COMCO's Bid-Rigging Screening — Switzerland's Statistical and Machine-Learning Screens That Opened the See-Gaster Cartel Case

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Switzerland

Quality score: 73/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

COMCO screens cantonal bid records with statistical tests, later paired with machine learning. A screen opened the See-Gaster probe in 2013, which ended in fines of about CHF 5M on eight road builders in 2016. A peer-reviewed ML model classified 84% of 584 tenders correctly.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-13

Swiss Competition Commission (COMCO / WEKO) Secretariat — accessed 2026-11-13

Huber & Imhof (2019), Machine learning with screens for detecting bid-rigging cartels, IJIO — accessed 2026-11-13

Wallimann, Imhof & Huber — ML approach for flagging incomplete bid-rigging cartels (arXiv) — accessed 2026-11-13

SAVE news: WEKO fines eight companies (See-Gaster, Oct 2016) — accessed 2026-11-13

COMCO press releases — accessed 2026-11-13

Cite this — Evidoria. *COMCO's Bid-Rigging Screening — Switzerland's Statistical and Machine-Learning Screens That Opened the See-Gaster Cartel Case*. Persistent ID: 4b6e7c55-8d23-4e57-822c-ec8bbd0ee6d3.