

Using the Peppol Network for Domestic E-Invoicing in Belgium

Overview

The Peppol (Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line) network enables standardized electronic document exchange between businesses. For Belgian domestic e-invoicing, both sender and receiver communicate through access points like HubBroker, which acts as the service provider connecting participants to the Peppol network.

Key Components

Participants

- **Sender:** The business issuing the e-invoice
- **Receiver:** The business receiving the e-invoice
- **Service Provider (HubBroker):** The certified Peppol access point facilitating the exchange

Identification

Each participant needs a Peppol ID (also called Participant ID), which in Belgium typically uses:

- Enterprise number (KBO/BCE number) - format: 0208:BExxxxxxxxxx (11 digits)
- GLN (Global Location Number) - format: 0088:57xxxxxxxxxx
- VAT number - format: 9925:BExxxxxxxxxx

Outbound E-Invoicing Process (Sending)

1. Registration with HubBroker

- The sender registers as a Peppol participant through HubBroker
- Receives their Peppol ID configuration
- HubBroker registers the sender in the Peppol SMP (Service Metadata Publisher) directory

2. Invoice Creation

- Sender creates invoice in their ERP/accounting system
- Invoice is converted to Peppol BIS Billing 3.0 format (UBL or CII XML standard)

3. Transmission via HubBroker

- Sender submits the e-invoice to HubBroker (via API, file upload, or system integration)
- HubBroker validates the invoice format and content
- HubBroker looks up the receiver's access point in the Peppol SML/SMP directory

- HubBroker sends the invoice through the Peppol network to the receiver's access point

4. Delivery Confirmation

- HubBroker provides delivery status back to the sender
- Sender receives confirmation that the invoice reached the receiver's access point

Inbound E-Invoicing Process (Receiving)

1. Registration with HubBroker

- The receiver registers their Peppol ID with HubBroker
- HubBroker publishes the receiver's endpoint information in the Peppol SMP directory
- This makes the receiver discoverable to all Peppol senders

2. Invoice Reception

- When a sender transmits an invoice to the receiver's Peppol ID, the sender's access point queries the Peppol directory
- The directory returns HubBroker's endpoint information
- The invoice is routed through the Peppol network to HubBroker

3. Processing via HubBroker

- HubBroker receives and validates the incoming e-invoice
- HubBroker can transform the invoice format if needed (e.g., from XML to the receiver's preferred format)
- HubBroker notifies the receiver of the new invoice

4. Delivery to Receiver

- Invoice is delivered to the receiver through their preferred method:
- Direct integration with ERP/accounting system (API)
- Web portal access through HubBroker's platform
- Email notification with download link
- File transfer (SFTP, AS2, etc.)

Belgian-Specific Requirements

For domestic Belgian e-invoicing via Peppol, ensure:

- **KBO/BCE number:** Belgian companies must use their enterprise number from Kruispuntbank van Ondernemingen (KBO) / Banque-Carrefour des Entreprises (BCE) as the Peppol identifier (format 0208:BExxxxxxxxxx)
- **Multilingual support:** Belgium has three official languages (Dutch, French, German) - invoices may need appropriate language support



- **VAT requirements:** Invoices must include Belgian VAT information (BTW/TVA/MwSt number) correctly formatted
- **Public sector mandate:** Belgian public authorities are required to receive e-invoices via Peppol
- **HERMES platform:** For B2G (Business-to-Government) invoicing, integration with the Belgian HERMES platform may be required
- **Structured communication:** Belgian payment references (structured communication) should be included when applicable

Benefits of Using HubBroker as Service Provider

- **Single connection:** Connect once to reach all Peppol participants globally
- **Format handling:** HubBroker manages format conversions and validations
- **Compliance:** Ensures invoices meet Peppol, Belgian, and EU requirements
- **Directory management:** HubBroker handles SMP registration and updates
- **Support:** Technical assistance for onboarding and troubleshooting in Belgian context
- **Monitoring:** Track invoice status and delivery confirmations
- **B2G compliance:** HubBroker facilitates proper connectivity to Belgian public sector requirements
- **Multilingual capability:** Support for Belgium's linguistic requirements

Implementation Steps

- Choose your Peppol ID (typically KBO/BCE-based: 0208:BExxxxxxxxxx)
- Sign agreement with HubBroker as your Peppol access point provider
- Configure integration between your systems and HubBroker
- Test transactions in HubBroker's test environment
- Go live and start exchanging e-invoices domestically and internationally

Belgian E-Invoicing Landscape

Belgium has an evolving e-invoicing ecosystem with:

- **Public sector:** Mandatory e-invoicing for public procurement since 2019
- **B2G mandate:** All suppliers to Belgian public entities must send e-invoices via Peppol
- **HERMES platform:** Central receiving platform for federal government e-invoices
- **Private sector adoption:** Growing B2B e-invoicing adoption driven by efficiency and EU directives
- **EU compliance:** Alignment with European e-invoicing standards and ViDA (VAT in the Digital Age) initiative
- **Future B2B mandate:** Belgium is expected to mandate B2B e-invoicing in coming years, following EU trends

Regional Considerations

Belgium's federal structure means:

- **Federal government:** Uses HERMES platform for invoice reception
- **Regional authorities:** Flemish, Walloon, and Brussels regions may have specific requirements
- **Language preferences:** Ensure invoice language matches the receiver's region when possible

The Peppol network enables seamless domestic Belgian e-invoicing while also providing the capability to exchange invoices with international partners across Europe and beyond using the same infrastructure and processes.

