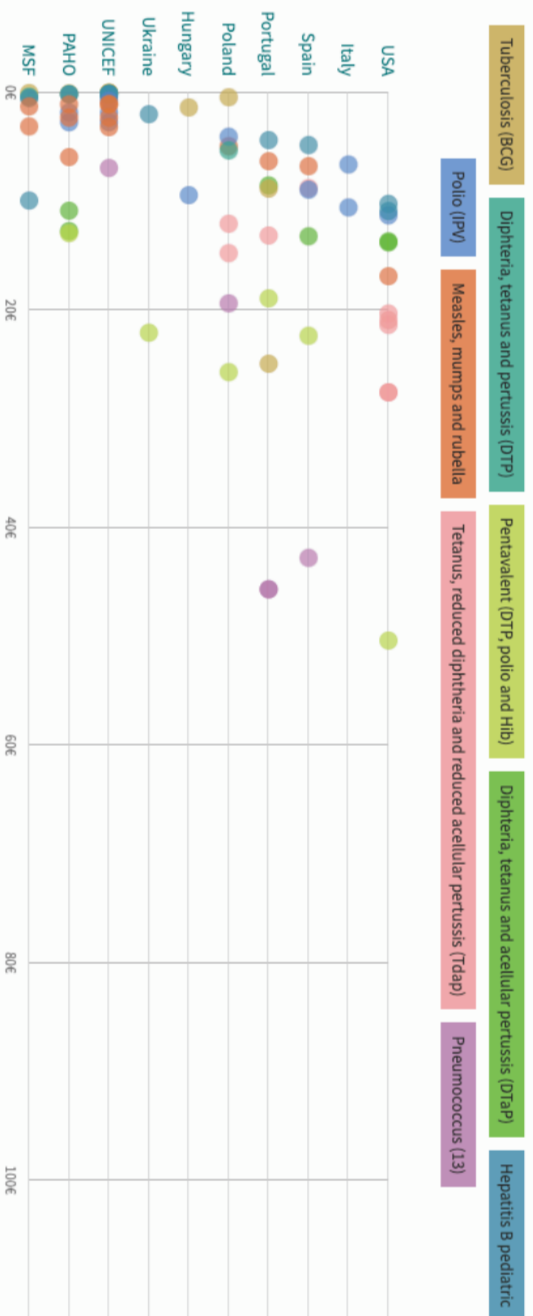
Price? What price?

PRICES

Numbers that don't fit

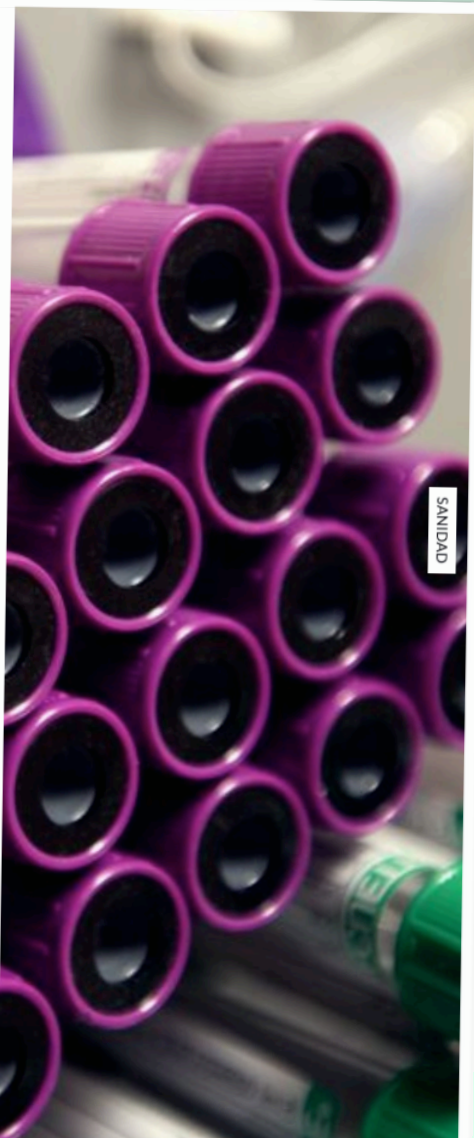
Some countries pay for their vaccines more than others with higher incomes. The opacity in the sector hides the cost for governments and prevents them from demanding better prices

Per dose prices paid per governments



There can be price differences due to brand, packaging (vial or syringe), strains or volume, among others. PAHO data is made of weighted averages, i.e. it's not broken down by manufacturer. For the rest, we include all the data found. [Methodology](#)

Price? What price?



