

Information Builders enables agile information solutions with business intelligence (BI) and integration technologies. WebFOCUS – the most widely utilized business intelligence platform – connects to any enterprise system or application and enables simple and intuitive interaction with information.

The Council of Europe

Snapshot

Organization

The Council of Europe.

The Challenge

Developing an organization-wide business intelligence (BI) platform for use on all business levels.

The Strategy

Benefit from organization-wide financial IT systems upgrade to bring together the vast amounts of information generated into a centralized BI platform.

The Results

The Council of Europe chose WebFOCUS from Information Builders to support its budget management requirements. Over 200 employees now have access to the solution and continue to consecrate more time to value-added activities as WebFOCUS automates and rationalizes the reporting process.

Information Builders Solution

WebFOCUS.



The Council of Europe

The Council of Europe, the continent's oldest political organization, founded in 1949, groups together 46 countries.

Today, the organization continues to grow while at the same time increasing its monitoring to ensure that all its members respect the obligations and commitments they entered into when they joined. Since November 1990, the accession of 21 countries of central and eastern Europe has given the Council of Europe a genuine pan-European dimension, so that it is now the organization that represents Greater Europe. The Council of Europe manages a total budget of over 260 million euros annually (based on 2006 figures).

In light of its continually changing and expanding role across Europe, the Council decided to look more closely at its IT infrastructure as well as the way in which it is managed and used by employees with a view to rationalizing and improving it. A large scale upgrade of its financial information system ensued. An RFI was launched at this time to find a BI vendor that provided an end to end solution that was easy to use on all levels of the organization and was able to be implemented within the tight deadlines imposed by the wider financial information system's upgrade that was underway at the time.

Find Out More

To find out how our solutions can help your company succeed, talk to an Information Builders representative today.

Contact your local Information Builders office, visit us at

informationbuilders.com,

or in the U.S. and Canada,

call **(800) 969-4636.**

The RFI was launched in March 2005, the Information Builders WebFOCUS solution was purchased in July 2005 and the solution went live in October 2005, on schedule. "We had specific criteria by which we evaluated products in the BI market," explains Nigel Lassman, project manager at the Council of Europe. "Interface ease of use for over 200 employees on all levels of the organization, the ability to accurately drill down through the information, the solution's ability to export to a wide range of reporting formats and its performance were the main benchmarks to which they were referenced."

The project was piloted entirely in-house at the Council of Europe which in itself is a testament to the solution's adaptability and ease of implementation. As part of the project, Information Builders worked hand in hand with the Council of Europe to supply across-the-board training and support for employees involved in the development and use of WebFOCUS. Today, more than 200 employees have access to the solution and use it on a daily basis to make well-founded business decisions on all levels of the hierarchy.

"The decision to invest in a BI solution was driven on a purely business level," adds Nigel Lassman. "We were generating and managing a lot of information that could not be rationalized quickly enough to be used to aid business decisions effectively. The concept of ROI in this case was more in terms of support and efficiency than financial gain, even though the number of days work we save per year thanks to WebFOCUS is far from insignificant." An added bonus of the WebFOCUS solution is that the production and development systems now operate on the same hardware, keeping costs to a minimum while maximizing investment.

Commenting on the solid results achieved, Nigel Lassman adds that "before the implementation of WebFOCUS, the reporting process to generate a set of specific reports submitted to the Secretary General (monthly budgetary situation), consumed on average more than one-half-day of every month. We are now able to provide the same set of reports in a little over 10 minutes." The Council of Europe today generates more information than ever before via its integrated BI tool, which reflects its increased business requirements and the ever-expanding role the Council plays across the whole of Europe.

The Council intends to continue the evolution of its BI environment and will continue to drive it forward on a business level in order to draw the best from the investment.