



# QUESTIONNAIRE on e-Invoicing

## Country Knowledge

- (1) What is the (legal) status of e-invoicing in public procurement in your country? Does legislation exist to make it mandatory, is it recommended (e.g. via a policy/action plan), or is its use purely voluntary?

Following the IKT-Konsolidierungsgesetz, § 5 (IKT-KongG) e-invoicing in public procurement is going to be mandatory by 1 January 2014. During 2013 businesses will have the possibility to adapt to that new standard.

- (2) If e-invoicing in public procurement is either mandatory or recommended, which actors are covered (i.e. central government only or regional/local bodies as well)?

Initially, only federal government is covered although regional and local bodies will be invited to take part in the initiative. For example Upper Austria should be able to use the solution provided by the federal government in the first quarter of 2013, talks with the Austrian Association of Municipalities will start in 2013.

- (3) What have been the costs and benefits of such an initiative?

Federal government receives currently appr. 2 million invoices from 60,000 contractors. E-invoicing will increase process optimisation significantly, i.e. transmitting, processing and handling on the same medium, less costs for paper and postal charges. In total, admin burden for businesses will be reduced by 14 million euros, the government will save appr. 5 million euros.

- (4) If e-invoicing in public procurement is purely voluntary, is it being used? If no, are there any plans to implement it in the near future? (*If you answered 'yes' to the first part, go to question (5); if you answered 'no', end of the questionnaire*).

- (5) What technical standards are used in e-invoicing in public procurement in your country? Do any standards predominate? Is there a mandated national standard?

PEPPOL is of course a standard which will be available, next to that three other options are available to submit e-invoices – 1. use of an online form (especially for small businesses), 2. upload of xml-files (eb Interface standard), 3. web-service.

- (6) What kind of system is used in your country for e-invoicing in public procurement? Are buyers' own platforms used exclusively/primarily or do service providers play a bigger role? In case of the latter, how are public procurement e-invoices submitted (e.g. four-corner model, Value Added Networks, etc.)?

E-invoices to federal government have to be submitted via a central government platform, the Unternehmensserviceportal (Business service portal) – [www.usp.gv.at](http://www.usp.gv.at). Businesses have to be registered on that platform which is also the identity provider.

- (7) What are the most common fee structures used for e-invoicing in public procurement? Are the costs borne mainly by suppliers or by buyers? Do service providers charge fees for the transfer of e-invoices between themselves (roaming fees)?

When using PEPPOL or USP contractors won't have any costs. If contractors use service providers to submit e-invoices in public procurement, the usual fees will be charged.

Please provide references to any reports or studies that in your view could be of interest in relation to our research/fact-finding on the implementation of e-invoicing in the EU.