

Belgian Primary Financial Statement Commercial and Industrial Taxonomy

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Taxonomy Documentation

Summary Taxonomy Information:

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Name: Belgian financial reporting Taxonomy

Owner: National Bank of Belgium - Central Balance Sheet Office

Released type:

Description: This taxonomy provides accounting terms that are used in financial statements prepared by Belgian non financial companies in accordance with Belgian GAAP

Namespace identifier: <http://www.nbb.be/be/fr/pfs/ci/full/2007-04-01>
<http://www.nbb.be/be/fr/pfs/ci/abbreviated/2007-04-01>

Recommended namespace prefix: Full format: pfs-full
Abbreviated format: pfs-abbr

Version of XBRL Specification Used: XBRL 2.1 Specification dated 2003-12-31

Relation to other XBRL DTS's: This taxonomy is compliant with the Financial Reporting Taxonomy Architecture (FRTA) 1.0 (2005-11-07)

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Relation to other XBRL Taxonomies: The family of taxonomies described here is complete and does not reference other XBRL taxonomies outside the set.

Taxonomy overview diagram: [be-fr-pfs-ci-2007-04-01-Structure.pdf](#)

Physical Location of Taxonomy Package: <http://www.nbb.be/be/fr/pfs/ci/2007-04-01>

Summary document: [be-fr-pfs-ci-2007-04-01-Documentation.doc](#)

All files: [be-fr-pfs-ci-2007-04-01.zip](#)

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These Explanatory Notes:

Taxonomy builder software:

Taxonomy editor, Fujitsu, Japan

Taxonomy validation tools:

DecisionSoft, UK

Fujitsu, Japan

Instance documents validation tools:

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Abstract

This taxonomy provides accounting terms that are used in the Primary Financial Statements (PFS) prepared according to Belgian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). This taxonomy was developed from the normalized annual account form and uses common element names. The be-fr-pfs-ci Draft Taxonomy has been prepared by the Central Balance Sheet Office of the National Bank of Belgium.

This taxonomy is compliant with the XBRL Specification Version 2.1, dated 2003-12-31 plus errata corrections dated 2005-11-07.

(<http://www.xbrl.org/SpecRecommendations/>). This taxonomy is to be used in conjunction with other taxonomies to create XBRL instance documents compliant with Belgian GAAP dealing with financial reporting data. Specifically, the be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy presents the concepts used in the Balance Sheet, the Income Statement and the disclosure required in the official form.

This document assumes a general understanding of accounting and XBRL. Anyone desiring additional information relating to XBRL should consult the XBRL Belgium website (<http://www.nbb.be/pub/Home.htm?l=en&t=ho>) and the XBRL International website (<http://www.xbrl.org>).

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Terminology

The terminology used in this document frequently overlaps with terminology from other disciplines. The following definitions are provided to explain the use of terms within the XBRL knowledge domain.

Taxonomy	An XBRL Taxonomy is an XML Schema-compliant .xsd file that contains XBRL elements, which are XML elements that are defined by XBRL-specific attributes. An XBRL Taxonomy may also contain references to XLink linkbases.
Instance document	An XML document that includes on or more XBRL elements and optional references to zero or more XLink linkbases.
Element	An XBRL element is a "fact" or piece of information described by an XBRL taxonomy.
Linkbase	Linkbases provide additional information about XBRL elements.
Discoverable Taxonomy Set (DTS)	A set of XBRL schema files and linkbases, which together accommodate the reporting requirements for a particular constituency.
Tuple	Reference is made in this document to a tuple. This refers to a grouping of facts that should be seen as a package. For example, a tuple representing a "book" might be made up of elements including author, publisher, title, year of publication etc.

