



Overall payment period — 34 days down to 21

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Three segments measured · fictional document

Fictional document — demonstration example

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Fictional document, produced for the demonstration. **The period breaks down, and it is the breakdown that gets presented in the chamber** — not the average, which never says where the time is lost.

The overall payment period runs from receipt of the invoice to its actual settlement: it adds the authority's time to the public accountant's. The rule applying to local authorities sets thirty days.

The three segments

Segment	Before	Checked quarter	Whom it belongs to
Receipt of the invoice → certification of service	16 days	6 days	Spending departments — the segment that carried the whole gap

Segment	Before	Checked quarter	Whom it belongs to
Certification → payment order	11 days	8 days	Finance department and authorising officer
Payment order → payment	7 days	7 days, unchanged	The public accountant — the agent does not touch it
Total	34 days	21 days	The rule sets 30

The public accountant's segment is not shortened and does not have to be. What the agent does for him: **a complete file first time**, which is the only honest way to help a check that does not belong to the authority.

What it is worth in public money

Measure	Before	Checked quarter, annualised
Invoices paid beyond the deadline	1,140	284
Late-payment interest	€9,400	€1,200
Difference	—	€8,200 going back to funding a service instead of a delay

What the payment period carries for the municipality's suppliers

Fact	Value	Reading
Active suppliers	1,180	—
of which businesses with fewer than ten employees	340	They are the ones carrying the delay in their cash flow

Fact	Value	Reading
Order of processing	By date of arrival, for everyone	A deadline met in the same order for everyone is equal treatment between the businesses that work for the municipality

The proposed monthly table

Content	Frequency	What it serves in committee
Average period by spending department and number of invoices beyond thirty days	The 5th of each month	Saying “it went from 34 to 21, and here is which segment moved” rather than “the period is improving”

An overall period shortens where it is lost, not everywhere at once. Here, ten of the thirteen days gained come from one segment — **and that segment belonged neither to the finance department nor to the public accountant, but to the spending departments that the weekly statement made self-sufficient.**

For the authority to settle

Recipients of the monthly payment-period table: _____

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