

EFORMS AT MIDLIFE

TED-together – 27 November 2025

Karl Ferrand – Publications Office of the European Union

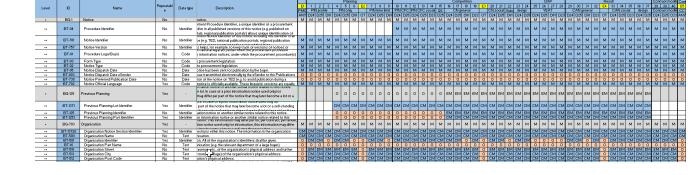


The rule of law

- February 2014: new public procurement directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU
- November 2015: Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/1986
 - 25 standard forms as PDFs (including 2009/81/EU defence directive) -> "TED-XML" schema
 - The old 2004-based forms should have ended by 2016, last ones published in 2020
- October 2019: Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/1780 on eForms
 - 5 standard forms, 40 notice types, 49 business groups, 298 business terms
 - No PDFs, data is more structured, same fields across forms
 - Deadlines: start by 14 November 2022, end old forms by 25 October 2023

25.10.2019 EN	Official Journal of the European Union	L 272/7
COMMIS	SION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2019/1780)
	of 23 September 2019	
establishing standard forms for the p	publication of notices in the field of public procurement at Regulation (EU) 2015/1986 ('eForms')	nd repealing Implementing
	(Text with EEA relevance)	
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,		
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functio	ning of the European Union,	





- A new EU legislative standard to publish public procurement data
- Presented by DG GROW at 2016 eSenders annual meeting
- By 2018: ongoing public feedback on legal act, following 200+ issues and 500+ comments in GitHub
- Ambitions vs reality:
 - Reduce administrative burden -> possible if well integrated with eProcurement platform
 - Help businesses to find procurement notices -> more search options but longer notices
 - Improve the quality and analysis of data -> structured fields are better but rules alone not enough
 - Increase transparency -> yes, more data but need to understand more
 - Increase data-driven decisions about public spending -> yes, more on its way with open data
 - Adding sustainable criteria -> yes but still optional, and other sectoral legislation got added, too

Court of Auditors recommendation on missing values: several gaps in data filled by eForms requirements



EU Publications Office: the race is on

- Rebuild all systems from scratch, automatic central validation service, remove (almost all) manual checks, reduce time to publish (from 5 days to average under 2 days)
- Need to support dozens of eSenders and thousands of eNotices buyers
- 2019-2020: first release of eForms XML schema based on UBL 2.3, schema documentation, Xpath mapping of eForms components and BTs, eForms XML schema v1.0



- SDK 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 with ever more components: schema, schematrons, examples, warnings, fields.json, translations
- Concepts: conditional rules, UUID, notice subtype, centralised organisations, structure of results, Change and Contract modification, time zones, pattern-matching
- Support: Developer Docs docs.ted.europa.eu; linking BTs with codelists on EU Vocabularies (part of around 250 codelists in total); example notices in PDF
- eSender annual webinar: presentation of 2022 roadmap for eNotices2 (including eSentool functions), CVS, TED Viewer 2022, TED API, TED Monitor 2022; last TED-XML schema change with eSentool; developing eForms apps with SDK; optimistic Member State timelines for implementation
- Start development of new TED 2.0 website

docs	initial commit for version 0.1.0	4 years ago
examples	initial commit for version 0.1.0	4 years ago
schemas	initial commit for version 0.1.0	4 years ago
schematrons	initial commit for version 0.1.0	4 years ago



Starting to discover what it might mean in practice

We're all in this together...

How do you feel about eForms?

Many fields and options Two many rules Too complex Validations and rules and Adaptation compatibility Impact reuse of types costs object complex complexity and adaptation Complex Confusing instable SDKversions Complexity new platform is Too many field Useless Too many fields result Metdatadriven needed road very complex and Number not fit for purpose too many fields and rules DataConfusing Schema UBL lotofwork estimating effort needed; complex

Stakeholder engagement



- SDK 0.5, 0.6, 07: codelists, updated fields.json, notice type definitions, eForms Expression Language (EFX), view templates, translated rule messages, co-constraint rules
- SDK 1.0 in August 2022: first major release, freeze SDK folders, structures, EFX
- SDK 1.1, 1.2, then 1.4, 1.5: updates, corrections, eForms regulation 1st amendment like CVD and GPP
- SDK 1.3 just before go-live: removed conditionally mandatory/forbidden rules (too many to handle...)
- 14 November 2022: go-live of OP's eForms apps voluntary submission of eForms (but no one came...)
- 24 November 2022: first amendment to eForms implementing regulation
- Support: first two eForms technical workshops; all OP applications in Preview environment
- eSender annual seminar: survey of eSenders, almost all only ready by Q3 2023 (tight deadline and complexity!); metadata-driven apps and coping with change

What did you like about the workshop?

