

e-Invoicing for Public Administrations

Issuance of legal invoices addressed to European
Public Administrations



Introduction

The principles driving **European legislation on electronic invoicing** highlight the potential of this type of documents **to develop efficiencies and competitive advantages** in business management.

It is also the case that the “old continent” is conditioned by a **common legislative framework resulting from the “European Union”**, which stipulates that the different member countries may not in any case develop standards contrary to the directives issued by the European governing bodies.

In this context, the different European e-invoicing directives have promoted the development of rules which, far from imposing their mandatory nature in order to control commercial transactions (as in Latin America), have encouraged the development of **legislative initiatives based on agreement between the parties involved and freedom in terms of formats and procedures**, as long as the **integrity and authenticity of the electronic document is assured**.

Despite this, great efforts are still being made in Europe to **encourage the uptake of e-Invoicing**. One of the most decisive initiatives in this regard is the project known as **“The European Digital Agenda”**, which, among other measures, calls upon the public administrations of the different EU member states to define a public procurement framework based on electronic procedures that includes the digital invoice.

This directive is consolidated among other standards in **Directive 2014/55/EU**, which lays down the premises for the **development of a European e-billing standard in B2G that facilitates the sending of this type of documents regardless of the supplier’s country of origin**. This standard, which comes into force in November 2018, will not focus on the development of a single syntax (XML, EDIFACT, X12, etc.), but will instead propose “semantic” interoperability rules to ensure the presence of minimum data on any invoice addressed to a European public administration.

The consequences of these initiatives can already be seen in different European countries: Italy, France or Spain already have B2G e-invoicing projects firmly in place. Germany or the Netherlands are rapidly advancing in the development of their systems and, in the short term, the remaining European countries will be required to join this initiative to promote B2G electronic invoicing.

EDICOM solution for e-invoicing with Public Administrations

EDICOM's International e-Invoicing Platform implements all the necessary functionality to guarantee the sending of legal electronic invoices according to the specifications of the **B2G e-billing systems in force in the European Union**.

Suppliers of products and services to European governments, administrations and institutions will find in **EDICOM an agile and permanently updated solution in compliance with the requirements of the different EU countries**.

Aspects such as **adaptation of the standards regulated by each country** (usually XML), the application of e-signatures, or **forwarding to the different administrations** through the connectors defined (usually Web Services https), are resolved transparently for any issuer using EDICOM services to take their "B2G Compliant e-Invoicing" project forward.

Moreover, these are projects in which the public administrations usually set up a communications flow with their suppliers, for whom they periodically issue status messages reporting the payment management situation of each document received. **The EDICOM platform works in both directions**, integrating each administration's communications to make it easier for suppliers to monitor the current status of each invoice sent.



Who is it aimed at?

Any **supplier to one or more European public administrations** is liable to become a user of the EDICOM Public Administrations e-Invoicing platform.

