Value of eDelivery piloting activity:

- Introducing and giving practice about the principles of EU digital single infrastructure (legal, procedural aspects and technical standards), through usage of Peppol.
- Piloting connection of EaP countries to Peppol network to enable highly standardised exchange of messages between any Network member.
- Piloting interoperability between EU and EaP countries.

Executive summary

After initial discussions with pilot countries about the eDelivery piloting activity, the possible expectations were identified. Therefore, it was summarised how these expectations will be covered in the scope of eDelivery pilot.

In the scope of eDelivery pilot the following **will be tested**:

- the discovery and identification of participating parties (businesses and Public administrations);
- interoperable, secure, reliable and trusted data exchange channel – eDelivery – between selected pilot country pairs;
- the exchange of digital invoice messages between participating parties via trusted eDelivery channel.

In the scope of eDelivery pilot the following **is not included**:

- harmonization of document standards;
- assurance legal validity of digital invoice;
- testing exchange of documents, other than invoices;
- changes in related processes other than documents exchange and validity testing (e.g., treasury servicing of budget funds, tax audits, court proceedings, archiving);
- legal activities in relation to eSignature (these would be done in a separate dedicated pilot);
- development of specific legislative amendments to implement pilot results at the nation-wide level.

Prerequisites

- Confirmed pilot countries nominate both Public administrations and businesses for eDelivery pilot.
- OppenPEPPOL testing network is used to pilot eDelivery.

The eDelivery pilot is the starting point when initial base for digital invoice exchange via eDelivery will be set and tested. Further, the recommendations regarding the required legal, organisational, technical, process related adjustments to be made for full scale solution implementation on a national level will be prepared; they will facilitate further bilateral dialogue and extension of the pilot. EU4Digital Facility will support these discussions.

Identified possible expectations and approach how they will be realised in the scope of eDelivery pilot are defined in the table below.

#	Possible expectations	Scope of eDelivery pilot
1.	Test discovery and identification of the companies and Public administration	In the scope of eDelivery pilot, the pilot party discovery and identification in OpenPEPPOL testing network via Service Metadata Locator will be tested. Successful pilot is defined in the following way: - pilot country registers businesses and Public administrations in Service Metadata Publisher (SMP) in OpenPEPPOL testing network; - registered parties are discoverable in Service Metadata Locator (SML); - sender is be able to find the SMP where the document receiver has registered its endpoints and defined the type of documents that are accepted; - after receiver's SMP is identified the business data is ready to be sent.
2.	Test interoperable, secure, reliable and trusted data exchange channel between PL – UA, BY - MD	In the scope of CEF eDelivery Building Block pilot (eDelivery pilot), the main goal is to test interoperable, secure, reliable and trusted data exchange between EaP countries and the EU and provide recommendation for future development of such exchange. The interoperability, security, reliability and trust aspects are embedded in the eDelivery solution by design, meaning that: - **Interoperability.** Automatic discovery of the party in Open Peppol Network. - **Security.** Security certificates are being applied – exchanges messages are encrypted and not reachable by unauthorised users. - **Reliability**. Data exchange via eDelivery is based on AS4 (Applicability Statement 4 is a Conformance Profile of the OASIS ebMS 3.0) specification. - **Trust.** Data exchange via eDelivery is possible, if the parties that are involved in the exchange process have obtained required certificates from OpenPEPPOL network, according to eIDAS Regulation. Successful pilot is defined in the following way: - Participating parties (Business and / or Public Administrations) use OpenPEPPOL eDelivery; - Service provider sets up the required infrastructure / implement software for data exchange via eDelivery; - Participating parties test and confirm that the data exchanged via eDelivery is received.
3.	Testing exchange of trusted document	In the scope of eDelivery pilot, the exchange of messages between the APs will be tested via trusted eDelivery channel. The document exchange **will not be tested** in the scope of this pilot. Also, it is important to note that the **transmitted data** (legal and technological differences between the definitions of data and documents should be aligned between countries) via eDelivery could not be considered as legally valid unless qualified digital signatures or other Trust services certified by eIDAS would be applied.
4.	Harmonization of document standards	Harmonization of document standards is not within the scope of the eDelivery pilot project. The scope that will be piloted is defined in the possible expectation #5.
5.	Testing exchange of validity of exchanged digital invoice	In the scope of eDelivery pilot, selected businesses and Public administrations will exchange digital invoices using eDelivery solution. Two scenarios are planned: 1. Company A in Pilot country A exports and sends digital invoice via eDelivery – Company B in Pilot country B imports and receives digital invoice (and vice versa).

