

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

ACSONE FACILITATES THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS EVEN WHEN THE INFORMATION IS SPREAD OVER MANY DECENTRALIZED IT SYSTEMS AND NEED SPECIFIC TRACKING



Acsome helped us solve critical organizational problems. To prepare yearly budgets, information has to be gathered from different decentralized IT systems in a cohesive manner.

Acsome was able to provide us with an IT solution able to handle complex, multi-lingual and multi-faceted information.

Source: **Johan Michiels**

Budget Officer, budgetary documents, DG Budget, European Commission

→ THE SITUATION: NEED TO GATHER BUDGET DATA FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

The Directorate-General Budget of the European Commission manages Union expenditure in the medium-term and, at the same time, ensures that the annual budgetary procedure runs smoothly.

The DG Budget produces many budgetary documents and reports, referencing sensible information coming from different European institutions and from different IT systems. The use of 22 official languages increases the complexity of the documents to produce. Many stakeholders (authors, translators, proofreaders and printers) need to collaborate simultaneously on the same documents.

→ THE CHALLENGE: MANAGING VARIOUS TRACKING REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the difficulty to reference the required information and to enable stakeholders' collaboration, the DG budget also needs to track information origin and subsequent modifications. Budgetary information is changing throughout the procedure. The source of the modifications is difficult to isolate as it depends of the step of the procedure and of the author of the changes.

Budgetary figures change not only over the time but also depending on the point of view to take into consideration. Three points of view have to be considered: the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. For example, a request of increasing a budget line can be introduced by the Commission, adopted by both branches of the budgetary authority, the European Parliament and the Council.

→ OUR SOLUTION: A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARD CLIENT SATISFACTION

Acsome proposed one global solution based on a common repository shared by all the European institutions:

- allowing the referencing and the presentation control of external data spread over decentralized IT systems,
- identifying each modification regardless of its origin,
- specializing these modifications depending on the step of the procedure and on the stakeholder: the Commission, the Council, or, the European Parliament,
- allowing each stakeholder to give access to its identified situations to other institutions;

The solution includes the support of templates. They are used to produce documents and reports. Templates and documents can be easily translated into 22 languages.

Such solution allows also:

- to ensure coherency across the documents,
- to define and to reference specific situations,
- to produce consolidated reports at any level of aggregation,
- to edit easily justifications and remarks with Word,
- to make budgetary simulations on top of Excel,
- to define standard layout.

→ OUR RESULTS: BUDGETARY PROCESS AND REPORTING MADE EASIER

Stakeholders can now focus on the quality of their data and less on the presentation, display or page layout. Budgetary reports are easy to produce. The reusing of part of budgetary information in different documents without duplication gives flexibility to the authors for organizing the content.

→ TECHNOLOGIES USED

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| ANALYSIS: | UML |
| DATABASE: | Oracle |
| LANGUAGES: | Java, XSLT, VBA, Python, Perl |
| APPLICATION SERVER: | JBOSS, Tomcat |
| FRAMEWORKS: | Jenkins, GIT, GWT, Acsonex Xml Editorial Framework, xooof.sourceforge.net |
| FORMATS: | XML, RTF, HTML, CSS, DITA |
| METHODOLOGIES: | Scrum |
| TESTS: | Unit tests, integration tests, performance tests, acceptance tests |
| ISSUES: | Planio, JIRA, Mantis |

→ PROJECT DETAILS

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| COUNTRY: | Belgium, Luxembourg |
| PERIOD: | 2010-2013 |

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