







Exploring government contracting data to hold governments accountable in the Big Data Era

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The challenge of public procurement

9.3 trillion USD per year*

20-25% lost to corruption**

Should we be worried?

^{**} OECD (2013), Implementing the OECD Principles for Integrity in Public Procurement. Progress since 2008. OECD, Paris

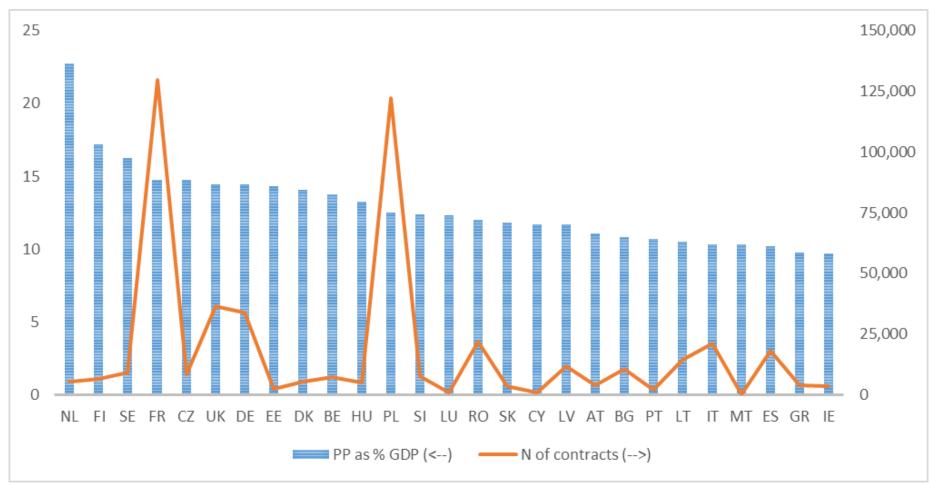


^{*} http://www.open-contracting.org/data-standard-announcement

Overview

- Big Data in government contracting?
- State of data and data collection innovations
- Indicators
- 3 examples
- How you can get involved?

Why we need big data in PP?