Table of Contents

ABSTRACT. . .	4
TERMINOLOGY	5
1 OVERVIEW	6
1.1 BACKGROUND.....	6
1.1.1 History	6
1.1.2 Contents of annual account.....	6
1.1.3 Presentation to be used.....	6
1.2 PURPOSE	6
1.3 TAXONOMY STATUS	7
2 THE BE-FR-PFS-CI TAXONOMY (SUMMARY).....	8
2.1 CONTENTS OF THE TAXONOMY	8
2.2 TAXONOMY MODULARITY.....	10
2.3 TAXONOMY STRUCTURE	10
2.3.1 Overview.....	10
2.3.2 Viewing a Taxonomy.....	10
2.3.3 Element Organisation.....	11
2.4 ELEMENT NAMING CONVENTION	11
2.5 LABEL AND LANGUAGES	11
2.6 REFERENCES.....	12
3 DUE PROCESS AND REVIEW.....	12
3.1 DUE PROCESS AND REVIEW	12
3.2 UPDATES TO THIS TAXONOMY.....	12
3.3 COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK.....	13
4 MORE INFORMATION	13
5 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATUS.....	13
6 DOCUMENT HISTORY.....	143

1 Overview

1.1 Background

1.1.1 History

Before 1976, the obligation to file and publish annual accounts was limited to a small group of companies and was moreover of no great importance.

In the years 1975 and 1976, both legislation and regulation were changed fundamentally; the disclosure obligation was extended to most Belgian companies and the contents of the annual accounts were standardised, notably in order to take account of a European directive that was still at a draft stage.

Since 1978, companies subject to Belgian law have to file their annual accounts with the Central Balance Sheet Office.

1.1.2 Contents of annual account

Annual accounts make it possible for a company to give structured information about its development during the past year, on the basis of its bookkeeping: size of the profit or loss, purchase of new goods, new borrowings, size of the staff, ...

Belgian annual accounts are made up of four main parts:

- the balance sheet is a statement of assets and liabilities
- the income statement is a reflection of the state of expenses and income during the period
- the notes give further details about the balance sheet and the profit and loss account
- the social balance sheet gives data about employment in the company.

1.1.3 Presentation to be used

Most companies (98%) have to draw up their annual accounts according to one of the two presentations described in Book II of the royal decree of 30 January 2001 executing the Code of companies.

Large companies are obliged to use the full presentation, while other companies can opt for the abbreviated presentation.

1.2 Purpose

This *Primary Financial Statements (PFS) Taxonomy* is designed to facilitate the creation of XBRL formatted documents that respect the legal form prescribed for non financial companies according to the Belgian law.

The purpose of this and other taxonomies produced using XBRL is to supply a framework that will facilitate data exchange among software applications used by companies and individuals as well as other financial information stakeholders, such as lenders, investors, auditors, attorneys, and regulators.

1.3 Taxonomy status

The be-fr-pfs-ci Taxonomy is a *Final version*. Its content and structure have been reviewed by both accounting and technical experts.

The Taxonomy complies with the Financial Reporting Taxonomy Architecture (FRTA) and XBRL Specification Version 2.1.

The Central Balance Sheet Office intends to have this taxonomy reach the status of a Acknowledged taxonomy under the XBRL Taxonomy Recognition Process.

