Release 15: What's new?

- **Forum**

  Contractors and bidders can now upload or download questions and answers to the Forum as an Excel file “.XLSX”.

- **Addition of validation functions in response to new TED rules**

  TED, the online platform of the ‘Supplement to the EU Official Journal’ dedicated to European public procurement, has introduced a series of new rules:

  1. **Rule 388 on CPV codes:**
     
     - **Construction** orders must be identified solely by a CPV code beginning with 45.
     
     - **Supply** orders must be identified solely by a CPV code beginning with 0 – 44, or 48.
     
     - **Service** orders must be identified solely by a CPV code beginning with 50 – 98.

     This rule applies to contractors wishing to post publications online. A validation message has therefore been added to forms that are exported to TED:

     - invitation to tender
     - contract award
     - tender cancellation
     - tender correction

     If the contractor fails to comply with this rule but the publication otherwise meets the criteria for export to TED, an error message will appear, prompting the user to check and correct the CPV code. If the user does not want to change the CPV code, they can forgo exporting the publication to TED by clicking on the OK button. The error message will disappear and the user can finish entering the publication.
2. **Rule 999 on field length**

*TED* has revised text length rules for several text fields (maximum number of characters). Although this has not required any changes to the four TED-specific simap.ch forms (invitation to tender, contract award, tender cancellation, tender correction), please respect these rules. If the number of characters in the relevant text fields exceeds the maximum stipulated by *TED*, the surplus content will be removed before the publication is exported to *TED*.

With regard to simap.ch, the publication which appears on the platform will be the same as the full original version entered by the contractor. However, an edited version will appear on *TED*.

3. **Rule 105 on email address**

A new validation function for email fields has been added to simap.ch forms. It checks that the correct format is used (e.g. use of invalid characters) and that the email address content is no longer than **250 characters**. If the user fails to comply with this rule, an error message will appear.

4. **Rule 125 on URLs**

A new validation function for URL fields has been added in simap.ch forms. It checks that the correct format is used (e.g. use of invalid characters) and that the email content is no longer than **250 characters**. If the user fails to comply with this rule, an error message will appear.

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