2012, EU, TED

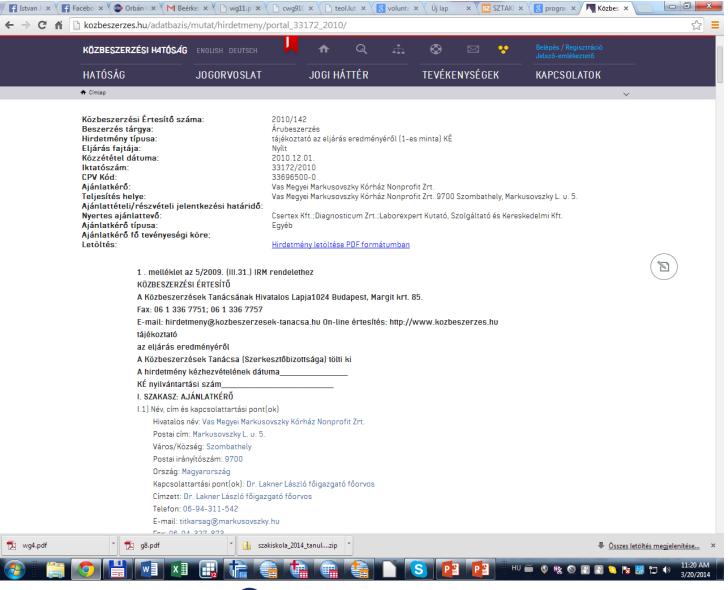


State of data I

DISASTER







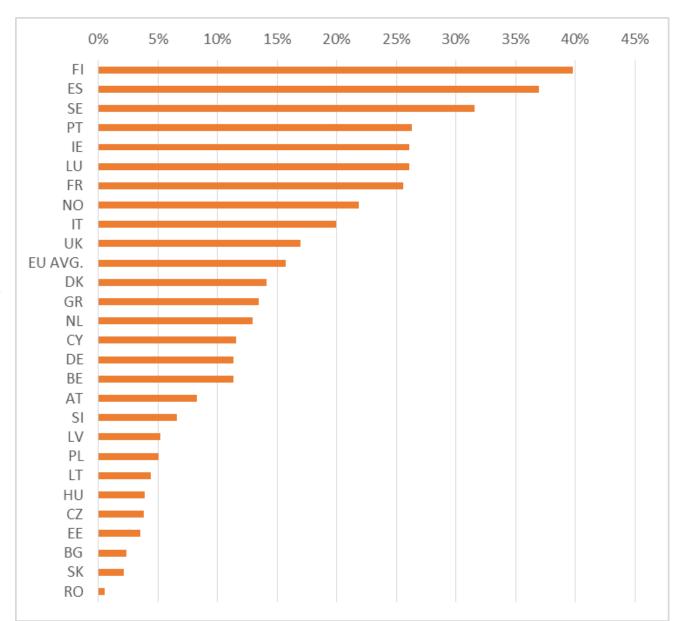


Average admin error

TED:2009-13

13 mandatory items:

- Organisation name, address
- Contract values
- Subcontract
- Dates



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State of data II

- Patchwork of data sources
 - Formats: xml,html,pdf, etc
 - Contents
 - Quality
 - Linking
- Administrative data provision is not ready for Big Data
 - Public initiatives: OCDS
 - Civil society/reserach community: DIGIWHIST

DIGIWHIST

The Digital Whistleblower. Fiscal Transparency, Risk Assessment and Impact of Good Governance Policies Assessed

Goals

- Advancing anticorruption, transparency, and spending efficiency in public procurement
- Open data and indicators for 35 European countries:
 EU, EEA, Caucasus
- Enabling losers of corruption to mobilize
- Helping audit bodies fighting corruption, fraud, and collusion

Scope

- March 2015 February 2018
- 3 million eur (Horizon2020 funding)
- Consortium: Cambridge, Hertie, Open Knowledge Foundation DE, CRCB, Datlab, Transcrime



DIGIWHIST: Data

Transparency and procurement legislation

Procurement data

Company information

Public organisation information

Asset declarations

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DIGIWHIST: Indicators+utilization

Indicators:

- Corruption/favouritism
- Transparency
- Administrative quality

Utilization

- Web portals, mobile apps
- Whistleblower reporting: Big Data+user info
- Risk assessment software for public servants

Indicator building

- New approach to corruption in PP
 - harnessing BIG DATA,
 - built on thorough understanding of context, and
 - ,open-ended'
- Indicator characteristics:
 - Specific
 - Real-time
 - 'Objective'/hard
 - Micro-level
 - Aggregatable + comparative

