



# PEPPOL Deliverable D4.1 Standard Basic eOrdering Format and Data Structure



*Version 1.2*



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**Borderless eProcurement**  
Let's make it happen!

## Table of Contents

1	Preamble .....	4
1.1	Document Purpose .....	4
1.2	Structure of the Document .....	4
1.3	Version, List of Contributors.....	6
2	Background .....	8
2.1	PEPPOL Project.....	8
2.2	Scope of Work Package 4 – eOrdering .....	9
2.2.1	Objectives and Goals.....	9
2.2.2	Scope.....	10
2.2.3	Approach.....	11
3	Interoperability Issues in eOrdering .....	13
3.1	The European Interoperability Framework – EIF .....	13
3.2	Political Context .....	14
3.3	Legal Interoperability.....	14
3.4	Organisational Interoperability .....	15
3.5	Semantic Interoperability.....	15
3.6	Technical Interoperability .....	16
3.7	Benefits .....	16
4	Other European Initiatives.....	18
4.1	i2010.....	18
4.2	IDABC .....	19
5	eOrdering Standardization Approaches .....	21
5.1	Definition and background .....	21
5.2	Overview of relevant Standardization Initiatives .....	22
5.3	ISO .....	23
5.4	UN/CEFACT.....	24
5.5	OASIS – UBL .....	24
5.6	NES-UBL.....	25
5.7	CEN/BII .....	26
5.8	xCBL.....	28
5.9	OAGIS.....	28
6	AS-IS Situation in eOrdering .....	30
6.1	Country-specific analysis .....	30
6.1.1	Austria.....	30
6.1.2	Denmark .....	34
6.1.3	Finland .....	36
6.1.4	Hungary .....	38
6.1.5	Italy .....	41
6.1.6	Norway.....	44
6.2	Requirements.....	47
6.2.1	Legal Interoperability .....	47
6.2.2	Organizational Interoperability .....	47
6.2.3	Semantic Interoperability .....	48
6.2.4	Technical Interoperability.....	49
7	eOrdering Specifications and Pilot Approach.....	50
7.1	Legal issues .....	50
7.2	Organisational.....	50
7.3	Semantics & Syntax .....	51
7.3.1	NES-UBL .....	51

7.3.2	CEN-BII .....	61
7.3.3	Profile 3: Basic Order.....	62
7.3.4	Profile 6: Basic Procurement .....	65
7.4	Technical (Transport Infrastructure).....	72
7.4.1	Interoperability Issues.....	72
7.4.2	Pilot Approach.....	72
8	References .....	74
9	Annex .....	76
9.1	As-is Situation in other European Countries .....	76
9.1.1	Belgium .....	76
9.1.2	France.....	76
9.1.3	Spain.....	77
9.1.4	UK .....	78
9.2	IDABC e-Invoicing and e-Ordering project.....	79
9.2.1	Objectives .....	79
9.2.2	Rationale.....	80
9.2.3	Scope .....	80
9.2.4	Technical functionalities and approach .....	81
9.2.5	Potential beneficiaries.....	83
9.2.6	Financial sustainability.....	84

## 4 Other European Initiatives

It is estimated that electronic procurement and invoicing could reduce total procurement costs by around 5% and lower transaction costs up to 50-80%, saving governments – and therefore taxpayers – tens of billions of euros annually<sup>13</sup>.

The benefits of eProcurement do not stop at saving money. Traditional procurement systems can be difficult for potential bidders to access, while many may simply be unaware of existing tendering opportunities. This lack of information and knowledge is particularly the case with SMEs, who often lack the manpower to monitor the market.

In addition, despite EU-wide publication of higher-value calls for tender, public procurement still operates mainly at national level, with potential bidders from other countries unaware of opportunities and lacking the resources to bid. Opening procurement up to wider competition across the EU would help to ensure that governments achieve the best price-quality balance for their taxpayers' money. In addition, governments can carefully target their public spending to stimulate innovation and create jobs.

Moreover, once a contract has been awarded following a tender, Information and Communication Technologies can continue to reduce administration costs and improve efficiency. Electronic ordering and invoicing systems have shown significant potential for cost savings in public administrations.

