

eBIZ-TCF

eBIZ-TCF: An Initiative to Improve eAdoption in European Textile/Clothing and Footwear Industry

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EURATEX



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eBIZ-TCF

At glance

A cooperation project called for by the European Commission to facilitate large scale adoption of e-business in the TCF Industries

Start	January 2008
Duration	24 months
Budget	1.4 Mln €
Involvement	>160 European organisations

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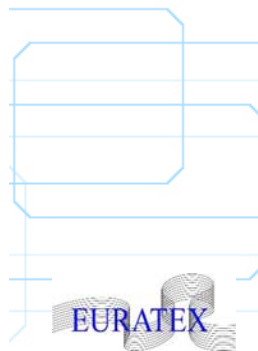
Ultimate Objective

*Create a favourable environment for the European **Textile Clothing and Footwear** industries that stimulates and enables the uptake of ICT and eBusiness Technologies*



Outcomes

- 1) *General architecture for eBusiness with highest possible compliance with existing European and international **public** standards for B2B transactions in the TCF sectors*
- 2) *Extensive pilots in all Europe to create best practices and to validate the architecture*
- 3) *Awareness creation*



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Project Partners



Textile & Clothing Industry



Coordinator



Footwear Industry



Key Partners



ICT & Textile expertise



Professionals Textile, Footwear and Retailing

>160 between

Textile, Clothing & Footwear SMEs
large enterprises, retail companies,
facilitators, ICT experts.



Other organisations

Standardisation body (CEN)



Project Methodology

Analysis

State of the art: degree of eAdoption

E-Business Architecture

- Set of standard specifications of business documents and processes
- Indications about the ICT infrastructure

Pilots

- Architecture validity
- Large scale impact and best practices

Awareness

- Creation of broad consensus
- European eBusiness Guide

Analysis: Level of eBusiness Adoption

- Large number of enterprises involved in some form of eBusiness particularly in Western and Central Europe BUT:
 - Small number of transactions
 - Small number of connections and functions
 - Limited to one or two large trading partners who “demand” use of their systems

Analysis: Level of eBusiness Adoption

- **higher** level of adoption in **“downstream”** supply chain than **“upstream”**
 - Highest levels of downstream systems in Western and Central Europe because of influence of large retailers
 - Highest levels of upstream systems in Southern Europe where production is still relatively important

Analysis: Obstacles to eBusiness Adoption in TCF sectors

- Structure of sectors – many SMEs, few leaders
- Poor return on investment from existing solution – often at “demand” of large enterprise
- Lack of time, money, skilled personnel, particularly in SMEs
- Inconsistency in data content in different existing specifications : no de-facto standard

Project Methodology

Analysis

E-Business Architecture

- Set of standard specifications of business documents and processes
- Indications about the ICT infrastructure