Spanish public hospitals pay 307,200 euros for each personalised childhood leukaemia treatment

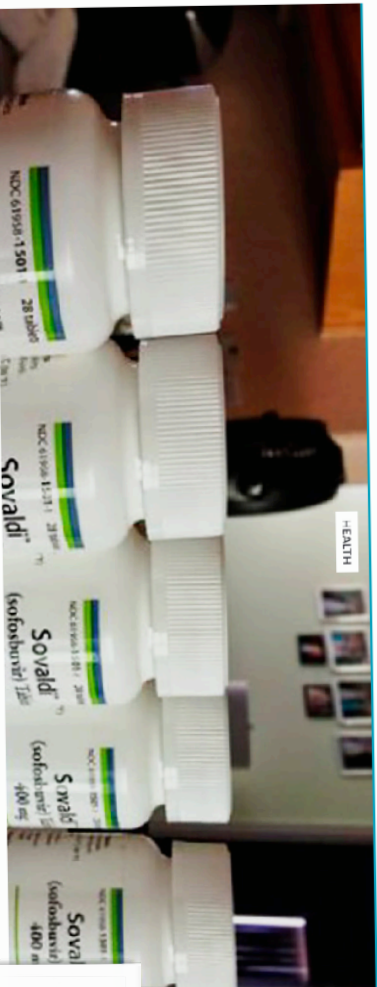
The real cost that public administrations pay for CAR-T therapies is negotiated in secret, although the Ministry of Health does publish the maximum price it is willing to pay.



Collaborate

Alone you can't, with friends yes

civio  Medicamentalia



4 years after the hepatitis C revolution, how much do new drugs cost?

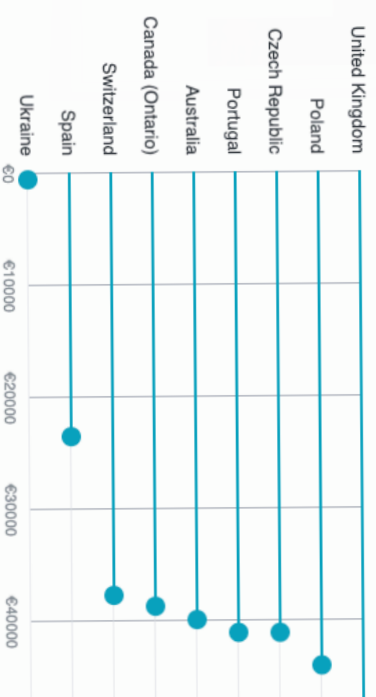
Countries with very different incomes pay similar prices for accessing the new medicines, while states continue to play along the secrecy imposed by pharmaceutical companies.



Investigation & data: [EVA BELMONTE](#) Data: [MARÍA ALVAREZ DEL VANO](#) Data: [JAVIER DE VEGA](#)
Visualizations: [RAÚL DÍAZ POBLITE](#)
October 25, 2017

Journalists from several countries have collaborated on this report: René Ammann (Switzerland), Petra Pitulainen (Finland), Goran Lefkov (Macedonia).

Price paid by governments for basic treatment of Sovaldi



In euros and per 12 weeks treatment.

We have included only those countries for which we have official figures. [Methodology.](#)