12

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3 hands-on examples

For

1. The activist

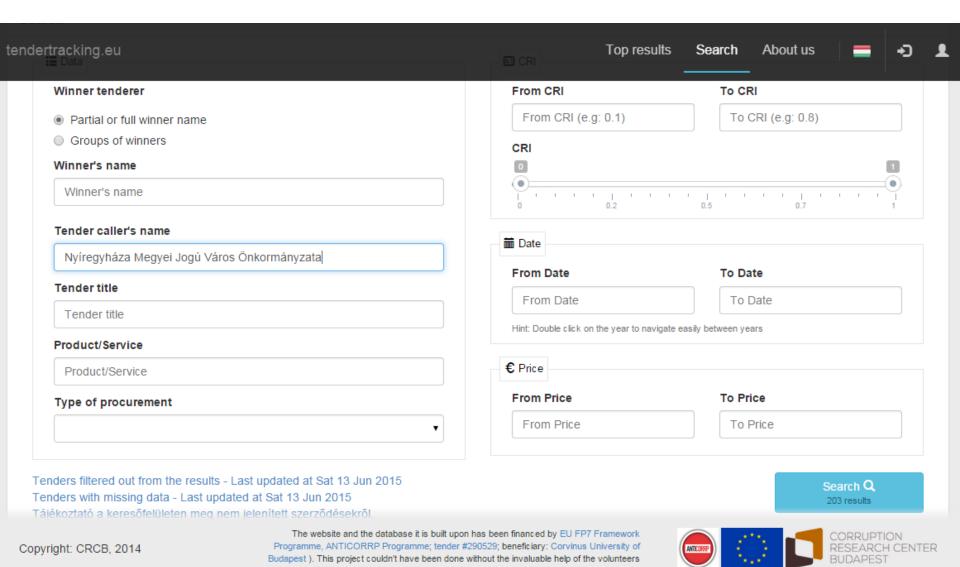
2. The policy maker

3. The economist

Big Data for accountability

- www.tendertracking.eu
- Goal: Holding governments accounable
- All regulated contract since 2005 in Hungary
- Structured micro data+aggregates
- Indicators making sense of Big Data
- Target groups:
 - Citizens, journalists
 - Policy makers





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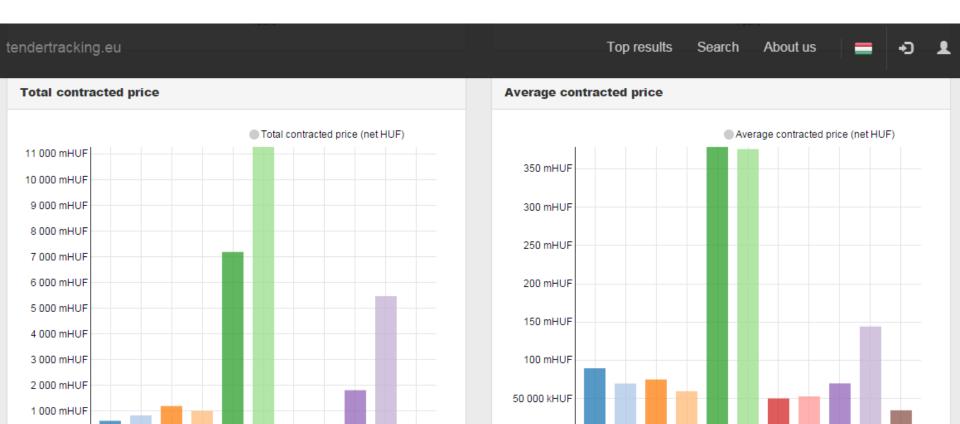
Copyright: CRCB, 2014

The website and the database it is built upon has been financed by EU FP7 Framework Programme, ANTICORRP Programme; tender #290529; beneficiary: Corvinus University of Budapest). This project couldn't have been done without the invaluable help of the volunteers of CRCB.









Copyright: CRCB, 2014

0 HUF

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

Years

The website and the database it is built upon has been financed by EU FP7 Framework Programme, ANTICORRP Programme; tender #290529; beneficiary: Corvinus University of Budapest). This project couldn't have been done without the invaluable help of the volunteers

