

Transparency in public procurement



Public Procurement Platform in The Basque Country (Kontratazio A Platform)

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BASQUE GOVERNMENTMinistry of Economy and Finance

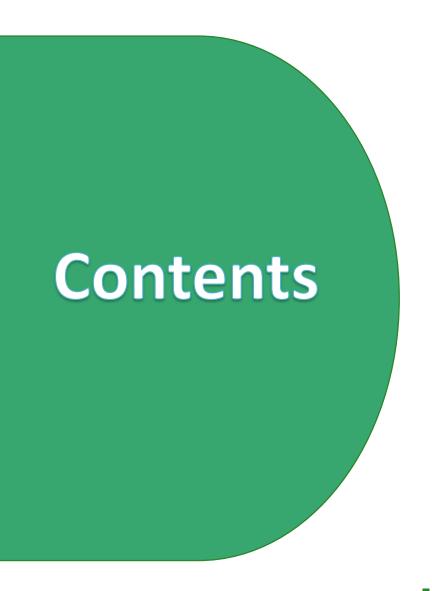








Implementation as eSenders of the new eForms (eNotices2)

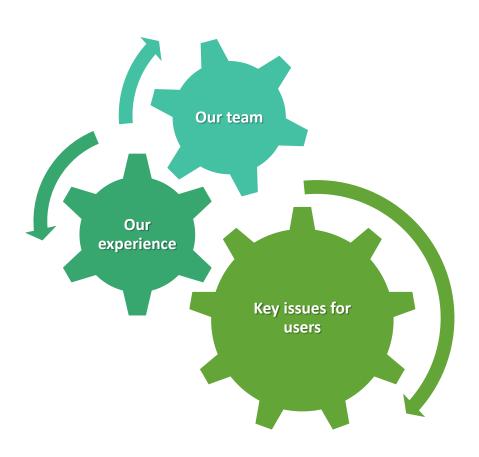


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1. Introduction







Collaborative work

- Public procurement Director
- Responsible of KontratazioA Platform
- Technical assistance
- Software developers

Communication

• Close, helpful and agile Feedback

Public procurement strategies

- European Public Procurement Strategy 2020
- National Public Procurement Strategy 2023-2026

Immediate attention service for users

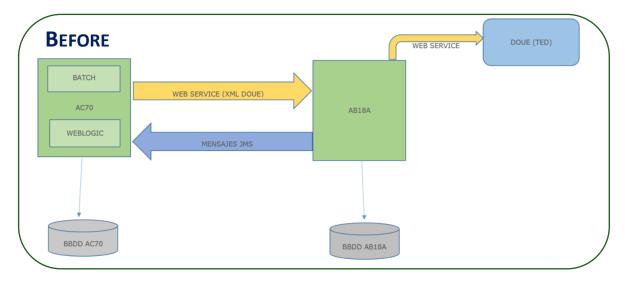
• Accompaniment in the process: legal, Business and technical issues

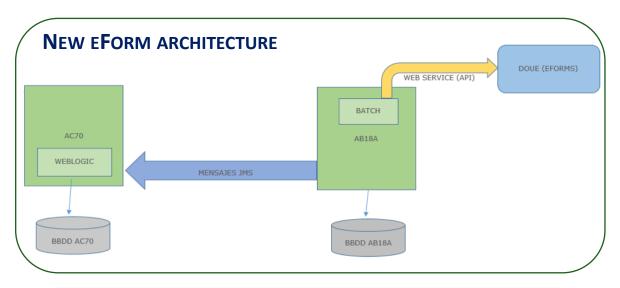
2. Implementing the eForms on KontratazioA Platform

