



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?

The Federal Action plan for Administrative Simplification 2012 – 2015 includes an action (12-004), stating that e-Invoicing to the federal government services using FEDCOM, should be possible as from 1/1/2013. FEDCOM is the name of the accounting system of the federal government. A B2G e-Invoicing workgroup is in place to facilitate this project. The deadline has been pushed to 1/4/2013.

See <http://www.chastel.belgium.be/nl/vereenvoudig-het-leven-voorstelling-van-het-federaal-actieplan-administratieve-vereenvoudiging-2012>

- (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)?

The B2G e-Invoicing workgroup currently focuses on federal governmental level, but welcomes regional and local bodies. The envisaged solution will be open to any level.

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

This information is not available for the moment.

- (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*).

Not yet, as this is still work in progress. Yes, the B2G e-Invoicing workgroup is currently working on it.

- (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?

The B2G e-Invoicing workgroup has decided to use UBL as a message exchange standard. In the scope of this project, the standard will be mandatory.

- (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.)?

The B2G e-Invoicing workgroup has decided to re-use e-PRIOR, the open-source e-Procurement solution developed by the European Commission. Economic Operators will have the choice to

- connect directly to the implemented web-services;
- ask a service provider to do this on their behalf; or
- use a web portal to create and submit the invoice.

- (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)?

The use of the web-services or web portal will be free for the Economic Operator. If the Economic Operator decides to use a service provider, he will need to bear the costs for that.

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.