



## CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

### INDUSTRY

Financial Sector

### GEOGRAPHY

EMEA

### CHALLENGES

To support the group's development through acquisitions or the creation of new offerings, the finance department was looking for a fast and efficient way to transform and integrate data in compliance with accounting and regulatory requirements.

### SOLUTION

Axway Financial Accounting Hub (FAH)

### RESULTS

- A single control point for financial data integration and transformation
- Automated data transformation complies with accounting and regulatory requirements
- Autonomy for the Financial Department to handle accounting rules on their own
- Ability to create accounting rules from back-office applications to feed many applications
- Audit trails permit return to the original operation and improve responsiveness to business lines

# ODDO BHF accelerates integration of new acquisitions

## Putting power in the hands of the business line

ODDO BHF, a unique, independent European financial group with roots in Germany, France, Tunisia, and Switzerland, has subsidiaries throughout the world. The group's 60,000+ clients include institutional investors, companies, distribution partners, and major private clients whose financial assets total 142 billion euros. Its mission is to make those assets grow through three business lines: private banking, asset management, and corporate and investment banking.

ODDO BHF rolled out the Axway Financial Accounting Hub solution during its overhaul of the accounting and reporting information system required by its status change from investment service provider to credit institution. In addition to being incompatible with French regulatory requirements, the old accounting system was rigid, slow, costly, and prone to manual errors.

The Axway solution employs a rule-based system that manages all data streams from the various business applications, translating and enriching business events into accounting entries. This transformation relies on several accounting standards and provides the level of detail required to populate the accounting key of the CODA accounting application (Unit4).

Using this solution, the Finance Department can autonomously manage the data, rules, and schemas involved in the production of accounting rules. Financial Accounting Hub also makes it possible to transform and enrich a financial event as a function of multiple accounting rules (e.g., local and IFRS) and normalize entries consistently across the various accounting ledgers.

The tool enables the department to process the various file formats received from different back-office applications and generate proper output files to populate the CODA accounting system, EVOLAN regulatory system, and LCB Core Banking. As a result, the department can support all ODDO BHF businesses lines. In total, ODDO BHF automates the integration of financial data flows from 15 business applications.



ODDO BHF

## Making full use of financial data management and enrichment

With the Financial Accounting Hub, the financial department can:

- Populate accounting ledgers according to several accounting standards (e.g., local and IFRS).
- Add data to the customers' accounts statement in real time or in nightly batches.
- Enrich the accounting positions of data according to the transaction number conveyed in the Coda accounting key used to feed the various regulatory tools. This prevents the group from generating new reconciliations.
- Feed the Episoft Linkki matching and reconciliation tool daily, thanks to the volume and quality of information conveyed through the Financial Accounting Hub in Unit4's Coda.
- Update and enrich Finance Department data flows without having to seek the help of IT or any other department.

## Simplifying project management

The Axway solution is administered by a single project management team for all group entities. It works directly with the business units to understand their needs and express them in the form of a customized accounting schema in order to simultaneously feed the Unit 4 Coda accounting tool and the LCB tool for customers' account statements.

The language and terminology used by the Financial Account Hub is easy for functional users to understand and respond to business lines requirements with little or no need for help from IT. When it's time to update a regulatory framework, integrate a new acquisition, or simply modify business rules, almost everything can be done by finance professionals. If problems arise, users can easily revert to the previous version of an accounting rule or policy.

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*We are able to connect an accounting entry to a business event at any time...*

## Managing rejections and improving data quality

“As a Project Owner, but also as responsible for accounting control, I have been able to take advantage of this opportunity to establish many controls and provoke rejections in the event of anomalies in the information communicated by the back-office application or information loaded in our LDW accounting basis,” says Gharib Chahr, Head of Project Finance and Accounting Control at ODDO BHF “Indeed, our accounting rules use different data sources, namely: business records generated by back-office applications and static data derived from our LDW info center (counterparties, exchange rate, account, etc.)”

Concerning exception handling, the Axway solution makes it possible to correct accounting rejections but also to manage future bookings. Some applications can send management events in advance – to be stored in the platform until maturity. Processes for facilitating day-to-day work, or handling error messages in the event of an accounting rejection, are easily understood.

“For audit purposes, the Axway Financial Accounting Hub workflow that manages exceptions, retains all necessary traces, as well as any type of corrections that have been made.”

Over the entire scope of operations, the volume of daily rejections remains very low. That’s because the solution provides the ability for users to improve the different rules and also by collaborating with managers of the different back-office applications to iteratively improve the quality of the data sent to the Financial Accounting Hub.

## Saving time and resources through advanced automation

Currently, the accounting rule engine provides a list of rejections to a bot (RPA) implemented by the innovation team. The bot compares the number of entries generated by the interpreter with the number of entries made in the Unit4 Coda ledger and sends an email every morning to each back-office manager with the list of rejections issued by the application they are responsible for. This automation supplement helps save considerable time by eliminating time-consuming tasks. Additionally, the IT teams have implemented various alerts to make sure files subjected to a sending frequency are properly received.

Automation and end-to-end supervision of the “record to report” chain help to significantly reduce the time allotted to production work, allowing more time to attend to the company’s many projects.

“Lastly, we are proud to be able to support the group thanks to the flexibility and ease enabled by Financial Accounting Hub,” says Chahr. “The solution fully meets our expectations in terms of data quality and automation and helps us satisfy our various customers to meet regulatory requirements and close accounts on time.

“Furthermore, we should note the heartiness of the tool. We very rarely have to contact Axway support... And when we have, they’ve gotten back to us within the day with a clear response to our requests.”

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## Maintaining a clear and consistent vision over time

As with accounting and regulations, ODDO BHF's business operations evolve regularly over time. To help with this, the group is able to trace the data based on audit trail history and the retention of successive versions of the accounting rules and management rules supplied by Financial Accounting Hub – essential features for using and justifying data for years.

“We are able to connect an accounting entry to a business event at any time,” says Chahr. “The audit trail ensures end-to-end traceability and the tool enables us to view the entire process for generating the different postings. So, we can answer questions from the different business lines in under 24 hours, but also questions from regulators and auditors during their audit.”

## Integration highlights

Axway Financial Accounting Hub has proven its value during:

- The acquisition of BHF to form the ODDO BHF group
- The rollout of the Core Banking System (LCB) tool
- The RUBA (Unified Reporting for Banks and Similar Entities) regulatory project

“Axway Financial Accounting Hub enables us, on a daily basis, to support the business lines,” Chahr concludes. “Launching a new product is fast – taking just two to four weeks to make the necessary accounting adaptations.”

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*Axway Financial Accounting Hub enables us, on a daily basis, to support the business lines: launching a new product is very fast since it just takes two to four weeks to make the necessary accounting adaptations.*

**Learn more about being more agile  
toward business, strategy and regulations  
changes with Axway Financial Accounting Hub** →