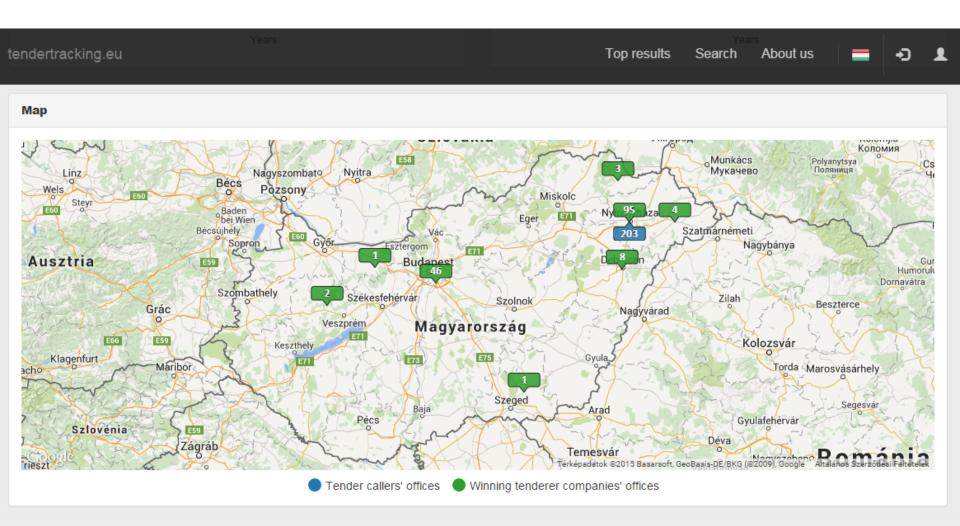


2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

Years



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	tájékoztató az eljárás eredményéről- könyvvizsgálói feladatok ellátása	VERSATILE AUDIT Könyvvizsgáló és Adószakértő Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság	Nyíregyháza Megyei Jogú Város Önkormányzata	Accounting and auditing services.	2011-02-18	14 100,00 eFt	.
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	"A Petőfi Sándor Általános Iskola infrastrukturális fejlesztése, bővítése" című projekt keretén belül a Nyíregyháza, Alma u. 70., meglévő iskola épületének bővítése, felújítása, akadálymentesítése, valamint	RÓZSAÉP KFT	Nyíregyháza Megyei Jogú Város Önkormányzata	Construction work.	2011-07-20	137 607,73 eFt	•

Táiékoztató az eliárás eredménvéről -

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The website and the database it is built upon has been financed by EU FP7 Framework Programme, ANTICORRP Programme; tender #290529; beneficiary: Corvinus University of Budapest). This project couldn't have been done without the invaluable help of the volunteers





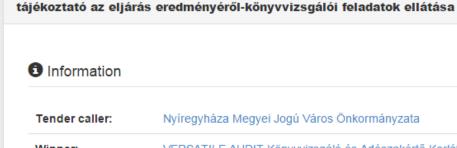
tendertracking.eu Top results











Nyíregyháza Megyei Jogú Város Önkormányzata

VERSATILE AUDIT Könyvvizsgáló és Adószakértő Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság Winner:

Product/Service: Számviteli és könyvvizsgálói szolgáltatások.

Date of Publishing: 2011-02-18

Contracted Price: 14 100 000 HUF

Number of bidders: 3 pcs

http://kozbeszerzes.hu/adatbazis/mutat/hirdetmeny/portal_0846_2011 Show procurement:





- 0.1274738

0.1274738 - 0.2086671 0.2086671 - 0.272782

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Copyright: CRCB, 2014

Map

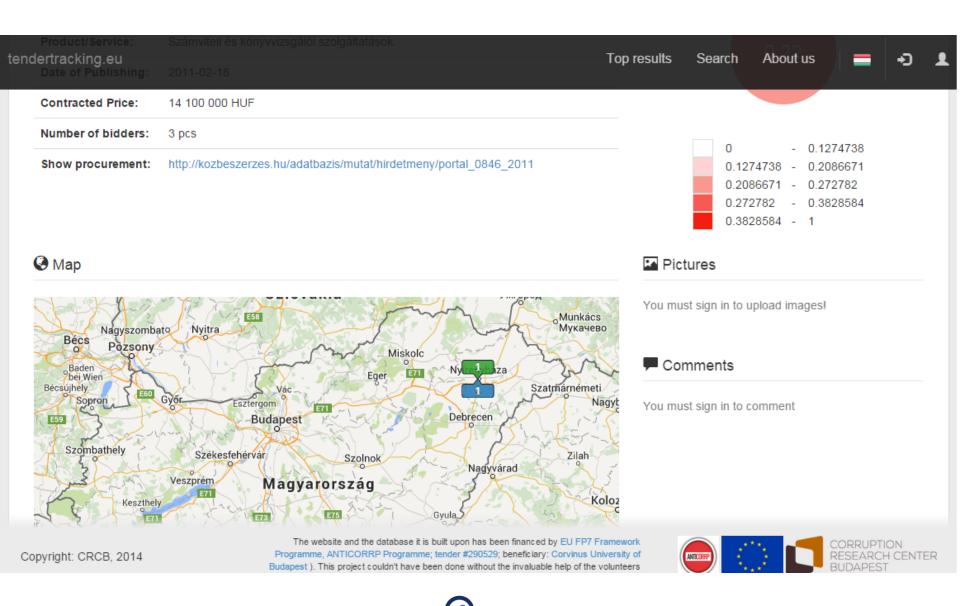
The website and the database it is built upon has been financed by EU FP7 Framework Programme, ANTICORRP Programme; tender #290529; beneficiary: Corvinus University of Budapest). This project couldn't have been done without the invaluable help of the volunteers of CRCB