2 The be-fr-pfs-ci Taxonomy (Summary)

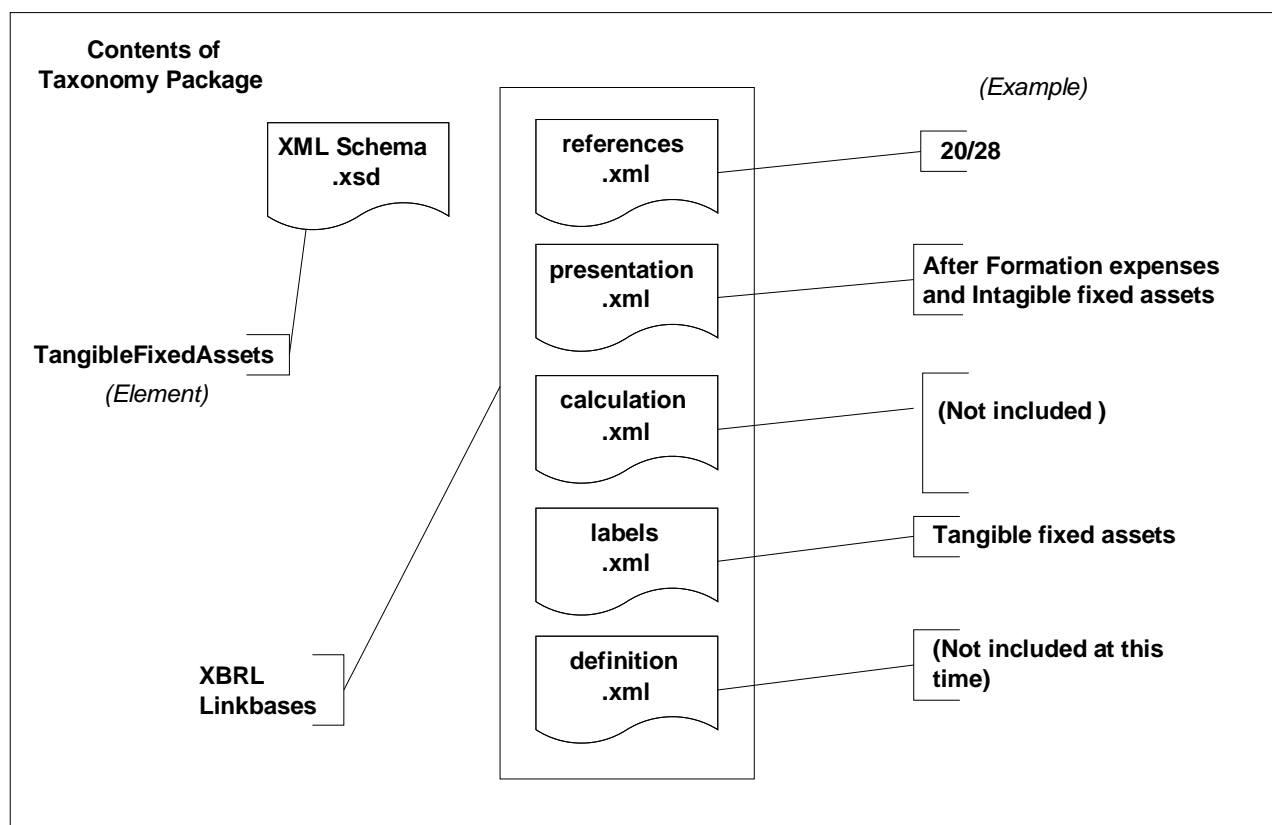
2.1 Contents of the Taxonomy

The be-fr-pfs-ci Taxonomy is made up of a Discoverable Taxonomy Set (“DTS”) of interrelated XML files:

- XML Schema Files (.XSD files): An XBRL Version 2.1 Taxonomy XML Schema files.
- XBRL Linkbases (.XML files): “Linkbases” for:
 - Labels
 - References
 - Presentation relationships between elements;
 - Calculation relationships between elements; and
 - Definitional relationships between elements (not included at this time).

The package is represented visually, with an example based on a Balance Sheet reporting of Tangible Fixed Assets is shown in

