

Use Cases

Electronic Invoicing (eInvoice)





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Contents

Electronic Invoicing (eInvoice)	4
Overview	4
EN16931	4
Invoice.fans.....	4
Use Case: Electronic Invoicing in the Energy Industry.....	6
Simple. Conformant.	6

Electronic Invoicing (eInvoice)

Overview

In Germany alone, around 32 billion invoices (Source: FOCUS-Online, 25.6.2014, Author Sascha-Pascal Schimmel) are exchanged every year, an estimated three-quarters of which are still exchanged using conventional methods, i.e. not electronically. GEFEG has both the most common national, European and international standards for electronic invoices and the know-how for their further specification. However, it is not only the standards for the presentation of the invoice content that must be observed. The legislator requires documentation of the eInvoice interface(s) used for tax reasons.

The responsible managers in both the companies and the public administration agree: Companies and administration save money and time with electronic invoicing.

EN16931

The new Europe-wide standard for electronic invoices is EN16931, which implements the European Directive on electronic invoicing for contracting authorities (EN 2014/55/EU). Once transposed into national law, this becomes binding for public clients. The administrative standard XInvoice, which was adopted last week by the German IT Planning Council at its 23rd meeting, is the requirement for the implementation of EN16931 in public administration. The availability of this European accounting standard makes it easier for undecided companies to make the switch and increases their planning reliability.

Invoice.fans

The EU accounting experts quickly realised that not everyone needs every field of the EU core account for their own account. Therefore, the standard also regulates requirements for the description of profiles - the so-called Core Invoice Usage Specifications (CIUS), in German application recommendations. The portal [Invoice.fans](#) of GEFEG is now available as a central point of contact for information on implementation for the EU core invoice and its application recommendations. Many European countries are currently developing recommendations for the exchange of invoices in accordance with a Core Invoice Usage Specification. Rechnungs.fans first provides their draft versions.

The available formats include ZUGFeRD 2.0, which is called Factur-X at European level. This is an EN16931-compliant format for the exchange of hybrid invoices developed jointly between Germany and France. The German administrative standard XRechnung is also included, as is ZUGFeRCH, the version of ZUGFeRD 1.0 tailored to Switzerland.


For interested users and industry associations, a free tool will soon be available with which standard-compliant profiles (CIUS) can be developed. With the subsequent provision of these profiles in the portal, all other users have access to this information. This includes in particular the possibility to validate messages against these user-defined profiles.

"We want to make organisations that are concerned with the introduction of electronic invoices fans of electronic invoicing. With the new portal [Invoice.fans](#) we support a fast and high-quality implementation of the new invoice formats. However, it is also very important to us to promote the further development of standard-compliant profiles of invoice formats. In many discussions with accounting experts, we are repeatedly asked about ways of implementing industry peculiarities in a compliant manner without violating the standard," says Andreas Pelekies, Senior Consultant at GEFEG and long-standing companion for e-invoicing development in Germany. "The new CIUS tool allows you to quickly and easily create customized profiles that are at the same time interoperable with the standard calculation formats and thus assertive."

Use Case: Electronic Invoicing in the Energy Industry

FACTUR-X / ZUGFeRD Hybrid invoice of the German/French economic sector

- EN16931
European standard for electronic invoicing
- XRechnung
Implementation of the German authorities
- EDNA - Implementation of the energy sector
with XRechnung and ZUGFeRD/Factor-X



Simple. Conformant.

EDNA, the German Federal Association for Energy Market and Communication, has dealt with the standardised and automated communication of electronic invoices in its working group. The creation of electronic invoices is mandatory for some public clients as of 27.11.2020. These must comply with the requirements of the XInvoice and in particular EN16931. However, the standard does not provide a standardised solution for the special requirements of the energy sectors. However, meter readings and similar information are indispensable, especially for automated invoice verification.

EDNA has relied on GEFEG solutions to develop its industry standard. Especially the possibility to work on a standard together with several organizations was important. With the publication of the standard EDNA relies on the on-boarding solution of GEFEG. Implementers can easily check their invoices for conformity with the EDNA standard and thus ensure that they can also be processed by the German administration.



"Especially in the energy industry, the topic of standardization is playing an increasingly important role. Our industry sometimes has very specific requirements, for example when it comes to electronic invoicing. With the help of GEFEG's solutions, we can easily map our requirements to existing standards. In this way we achieve a uniform implementation in the industry and the member companies can use the cost savings more quickly."

Dirk Heinze, President EDNA-Bundesverband