

Press Release

The new version Factur-X/ZUGFeRD is published Germany and France are growing together

Eschborn | Paris, March 01st 2022. The Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany (FeRD) and the French National Forum for Electronic Invoicing and MarketPlaces & Public Electronic procurement (FNFE-MPE) have been working together since 2015 on the creation of a Franco-German standard for electronic invoices, which should help ease the exchange of invoice information in domestic transactions and across borders particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. Following the publication of the last version Factur-X/ZUGFeRD 2.1, fully aligned and compliant with the European Norm EN16931, in March 2020, FNFE-MPE and FeRD teams have continued their work to maintain Factur-X/ZUGFeRD standard in the perspective of the obligation for electronic invoices exchange between domestic companies in France (B2B mandate) and the need to have a B2G German specific XRECHNUNG profile in Germany. In addition, following the publication of Order-X, the hybrid format for digitized order processing, in April 2021, further elements have been added to the profile EXTENDED to enable the implementation of a continuous workflow without media discontinuity, from the purchase order to the invoice transmission.

The new versions of Factur-X 1.0.06/ZUGFeRD 2.2 respectively are technically identical formats. To emphasize this, specification and technical appendices have now been aggregated to one uniform document. The document will be available in German, English and French. The proposed extension of the profiles by a newly introduced reference profile XRECHNUNG, as recently proposed by the German side and implemented for the first time in ZUGFeRD version 2.1.1, will now be an integral part of the common Factur-X/ZUGFeRD standard. This provides the means for incorporate further extensions to the European standard, such as the German CIUS "XRechnung", in a universalised form. *"The reference profile makes it easier for companies to implement e-invoicing, because they are now able to map any country-specific version of the European standard for electronic invoices within one single format"*, emphasises Ivo Moszynski, Head of FeRD. In the same way, a "reference profile" EXTENDED_B2B_FR, subset of the updated EXTENDED profile, has been added in order to address all use cases identified in France, as electronic invoices will be mandatory for domestic invoice exchanges.

The Factur-X/ZUGFeRD invoice format is freely available. The technical specification is based on the international UN/CEFACT standard Cross Industry Invoice (CII) and on the ISO standard PDF/A-3. This complies with the European standard EN 16931, which specifies the standards and technical rules for electronic invoicing in Europe, thus ensuring interoperability and compliance with legal regulations. In addition, Factur-X/ZUGFeRD integrates a large EXTENDED profile which constitutes a standard library of additional invoice data which could be necessary for specific needs or use cases. Electronic invoices of the format ZUGFeRD and Factur-X have already been extensively integrated into accounting software, solutions for business resource planning (ERP) and the French national platform ChorusPro, which will play a central role in the B2B mandate reform. Thus, Factur-X is one of the three formats which all companies and certified platform will have to accept on reception in July 2024 in France, especially for SMEs use, which represent 99 % of companies and more than 50 % of invoice flows.

The exchange of electronic invoices between companies and between companies and public administration has now become even more convenient with the now fully unified standard Factur-X/ZUGFeRD. The development in France along with other countries, in which a standardized exchange of electronic invoices is aimed not only at B2G but also at B2B level, shows where the journey for electronic invoices is headed. Factur-X/ZUGFeRD gives companies a tool that helps them in the best possible way to get ready for future developments in the field of or digitalization of the supply chain: *“This new level of standardisation of the common e-invoice format in Germany and France has given us the opportunity to complete the EN 16931 to address 100 % of use cases and develop Order-X, a format designed for order processing, compatible with Factur-X and based on the same data set”*, explains the chairman of the FNFE-MPE, Cyrille Sautereau.

Free download of ZUGFeRD 2.2 and Factur-X 1.0.06

The Factur-X/ZUGFeRD standard is a hybrid electronic invoice format that consists of two components: a PDF and an embedded XML file. The PDF file represents the visual part of the invoice and is therefore readable by humans. The XML file contains structured invoice data that is processed automatically and by machines. The format contains different profiles of the invoice data, which are identical in ZUGFeRD and Factur-X. This tailors the data of the sender to the requirements of the recipient.

You can download it free of charge here:

- ⇒ ZUGFeRD 2.2: www.ferd-net.de/ZUGFeRD-Download
- ⇒ Factur-X 1.0.06: www.fnfe-mpe.org/factur-x/

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About FeRD

The “Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany” (FeRD) was founded on 31st March 2010 in Berlin with the participation of various federal and state ministries, the Federal Chancellery (Secretariat of the National Standards Monitoring Council, Bureaucracy Reduction Office) as well as the central associations of the economy, some professional associations under the umbrella of the AWV – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für wirtschaftliche Verwaltung e.V. (Working Group for Economic Administration), which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy based on a resolution of the German Bundestag. The Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany is the central contact point for all market players and deals with strategic issues concerning electronic

invoicing as a sub-process of the supply chain. The Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany is committed to establishing a vital ecosystem for electronic invoicing in Germany. In addition, there is also an exchange with EU member states and worldwide. www.ferd-net.de

About FNFE-MPE

The French National Forum for Electronic Invoicing and Public Electronic Procurement (FNFE-MPE) was founded in January 2012 and has been an association since April 2016. Its task is to enable extensive consultations between actors in the public and private sector in France, relating to the provision of electronic invoices and public electronic procurement, and to promote cooperation with national forums in other EU member states. In this context, the FNFE-MPE develops proposals for the definition of ordinances, state programs and funding. The forum works in cooperation with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and participates in the standardization work of EN 16931, as well as in the implementation of the hybrid invoice standard Factur-X/ ZUGFeRD. The FNFE-MPE consists of more than 100 members, companies, associations, industry representatives, professional associations, service providers, software manufacturers, experts and consultants, and represents France in the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Electronic Invoicing (EMSFEI). It fosters and promotes the adoption of standards and best practices for the provisioning of electronic invoices in companies of all sizes and sectors. <http://fnfe-mpe.org>