How European Schools got ready for the future with SAP S/4 HANA in the Cloud: Case Study

Kari Kivinen, Secretary-General, European Schools
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Introduction: Who are the European Schools?

- **Joint Public Sector** Organization of 28 **EU Member States** founded in 1953
- **14 schools** (nursery, primary, secondary) in **7 countries**
- Head Office in Brussels
- **€ 300 Million** annual budget
- **26,000 students**
- **4000 staff** members
- **SAP Net New Name**
- **1st SAP Simple Finance & S/4 HANA customer** (on SAP HEC) world-wide
Business Challenge

- 15 entities with all their own accounting, controlling and procurement business processes
- Transition from cash based accounting into accrual based accounting
- Introduction of new financial regulations (140 internal audit recommendation’s) at the same time
- Big Bang approach as the only option
- Heterogeneous IT landscape (interfacing)
- Available timeline of only 12 months from start till finish
- No SAP competence centre at European Schools at the start of the project
- Decentralised organisation with multiple languages and cultures in 7 countries
Project Scope

**Functional Scope (250 users):**
- **Finance**
  - General Ledger
  - Accounts Payable
  - Accounts Receivable
- **Materials Management**
- **Purchasing**
  - Purchase Request
  - Purchase Order
- **Inventory Management**
  - Goods Receipt
- **Sales and Distribution**
  - Sales Order Processing
  - Billing
  - Dunning
  - Instalments
- **Human Resources (mini HR)**
  - Master Data Administration
  - Net Salary Processing
- **Cross Domain**
  - Workflow
  - SAP Forms/Scripts
  - Information Systems (Reporting)
  - System Documentation

**Innovation Technologies applied:**
- SAP HANA deployed
  - For Fit-Gap: HANA Project Cloud
  - As of implementation: HANA Enterprise Cloud (HEC)
- **Simple Finance** Add-On (first Live customer world-wide)
- SAP Adobe interactive forms
- SAP Workforce Performance Builder
- SAP NetWeaver Business Client 5.0

**Service Scope:**
- Assembly-to-Order approach:
  - RDS SAP ERP for trade
  - PS for Solution Manager
  - PS Solution Manager Ticketing
- Funds Management Expertise
- Project & Integration Management
- **Organizational Change Management**
- **Business Process Redesign**
- Solution specific End User Training
Key Success Factors of this project are:

- No option to fail!
- Decided to go for as standardized Best Practice based (RDS) solution as possible (> 85% of standard functions)!
- Strong sponsorship from the European Schools and SAP
- Massive training investment for the key and end users with multi-lingual documentation
- Strong project management and change management of European Schools and SAP
- Delivery model of top experts on-site complemented with Near Shore Center expertise remote
- Eagerness of the team to bring the first S/4 HANA solution live
Business Benefits for going with SAP Simple Finance

“SAP Simple Finance empowers our users with more control and drives greater accountability. We have a complete solution that meets all our needs. And SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud means that we did not need to invest in IT staff to maintain the system.”

Kari Kivinen, CEO, Schola Europaea, Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools

- Improved transparency, consolidation and reporting a click away in stead of days of work
- Improved and faster financial closing
- Solution is compliant (audit) and is ready for the future.
- Streamlined and real-time accounting, controlling & procurement business processes
- Better cost control
- Limited IT staff required as solution is running in the cloud ! (HEC)
- Easier to motivate people to come and work for the European Schools !
- Great future potential !
  - Improved user experience and smart business cockpits with FIORI
  - On-line up to date reporting with CDS views
  - Harmonization of the human resources management
Thank you

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