Facilitating interoperable electronic procurement across Europe
Benefits of e-procurement

*Process benefits:*
- Generates cost savings on data encoding
- Enhances data quality
- Allows meeting tighter timelines
- Reduces payment deadlines
- Ensures transparency for the suppliers

*Organisational benefits:*
- Improves the image of the organisation
- Automation helps providing efficient and high-quality services
- Attracts better offers due to faster invoice/payment processing
- Uses a paperless process that is environment friendly


"Europe needs better administrative cooperation to develop and deploy cross-border public online services. This includes the implementation of seamless e-procurement."

*Source: European Digital Agenda*

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**What is e-PRIOR?**

e-PRIOR is a service-oriented platform developed by DIGIT under the ISA programme. It exchanges post-award documents by using web services or over the PEPPOL network through its built-in gateway. PEPPOL (Pan-European Public...
Procurement Online — [http://www.peppol.eu](http://www.peppol.eu) is a large-scale pilot funded by the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) focusing on cross-border e-procurement. e-PRIOR also implements the emerging e-procurement standards.

**Who uses e-PRIOR?**

e-PRIOR is the solution used by the European Commission, the European Union Agencies and Institutions, and their suppliers.

**What about Open e-PRIOR?**

Open e-PRIOR is the open-source version of the platform targeted at the Member States, offering the same functionality as e-PRIOR.

**Main features of e-PRIOR**

- Can interconnect multiple suppliers with multiple back-office systems, while guaranteeing the authenticity of origin, integrity and readability of all transferred documents
- Provides a built-in gateway to the PEPPOL network
- Complies with the following: CEN/BII profiles, e-invoicing directive, standard identifiers and code lists, WS-Interoperability guidelines
- Is capable of processing unlimited attachments per invoice (XLS, PDF, DOC)
- Is able to route documents from multiple suppliers to the appropriate back office on the contracting authority’s side.
- Covers the whole post-awarding cycle of e-procurement: e-Catalogue, e-Ordering, e-Fulfilment, e-Invoicing...

**Included applications**

- **Supplier Portal e-Invoicing**: web portal allowing SME and individuals to encode their invoices using a web form and submit them to their customer

- **Central Catalogue Management System**: web application allowing users to browse and validate supplier catalogue
**How does it work?**

**e-Invoicing scenario**

The following steps take place when a supplier sends an invoice to a contracting authority through the PEPPOL network using the e-invoicing web service of e-PRIOR.

1. **Step 1:** The supplier encodes the invoice in its own system, according to the supplier workflow.

2. **Step 2:** The supplier system conveys the invoice to e-PRIOR (via the PEPPOL network).

3. **Step 3:** e-PRIOR pre-processes the invoice.

4. **Step 4:** e-PRIOR routes the invoice to the appropriate back office at the contracting authority.

5. **Step 5:** Invoice is handled using the back office workflow and then the back office sends a response to e-PRIOR.

6. **Step 6:** The supplier receives an application response.
Why use e-PRIOR?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Enables <strong>reusability</strong> of a solution that has already been implemented at the European Commission</th>
<th>Has been <strong>deployed</strong> and is being used by the European Commission and other EU Institutions</th>
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| Is worth **three years** of analysis, development and testing | “Stimulate trans-border e-commerce by the promotion, and government adoption, of interoperable e-procurement, e-invoicing and e-payment systems based on open and flexible technologies.”
*Source: Granada Ministerial Declaration, 19 April 2010* |
| Provides a **free-to-use open-source** version | |
| Allows **sharing** of practical experience and lessons learned | |
| **Assistance** is provided to Member States, Agencies and European Institutions | |
And also...

- e-PRIOR uses standards for enabling pan-European interoperability and thus more suppliers are ready to invest in connecting to the platform
- Buyers can adopt a gradual approach for implementing e-procurement
- e-PRIOR provides connectivity to the PEPPOL network via a built-in and turnkey PEPPOL gateway

“Embed innovation and cost-effectiveness into e-government through the systematic promotion of open standards and interoperable systems, development of EU-wide e-authentication schemes and proactive development of e-invoicing, e-procurement (and pre-commercial procurement).”

Source: Granada Ministerial Declaration, 19 April 2010

- Every supplier connected to the PEPPOL network is automatically connected to e-PRIOR.
What’s next?

- The pre-awarding cycle is under development

“We will ensure that open specifications are promoted in our national interoperability frameworks in order to lower barriers to the market.”

Source: Ministerial Declaration on e-government, 18 November 2009
Are you interested in e-PRIOR?

- Contact our dedicated e-PRIOR team by e-mail at DIGIT-EPRIOR-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu

Are you interested in Open e-PRIOR?

**Participate:**

- Join the Open e-PRIOR community in order to learn more about the project, contribute with your feedback and participate in the making of this platform through http://joinup.ec.europa.eu/software/openeprior/home

**Download:**

- Download the latest version of Open e-PRIOR from http://joinup.ec.europa.eu/software/openeprior/release/all

- Read documentation about Open e-PRIOR, including a guide on how to get Open e-PRIOR running and understand the software architecture through http://joinup.ec.europa.eu/software/openeprior/elibrary/all

**Contact our dedicated team:**

- In the forum at http://joinup.ec.europa.eu/software/openeprior/forum/all
Related links

- PEPPOL (Pan-European Public Procurement Online):
  http://www.peppol.eu/

- e-PRIOR case:
  http://www.epractice.eu/cases/ePRIOR

- ISA (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations):
  http://ec.europa.eu/isa
Follow us on Twitter @ePRIOR_EU

Join our e-PRIOR group on LinkedIn

Contact us at DIGIT-EPRIOR-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu