



STREAMLINING YOUR FINANCIAL PROCESSES:

How to Implement
Microsoft Dynamics
365 Finance in Your
Manufacturing Business

Table of contents

Introduction

STEP 1
Define Your Objectives

STEP 2
Prepare Your Data

STEP 3
Customise the System

STEP 4
Train Your Team

STEP 5
Go Live and Monitor Results

Next step

Click on the menu icon to return to the table of contents





Introduction

Manufacturing companies operate in a complex and competitive environment where effective financial management is crucial for survival and growth. From managing production costs and optimising inventory to forecasting demand and monitoring cash flow, financial management is at the core of every manufacturing business.

A business technology like Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance is designed to help businesses of all sizes streamline their financial operations and improve their overall performance. With features such as financial reporting, budgeting, and forecasting, Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance can provide manufacturers with real-time insights into their financial health, enabling them to make informed decisions and stay ahead of the competition, explains René Reinli, General Manager at AlfaPeople Germany.



“Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance is an enterprise resource planning (ERP) software solution that can help companies improve their financial performance by providing better visibility, efficiency, and control over their financial processes.”

If you're a manufacturing company looking to implement Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance, this guide is for you. Our easy-to-follow guide will walk you through five crucial steps in the implementation process. By following our guide, you'll gain an understanding of how Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance can be implemented seamlessly into your business, ensuring that your financial management processes are optimised and your business is set up for success.

Enjoy.





STEP 1

Define Your Objectives

To fully leverage the capabilities of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance, it is critical to define clear objectives before implementing the system.

In this chapter, we will discuss the importance of defining clear objectives and provide examples of how organisations can achieve their goals with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance. You'll get insights into why it's important to involve stakeholders in defining objectives and setting expectations.



The Importance of Defining Clear Objectives

It is crucial to have a clear understanding of your objectives before implementing Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance in your business, René Reinli, General Manager at AlfaPeople Germany, explains.

“Defining clear objectives before implementing Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance helps ensure that the system is being used to support the organisation’s business goals, addresses specific needs, manages scope, measures success, and provides a basis for communication and decision-making.”



Clear objectives are crucial when implementing Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance because they ensure that all stakeholders are aligned and working towards the same goals. By setting objectives upfront, businesses can better understand what they hope to achieve with the software and create a roadmap for how to get there.

When defining objectives for implementing Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance, it's important to involve all stakeholders in the process. By involving stakeholders, businesses can ensure that everyone has a clear understanding of what they hope to achieve with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and how it will impact their day-to-day operations.



Examples of Objectives

There are many different objectives that businesses can set when implementing Dynamics 365 Finance. Here are some examples:

- **Improve financial reporting:** By setting this objective, businesses can improve the accuracy and timeliness of their financial reporting, which can help them make better-informed decisions.
- **Streamline financial processes:** By streamlining financial processes, businesses can save time and reduce the risk of errors, which can help to improve overall efficiency and productivity.
- **Gain greater visibility:** By setting this objective, businesses can better understand their financial performance and make more informed decisions.





STEP 2

Prepare Your Data

Before migrating data to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance, it's essential to ensure that the data is accurate, consistent, and of high quality.

In this chapter, we'll explore the importance of preparing data for migration and discuss common data migration challenges that businesses may face. You'll also get some tips for preparing data for migration to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance.



The Importance of Preparing Data for Migration

According to René Reinli, General Manager at AlfaPeople Germany, preparing data for migration is essential when implementing Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance.

“Preparing data for migration to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance is important because it ensures data accuracy, minimises data loss, improves data quality, reduces migration time, and lowers implementation costs.”



By preparing data for migration, businesses can ensure that they have a solid foundation for their financial management system. This can help them to make more informed decisions, streamline processes, and improve overall efficiency.

Without proper data preparation, businesses may encounter challenges with the accuracy, quality, and consistency of the data, which can lead to errors, confusion, and a lack of trust in the system.



Tips for Preparing Data for Migration

To overcome common data migration challenges, businesses can follow these tips when preparing data for migration to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance:

- **Clean up data:** Removing duplicates, correcting errors, and standardising data can improve data accuracy and quality.
- **Establish data governance policies:** Establishing data governance policies can help improve consistency and ensure that everyone is working with the same information.
- **Map data fields:** Mapping data fields can ensure that data is accurate and consistent across different systems.
- **Test data migration:** Testing data migration can help identify any issues or errors before the system goes live.





STEP 3

Customise the System

As a manufacturing business, you need a financial management system that is tailored to your unique needs. Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance can provide you with the tools you need to manage your finances effectively, but to get the most out of the system, it's important to customise it to meet your specific requirements.

In this chapter, we'll explore the importance of customising Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance for your manufacturing business. You'll also get examples of customisations you might consider, and gain insight into why it is essential to involve stakeholders in the customisation process.



The Importance of Customising Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance

Customising Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance is essential to ensure that the system meets the specific needs of your manufacturing business, René Reinli, General Manager at AlfaPeople Germany, says.

“Customising Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance to meet the needs of your manufacturing business is important because it aligns the software with your business processes, improves data accuracy, enhances visibility, addresses unique requirements, and supports growth.”



When customising Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance, it's important to involve stakeholders in the process. This includes people from different departments, such as finance, manufacturing, and sales, as well as any external partners or vendors.

Involving stakeholders in the customisation process helps ensure that the system meets everyone's needs and that everyone understands how to use it effectively. It can also help to identify any potential issues or roadblocks early on and to find solutions that work for everyone.



Examples of Customisations

Some of the customisations that you might consider including in your specific implementation of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance:

- **Adding fields:** Capture the specific information you need to manage your finances effectively.
- **Modifying workflows:** Streamline processes and improve efficiency.
- **Creating reports:** Gain better insights into your financial data.





STEP 4

Train Your Team

In today's competitive market, staying ahead of other manufacturing companies means making the most out of every tool at your disposal. Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance can do that by helping you manage your financials, your inventory, and your supply chain.

But what good is this software if your team doesn't know how to use it effectively? That's where training comes in.

In this chapter, we'll explore the importance of training your team on how to use Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance effectively. You'll also get tips for effective training, and gain insight into why you should involve stakeholders in the training process.



The Importance of Training Your Team

Training your team on how to use Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance effectively is essential for staying competitive in today's competitive market, explains René Reinli, General Manager at AlfaPeople Germany.

“Training your team on how to use Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance effectively is important because it maximises ROI, improves efficiency, enhances data accuracy, encourages adoption, and supports growth.”



Involving stakeholders in the training process is also important. Stakeholders may include executives, managers, and other team members who may not be directly involved in using Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance.

By involving stakeholders in the training process, you can help ensure that everyone is on the same page and working towards the same goals. They may also have insights and suggestions that can help you optimise the software for your specific needs.



Tips for Effective Training

- **Hands-on experience:** Give your team the chance to practice using the software themselves. Create scenarios that reflect real-life situations so they can learn how to apply the software to their daily tasks.
- **Provide user manuals:** These can serve as reference guides for your team. Make sure the manuals are easy to understand, comprehensive, and cover all aspects of the software that your team will be using.
- **Ongoing support:** It's natural to have questions or encounter problems along the way. Make sure your team knows that they can come to you for help and that you have a support system in place to address their concerns.





STEP 5

Go Live and Monitor Results

When deploying and making Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance available to users, a smooth go-live process is essential for ensuring the success of the project. An effective and efficient launch helps to ensure that the system is fully functional, that users are trained, and that any issues are identified and resolved quickly.

In this chapter, we'll discuss the importance of a smooth go-live process for Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and provide tips for a successful launch. You'll also gain insight into how to monitor and measure results.



The Importance of a Smooth Go-Live Process

Having a smooth go-live process is critical when deploying Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance in your manufacturing business, René Reinli, General Manager at AlfaPeople Germany, says.

“Having a good process when going live with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance is important because it minimises business disruption, maintains customer satisfaction, reduces implementation costs, ensures data accuracy, encourages user adoption, and supports business growth.”



There are several ways to ensure a successful go-live process. These include:

- **Conducting Pilot Testing:** Ensure that the system is working properly and that any issues are identified and resolved before the system is deployed to a larger group of users.
- **Performing System Checks:** Check for any errors or issues, verify data integrity, and ensure that all user access controls are in place.
- **Establishing Contingency Plans:** Identify potential issues, create a plan for how to address them, and ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the plan.



Monitoring and Measuring Results

Once the system is deployed, it is important to monitor and measure results to ensure that the system is performing as expected.

- **Track Financial Performance Metrics:** Identify any issues or areas for improvement, and can also help to ensure that the system is meeting business objectives.
- **Analyse User Feedback:** Get feedback on the system itself, as well as feedback on training and support.
- **Conduct Regular System Audits:** Identify any issues or areas for improvement, and can also help to ensure that the system is meeting business objectives.



An International Approach

AlfaPeople is one of Microsoft's largest partners with experience in handling projects for international companies with locations in multiple countries.

The agility with which we can consolidate information from multiple sources, operations and countries enables us to understand where our solutions can help your business achieve success by providing the data needed to support your decision making.

No matter the size or scope of your business, digital transformation is real and now. However, compliance with local statutory requirement can be very challenging in some countries. AlfaPeople has the reach to help companies who experience these types of challenges.

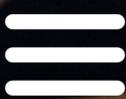
With that approach AlfaPeople is able to help and support international companies who are struggling with their finance operations setup.



Next step

Effective financial management is essential for manufacturing companies to thrive and compete in today's marketplace.

By leveraging the power of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance, businesses can streamline their operations, gain greater visibility into their financial data, and make more informed decisions.



But how do you implement the solution in your business?

A partner like AlfaPeople can help you.

AlfaPeople is present in Europe, the Middle East, and Central and South America. With 800 employees, including over 600 certified consultants, we speak your language and work your way.

We keep our finger on the pulse of global business and industry to identify key and to understand where our solutions can take root in your business processes in order to best position you for success.

We understand and are able to handle all Microsoft Business Applications and have extensive experience with managing complex projects.





If you have any questions or want help implementing your next business technology contact AlfaPeople here.

[Contact](#)

www.alfapeople.com

