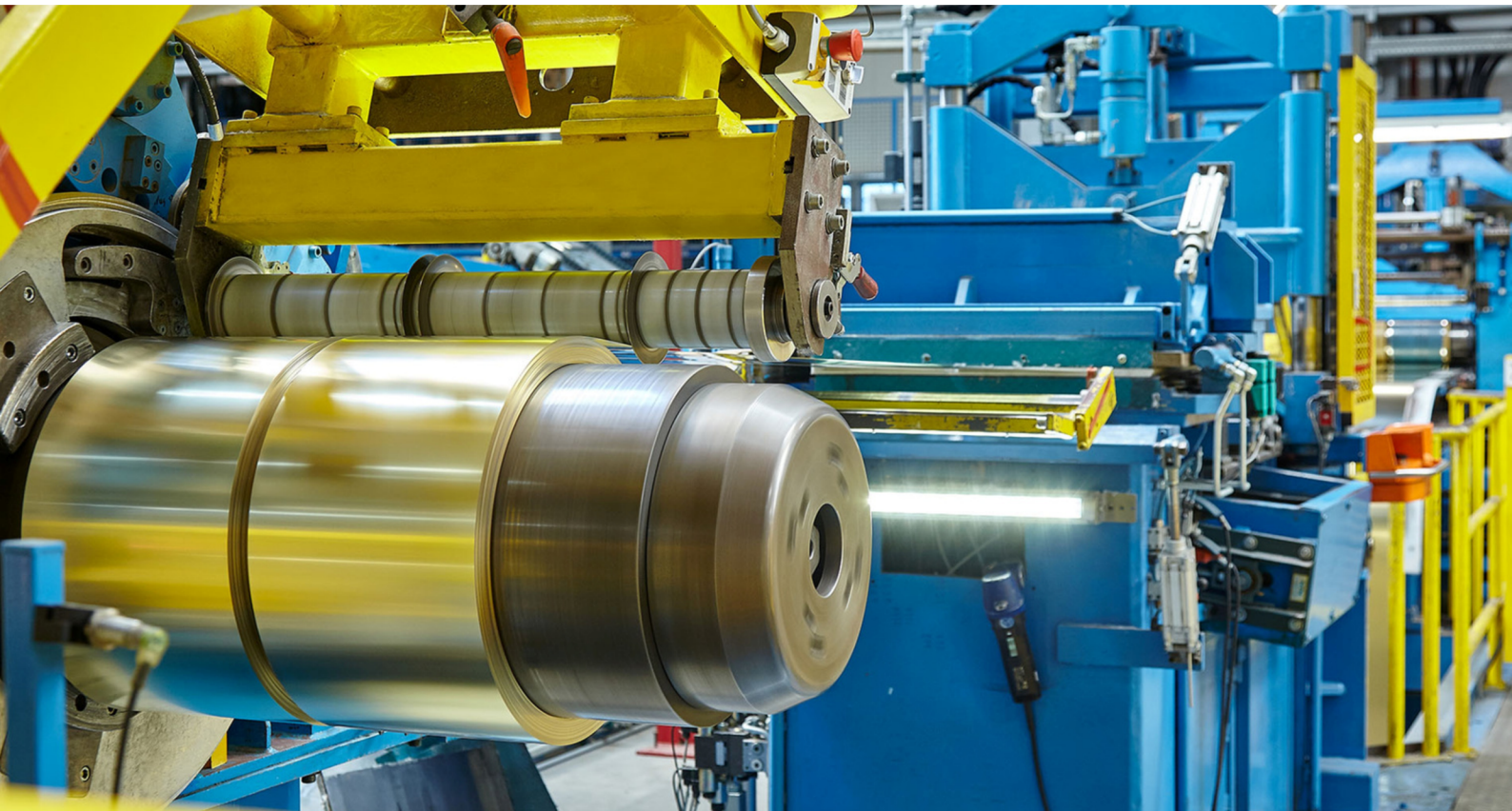


SUCCESS STORY

From data complexity to consistent transparency – how GESCO SE modernised its group financial reporting