#	Possible expectations	Scope of eDelivery pilot
		2. Company C in Pilot country A and sends digital invoice via eDelivery – Public Administration in Pilot country B imports and receives digital invoice (and vice versa).
		Legal validity of exchanged digital invoices and possibility to test it during the pilot will be explored from the standpoint of national legislation of piloting countries. Recommendation will be provided regarding the required legislative amendments to implement the pilot. If the existing national legislation does not set specific requirements to invoices, their form and aspects of exchange digital invoices via eDelivery, the changes in legal basis will not be suggested.
		Moreover, if there are no possibilities to test the legal validity of exchanged digital invoices on a national level due to the lack of required legal basis, the options to test their validity between businesses based on Memorandum of Understanding or other agreements will be investigated.
6.	Test if Public administration is able to receive documents exchanged via eDelivery solution	In the scope of eDelivery pilot, the Business to Business communication (B2B) will be tested, where interested Public administration will receive the exchanged invoice. The process of successful pilot is defined in the possible expectation #1.
		Specific eDelivery use cases to be piloted and Public administrations, businesses that will be involved in the pilot activities will be agreed between piloting countries.
7.	Test if business is able to receive documents exchanged via eDelivery solution	In the scope of eDelivery pilot, the Business to Business communication (B2B) will be tested. The process of successful pilot is defined in the possible expectation #1.
		Specific eDelivery use cases to be piloted and businesses that will be involved in the pilot activities will be agreed between piloting countries.

Dictionary / Abbreviations

#	Term	Meaning
1.	Access Point (AP)	The technical connector of a software solution that implements a standardised message exchange protocol and is capable of sending and / or receiving business data / documents
2.	Application Statement 4 (AS4)	Transport protocol specified by OASIS. It was used in the eSENS project and adopted by CEF.The Peppol AS4 profile v2 is the mandatory transport protocol in the Peppol eDelivery network since 2020-02-01. See https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/Media+library+-+Infographics?preview=/82773424/82795973/FactSheet-AS4-10.pdf
3.	Business Interoperability Specification (BIS)	A Peppol created specification that define how a business document exchange should take place and how the Universal Business Language (UBL) elements are bound to semantic elements
4.	Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)	An instrument of the EC for funding and informing about e-Delivery, e-Invoicing etc. solutions. See https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/connecting-europe-facility.
5.	Core Invoice User Specification (CIUS)	Defines how to adopt EN 16931-1, the European Norm on e-Invoicing (EN) to local requirements. Billing BIS 3 is a CIUS of the EN

#	Term	Meaning
6.	eDelivery	The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) eDelivery building block proposes the use of the AS4 messaging protocol to create a secure channel for the transmission of documents and data by electronic means, over the internet or via a private network. AS4 both provides evidence relating to the handling of the transmitted data as well as protecting it against the risk of loss, theft, damage or any unauthorised alterations.
		See https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/eDelivery.
		https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/Media+library+-+Infographics?preview=/82773424/82802135/eDelivery_Flyer_FINAL.pdf
7.	Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS)	International standardization organisation.
		See https://www.oasis-open.org/.
8.	OpenPEPPOL	Non-profit international association under Belgian law (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif – AISBL) and consists of both public sector and private members. The association has assumed full responsibility for the development and maintenance of the PEPPOL specifications, building blocks and its services and implementation across Europe.
		See https://peppol.eu/about-openpeppol/what-is-openpeppol/.
9.	PEPPOL	PEPPOL is a set of artifacts and specifications enabling cross-border eProcurement. The use of PEPPOL is governed by a multi-lateral agreement structure which is owned and maintained by OpenPEPPOL. PEPPOL is not an e-Procurement platform but instead provides a set of technical specifications that can be implemented in existing eProcurement solutions and eBusiness exchange services to make them interoperable between disparate systems across Europe. PEPPOL enables trading partners to exchange standards-based electronic documents over the PEPPOL network (based on a 4-corner model).
		See https://peppol.eu/what-is-peppol/.
10.	Service Metadata Locator (SML)	Only central component in the PEPPOL eDelivery Network. Every SMP must initially be registered to the SML.
11.	Service Metadata Publisher (SMP)	The decentralized directory service (registry) of OpenPEPPOL. SMPs are normally only operated by Service Providers and not by end users. An SMP contains information about the endpoints of receivers - the URLs where to send the main documents to. The information within the SMP is structured by participant ID, document type ID and process ID.