Confusion
Stress
Urgency
Unrealistic timing
Complex
Unclear
Many questions



- SDK 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10: updates, corrections, putting back CM/CF rules, finish 1st amendment
- Support: 4 technical workshops plus annual seminar; first backport of translations and view templates from 1.6 to 1.3/1.4/1.5 patches
- Helpdesk: 1515 eNotices2 tickets; eSender-eForms questions up from 27 to 664
- Estonia is first MS eSender to go live with eForms in May, joined by others in September
- 25 October 2023 deadline only partially met: by December about 50% of notices still in old TED-XML; final tolerance period until 31 January 2024
- 20 December 2023: 2nd eForms regulation amendment: exclusion/selection criteria, FSR, IPI, EED, reworked CVD, 6 voluntary forms —> mandatory by February 2025

2023/2884 21.12.2023

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/2884

of 20 December 2023

amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1780 establishing standard forms for the publication of notices in the field of public procurement

(Text with EEA relevance)



How do you feel about the October 2023 deadline? (asked in September)

Very tight deadline
Need stable SDK versions
Changing details
but
Understanding
Making things clear





- January 2024: submission of last old TED-XML notices; launch of TED 2.0
- 14000+ eNotices2 users from Poland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and anyone without eSender, 20% of notices
- 50 eSenders, many SDK upgrades, 5 active versions in parallel, concept of extended lifespan
- SDK 1.12 and 1.13: implement 2nd eForms amendment
- Support: 3 technical workshops plus first TED-together event in Luxembourg/online
- Helpdesk: eNotices2 tickets quadruple (6736); eSenders-eForms slows a little (478)
- New TED Open Data Service, using eProcurement Ontology (ePO)
- 24 September: Public Procurement Data Space (PPDS) launched, using ePO and eForms for analysis and policymaking

 Public Procurement Data Space

Harness the Power of Public Procurement Data

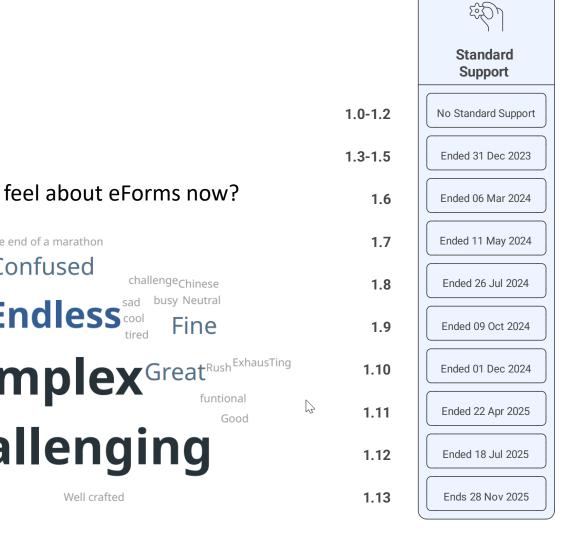
Analytics Events News Resources Support

eForms SDK Version Lifecycle

2024 for eSenders

Less confusion Less panic but Still hard work Still need stability More documentation Have specific issues

	1.0-1.2
	1.3-1.5
How do you feel about eForms now?	1.6
At the end of a marathon	1.7
Complicated Confused challenge Chinese sad busy Neutral	1.8
Dificult Endless cool fine	1.9
disappointed Complex Great ^{Rush ExhausTing}	1.10
Tiring Stressed Good	1.11
Challenging Disaster Challenging	1.12
Productiongrade Well crafted	1.13



Extended

Support

Ended 15 Apr 2023

Ended 31 Jan 2024

Ended 30 Sep 2024

Ended 30 Apr 2025

Ended 30 Apr 2025

Ended 07 May 2025

Ended 31 Aug 2025

Ended 31 Aug 2025

Ends 30 Jun 2026

Ends 31 Mar 2027

0	С	Change Requests
0	D	Docs ⊕
0	W	Workshops ⊕

- eSender survey: big variety of situations, varying use of SDK components; eSenders want more time, more stable SDKs, less regulatory change, and less effort on upgrades
- SDK 1.14: first version with no regulatory pressure; in Preview in December and Prod in January 2026
- Support: 3 technical workshops (shorter now) plus today's TED-together
- Helpdesk: eSenders' questions projected to halve, eNotices2 tickets down by about a third
- During 2024 and 2025, GROW organised many eForms workshops with Expert Group on eProcurement (EXEP, with Member State representatives)
- Information is transparent on GitLab: Guides for FSR, IPI, EED, statistics, review, exclusion/selection criteria; Issues are discussed and decided (including for 3rd amendment); Clear governance for eForms and for SDK
- This month: first joint meeting of Expert Group on Public Procurement (EXPP, MS policy/legal experts) and EXEP, discussing new legislation —> cannot keep apart: procurement is digital now



First signs of reassurance and confidence
SDK feels mature and stable but
Upgrades still hard for many

What eSenders do when not upgrading:

Evolutionary developments

Implement voluntary forms add features and maintain

Maintaince, UI and QOL explain eforms to users

fixing bug & new procedur
Less complicated improvement

helping users other features Add new feature Improve UI

User functionality

User support find SDK bugs Innovation Improve usabilty

Streamline tailoring eTendering and usability
Fixing bugs
Extending our platform

How do you feel about SDK upgrades?