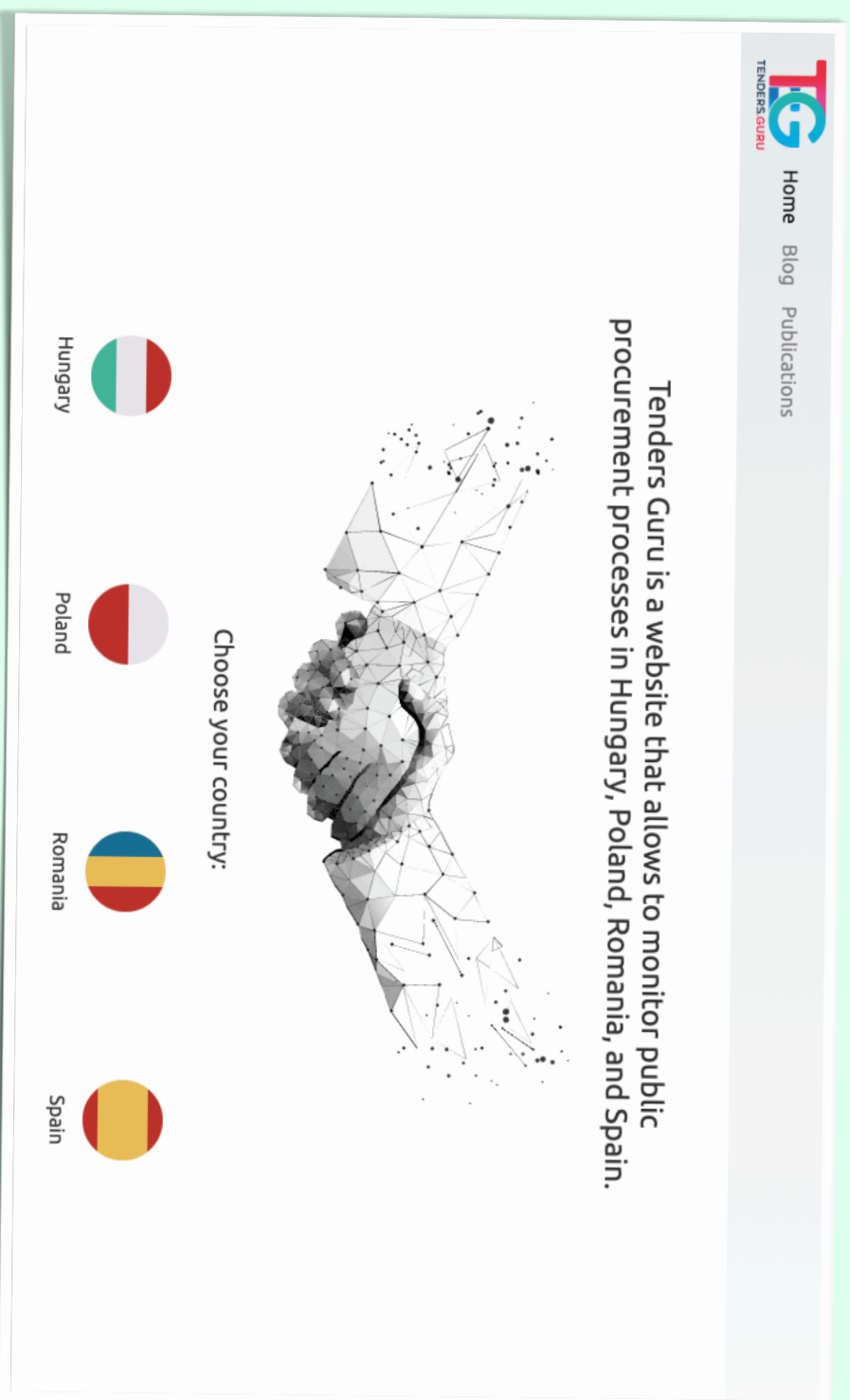


Cross-reference other sources.



Extra: use red flags!

Clues to help you know where to look





Some basic red flags

- ★ A lot of small contracts to the same company
- ★ Short deadlines (who is in a hurry?)
- ★ Only one tender (always)
- ★ Different prices for the exact same thing
- ★ Amendments
- ★ Opacity - why are they hiding it?
- ★ A small group of companies sharing the cake (cartel, anyone?)



Summing up

- ★ Study and understand the law and the main concepts.
- ★ Prepare for the worst (specially on Pharma).
- ★ Take a look at the fine print.
- ★ **Prepare for the worst.**
- ★ Collaborate.
- ★ Cross-reference **other sources**.
- ★ Use red flags.



Some useful resources

- ◆ Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) — ted.europa.eu
- ◆ RECORD project — tenders.guru
- ◆ OpenCorporates — opencorporates.com
- ◆ Open Contracting Partnership — open-contracting.org

Thanks!



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