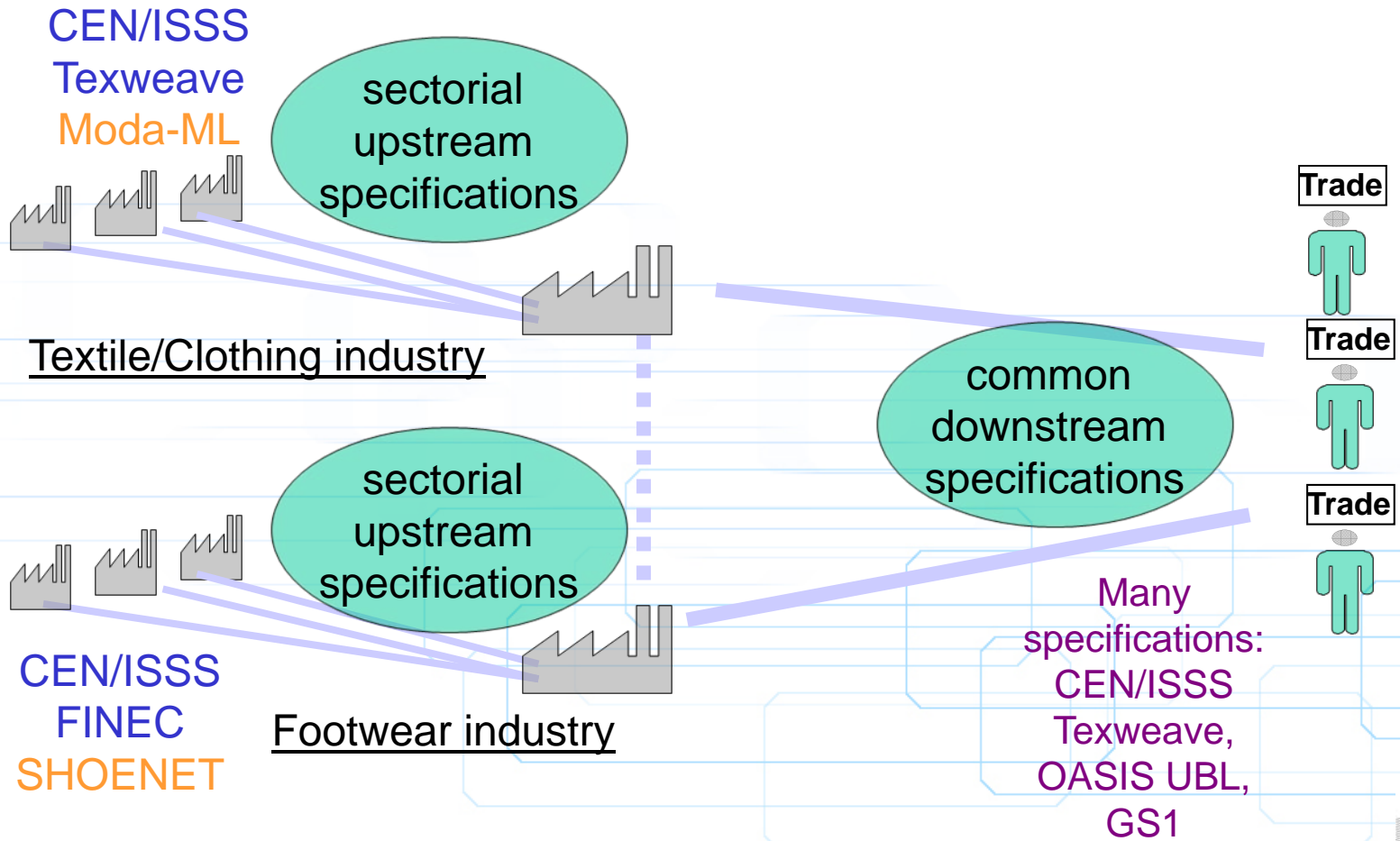
Pilots

Awareness

Objectives of the architecture

- Definition of a **general architecture** for eBusiness in the two key areas of:
 - (a) production to retail relationship
 - (b) manufacturing networks
- The highest possible **compliance with existing European and International public standards** for B2B in the FTC sector.
- A business and technical reference for **pilots** implementation to achieve interoperability between existing systems and organisations

Business level: Standards specifications



Architecture: methodology

- Defined on three levels: business level, middleware level and communication level
- At each level: identified the standards specification to be used
- Business level: completely specified for certain business processes
- Middleware level and Communication level: only indications (need further work on ICT architecture and standard profiling).

Architecture: business level

- Supply chain: set of business processes
- Business process: set of activities
- Activity: sequence of one-way document exchange transactions
- Transaction: triple (sender, doc, receiver)
- Document: data model (syntax-independent)
- Document implementation (reference to standard specifications implementing the data model).

Downstream: standards

- 3 processes (cyclic replenishment, preorder, VMI), 17 Documents
- XML Schemes: WWS profile; CEN/TEXWEAVE; CecMadeShow project
- UBL use profiles: Mapping between abstract level of Document Models into UBL syntax
 - 17 use- profiles for UBL documents has been produced (sector specific)
 - 4 proposal of UBL template submitted to OASIS UBL TC
 - In progress: definition of UBL schemes for the T/C sector
- GS1 XML template: compatibility; no TCF use-profiles defined.

T/C Upstream

➤ Processes: 8

- Subcontracting: fabric darning, fabric manufacturing (warping, weaving, dyeing-finishing, printing), knitwear manufacturing, yarn manufacturing (dyeing, spinning of raw materials; yarn twisting and dyeing)
- Supply: yarn, fabric, garment-accessories
- On-line stock service