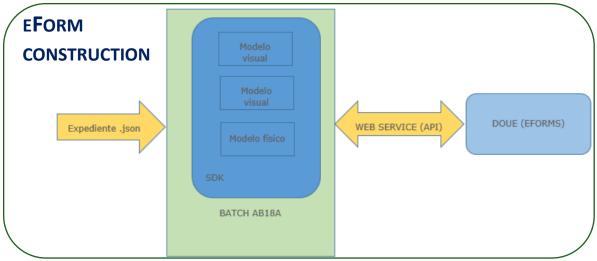


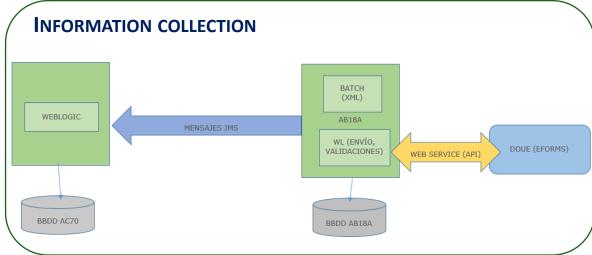


2.1. ARCHITECTURE







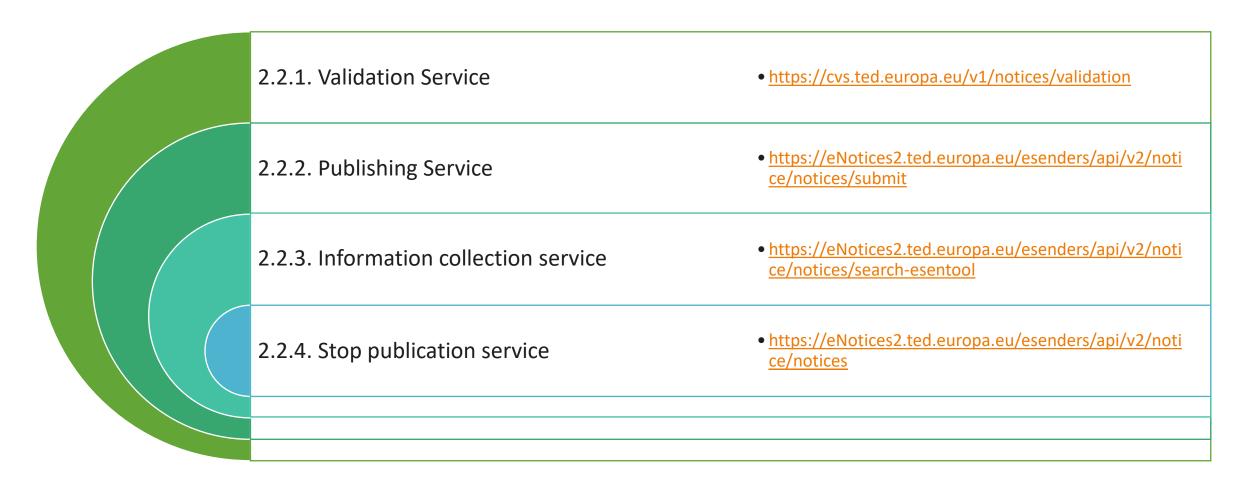






2. IMPLEMENTING THE eForms ON KONTRATAZIOA PLATFORM

2.2. SERVICES USED FROM OJ OF THE EU



2. IMPLEMENTING THE eForms ON KONTRATAZIOA PLATFORM





2.3. VALIDATION WORKFLOW AND PUBLICATION IN OJ EU:

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF DISPATCHING NOTICES TO OJ EU

2.3.1. After reviewing SDK and Schematron validations:

A previous internal work to resolve in business all the necessary validations to minimize possible errors in the final publication process. This previous control is essential to avoid overloading the system.

2. IMPLEMENTING THE eForms ON KONTRATAZIOA PLATFORM





2.3.2. High level workflow description

Publication service

- Request to OJ EU publication service.
- Previous step is also implicitly performed.

Publication request remains in the OJ EU system.

 KontratazioA Platform is pending updating through program consultations to the information collection system.

Confirmation notice to users

 After collecting the information, if everything is correct, the process is closed, the data is updated and confirmation is sent to the user's email.

Validation service

- Request to OJ EU validation service, to detect errors in the generation of the visual and physical model.
- It validates that the construction is optimal.

• As a result, we have communicated to our users (contracting authorities) the new workflow of publishing notices in the OJ EU.

And we have modified the timing to adjust it to the Public Sector Contracts Law

Here you have the links:

- FAQ publishing flow in OJ EU
- New eforms (Enotices2) for dispatching notices to the OJ of the EU-CPE (euskadi.eus)

3. INTRUCTIONS FOR DEVELOPERS





3.1.TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Technical workshops

- Since the beginning of the project, highly productive seminars/technical workshops
- Constant feedback
- Collaborative environment in GitHub.
- Technical updates (SDK, Schematron) are properly recorded.
- A discussion forum is also offered in witch technical doubts are resolved.

Development enviroment

• The "Swagger" is essential to test calls to Rest APIs in a simple and fast way.

SDK management and versioning: problems/difficulties

• During the development phase, some problems to get an stable SDK have caused us any difficulties.

Short lifespan of the SDK's active versions

• In Production, the short lifespan of the SDK requires us to migrate and update our technical solutions, which also affects other contract authorities that integrate with us.

Presentaciones workshop diciembre 2022
Presentaciones workshop febrero 2023
Presentaciones workshop marzo 2023
Presentaciones workshop mayo 2022
Presentaciones workshop mayo 2023
Presentaciones workshop noviembre 2021
Presentaciones workshop septiembre 2022

Presentaciones workshop septiembre 2023

- Annual eSenders Seminar on December 2023.
- Annual workshop calendar 2024: First of them in March 2024. BUSINESS + TECHNICAL ISSUES.
- All presentations are published on the website in English.