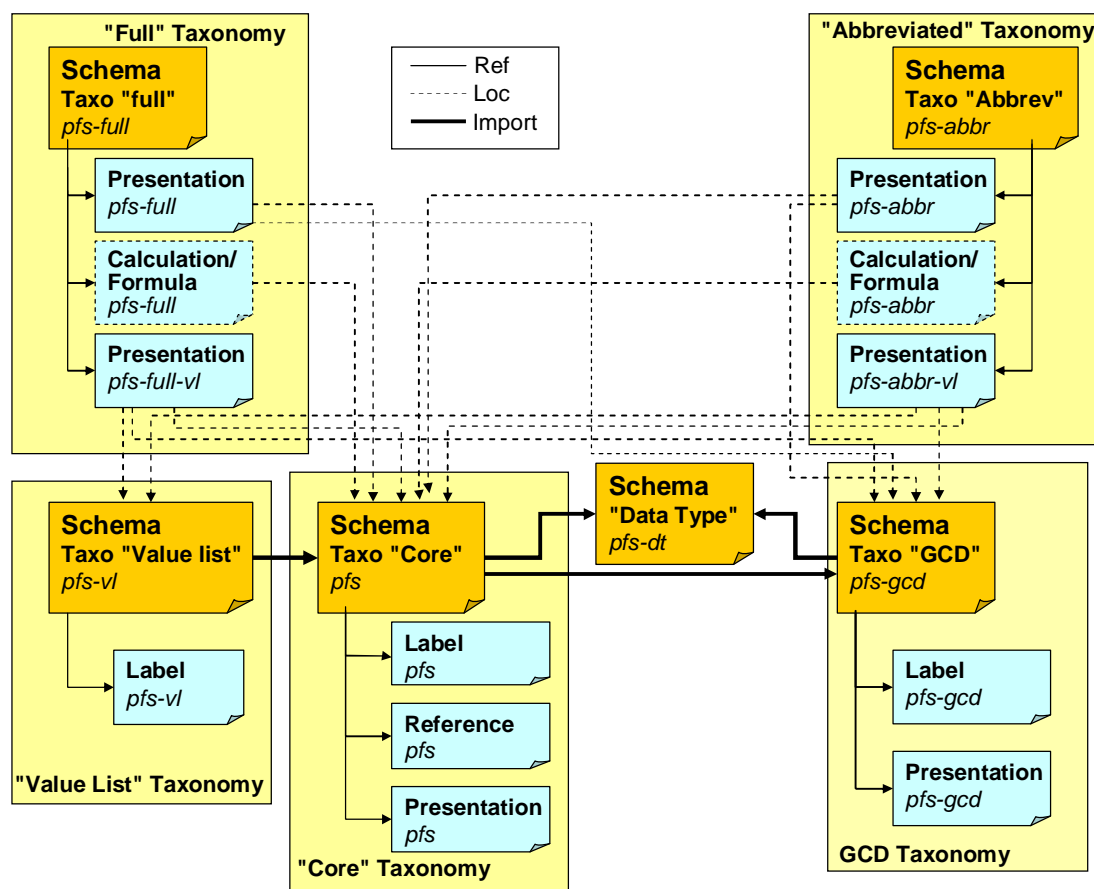
Figure 1: be-fr-pfs-ci Taxonomy Package with Descriptions and Examples



The diagram above shows that a taxonomy is a collection of one or more XML Schema files. The XML Schema is further described by a number of linkbases.

The be-fr-pfs-ci-2007-04-01 is divided into modules as follows:

Figure 2: Taxonomy architecture - be-fr-pfs-ci-2007-04-01



The GCD taxonomy includes the identifying data of the company and the document history. It is a national taxonomy inspired by the GCD taxonomy being developed by an XBRL team. The data are generic and re-usable for several financial reports. The label linkbase defines the multilingual labels of the elements.

Example: stock exchange information, ...

The Data Type schema defines the authorised data types and allows setting the parameters of the elements of the importing taxonomy.

Example: the data type "nonNegativeDecimal6D11ItemType" is a non negative number with 6 entire positions and one decimal. It will be used to express the staff number in FTE.

The NBB Core Taxonomy includes the elements relating to the annual account (identifying data and accounting data). It includes several linkbases:

- a presentation linkbase describing the hierarchy of the elements according to the National Accounting Plan¹,
- a label linkbase with the multilingual designation of the elements,
- a reference linkbase containing the accounting codes of the elements.