At the beginning of 2024, **GESCO SE** faced the challenge of standardising its **IFRS group financial statements** in a more efficient and transparent manner. The existing solution was no longer able to meet the company's growing requirements. Together with **Group Factory Consulting GmbH (GFC)**, GESCO therefore launched a transformation project aimed at consolidating financial master data, data management, and workflows, simplifying structures, and establishing a more reliable reporting environment. Through a **hands-on** coaching approach and a phased implementation, the company was able to significantly increase transparency, streamline processes, and create a stable foundation for future financial steering and decision-making. **GESCO SE** is a leading German industrial holding company specialising in the acquisition and long-term development of successful medium-sized enterprises. Founded in 1989, GESCO follows a long-term buy-and-hold strategy and supports its portfolio companies operationally in the areas of management, financing, and strategic development. With approximately 1,700 employees and revenues of almost EUR 500 million (2025), GESCO combines expertise across a broad range of industrial sectors and is regarded as a reliable partner for sustainable growth and corporate succession.

About Group Factory Consulting (GFC): GFC is a consulting firm specialising in end-to-end consolidation and reporting solutions. By combining deep technological expertise with strong advisory capabilities, GFC supports companies in the areas of **data management, financial consolidation, reporting, business intelligence (BI), and disclosure management**.

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Complex data landscape required a strategic realignment

At the start of 2024, GESCO SE faced the challenge of standardising its IFRS group reporting in an efficient and transparent way. The previously used solution proved insufficient. Seven different journal and scenario levels in the actual closing process resulted in an unstructured “data sprawl” without a consistent end-to-end process. Monthly consolidation, forecasting, and budgeting were time- and resource-intensive. In addition, a complete redesign of master data as well as reporting and consolidation processes was required. Internally, project management was assigned to an experienced finance professional with many years of **hands-on** expertise in IFRS group consolidation. A particularly critical aspect was the migration of legacy data from the previous consolidation environment and the assurance of consistent results between local GAAP financial statements (statutory accounts under national regulations) and IFRS group reporting.

Structured implementation and on-the-job coaching

The project was led by **Oskar Scheibenbauer**, Senior Consultant and member of the management team at GFC, supported by **Leon Zimmer** and **Bernd Siemon**, both Senior Consultants as well. Together with GESCO SE, the project was implemented step by step, following a clearly structured project plan with defined milestones and a transparent roadmap. A central element of the approach was **on-the-job coaching**: the consulting team supported the internal project lead, **Ms. Schulze**, directly in day-to-day work — from process documentation and the design of an IFRS-compliant reporting structure to the introduction of a new group reporting package. A key component was the implementation of **IDL.KONSIS** (a specialised consolidation software widely used in Germany for IFRS group reporting), including CSV data imports and the mapping of **IFRS 16 lease accounting**. In parallel, the integration with **Microsoft Power BI** was prepared to further enhance transparency and analytical capabilities. The system successfully went live in **December 2024**, significantly earlier than originally planned.

Fast close, transparency and reliability

The new system now enables GESCO SE to achieve a true **“Fast Close” process**: monthly group closing is completed reliably within two to three days. All data is consolidated within a single system — increasing transparency, reducing sources of error, and significantly improving efficiency. The stability and reliability of the solution are particularly valued. The close, collaborative partnership between GESCO SE and GFC, based on mutual trust and communication on an equal footing, resulted in strong internal acceptance and paved the way for follow-up engagements.

Conclusion: stable processes and clear perspectives

The collaboration between GESCO SE and GFC demonstrates how a complex IFRS consolidation project can be successfully implemented through clear structure, **hands-on** coaching, and rigorous project management. As a result, GESCO SE now operates a stable and efficient consolidation and reporting system that not only meets current requirements but also provides a robust foundation for future enhancements — such as redesigning the group reporting package or integrating additional data management tools.

What GESCO SE values about GFC`s consulting approach

- Practical, **hands-on** coaching enabling rapid implementation
- Efficient and transparent consolidation processes
- High level of professional expertise and reliability
- A stable, future-proof foundation for financial steering

*“Thanks to the close support and **hands-on** approach, we were able to fundamentally restructure our consolidation process and achieve tangible improvements within a very short time. We were particularly impressed by the speed and quality with which GFC delivered the project.”*

Sonja Schulze, Senior Finance Expert GESCO SE