



# FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

## SEPA COMPLIANCE

The Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) initiative affects European companies doing business with European partners. SEPA requires firms to use new payment standards, change master data, and to examine their business processes. INTENSUM can advise and help you with these challenges

### WHAT IS SEPA EXACTLY

SEPA aims to standardise payment transactions. It allows users to execute their Euro transactions throughout the SEPA zone in the same way as they would in their own country, based on the same user-friendly and secure methods and in the same time frame. All bank accounts will be identified using the Bank Identifier Code (BIC) for now and the International Bank Account Number (IBAN). The ISO20022 XML standard is used for all payment files. Common standards, faster settlement and simplified processing will improve cash flow, reduce costs and facilitate access to new markets.

### 1 FEBRUARY 2014

The European Parliament has recently confirmed that the 1st of February 2014 will be the deadline for the euro zone countries to change to the new SEPA Credit Transfers and SEPA Direct Debits. This migration can impact your organization and create opportunities for your company, so there's no time to lose...

#### HARMONIZATION

- Harmonized financial processes
- Harmonized timelines
- IBAN and BIC replace national bank codes and account numbers

#### COST REDUCTION

Lower your payment costs and reduce the total cost of ownership

- Uniform ISE 20022 based SEPA XML formats
- End-to-end data flow improvements such as reference fields, remittance information, uniform standards and exception codes

#### OPPORTUNITIES

Use SEPA as a catalyst to take advantage of payment efficiencies throughout Europe :

- Replace existing inefficient bank applications
- Potential for liquidity centralization and payment factory
- Reduce multiple cost intensive bank communication interfaces by one single channel through SWIFT