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Discussion points

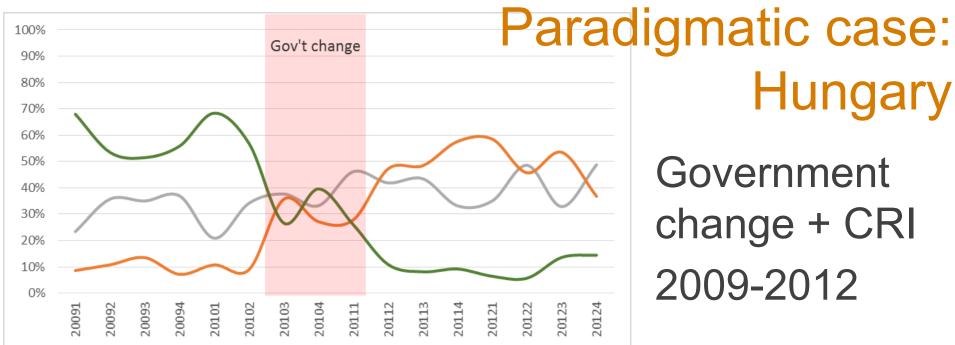
Which features would you like to see on such a portal?

Big Data for austerity

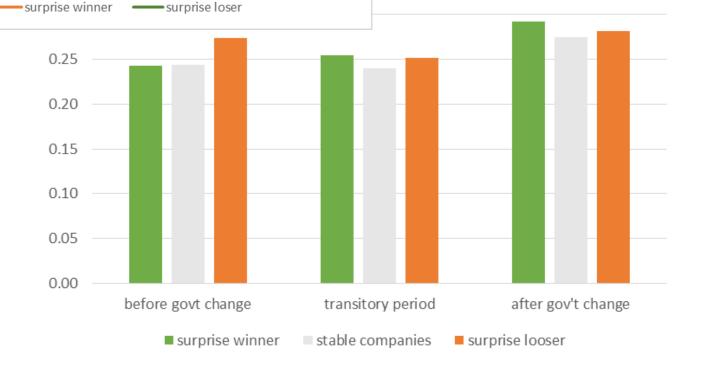
- http://www.crcb.eu/?p=867
- Goal: identifying companies with preferential treatment
- Data: public procurement+company data: UK
- Target group
 - Policy makers (those not benefitting of course⁽²⁾)
 - Losing bidders
 - Journalists

Political Influence Indicator (PII)

- political influence on companies' market success
- Change of government as a natural experiment
 - Company performance before-after gov't change
 - Evidence of favouritism: tendering red flags



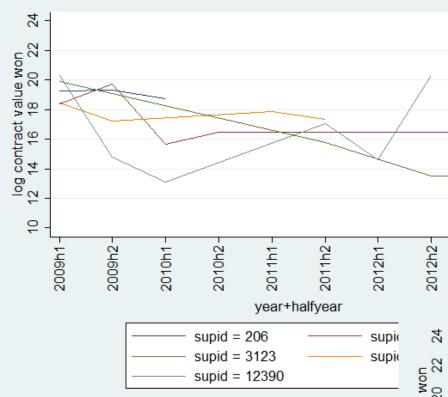
Government change + CRI 2009-2012



consistent

How does the UK score?

- Central government only
- 2009-2010-2013
- Company panel data
- TED data
 - large contracts
 - Imperfect company identification
- Download link: http://www.crcb.eu/?p=867
- Let's explore the data together!