4. TYPE OF NEW STANDARD FORMS FOR NOTICES





THE IMPLEMENTED EFORMS FOR NOTICES RELATED TO DIRECTIVE 2014/24 ON "GENERAL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT"

COVERING THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

Planning

- •Publication of a prior information notice in a buyer profile (type 1).
- •Prior information notice only used for information (type 4).
- •Prior information notice used to reduce the deadlines for receiving offers (type 7).

Competition

- •Prior information notice used as a call for tenders (type 10).
- •Tender notice (type 16).

DAP

•Prior Notice of direct award (type 25).

Results

•Notice of contract award (type 29).

Contract modification

•Notice of contract modification (type 38).





5.1. Solutions to transfer the knowledge

Communication tools

Occasionally, we have missed training help in the transmission of legal and business issues.

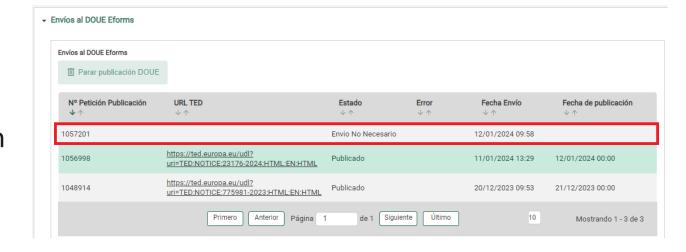
We suggest to reinforce/improve the communications and give more agile help for FAQs that have been arriving both at a functional at technical level.





5.2. Internal control system

This internal control allows us to verify in advance whether or not it is necessary to dispatch the information to the OJ of the EU depending on the relevance of the changes.







5.3. Publication management

 Supervision of the publication management process related to their releases, when the call to OJ EU publishing services must be dispatched before the publication request in the contractor profile.







NUTS level 2 codes Process of adaptation of NUTS level 2 codes in old files in order to integrate them coherently in the new eForms.

NUTS Level 3 Codes

Proposal to simplify the third level of NUTS election. For new files, rigorous control has been implemented that limits the possibility of reporting only NUTS level 3 codes.

In relation to old files with previous publications, we have carried out an adjustment for those that had NUTS level 2 codes reported, incorporating their level 3 subdivisions. This has been done in order to prevent control errors in future publications.

5.5. Exclusion grounds



Exclusion grounds

Control and verification of the reasons for exclusion grounds as a mandatory field, with the possibility of selecting one or more values.

Discomfort for users

At the beginning, the incorporation of this new mandatory value caused disconfort for users. This legal change was not understood at a business and operative level.

Improvement

A new functionality is developed to be able to incorporate all the exclusion grounds simultaneously in one click, speeding up processing.





5.6. Updating the status publication of the notice.

- Periodic updating guarantees that users of our platform are duly informed at all times.
- At the end of the publishing process, you will have directly access to the link of the published notice.

5.7.Test Environment: to take in account

- In PREPRODUCTION, the last phases of the publishing process are not carried out in the OJ EU system, which has forced us to simulate part of the process.
- Related to Dispatched dates to OJ EU and Contract Profile in scheduled publications, in a production environment, it is critical because of the possibilites/restricctions set by national law.
- We have had difficulties in verifying the proper functioning of our internal workflows until we reach a production environment.

6. ADVANTAGES

6. ADVANTAGES of

using the new eForms on

the eNotices2 website





FASTER PROCCESING OF CALLS OR REQUESTS

At that moment, the publication of the notices in OJ of the EU comes into force the day after dispatching.

Alerts

 A New functionality on the eNotices2 website to create an alert or check relating notices from the published notice view.

Submission and publication dates

- The identification of the notice date is now displayed in an intuitive and accessible way from the published advertisement.
- A clear and highly visible relationship is established between the publications made for the same notice.

Exclusion grounds Greater clarity is provided regarding possible exclusion grounds.

Languages

• Possibility to review the notice in several languages directly from the eNotices2 website and to download the notice in pdf format with the signed document.

eNotices2 Shortcuts

 Incorporation of shortcuts on the eNotices2 website, allowing direct navigation through different sections of the notice from the left menu.

