BIBB: Ensuring International Competitiveness with SAP® Solutions and Services for Sustainability

Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung BIBB Forschen Beraten Zukunft gestalten

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Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)

Industry

Public sector

Products and Services

Research, development, and advisory activities for the progressive development of vocational education and training in Germany

Web Site

www.bibb.de

SAP® Solutions and Services

SAP® Sustainability Performance Management analytic application, SAP Consulting

How does the organization charged with ensuring the international competitiveness of German business and industry keep pace with requirements around sustainability? The Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) solved this issue by deploying the SAP® Sustainability Performance Management analytic application. "SAP helps us **efficiently manage our sustainability-related data** and reporting," explains Dr. Astrid Fey, CIO for BIBB.

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Providing for a sustainable future for the German workforce

BIBB was founded in 1970 as a federal government institution for policy, research, and practice in the field of vocational education and training. Its current basis in law is the Vocational Training Act of March 23, 2005, which sets out the institute's tasks. In its research and development work and its advisory activities, BIBB helps to prepare individuals for employment in a competitive marketplace. BIBB is directly accountable to the German federal government, which provides its funding. It is also subject to the legal supervision of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). BIBB is organized into 4 departments with 16 sections and a central services department, and employs some 630 staff members.

630

Staff members

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Staking its role in sustainable development

Recognized as a center of excellence for the progressive development of vocational education and training in Germany, BIBB is committed to helping Germany maintain a highly skilled workforce. With that in mind, it identifies future challenges around education and training, including those associated with economic and social change. Sustainability is one such issue.

In 2001 BIBB acted on the National Plan of Action for Germany, which outlines strategies for the implementation of sustainable development. BIBB instituted the Vocational Education and Training for Sustainable Development action program for the development, piloting, and transfer of innovative research and development projects. BIBB also achieved certification in accordance with the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) standard and must revalidate every three years. EU EMAS is a management tool for organizations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance.

Though BIBB, as a public sector organization, is not required to provide environmental reporting, it chose to provide reports on a voluntary basis to the German public and government. Its goal was to show that it takes sustainability seriously by providing transparency. It also wanted the ability to compare its performance with other public sector organizations within the EU.

With the aim of preparing itself for the challenges that lie ahead, BIBB decided to deploy a solution that supported high data quality for efficient reporting. "We wanted a single system containing all relevant, consolidated data so we could easily create reports for EU EMAS and other needs," recalls Fey.

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Choosing SAP for the initiative

After conducting due diligence in weighing its solution options, BIBB chose to work with SAP Consulting to deploy the SAP Sustainability Performance Management analytic application. According to Fey, BIBB's long-term relationship with SAP played a large part in the decision, as did its satisfaction in working with SAP Consulting to implement the SAP ERP application. BIBB knew that SAP Consulting applies best-practice methodologies to streamline implementation, and felt that no other vendor had as much experience in the sustainability area. "We didn't want to assume the risk of failure by working with another company, and trusted SAP Consulting to manage the implementation on a short timeline," Fey affirms.

Just as important was the fact that the affordable SAP Sustainability Performance Management analytic application would integrate with BIBB's existing SAP software–based infrastructure. By further standardizing on SAP software, BIBB expected to reduce administration and integration efforts. Plus, it felt it would have more flexibility in terms of making system adjustments.

BIBB was also excited about taking advantage of the sustainability hub set up by the SAP Services organization, providing access to up-to-date regulatory content and the portfolio of sustainability services offered by SAP.

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Accelerating implementation

By taking advantage of SAP Consulting and the sustainability hub, BIBB was able to implement the solution in just six weeks. As part of the implementation, SAP Consulting helped the organization integrate SAP Sustainability Performance Management with the SAP NetWeaver® Portal and SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse components that BIBB had in place.

At the time of going live, SAP Sustainability Performance Management supported 10 users, enabling them to address 41 factors related to energy consumption and waste. The software was also configured to help them track and measure 15 key performance indicators (KPIs). These KPIs will help BIBB measure its performance and set targets for improvement. The ability to track them also helps the organization satisfy EU EMAS requirements for obligatory KPIs that help the EU harmonize reporting on environmental performance.

"The fact that we were able to go live within six weeks is a tremendous testament to the value of SAP Consulting and the sustainability hub."

Dr. Astrid Fey, CIO, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training

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Boosting on-the-job performance

SAP Sustainability Performance Management helps BIBB employees create and update KPIs, which are stored in a searchable and filterable central library. BIBB can also communicate sustainability performance, set goals and objectives, manage risks, and monitor associated activities through a comprehensive dashboard.

On a regular basis, employees on the information technology and environmental teams use the software to track environmental-related data, such as energy consumed in the data center and waste produced in BIBB facilities. The environmental team uses the application to produce sustainability reports as well.

"SAP Sustainability Performance Management enables us to centrally and easily manage our sustainability-related data and reporting."

Dr. Astrid Fey, CIO, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training

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Registering noticeable changes

With consolidated data available and less risk around KPI calculation errors, BIBB can more quickly produce reports. It used to take the environmental team one to two weeks to collect all necessary data for reporting. Plus, it was time-consuming to identify any calculation errors. Because the SAP application automates the collection of KPI data from source systems, it helps reduce the risk of data-entry errors that lead to miscalculations. In addition, the environmental team can now generate standardized reports in one to two minutes with the click of a mouse. Moreover, it can produce ad hoc reports, a challenging task in the past when data was dispersed across spreadsheets managed by numerous departments.

With support for an auditable data-collection process, BIBB has further enhanced data transparency. And central access to sustainability-related data makes it easier for BIBB to identify trends as well as opportunities for improvement.

1–2 minutes

Time required to generate reports

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Setting a course for improvement

Going forward, BIBB expects to integrate SAP Sustainability Performance Management with an energy management solution. This solution will enable BIBB to track and manage energy consumption across the organization, and the integration will further enhance the sustainability reports it produces. "The SAP application enables us to take our sustainability initiative to new levels," concludes Fey.

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