The Taxonomies "full" and "abbreviated" consist each of:

¹ This accounting plan legally covers the items from the balance sheet and the profit and loss account. the accounting data included in the annual accounts follow this accounting plan but add some internal items related to the notes, movement analysis, social balance, ...

- a schema without element referring to the other Taxonomies,
- a presentation linkbase containing the hierarchy of each kind of annual account (full or abbreviated),
- a presentation linkbase including the value lists used for the related form,
- the calculation linkbase has been removed in this version. It could only contain a small part² of the arithmetic checks performed on the accounting data. As soon as possible, it will be completed or replaced by a formula linkbase in order to include the other requisite arithmetical and logical checks.

The Value List Taxonomy includes value lists used to allocate a value to some elements of the Core Taxonomy or the GCD Taxonomy. It comprises a label linkbase with the multilingual name of the elements.

Example: Country codes, Legal form codes, ...

2.2 Taxonomy modularity

The figure of the preceding section has the following meaning.

- The NBB Core Taxonomy contains all the elements and imports the GCD Taxonomy with the identifying data and the Data type taxonomy with the available data types. Both are generic taxonomies and could be reused for other annual accounts (for the financial sector for example) or for other reporting (VAT declaration, ...)
- The Value list Taxonomy imports the result in order to be able to allocate values to some predefined elements.
- According to the form to be filed by the company, the "Full" or "Abbreviated" taxonomy refers to the other taxonomies to present the right flow of data.

2.3 Taxonomy Structure

2.3.1 Overview

The be-fr-pfs-ci DTS contains more than 2.000 XBRL elements, which are unique, individually identified concepts. The XML schema file is the foundation of the taxonomy package and provides a straightforward listing of the elements in the taxonomy. The associated linkbases provide the information that is necessary to interpret (e.g. Label and Reference linkbases) taxonomy elements or place a given taxonomy element in context relative to other taxonomy elements (e.g. Presentation linkbases).

2.3.2 Viewing a Taxonomy

The actual be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy comprises a number of XSD files that expresses concepts and linkbases that express relationships between taxonomy concepts and/or provide documentation. Viewing the full relationship between the XML Schema and the linkbase files requires specialist software. For review purposes, a paper-based representation in Excel, is the most practical solution. The disadvantage is that, in this printed form, many of the characteristics of taxonomies are not obvious. Printed

² Most of the checks performed by the CBSO on the annual accounts includes arithmetical and logical checks can not be defined in the current calculation linkbase.

versions are two-dimensional, whereas the information in the taxonomy is multi-dimensional.

2.3.3 Element Organisation

Users of the taxonomy need to be able to locate taxonomy elements, so that they can be mapped to the information systems from which data is drawn to generate XBRL Instance Documents. There are many ways the elements could have been organised, including, for example, alphabetical order. The be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy is organised using the annual account presentation (Balance sheet, Income statement, Statement of affectations and withdrawals, Notes and Social balance).

However, this organisation may limit the understanding of the underlying complexity and ultimate power of an XBRL taxonomy. A taxonomy has multiple “dimensions”. Relationships can be expressed in terms of definitions, calculations, links to labels in one or more languages, links to one or more references, etc. The organisation used expresses only one such set of relationships, which is presentation-based and in English. The way the elements are organised implies that this is how financial statements should be rendered. That is the case for annual accounts but that does not want to say that this taxonomy cannot be used for another financial reporting.

2.4 Element Naming Convention

The convention for naming XBRL elements within a taxonomy follows that of XML Schema. Each name within a taxonomy must be unique and must start with an alpha character or the underscore character. Element names are case-sensitive. The be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy naming convention follows these rules; see the XML Specification for more information.

In addition, the be-fr-pfs-ci Taxonomy follows the element naming conventions of the FRTA.

2.5 Label and languages

Currently, labels for taxonomy elements are provided in English, French, Dutch and German.