Searches

• Searches more efficient and accessible through the new functionalities implemented on the eNotices2 website, including a fast, advanced and specialized search.

https://ted.europa.eu/es/help-page#search-fornotices

7. ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY





7.1 Recent obligations implemented: SME transparency indicators

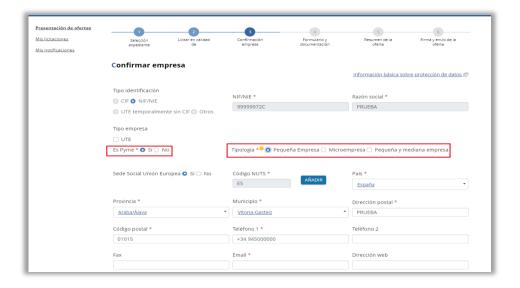
According to legal obligations in Transparency

- The KontratazioA platform is fully aligned with the legal obligations of Transparency.
- At the end of 2022, on the basis of Article 2 of Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) nº 651/2014, there are new obligations in transparency.

SME transparency indicators/data

 In addition to that, from 2023 onwards, mandatory data on SMEs and their nature is collected in our Platform.

In order to provide greater transparency, we have opted for a self-declaration system by tenders at the time of registering through our Platform.



Additionally, we have improved the tendering process toolkit (specifically for small and medium-sized companies) which has also encouraged them to participate in the eprocurement process.





7. ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY

7.2. Tools to consult Contract information

API REST

At the beginning of 2024, an API rest for contract gueries has been implemented.

New REST API on the KontratazioA Platform - Open Data Community - Open Data Euskadi - Euskadi.eus

API Rest of Public Procurement - Open Data Euskadi - Euskadi.eus

International transparency reports

International transparency reports have been made available to the public for years.

> Search for Transparency Reports (euskadi.eus)

Open Data kontratazioA

All this information is available in the open data (OD) section of the KontratazioA portal.

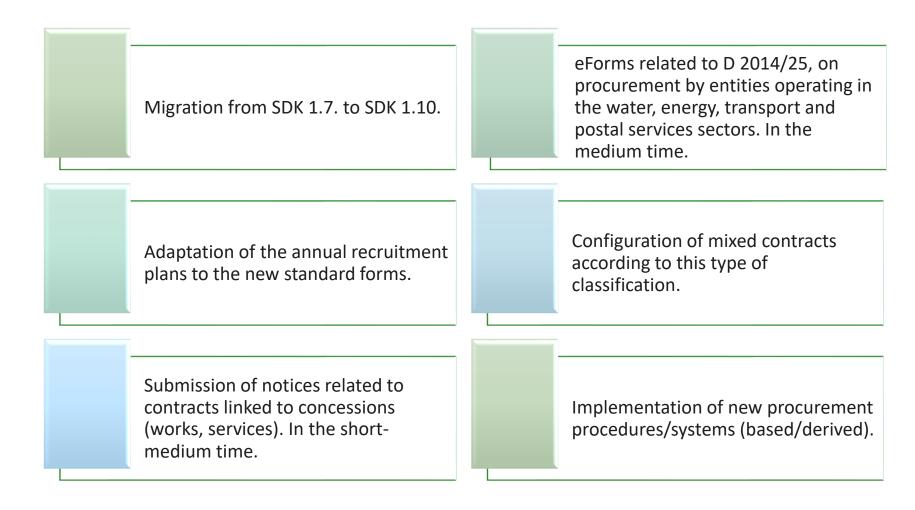
General information - Open Data (euskadi.eus)







NEW ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT IN THE SHORT-MEDIUM TERM



9.STRENGTHS





9. Strengths in the integration of the eForms into KontratazioA Platform (eNotices2):

Developments in access to and use of e-procurement data.

Emerging technology (automated processes...) can help to provide valuable knowledge to economic operators/ entities interested in european, national and regional level.

The reporting of **new mandatory data** sets (by standard forms) and onetime data entry, has been welcomed in the subsequent data mining at statistical level.

Opportunity to streamline and **simplify** the procurement process and continue the digital transformation.

Increased efficiency in the publications and management public procurement notices European, national and regional level.

10. CONCLUSIONS





10.1. Some general aspects for improvement

COMMUNICATION AND TRAINNING

Promote training and communication with our users.

NEW DATA

Take care of the transmission of information/knowledge as we move forward and as new data/eForms go implementing.

LANGUAGES

 New Video Tutorials in multiple languages to expand their accessibility...







Transparency in public procurement

Thank you!

If you are interested in our presentation, here you have our link to our website where our mailbox and contact telephone numbers appears: Contacto (contratacion.euskadi.eus)

In particular, link to the following services: https://contratacion.euskadi.eus/inicio/

Contractor profile: Perfil de contratante (contratacion.euskadi.eus)

Trainning: Formación sobre el uso de las herramientas de contratación electrónica (contratacion.euskadi.eus)