

Process Modelling and IT-Specification with BPMN 2.0

Highlights

- BPMN as a modelling standard in the EU
- Usage of process models in IT-specifications
- Linking of process steps to requirement details
- Business and technical views in a process model
- Development of a BPMN methods handbook



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Starting Point and Participants

In the course of the modernised customs code the EU Commission relies on BPMN. The customs processes are to be standardized EU-wide and shall be supported by similar IT-systems in all member states. In Germany the German Federal Ministry of Finance implements the customs-approved requirements by the EU Commission. There has been cooperation with Materna GmbH as an IT-service provider before, in the field of specification and development of customs systems – e.g. at the ATLAS export system. The issue was now to test BPMN as a mutual language between business and IT.

At first we modelled the process of the already existing ATLAS export system with BPMN to test the notation within a complex scenario. The hereby gained experience was the basis for the further use of BPMN within the modernised customs code.

Our Mission

In this project, camunda service GMBH was represented as a counsellor in all questions around BPMN 2.0. All participants were trained in BPMN and supported by an

expert in its application. Moreover, the BPMN process models were to be integrated into the already existing IT specifications.

The Project Progress

At the beginning, BPMN was new to most of the participants. Business and legal experts as well as business analysts and IT-specialists had to learn the notation. All participants were trained in BPMN in two seminars of which each one was a mix of members from all different departments. So the business side could learn the point of view from the IT from the beginning onwards – and vice versa. They learned the syntax and the semantics of the BPMN symbols, practiced their application and had the possibility to clarify all their context-based questions.

Then we built our ‘first own process model’ in a collective workshop, so that the opinions of all could be taken into account. Like this we were able to clarify a lot of questions about the new methods right from the beginning and wrote them down in a methods handbook.

In the further course the designated modelling experts modelled decentralized and the results were discussed in frequent workshops. So everybody was able to give

feedback on the models. The modellers integrated the new insights into the models until the next workshop.

To integrate the process models into the rest of the IT-specification, each individual process element was clearly marked and linked with further information, e.g. with a set of rules. The tool used was able to create from this the whole IT-specification as a report.

All experiences in the usage with BPMN were continuously documented in a wiki-based methods handbook which contains best-practices, modelling patterns and concrete modelling requirements.

Summary and Conclusion of our Services

The usage of BPMN models in the IT-specification has increased the understanding of all participants. Through the consequent joint reflection of the models and the usage of the camunda methodology we were able to make both sides, the business and the IT, understand and use the same models.

Further adjustments to the ATLAS export system will be executed on the basis of BPMN models. Germany takes a leading role among the European member states in the field of customs with its new competence in BPMN.

Customer Quotes

“The development of the automation of trans-European customs systems by the German Customs Administration relies on the modelling methods of BPMN. Taking this path we relied on the competence of camunda services GmbH whose employees gave us helpful and friendly support.”

Michael Schroeter, German Federal Ministry of Finance

“In the reorientation in the process modelling in our project towards BPMN, we succeeded in developing models with the use of the camunda methodology and the competent support by the camunda services GmbH, in which the business side as well as the IT could recognize themselves. The jointly developed methods handbook will serve a basis for further BPMN projects.”

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