acsone

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

ACSONE FACILITATES ENHANCED COLLABORATION ON BUDGETARY PROCEDURES ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION

"

One of the most significant benefits of our collaboration with Acsone was the ability to reuse features or tools from one context to another. This helps us solve business problems or meet new editorial requirements more quickly and efficiently.

Acsone was a dedicated partner. I appreciated that they proactively proposed customized solutions to answer our complex document management challenges.

Lotte Joergensen
Service manager, Publications Office of the European Union

"

➔ THE SITUATION: ANY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE BUDGETARY CYCLE

The Publication Office of the European Union manages the production of all the budgetary documents of every one of the Union's Institutions in 22 official languages. This responsibility requires the collaboration of all the Institutions and, within each cycle, the collaboration of the different stakeholders (authors, translators, proofreaders and printers).

➔ THE CHALLENGE: COMPLEX DOCUMENTS WERE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE

Previously, each of nearly 2000 budgetary items, as well as each article, chapter, and title was identified as single files and managed in 10 different languages, leading to large numbers of files being processed. Files were in different formats and the budgetary figures were displayed in several locations, leading to overly complex data management. Further complicating matters, amending documents were often created and introduced during the process, which resulted in complex modification figures and mandatory validation. Eventually, files became larger and more difficult to manage.

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

Acsone proposed several solutions:

- First, we assigned a common repository for all budgetary data in XML and secured its access with control rules.
- Then, we identified each contributor's interventions, grouped them into roles and split the budgetary data into views like figures, text, or structured information.

- We developed appropriate tools to manage each set of data: Excel for figures, Word for text, and a dedicated nomenclature tool for structure information.
- We split production schema into defined steps and stages and developed tracking for all document events, including user id, date, and description of the event (ex: created, updated, deletion, etc.)

→ OUR RESULTS: BUDGETARY PROCESS AND COLLABORATION MADE EASIER

The use of a centralized XML repository greatly facilitates control over the budgetary production. For the service managers, the main benefit is to have one global overview of the production even if the production agents are spread between institutions. Authors can now focus on the quality of their data and less on layout, display, or page setup. By using dedicated data management tools, final users are applying a more rigorous, business-like approach to budgetary processing. In addition, using XML as a pivot allows for easier production of large documents in varying formats.

→ TECHNOLOGIES USED

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

→ PROJECT DETAILS

COUNTRY:	Belgium, Luxembourg
PERIOD:	1994-2013
NUMBER OF MANDAYS:	1600 per year