

Press Release

New Release ZUGFeRD 2.1 and Factur-X 1.0 - A common hybrid E-Invoicing Standard for Germany and France

FeRD and FNFE-MPE publish an EN 16931 compliant and freely available standard

Eschborn | Paris, March 24th, 2020. The Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany (FeRD) and the French National Forum for Electronic Invoicing and Marketplace & Public E-procurement (FNFE-MPE) publish their new versions ZUGFeRD 2.1 and Factur-X 1.0, which are fully compatible and technically identical. As a result, exchanging electronic invoices between Germany and France will be very easy from now on. Both forums are officially supported and collaborate since 2015. *“The release of a common standard for electronic invoicing and the synchronization of the German and French hybrid format is the result of a long collaboration between FeRD and the FNFE-MPE”* states Cyrille Sautereau, Chair of the French forum. This new common release contributes to increasing the acceptance of electronic invoices and the use of a universal standard in Europe.

The invoice format ZUGFeRD 2.1 / Factur-X 1.0 is freely available. Its technical specifications are based on the international UN/CEFACT standard “Cross Industry Invoice (CII)” and ISO-standard PDF/A-3. It is compliant with the European Norm EN 16931, which regulates the requirements for electronic invoices to ensure legal compliance and interoperability. Electronic invoices in the ZUGFeRD and Factur-X format are already largely integrated into accounting, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solutions, and Chorus Pro’s unique platform for French B2G invoices. *“We have already made very good experiences with the former version of ZUGFeRD concerning cross-sector and domestic trade, and we are sure that full cross-border interoperability of the new version is of great benefit for international transactions”*, states Ivo Moszynski, Chair of the German forum.

The new common version also enables the exchange of standardized electronic invoices between businesses (B2B) as well as between businesses and public administrations (B2G). B2G exchange gains importance at a time, when all levels of public administration including states and municipalities are obliged to guarantee the reception of electronic invoices by April 18th, 2020 at the latest in Germany.

Free Download of ZUGFeRD 2.1 and Factur-X 1.0

The ZUGFeRD /Factur-X standard is a hybrid electronic invoice format consisting of two components: a PDF file and an embedded XML file. The PDF is the visual representation of the invoice and therefore, can be easily read. The XML file, on the other hand, contains invoice data in a structured form in order to be automatically machine-processed. Different profiles of invoice data are proposed identically in ZUGFeRD / Factur-X Standard in order to fit with the ability of the sender to provide them and the needs of the receiver.

=> ZUGFeRD 2.1: www.ferd-net.de/ZUGFeRD-Download

=> Factur-X 1.0: www.fnfe-mpe.org/factur-x/

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About FeRD

The “Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany” (FeRD) is the national platform of associations, ministries, and companies for the promotion of electronic invoicing in Germany. Top-level state agencies, federal ministries, and business associations founded the forum on March 31st, 2010 in Berlin. FeRD is part of the “Working Group for Economic Administration” (AWV) that in turn receives financial support by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

The forum aims to increase the acceptance and dissemination of electronic invoices in Germany, Europe, and beyond. FeRD’s structure includes competence centers that solve communications, compliance, technical and networking issues. www.ferd-net.de

About FNFE-MPE

Founded in January 2012, the National Forum for Electronic Invoicing and Marketplace & Public E-procurement (FNFE-MPE) has been set up as an association since April 2016. Its mission is to enable the widest consultation between all French public and private players in the context of the deployment of electronic invoices and public e-procurement on the national market and in collaboration with other EU Member State National Forums. FNFE-MPE is a force for proposals in the definition of regulations, public policies and any incentive measures contributing to this objective. It participates in European Standardization works, especially the EN 16931 and its implementation in hybrid invoice standard Factur-x / ZUGFeRD.

The FNFE-MPE has more than 65 members, companies, associations, sectoral representatives, professional unions, service providers, software editors, experts and consultants, and represents France at the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Electronic Invoicing (EMSFEI). It supports and promotes the adoption of standards and good practices for e-invoicing deployment in companies of all sizes and all sectors. www.fnfe-mpe.org