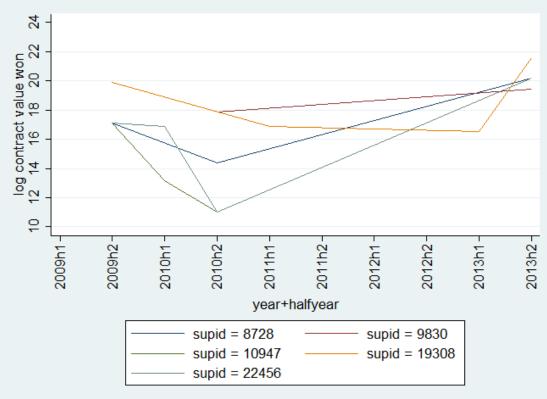
SOME suspicion

✓ 2009h1 largest 5✓ 2013h2 largest 5

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2013h2-

2013h1

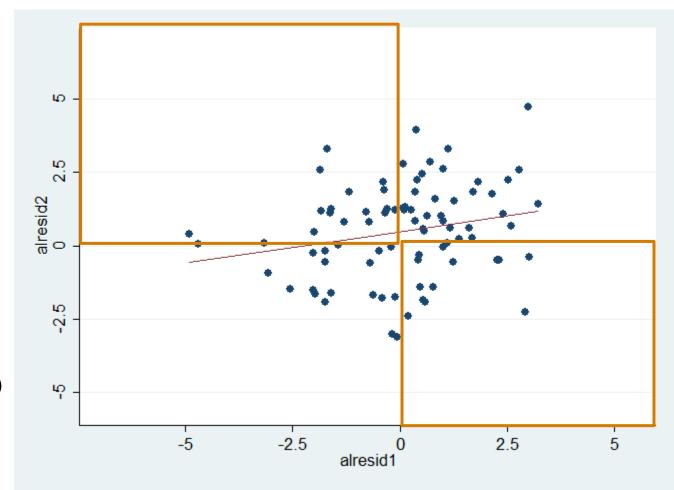
Suspicious error term patterns

Systematic deviations from the regression

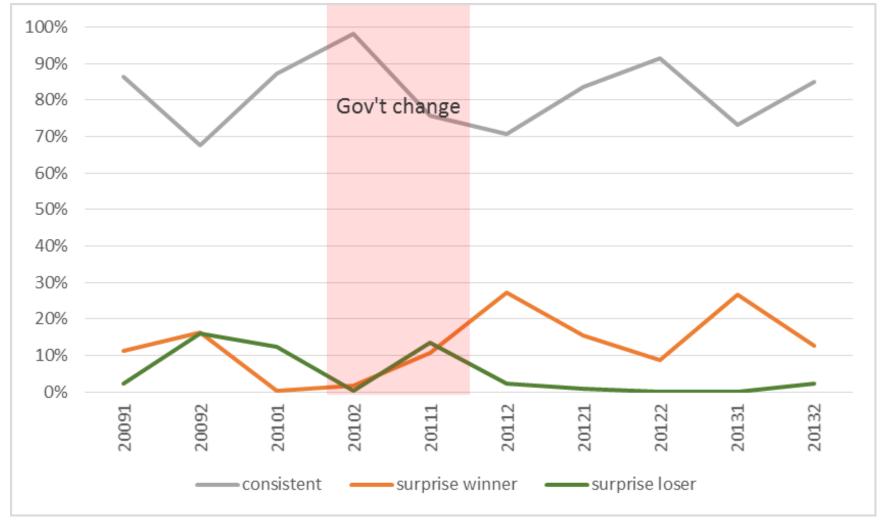
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UK central admin: PII





Discussion points

Any comments on the methodology?

 How to use the results if nothing is apparently illegal?

 Someone wants to write an article about these companies[©]?