User experience

- eNotices2 is the free solution for buyers with no eSender
- One-size-fits-all, no tailoring, metadata-driven by SDK
- eNotices2 usability study reveals:
 - High frustration, especially understanding and fixing rule errors at validation
 - Field layout and grouping on screen differs from PDF preview (TED layout)
 - Time-consuming: need ways to update multiple lots or use common templates
- eForms are not designed to be filled in without integration with other systems
- Several approaches will be needed to improve the buyer's experience
- New notice editor demo app will make full use of SDK -> then apply to eNotices2

Error

Notice validation failed: CVS produced the following errors/warnings

• Information under 'ND-LotTenderingTerms' is missing (element 'cac:TenderingTerms' is mandatory under this path:

/*/cac:ProcurementProjectLot[cbc:ID/@schemeName='Lot'])

- 'Description' (BT-24-Lot) is mandatory (in '11 Periodic indicative notice used as a call for competition sectoral directive, standard regime')
- For any 'Notice subtype' of 7–11, 15–19 or 22, any lot must have one of the following: 'Duration' (BT–36–Lot), 'Start date' and 'Duration end date' (BT–536–Lot, BT–537–Lot), or 'Other duration' (BT–538–Lot).
- 'Main nature of the contract' (BT-23-Lot) is mandatory (in '11 Periodic indicative notice used as a call for competition sectoral directive, standard regime')

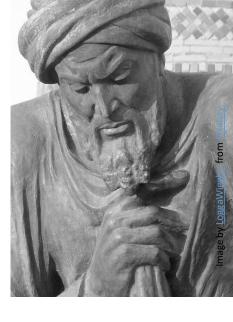


eForms in 2026

- SDK 1.15 by around Q2 2025: simplify unpublished (non-public) fields, other incremental improvements
- Prepare 3rd eForms amendment: remove group of lots, handle DPS and FA better, have better organisation IDs, clarify organisation roles, allow NUTS2, include T01/T02 forms, formalise OPP/OPT fields, assess need for fields used in less than 1% of notices, simplify and clarify... (most proposals still to be discussed and confirmed by EXEP)
- But new legislation taking all of Commission and MS attention so:
 - 3rd amendment by end of 2026 (best case)
 - Implement in SDK 2.1 in 2027
 - Keep SDK 1.13, 1.14, 1.15 and 2.0 active to allow upgrade to 2.1
- Opportunities in 2026:
 - Get EFX2 and SDK 2.0 done, have same business equivalence as SDK 1.15, plus some dynamic rules
 - Align eForms with eProcurement Ontology (including business entities) and ESPD

Data Quality Assistant

- Beyond basic lawfulness and Schematron:
 - check content of text fields
 - start by checking similarity with published notices and for mix of languages
 - later look at meaning, buyer reputation, consistent procedures
- Test and train with published (and rejected) notices
 - then integrate with validation and OP back-office manual checks (human-supervised algorithms)
- API could receive XML notice, return warning messages for each check, with level of confidence
- Clients can handle similar to current lawfulness rules:
 - warnings do not block notice submission but will trigger manual checks
- Meanwhile, we have some manually-detected data quality issues we'll be in touch:
 - wrong Dispatch Date
 - misuse of "EU institution" as Buyer legal type (tailor it out)
 - abusing "other" legal basis and voluntary forms (E2-E5)



eForms at midlife?

- As future legislation becomes clearer: evolve eForms towards new concepts
- New legislation unlikely before 2028 or 2029
 - -> then a transition period (a generous one please!)
- Need to keep improving eForms as they will be used for the next 5 years at least
- We're only just getting to the 2nd year of active use!
- So perhaps eForms is still a youngster after all...



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Links

https://docs.ted.europa.eu - Developer guide, APIs, Preview, FAQ, SDK versions...

https://github.com/OP-TED/ - Components and code for developers, SDK, discussions...

https://op.europa.eu/en/web/ted-eforms - OP eSender workshops

Any questions?

Business TED helpdesk: https://ted.europa.eu/en/contact

Technical SDK issues: https://github.com/OP-TED/eForms-SDK/discussions/



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