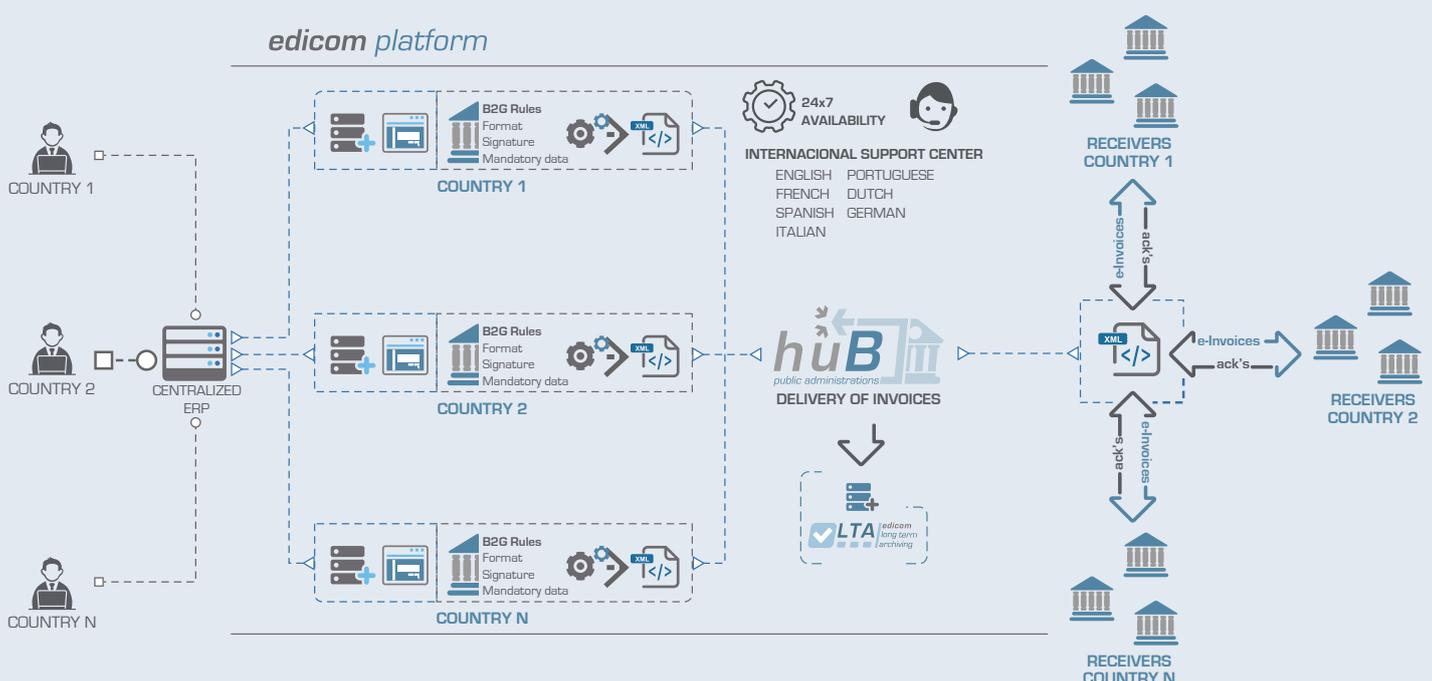
EDICOM will develop a **project adapted to the needs of each supplier** based on aspects such as the number of administrations to connect with, volume of invoices issued, or countries to integrate.

The specific needs of the project will determine aspects such as the number of environments to be included, the data transformation schemas to be implemented, or particularities in terms of digital signatures, invoice storage systems, point-to-point communications protocols or the integration of customized receipt acknowledgements adapted to the procedures of each recipient administration.



How the solution works

- 01** The EDICOM platform **sets up an environment for each invoice-issuing country** subscribing to your organization.
- 02** The EDICOM platform **integrates with your central management system or ERP** central to capture the data recorded by your users which will be used to issue the e-invoices.
- 03** **From the data structures provided by your ERP**, the EDICOM platform **identifies the recipient public administration for each invoice**, channelling it towards the environment configured in the platform (Country 1, Country 2, Country N).
- 04** The EDICOM platform **transforms the data from the ERP into the electronic document schema required in each case** (usually XML). At the same time **the required rules are applied in each case** (B2G Rules): Syntactic document validation, semantic validation, checking the presence of minimum data, verification of e-signatures, etc.
- 05** The resulting e-invoices **are transferred to the EDICOM Public Administrations HUB**. This service sets up a node with connectors adapted to the specifications of the different European B2G e-invoicing projects, automating the routing of each invoice to ensure it is sent to the recipient securely and through the channel required in each case.
- 06** **Recipients issue different receipt acknowledgements (ACKs)** reporting on the invoices and their processing status. These notifications are routed through the EDICOM Public Administrations Hub as response messages from the different administrations.
- 07** **The exchanged documents are stored by the EDICOMLta** (Edicom Long Term Archiving) service. The storage system hierarchizes the documents, tracking each invoice with pertinent notices or acknowledgments. Safekeeping is legal custody guaranteed by Trust Services Provider EDICOM, which grants legal value to the stored files in accordance with the **European "eIDAS" regulation**.



Why choose **edicom** connecting business

- ✓ EDICOM is an international company with projects up and running in over 65 countries, managed from 8 permanent offices in Europe, the USA and Latin America.
- ✓ We are a company specializing in the development of data integration solutions, operating in the international scope since 1995.
- ✓ EDICOM is a Qualified Trust Service Provider for the issuance of electronic certificates and digital signature services in Europe. This simplifies the e-signature application processes required by the different European B2G e-invoicing systems.
- ✓ Through EDICOM, you will access an international support service available in up to 7 languages and run by qualified staff specialized in compliant e-invoicing processes.
- ✓ Service availability is guaranteed 99,9% of the time under the SLA (Service Level Agreement) committed by EDICOM.
- ✓ We apply the most rigorous procedures to ensure the security of all your documents under strict quality standards.

ISO 27001

ISO 20000

ISAE 3402

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Need our help?

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EDICOM is a multinational specialist in e-Invoicing and electronic data interchange (EDI), with ongoing B2B2G data integration projects in over 65 countries.

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