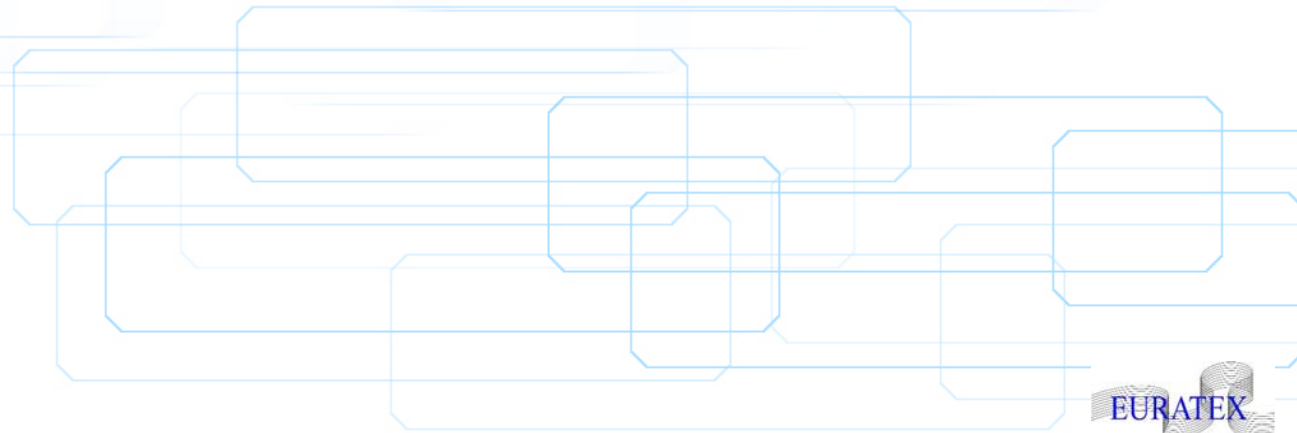
➤ Documents: 64

➤ Specifications: CEN/TexWeave, MODA-ML



Footwear Upstream

- Processes: 1 (component supply)
- Documents: 17
- Specifications: CEN/Efnet; Shownet



Definition of the reference product classification

- Needed for product catalogues (mainly downstream)
- Recognition of possible classification systems:
 - There is an existing GS1 GPC system for footwear and T/C, problems with stakeholders.
 - Meeting with specialists are running to get inputs.
 - There are national classification:
 - DTB and EAS, probably converging, Germany
 - GENCODE/IFTH in France
- Guide lines to adopt them
 - GPC as a global reference but with mapping with local classifications

Project Methodology

Analysis

E-Business Architecture

Pilots

- Architecture validity
- Large scale impact and best practices

Awareness

What are the pilots

- Groups of companies to:
 - Test the validity of proposed architecture
 - Test interoperability of different systems
 - Create the base for large scale adoption and best practices
- Organised into two phases:
 - 1st phase: 4 pilots, July-October 2008
 - 2nd phase: 13 pilots, January–August 2009

PILOTS, the beginning...

- 4 Small clusters, facilitators supporting industries
- More than 40 companies initially involved from 10 countries ...

(Initial) countries:

Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Croatia
France
Germany
Italy
Netherland
Portugal
Romania
Spain

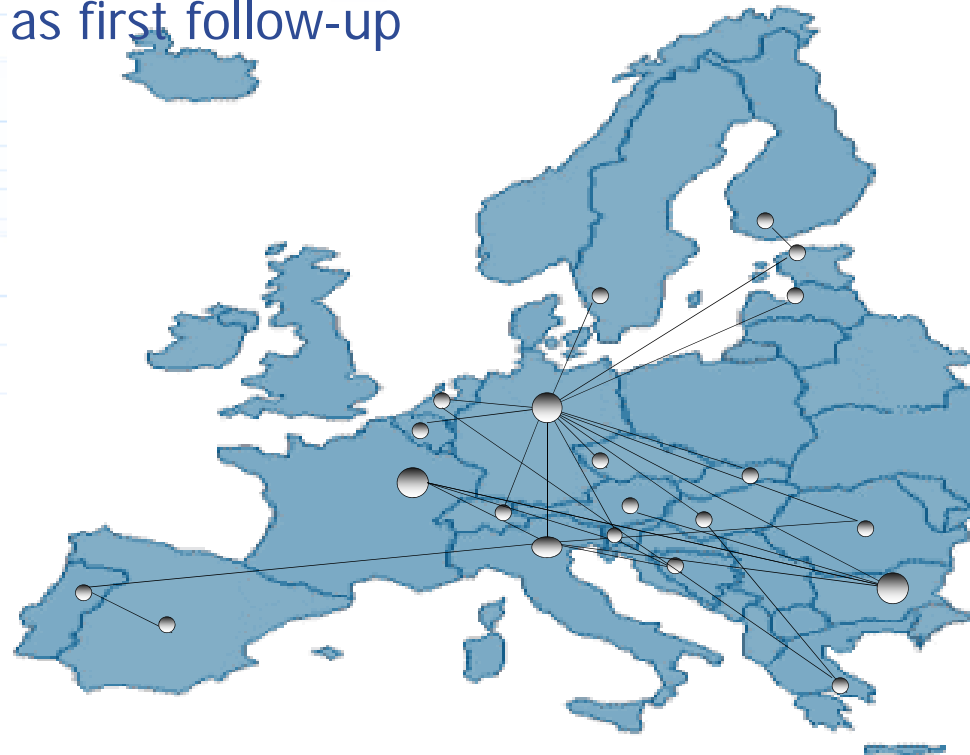


...PILOTS, today

- On July 2008 a public Call for 'Expression of Interest'
- 21 proposals were submitted;
- 13 pilots, from 20 countries; 4 follow up from 4 phase, 4 scheduled for the second phase, 5 new selected;
- More than 130 organisations directly involved, 25 IT suppliers
- Further 200 as first follow-up

Initially.....