Despite the fact that the FRTA suggests using separate linkbases for each language (cf. FRTA 4.2.7), reporting multiple languages in a single linkbase allows for the optimisation of having only one "loc" element and only one "labelArc" element per set of labels. In the be-fr-pfs-ci-Taxonomy multiple languages are not translation of an official taxonomy, but they are legally required.

The labels provided in the be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy are not intended to be the exact labels used in financial reporting. The labels are often more verbose descriptors to help the user understand the taxonomy element. The labels are based directly on the terms used in the Belgian law.

The be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy relies on Book II of the royal decree of 30 January 2001 to define the meaning of each element. No definitions are provided within the taxonomy.

Each label in the taxonomy is unique within this taxonomy in order to make using the taxonomy easier and to assist a user to understand what an element might represent. These “verbose” labels supplemented by other labels (standard labels, terse, ...) that

have the more precise term commonly used in financial statements in order to facilitate the rendering.

2.6 References

This be-fr-pfs-ci taxonomy provides references to authoritative sources.

Reference information is captured in the reference linkbase using the following element names:

- Publisher for the source (NBB or Accounting Plan),
- Number for the accounting code.

3 Process and review

3.1 Due process and review

A first draft of this taxonomy has been distributed to the members of the Belgian jurisdiction in March 2005.

The "Taxonomy" working group (22 participants) started the "Belgian GAAP taxonomy review" on April the 14th and have completed an initial "review" by the end of June 2005.

Conclusions and advices from the Taxonomy working group were integrated in the taxonomy during the summer 2005.

The taxonomy architecture has been totally reviewed with the help of external experts in order to answer legal and internal needs (data entry, rendering) and continuing being compliant with XBRL specifications.

A taxonomy with the final structure has been published in October 2006 with a technical document describing the constraints and requirements which cannot be integrated in the taxonomy. This information is intended for software companies developing a software which enables to draw up annual accounts according to the CBSO requirements.

This final version of the Belgian Gaap Taxonomy for commercial and industrial annual accounts will be published on the website of the National Bank of Belgium. From 2007, all non financial Belgian companies will have to follow the NBB taxonomy and the related technical protocol to file their annual accounts.

3.2 Updates to this Taxonomy

This taxonomy will be updated with revisions for errors and new features. It is also anticipated that this taxonomy will be updated as required to incorporate changes in generally accepted accounting principles and business reporting norms within the following guidelines:

- Since financial statements created using a taxonomy must be available indefinitely, the taxonomy must be available indefinitely. All updates will take the form of new versions of the taxonomy with a different date. For example, the Taxonomy <http://nbb.be/be/fr/pfs/ci/2006-10-01> will never

change. New versions will be issued under a different name with a different namespace, such as "<http://nbb.be/be/fr/pfs/ci/2007-04-01>". This will ensure that any taxonomy created will be available indefinitely,

- Future revisions won't be backward compatible; instance documents referring to previous versions of the taxonomies won't be validated with the current version of the taxonomy,
- It is anticipated that this taxonomy will be annually updated to incorporate legal changes.

3.3 Comments and Feedback

Comments and feedback are welcome, particularly ideas to improve this taxonomy. If you have a comment or feedback or wish to report an error, post comments to

xbri.be@nbb.be

4 More Information

More information about XBRL Belgium or the Taxonomy Working Group Activities, or for copies of its publications may be obtained from:

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6 Document history

2005-03-01	Dümm Rodrique	Presentation of the first draft of the taxonomy be-fr-pfs-ci-2005-01-01
2005-11-24	Dümm	Preliminary updates for the second version of the taxonomy be-fr-pfs-ci-2006-01-01
2006-10-10	Dümm Rodrique	Updates for the version of the taxonomy be-fr-pfs-ci-2006-10-01
2007-01-22	Dümm Rodrique	Updates for the version of the taxonomy be-fr-pfs-ci-2007-04-01