Big Data for competition

- Bidder data, Hungary, 2007&2009
- Goal: identifying suspicious bidding patterns
- Target group:
 - Competition authorities
 - Losing bidders

Network data set-up

- Co-bidding network
 - Construction work for pipelines, communication and power lines, for highways, roads, airfields and railways
 - 3 regional and 1 national markets in 2007&2009
- Nods: bidding firms (winners and losers)
 - size=number of tenders won
 - colour=network position (green=cut-point)
- Edges: bidding on the same tender
 - width=number of times companies co-bid

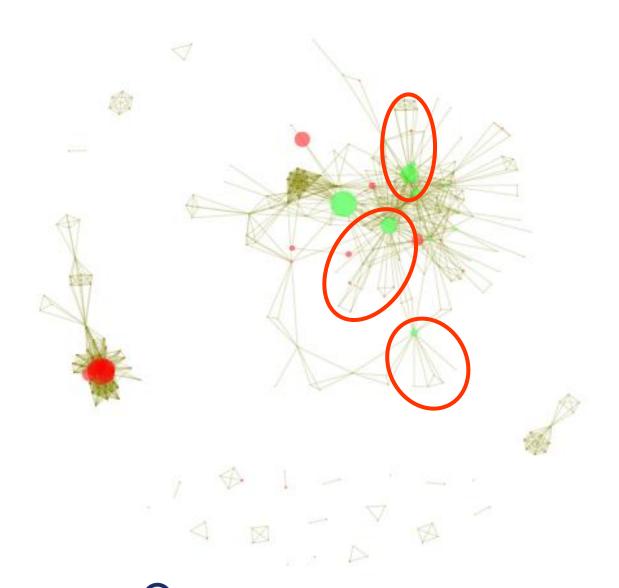
Co-bidding patterns: benchmark

- 2007
- Dense networks
- Few cutpoints
- Cutpoints don't benefit from position



Co-bidding patterns: suspicion

- 2009
- Dense networks
- Many cutpoints
- Cutpoints seem to benefit from position





Discussion points

Any comments on the methodology?

 How to mainstream such Big Data analysis in government work?

How to bring suspicious cases to court?

Getting involved

- Email me: mf436@cam.ac.uk
- Visit: digiwhist.eu
- As a User
 - Hunt for suspicious transactions
 - Download the data for analysis
- As a Contributor
 - Let us know what you need
 - Tell us about your story
 - Link your data



Background material

SOON COMING UP: digiwhist.eu

Fazekas, M. and Tóth, I. J. (2014). From corruption to state capture: A new analytical framework with empirical applications from Hungary. CRC-WP/2014:01, Budapest: Corruption Research Centre.

Czibik, Ágnes; Fazekas, Mihály; Tóth, Bence; and Tóth, István János (2014), *Toolkit for detecting collusive bidding in public procurement. With examples from Hungary*. Corruption Research Center Budapest, CRCB-WP/2014:02.

Fazekas, M., Chvalkovská, J., Skuhrovec, J., Tóth, I. J., & King, L. P. (2014). *Are EU funds a corruption risk? The impact of EU funds on grand corruption in Central and Eastern Europe*. In A. Mungiu-Pippidi (Ed.), The Anticorruption Frontline. The ANTICORRP Project, vol. 2. (pp. 68–89). Berlin: Barbara Budrich Publishers.

Fazekas, M., Tóth, I. J. (2014), *Three indicators of institutionalised grand corruption using administrative data*. U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Bergen, U4 Brief 2014:9.

Fazekas, M., Tóth, I. J., & King, L. P. (2013). *Anatomy of grand corruption: A composite corruption risk index based on objective data*. CRC-WP/2013:02, Budapest: Corruption Research Centre.

Fazekas, M., Tóth, I. J., & King, L. P. (2013). Corruption manual for beginners: Inventory of elementary "corruption techniques" in public procurement using the case of Hungary. CRC-WP/2013:01, Corruption Research Centre, Budapest.

Fazekas, M., Tóth, I. J., & King, L. P. (2013). Hidden Depths. The Case of Hungary. In A. Mungiu-Pippidi (Ed.), *Controlling Corruption in Europe vol. 1* (pp. 74–82). Berlin: Barbara Budrich Publishers.



THANKS A LOT!