

Berlin Group **open**Finance



**An open API Standard for
the Financial Industry**

Why **open**Finance?

PSD2 XS2A set the regulatory benchmark for consent-driven data access and enabling third parties to trigger a payment. One of the main intentions of PSD2 was to foster innovation and competition in the European banking market. While a first step has been made, more is needed to truly achieve this objective.

PSD2 ensures access to datasets on a bank customers' payment account. Further, the defined roles for payment initiation and account information allow to provide basic payment services. Compared to other payment means, these will not allow to unleash the full innovation potential.

openFinance aims to expand the access of customers' financial data to broader data sources and additional account types, such as e.g. savings, loans, investments. This offers enhanced views on customers' data and will empower bank customers to actively choose the best value products and services they need. Further it helps to improve the basic credit transfer with additional functionalities (e.g. flexible execution and document handling) and enables the creation of new payment and credit services. The **open**Finance services will attune to the ambitions of the European Commission's Retail Payments Strategy and to any relevant scheme definition.

openFinance will affect how future digital financial services are designed, built and distributed.



Berlin Group **open**Finance

More than 75% of European banks and hundreds of Third Party Providers (TPPs) have already decided to implement the Berlin Group NextGenPSD2 Framework and the standard has met strong adoption and support outside the PSD2-mandated countries as well. In unleashing the full

potential of the NextGenPSD2 API Framework technology, Berlin Group **open**Finance focuses on a broader and complementary perspective, beyond regulatory services, and adds standardised extensions that enable bank customers (consumer or corporate account owners), directly or via the TPP, to access bank accounts for commercial premium services and data.

THE *Berlin* GROUP

A EUROPEAN STANDARDS INITIATIVE



Leveraging the NextGenPSD2 technology and infrastructure investments, **open**Finance allows banks and TPPs to offer enhanced services, products and information, that will benefit market participants and will further improve customer experiences.

In a unique partnership, participants in Berlin Group **open**Finance are working together with the common vision that open and harmonised **open**Finance interface standards for processes, data and infrastructures are the necessary building blocks of an open, interoperable market. True interoperability is an essential component of competitive **open**Finance services and will contribute to further progress towards the European Single Market and benefit the payments industry in general and European consumers and businesses in particular.

Berlin Group

openFinance | The next evolution in Banking Services



OFFICES



ONLINE BANKING



MOBILE BANKING




PSD2 OPEN BANKING



OPENFINANCE



Why rely on the **open**Finance API Framework?

- **COMPREHENSIVE:** covering as much as possible the market needs of both users and providers
- **FLEXIBLE:** covering a diverse range of Strong Customer Authentication means
- **EFFICIENT:** re-using existing banking standards and building on NextGenPSD2
- **MODERN:** based on newest technologies, such as REST, JSON, etc.
- **COVERAGE:** based on NextGenPSD2 - already implemented in more than 20 countries
- **SECURE:** using secure identification standards such as eIDAS
- **SIMPLE:** clear layered model where each actor can choose the parts relevant to him
- **PAN-EUROPEAN:** actors from all over Europe (and beyond) contribute to the framework
- **OPEN:** publicly available under Creative Commons Licence 
- **EXTENSIBLE:** new services will be added upon market requirement



Participants to Berlin Group standardisation are from the market supply-side (the providers) and from the market demand-side (the users). More information and a full list of participants can be found on <https://www.berlin-group.org>

openFinance services

Account Information extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic AIS Service (PSD2)• Account Entry Push Notifications• Extended Consent Management (GDPR)• Additional Account Types: e.g. Savings, Loans, Securities
Payment extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Payments (PSD2)• Reservation of Funds• Deferred Payments• Request to Pay• Pay by Loan (integrated Consumer Loans)• SEPA Direct Debit eMandates• Integrated ID Data service
Trade extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loan business• Securities business (list of stocks, certificates, ...)
API Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discovery API (Bank Parameter)• Client Parameter API
Administration and Registration services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pricelist API• Digital Contract API

Technical Characteristics

Transport Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HTTP version 1.1• TLS version 1.2 or higher
Applicative Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REST with HAL support
Client (PSU) Authorisation Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• redirect/OAuth2, decoupled, embedded• Signatures (direct access)
Characteraset	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UTF-8
Data formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JSON & XML
Data model origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ISO 20022
Identifier naming convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ISO 20022 extended names

Interface Characteristics

- Third Party Provider access beyond PSD2
- GDPR compliant consent model beyond PSD2
- Support of Direct Access for PSUs / Corporates
- eCommerce support
- Discovery service to obtain the specific implementation details
- Multilevel SCA/Corporate Banking support

Security Features

Transport Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mutual TLS
Access Client Identification	<p>Transport Layer (mandatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• QWACS eIDAS certificates <p>Application Layer (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• QSEALS eIDAS certificates• Corporate Seal certificates
API Provider Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on TLS
Signatures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign http messages (maintain)• JSON Web Signature (JWS)
Client (PSU) authentication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All SCA methods of the client
Data encryption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on TLS• JSON Web Encryption (JWE)
Fraud detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on PSU device related data• Further mitigation measures will be published by security bulletins

Documentation

Technical specifications available at <https://www.berlin-group.org/open-finance>