Considerations for Successful Data Governance

Before jumping in to a Data Governance initiative, you need a collective vision, well-organized recommendations, and sponsors committed to improving business functions and maximizing success. The following question framework is a simple "checklist" to help organize your thoughts and gain a better perspective of your DG recommendations and sponsorship for your organization.

WHAT?

Plan to be challenged immediately by Senior Leadership on "What" do you seek to accomplish with a Data Governance? These questions are the basis for your Business Case.

1. What Data Challenges do we expect Data Governance to address in the first quarter and the first year?

2. Which business unit has the most to gain in solving these challenges? What would their SVP say would be their measurable benefit?

3. What would be the benefit of central reference lookup for business terms, the underlying sources of that data and sanctioned access to that data stream for departmental usage.

4. What would be the benefits of reliably projecting prospect and customer trends, interactions with trading partners as well as supply chains and vendors?

WHY?

In championing a DG initiative, knowing these answers solidify your vision. Here are some other concerns that follow from asking "why?"

1. How does this support Business/Technology transformations?

2. Are we doing this to provide consistency across all business units?

3. Are we doing this to improve Data Quality and help in more effective decisions?

4. Are we doing this to improve or measure compliance?

WHO?

Who is the sponsor/champion for the DG initiative? Who are the significant players affected by the DG initiative? The expansive reach of DG touches various areas of your business, if not all of them, and your entire team needs to be on board. That means identifying the sponsor(s), committees, councils, and users who will help steer the initiative toward success. Your business needs to ensure the following:

1. Which Business Executive is most impacted by "low-trust" data and is willing to state their need for better data, better understanding, and better results?

2. Which Business users would "step-up" to be Data Owners and take responsibilities of the Steering Committees and the decision bodies (Councils).

3. Who are the "Go-To People" in the business that are understood to be Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)? Will their management allocate them to become Stewards of the domain?

4. Where do departments or the organization publish their Business Glossary and how much of an impediment is the "common business language" impacting Executive Trust?

HOW?

How is the action plan of gaining alignment with "What," justification with "Why," and sponsorship with "Who?" These questions will ultimately lead you to ask your DG partner what the plan looks like after you've answered these questions. The initiative will gain momentum once your team elaborates on the following information.

1. Baseline the awareness and maturity of DG, Business Glossary, and Data Quality.

2. Create a strategy/roadmap to establish and execute a DG to align with the "why."

3. Put in place a process to continuously measure the progress and report it to the decision-making body.

4. Empower the DG decision-making body, Steering Committees, and the Data Owners/Stewards to be the approvers of the To-Be state.

With a trusted partner like XTIVIA, we'll help you navigate through this checklist and help your organization maintain proper Governance and become self-sufficient after execution. Before you know it, your business — from executives to base employees — will have clarity into data investments, knowledge, and be empowered to effect tactical improvements.

If your organization is ready to take the next step toward real data ownership, please reach out to us at info@xtivia.com. We'll help you every step of the way and align your DG initiative for success.