



PEPPOL  
PAN-EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ONLINE

*making  
procurement  
better.eu*

## For the Press

The Pan-European Public Procurement Online Project (PEPPOL) is **co-funded by the European Commission and 17 government agencies from 11 countries** (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom). PEPPOL contributes to the goals of the Commission's European Digital Agenda, which aims to support seamless cross-border eGovernment services in the single market.

PEPPOL was initiated in 2008 as a Large Scale Pilot project to provide a **standards-based and interoperable IT infrastructure and services** for cross-border public eProcurement in Europe. PEPPOL's activities are jointly funded by consortium members and the European Commission through the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) as part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

Following completion of the documentation of best practice content standards and common business processes and the establishment of an open exchange infrastructure across Europe in 2010, PEPPOL is now in its production pilot phase, with **22 pilots currently underway**.

Government purchases in the European Union account for an estimated 19% of GDP, or €2.2B annually. Currently, less than 5% of total procurement budgets are awarded electronically, and only 1.6% of contracts are supplied by an entity in another Member State. It is estimated that if eProcurement is adopted by all European contracting authorities, **annual savings could exceed €50B**.

By joining national eProcurement platforms and **connecting eProcurement communities on a standardised backbone**, PEPPOL aims at removing technical and procedural barriers to public

procurement and enable European businesses to deal electronically with any public buyers in their procurement processes. This gives companies (especially SMEs) access to a vast public procurement market, resulting in increased opportunities for businesses, greater efficiencies and lower costs.

Access to the PEPPOL transport infrastructure (**eDelivery** component) takes place through Access Points, with 18 currently completed or under development by both government agencies and private companies, and another 16 committed. The eDelivery component will be used by other EU-funded projects.

In the pre-award phase, PEPPOL offers three components to support the public tender process: **Validation of eSignatures** issued by certificate authorities; a **Virtual Company Dossier** to request and submit standardised company information and mutually recognised evidence (candidate statements, certificates and attestations); and **eCatalogues** to request and submit information about goods and services in a standardised format.

For the post-award process, PEPPOL offers: **eCatalogues** to exchange information about goods and services available under the contract; and eOrdering and eInvoicing using a defined set of processes to share common business information.

**PEPPOL can be used also as a business-to-business (B2B) platform**, with trials already in operation.

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