

## Multi Nation Program



**Dr. Tünde Tátrai** | Budapest, HUNGARY

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A public procurement consultant to the Office of the Prime Minister and other government agencies, Dr. Tünde Tátrai teaches supply chain management, public procurement, purchasing, and information technology law at Budapest Corvinus University; directs research projects in public and electronic procurement; and has co-authored and edited several books on purchasing and public procurement. While on fellowship, she examined best practices and benchmarking processes in public procurement, with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness and regulatory oversight of the public procurement process in Hungary.

Dr. Tátrai focused on understanding procurement procedures and theories through meetings with government officials, academics, and non-profit organizations. At meetings with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. General Services Administration, she got a good sense of procurement operations and issues in the federal government. Through her meetings with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, Transparency International, and OMB Watch, she learned that building e-databases and creating new models may not lead to more government transparency, but that focusing instead on finding and analyzing publicly available documents will result in more government transparency. With the help of USA Fellow Sharon Kirshbaum, she met with David Gagan, former Procurement Officer of Washington, D.C. and noted expert on procurement issues, particularly municipal level procurement issues. In Boston, she met with Gary Lambert, the state's procurement official, and after finishing her meeting with Mr. Lambert, she proclaimed that she had met her goal of learning about procurement at all different levels of American government.

Some of her best appointments were arranged through existing colleagues. For example, Dr. Clifford McCue of Florida Atlantic University put together two full days of appointments with procurement researchers and practitioners in the Ft. Lauderdale and Miami area. Dr. Khi Thai, also of Florida Atlantic University, provided many suggestions for Dr. Tátrai's program and introduced her to Darin Matthews, Chief Procurement Officer in Portland, Oregon, who spent most of a day with her discussing sustainable procurement practices.

A highlight of Dr. Tátrai's fellowship was her weekend stay at USA Fellow Bart Ruth's farm in Nebraska. As always, Mr. Ruth showed excellent hospitality to a fellow Fellow. Not only did Dr. Tátrai drive a pickup truck for the first time, but she went out into the field to help Mr. Ruth with his farm work. She left understanding better not only the physical challenges of farming but also the warm hospitality of an American family.

Upon her return to Hungary, Dr. Tátrai immediately followed up on some of her fellowship meetings, including hosting several procurement law professors from George Washington University. In addition to arranging their two-day meeting agenda, she continued discussions with them about conducting joint research projects. In addition, Dr. Tátrai became a board member of the International Public Procurement Conference, which will occur in Seattle in 2012, and joined the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Public Procurement*.

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