

## Press Release

### Let's Not Raise the Threshold in the CRU – It Would Be a Sham of Transparency

The Institute of Public Finance is among 46 civil society organizations that signed an appeal to the Prime Minister regarding the Central Register of Contracts (CRU). The organizations express concern that the Ministry of Finance's proposal to raise the disclosure threshold from PLN 500 to PLN 10,000 poses a serious threat to civic oversight of public spending.

#### Contract Registers – A Key Tool in Public Finance Oversight

In recent years, many EU countries have introduced electronic registers of contracts concluded by public finance sector entities. These are online databases that gather information on public expenditure contracts. Their main objective is to enhance transparency and democratic oversight of public finance management.

In Poland, the CRU was originally scheduled to launch in July 2022, but the previous majority government repeatedly postponed its introduction, ultimately setting the effective date for January 1, 2026. In March 2025, the Government Legislative Centre published a draft bill amending various laws, including the Public Finance Act, to implement the CRU.

“The Central Register of Contracts, currently under development, is a new tool for democratic civic oversight we have long awaited. It offers a chance to reinforce modern standards of democratic governance based on transparency in public finances—an essential foundation of public trust in state institutions,” reads the appeal submitted to the Prime Minister.

#### 70% of Contracts Will Go Unreported

Despite the government's stated commitment to transparency, the Ministry of Finance decided to raise the reporting threshold for contracts by a factor of 20—from PLN 500 to PLN 10,000 net.

Research conducted by the Institute of Public Finance and the Citizens Network Watchdog shows that under a PLN 10,000 threshold, approximately 70% of contracts concluded by local governments would not be disclosed in the Register. In some cases, only 76 out of 1,000 contracts would be published.

The research also indicates that 97% of citizens believe that public contracts and invoices should be fully transparent. Moreover, 94% believe the CRU will help restore trust in public finance management. The Ministry's proposal fails to reflect these expectations.

“How can the average citizen trust the state if the system under construction will disclose only a small fraction of contracts in many municipalities and public institutions? It will be a façade—an illusion of transparency,” the appeal states.

Signatories include:

- ARTICLE 19 Europe
- CASE Center for Social and Economic Research
- CenEA Center for Economic Analysis
- Forum Obywatelskiego Rozwoju
- Fundacja Aktywny i Czysty Nasielsk
- Fundacja dla Polski
- Fundacja Dobrobyt na Pokolenia
- Fundacja Gospodarki i Administracji Publicznej
- Fundacja HexaLAB
- Fundacja Instrat
- Fundacja Matecznik
- Fundacja Panoptykon
- Fundacja Rozwoju Demokracji Lokalnej im. Jerzego Regulskiego
- Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Informacyjnego
- Fundacja „Świat w Naszych Rękach”
- Fundacja Wolności
- Fundacja Wolności Gospodarczej
- Fundacja Zielone Kujawy
- Fundacja Lasy i Obywatele
- GRAPE Group for Research in APplied Economics
- Inicjatywa Białobrzegi
- Inicjatywa Lokalna Między Drzewami
- Instytut Badań Strukturalnych
- Instytut Edukacji Ekonomicznej im. Ludwiga von Misesa
- Instytut Emerytalny
- Instytut Finansów Publicznych
- Instytut Odpowiedzialnych Finansów
- Instytut Spraw Publicznych
- Ośrodek Działań Ekologicznych “Źródła”
- Polska Sieć Ekonomii
- Sieć Obywatelska Watchdog Polska
- Stowarzyszenia na rzecz Praworządności w Szkołach "Stowarzyszenie Umarłych Statutów"

- Stowarzyszenie Demagog
- Stowarzyszenie Dziedzictwa Kulturowego i Krajobrazowego Mała Wspólnota
- Stowarzyszenie EKIPA Z BAGIEN
- Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Obywatelskich RIO
- Stowarzyszenie Libertariańskie
- Stowarzyszenie Pravda
- Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju INSPIRACJE
- Stowarzyszenie Wspólnie dla Gminy Stęszew
- Towarzystwo Ekonomistów Polskich
- Warsaw Enterprise Institute
- WiseEuropa