

## myDATA launch: the e-books digital challenge comes into play

The Greek Ministry of Finance and the Independent Authority for Public Revenue ("IAPR") have released implementation guidelines of the e-books system on 22 June 2020 (Ministerial Decision A. 1138/2020). Greek businesses are now faced with the digital challenge of implementing the e-books and e-invoicing processes under tight deadlines.

### Whom does it concern?

- All Greek businesses, irrespective of their size and the type of accounting books maintained.
- Exception for special cases e.g. Greek State, Regions, Prefectures, Municipalities, Communities, other public domain legal entities.

### What type of data must be transmitted to myDATA platform?

- The data to be transmitted in the platform regard:
  - Fiscal documents (invoices and retail receipts) issued by the business
  - Documents issued for the substantiation of rentals or under special tax provisions
  - Accounting entries forming the accounting and tax basis for the determination of the accounting and tax result of each fiscal year

Classification of transactions (revenue – expenses) must also be uploaded to the platform; uploading of classification of part of the data must be performed by Greek licenced accountants.

- The issuer of fiscal documents is primarily responsible for uploading data to the system while there are specific cases whereby the transmission must take place by the recipient (e.g. foreign counterparties, receipt of retail fiscal documents, public utilities bills, transactions with credit institutions, where the liable issuer has not complied with transmission obligation)
- Special guidance is provided for retail transactions transmission if an Electronic Tax Register Machine (ETRM) is used or in cases of self-billing and assignment of invoicing.

For the data subject to transmission, standardisation of format and level of information required per type of document is included in annexes of the Decision, aiming at a uniform uploading by all businesses.

## How can data be transmitted to the platform?

Depending on the type of transactions performed, accounting books maintained and invoicing method, the following transmission methods apply:

- **E-invoicing Providers** that will automatically upload the data of invoices issued; if this is opted, no other method may apply in parallel for the same data
- **Accounting/commercial ERP software** to be linked to myDATA through appropriate intermediate software (API)
- **Manual recording** of the data into the platform; this method is applicable for small businesses that maintain single-entry accounting books or issue up to 50 sales invoices per year irrespective of the type of accounting books maintained
- **ETRM used for retail transactions**; if the ETRM is directly linked to IAPR for the transmission of retail transactions data, no other methods may apply in parallel for the same data.

## What is the deadline for uploading the data?

Uploading of revenue data will take place in **real-time** in case of issuance through E-invoicing Providers or transmission through accounting/commercial ERP. In case of manual recording and self-billing or assignment of invoicing, the transmission will be possible **until the 20<sup>th</sup> day** following month of issuance.

For data transmitted by the recipients in certain cases, the **VAT return filing deadline** shall apply (depending on the type of accounting books maintained).

In case of retail transactions, for which ETRMs are directly linked with IAPR, relevant **deadlines** are specified in applicable provisions.

As regards accounting regularization entries data for the determination of accounting and tax result of each year, along with their classification, these must be transmitted until the **corporate income tax return filing deadline** except for payroll entries which must be transmitted until the **payroll withholding tax return filing deadline**.

Uploading of the classification of transactions depends on the method of transmission used as regards revenue data while, for expenses, the **VAT return filing deadline** will apply.

## When does the obligation become effective?

Initial implementation of the e-books system will be materialized in stages, namely:

- 20.07.2020** ● In case of use of E-invoicing Providers (optional), uploading of revenue data (or expenses in case of self-billing) commences **as of 20 July 2020**; transmission of classification of revenue is also possible as of the same date.
- 01.10.2020** ● For the other transmission methods, uploading of revenue data as well as classification of revenue and expenses (fiscal documents received) commences **as of 1 October 2020**.
- 31.12.2020** ● Uploading of revenue data (or expenses in case of self-billing) and relevant classification of fiscal documents issued between 1 January 2020 - 30 September 2020 (or first submission date, if earlier) is due by **31 December 2020**.  
  
For payroll entries, uploading of data of the period from 1 January 2020 until 30 September 2020 is due by **31 December 2020**.
- 28.02.2021** ● Data of fiscal documents issued between 1 January 2020 - 30 September 2020 (or first submission date, if earlier) not uploaded by the issuer may be submitted by the recipient until **28 February 2021**.
- 31.03.2021** ● Data of fiscal documents issued between 1 January 2020 - 30 September 2020 uploaded by the recipient can be accepted and classified by the issuer **until 31 March 2021**.

## Incentives for implementation of e-invoicing

A set of incentives has been introduced by virtue of L. 4701/2020 recently voted for the implementation of e-invoicing through E-invoicing Providers as an **exclusive method of fiscal documents issuance**. Such option must be declared with the Tax Administration and excludes the hard copy issuance of fiscal documents for as long as it applies.

Incentives introduced for businesses implementing e-invoicing through Provider consist in:

- **Reduction of the Statute of Limitation (SoL) period from 5 to 3 years** for fiscal years in which e-invoicing applies
- **Granting of a 100% super-deduction** of the expenses incurred for:
  - initial purchase of technical equipment and software required for e-invoicing implementation (one-off depreciable)
  - production, transmission and electronic archiving of e-invoices for the first year of issuance of sales fiscal documents
- **Reduction of the tax refunds processing time** by the Tax Administration from 90 days to 45 days.

For businesses that will select and declare the acceptance of fiscal documents through E-invoicing Provider (recipients), the SoL period will be reduced **from 5 to 4 years**.

Above incentives will be effective for fiscal years starting from 1 January 2020 onwards and granted from the first year of e-invoicing implementation **until fiscal year 2022**. Exceptionally, for fiscal year 2020 the incentives will apply under conditions in conjunction with the e-books system implementation.

## How we may help you with the challenges of implementing myDATA?

With a long tradition in accounting and tax advisory services and one of the most prominent and specialised tax teams in Greece, Zepos & Yannopoulos stands next to its clients, assisting them to capture the intricacies of the Greek tax and accounting system and successfully respond to the challenges of an increased compliance environment. Our economists and tax advisors have already established a plan for assisting your business with the adaptation to the newly introduced e-books system requirements, by virtue of:

- Identifying the main areas applicable under the new compliance obligations in order to render them understandable in practical terms to your business
- Assisting in the design/development process of the e-books system on the basis of particularities of the accounting/commercial ERP used as well as accounting procedures applied
- Providing fiscal and accounting support to the local accounting team and IT department required for the set-up, testing and implementation of the e-books system
- Providing on-going fiscal and accounting support required for the day-to-day operation of the e-books system following the set-up process.

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