

OASIS UBL ESLSC REPORT

Montreal UBL F2F Meeting

17th August 2009

Introduction

During this period, ESLSC has been working on the Spanish translation to create the new IDD for UBL 2.0 and promoting UBL in Spanish administration.

Members of the group have also been involved in CEN BII, defining profiles for the use of different UBL documents at European level, both in pre-awarding and post-awarding phases of public procurement.

In terms of Latin America, there have been contacts with different countries that will end up with the formation of a new regional SC that will promote the use of UBL in Latin American countries.

ESLSC Membership

ESLSC remains stable in terms of membership; two new companies have joined the SC during the last period, an electronic invoice service provider and a Certification Authority as observer.

Next period planning to get involvement of more Latin American members in order to enrich Spanish translation with Latin American national definitions and business processes.

UBL 2.0 Translation

Spanish translation of the UBL 2.0 has been approved as part of the UBL International Data Dictionary.

CEN BII WS

CEN BII is almost closed. The Workshop will end November this year and profiles and data models have been defined using UBL as the basis for the work for post awarding and CODICE for pre-awarding. The profiles are described in <http://specs.cenbii.eu>.

CEN BII outcomes should get traction around Europe with the PEPPOL project. Spain is not a member of the PEPPOL project, but we guess the traction of European countries can make move Spain towards the same direction, adopting the different CEN BII profiles for public procurement.

Latin America adoption

Some Latin American countries are getting more and more involved in UBL, using it as the basis for their electronic procurement projects. As a result of this involvement, a new SC has been chartered in order to improve the UBL promotion in Latin America, the new SC will work close with the ESLSC in order to get a single Spanish translation, with cross-country agreement on the terms and definitions translations, and identifying particular business processes for the electronic commerce national practices.

Countries that have contacted ESLSC during this period are:

Panama

A project for using UBL out from Excel spreadsheets was defined and developed by the Chamber of Commerce of Panama. A member of Panama is going to sign for OASIS and UBL membership.

Peru

Peruvian companies have raised the idea of the creation of the Latin American Regional SC to input national business practices into UBL, and probably defining a customization for Latin America as the one defined by CEN BII in Europe.

Argentina

Interest by private companies in Argentina has been raised during this period.

Ecuador

People close to the Ecuatorian Chamber of Commerce has been reached to promote the use of UBL in Ecuador.

Costa Rica

A trip to Costa Rica made us in touch with San José IT University where they are developing eBusiness projects. Conversations are on-going to get them involved in UBL.

UBL Adoption in Spain

In Spain there is a huge effort by Public Administrations to promote the use of electronic invoices and electronic tendering. As reported last year, Spanish Tax Office and Ministry of Industry mandated the electronic invoicing to public administrations using their own format called FACTURAE (www.facturae.es) and the new law on public contracts mandates the use of CODICE for electronic tendering, which is based on the UBL NDR. Spanish Ministry of Finance is promoting the submission of CODICE into UBL 2.1 as standard electronic tendering documents.

The law on public contracts has to evolve defining all the allowed electronic invoice formats in Spain, and as per the legislation on electronic invoicing, it seems that more than one single format will be allowed; being UBL one of those formats.

The convergence from Facturae to UBL stated in the law is not a reality as nobody is taking care of this process in Spain so we envisage a fragmented market in Spain, with Facturae, EDIFACT and UBL as the main formats used in the near future.

In terms of sanction, the development of the public contracts law will take place during next months, so we will see soon the result of this process. There are different and important sectors (banking associations) that are promoting Facturae as the main and unique electronic invoice standard in Spain, in order to protect their investments in this standard, but the ESLSC is working to promote the inclusion of UBL as an alternative to help Spanish companies benefit from adopting an international standard that covers more than one single document (the invoice) and to align with other European countries. There is however a recognition from the public agencies involved (Tax Office and Ministry of Industry) that facturae will have to evolve to either UBL or being constructed from core components to facilitate compatibility.

Two local governments, the Basque Government and the Government from La Rioja have adopted UBL as one of the required formats for their eInvoicing initiatives.

On the another hand, UBL has been the basis for CEN BII WS for post-awarding phase, so there is a European agreement on UBL which implies that it will be the format with more traction in Spain as in any other European country. The more tools, support documentation and main documents covering different business processes the more adoption for ERP software providers and end users, so we think UBL can gain traction with the outcomes of CEN BII and the new UBL 2.1.