The European Union has therefore launched several programmes and initiatives dealing with eOrdering.

### 4.1 i2010

In 2006, the European Commission published the i2010 eGovernment Action Plan<sup>14</sup> focussing on the following five major objectives:

- **No citizen left behind:** advancing inclusion through eGovernment so that by 2010 all citizens benefit from trusted, innovative services and easy access for all;
- **Making efficiency and effectiveness a reality** – significantly contributing, by 2010, to high user satisfaction, transparency and accountability, a lighter administrative burden and efficiency gains;
- **Implementing high-impact key services** for citizens and businesses - by 2010, 100% of public procurement will be available electronically, with 50% actual usage, with agreement on cooperation on further high-impact online citizen services;
- **Putting key enablers in place** - enabling citizens and businesses to benefit, by 2010, from convenient, secure and interoperable authenticated access across Europe to public services;
- **Strengthening participation and democratic decision-making** - demonstrating, by 2010, tools for effective public debate and participation in democratic decision-making.

By explicitly including the *implementation* of high-impact key services and strong emphasis on the *usage* (and not only provision) of these services, i2010 is an important foundation and starting point for subsequent projects initiated by the EC, one being PEPPOL.

Based on the high volume of public spending in the EU and estimated savings on procurement and transaction cost, the EC states that a "... high level of take-up of eProcurement is therefore highly

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<sup>13</sup> European Commission, 2004, Action plan for the implementation of the legal framework for electronic public procurement

<sup>14</sup> European Commission, 2005: i2010 eGovernment Action Plan: Accelerating eGovernment in Europe for the Benefit of All

desirable. Member States have committed themselves to giving all public administrations across Europe the capability of carrying out 100% of their procurement electronically (where legally permissible) and to ensuring that at least 50% of public procurement above the EC threshold is carried out electronically by 2010.”

However, there is no definition included which part (or all?) of the procurement process is intended to be carried out electronically to the defined extent. The focus area of the 2004 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Legal Framework for Electronic Public Procurement was on electronic tenders.

Apart from eTendering, there have been a lot of European initiatives looking at the interoperability issues on eInvoicing from different perspectives (e.g. legal, taxes, organisational, technical), which will be analyzed by WP5. As expected, research performed by WP4 has shown that few initiatives have dealt specifically with the (post-award) eOrdering part of the procurement process.

## 4.2 IDABC

IDABC<sup>15</sup> stands for Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Business and Citizens. It takes advantage of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies:

- to encourage and support the delivery of cross-border public sector services to citizens and enterprises in Europe,
- to improve efficiency and collaboration between European public administrations and,
- to contribute to making Europe an attractive place to live, work and invest.

To achieve its objectives, IDABC issues recommendations, develops solutions and provides services that enable national and European administrations to communicate electronically while offering modern public services to businesses and citizens in Europe.

The programme also provides financing to projects addressing European policy requirements, thus improving cooperation between administrations across Europe. National public sector policy-makers are represented in the IDABC programme's management committee and in many expert groups. This makes of the programme a unique forum for the coordination of national eGovernment policies.

By using state-of-the-art information and communication technologies, developing common solutions and services and by finally, providing a platform for the exchange of good practice between public administrations, IDABC contributes to the i2010 initiative of modernising the European public sector. IDABC is a Community programme managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Informatics.

Regarding eProcurement, IDABC contributes to:

- achieving interoperability in electronic public procurement;
- facilitating electronic public procurement by providing functional requirements, common tools or generic services for the contracting authorities;
- promoting the use of eProcurement in Europe by creating awareness of transborder eProcurement benefits and opportunities<sup>16</sup>

IDABC's activities focus on:

- Analysis of standards and normalisation needs.
- Testing national solutions for eInvoicing in the European Commission environment.

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<sup>15</sup> IDABC Homepage: <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.epractice.eu/community/eprocurement>

- Gathering eProcurement professionals and projects around a single virtual table: the eProcurement Forum.
- Study on standardisation and mutual recognition of business attestations frequently required in public procurement.

Additional information on the European Commission's own IDABC eOrdering and eInvoicing project is given in the Annex of this report (chapter 9.2)

Pending EC approval