Bulgaria
 Czeck
 Croatia
 France
 Germany
 Italy
 Netherland
 Portugal
 Romania
 Spain



...now also...

Austria
 Belgium
 Denmark
 Estonia
 Finland
 Greece
 Slovenia
 Hungary
 Latvia
 Sweden
 Slovakia

Key Pilot Actors

- 1 facilitator (coordinating the whole pilot, subcontractor of the eBiz consortium)
- 1 or several producers
- 1 or several retailers (only in downstream pilots)
- 1 or several IT providers

Pilots 1st phase: Overview

	Name	Facilitator	Countries	N° service providers	N° end users	T/C or F	Upstream or Downstream
1	PT Footwear	INESC Porto, Portugal	PT	1	4	F	Both
2	Scriba Net	Scriba Net, Italy	IT, ES, UK	1	6	T/C	D
3	ES pilot	INESCOP, Spain	ES	1	5	F	U
4	TQR	TQR Consortium, Italy	IT	1	5	T/C	U
4 Pilots				4	20		

Pilots 1st phase: Results

- Validity and improvement of the architecture
 - No major technical problems reported for the upstream supply chains
 - No major technical problems for the document exchanges in the downstream parts
 - Some countries reluctant in using GS1 product identification systems
 - Major problems with Global Product Classification
 - Requirements for additional documents
 - Requirements for the middleware architecture: web services
- Demonstrating interoperability
 - Between eBiz architecture and companies ERPs/RMSs (Problems with product classification, product identification, location identification)
 - Between eBiz and other doc. exchange systems: Shoebiz, Shoenet, Scribanet proprietary platform.

Pilots 1st phase: Results (2)

- Uptake and potential impact
 - More than 1000 el. messages exchanged per month in the Spanish and Italian pilots
 - Set-up phase for the other two pilots (low data exchanges).
 - Market interest: more than 135 companies directly involved in the second phase pilots; expected immediate propagation to more than 300 companies.

Pilots 2nd phase: overview

	Name	Facilitator	Countries	N° service providers	N° end users	T/C or F	Upstream or Downstream	Budget	Notes
1	IHC	Textile&Sewing Institute, Bulgaria	BG, AT, FR	1	3	T/C	D	47	Call for EOI; merged from 2 proposals
2	Gorski	Assoc. Fashion Retailers, Finland	FI, EE	1	60	T/C	D	58	Call for EOI
3	Alpina	Siller A.G. Germany	SI, DE, HR, FR	2	6	F	D	42	Call for EOI
4	NNS	NTUA- Technical University Athens	HU GR NL	1	3	T/C	U	30	Call for EOI
5	Pranke	Pranke GmbH Germany	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, GR, HR, HU, LT, NL, RO, SE, SK, EUwide	9	30 (>100)	both	D	85	Call for EOI
6	IT Textile	TQR Consortium, Italy	IT, BG	1	7	T/C	U	40	extension of Phase 1
7	Footwear	INESC Porto, Portugal	PT, ES	1	4	F	Both	35	extension of Phase 1
8	Net	Scriba Net, Italy	IT, ES, Euwide	1	10 (>100)	T/C	D	39	extension of Phase 1
9	ES pilot	INESCOP, Spain	ES	3	3	F	U	35	extension of Phase 1
10	Info Lab	Objtec, Italy	IT, RO	1	4	T/C	U	28	already in eBiz, phase 2
11	ARAS	TXT GmbH, Germany	DE, BG, Euwide	1	3 (> 100)	T/C	D	60	already in eBiz, phase 2
12	eOlonia	Centri COT, Italy	IT, FR, DE	1	3	T/C	Both	58	already in eBiz, phase 2
13	Quick Order	Silva e Sistello, Portugal	PT, IT	2	2	T/C	U	30	already in eBiz, phase 2

Pilots: Some conclusions

- Key issues: usability (of documentation), standards-based on European level, scalable architecture, awareness, incremental adoption, perceived value
- Good acceptance of pragmatic approach
- SME based sector presents a never ending set of different processes and models
- Conventional standard-based approach benefits SMEs (e.g. common guidance, critical mass adopters), but lacks flexibility
- The eBiz-TCF approach to achieve interoperability is based on a mix of standardisation and continuous informal activities



Further
Information: www.ebiz-tcf.eu



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A smaller version of the EURATEX logo, featuring the word 'EURATEX' in blue capital letters overlaid on a stylized, multi-colored ribbon graphic.



The logo for ENEA (European Nuclear Energy Agency), consisting of the letters 'E', 'N', and 'E' in a stylized, interlocking blue and gold font.