

GREEN BPM

The advantages of applying Horus for achieving sustainability

The authors Schönthaler, Vossen, Oberweis and Karle (2011, p. 3) refer to the importance of business processes, affirming that the changes that occur in an organisation are inseparable from changes in the according business processes of the same organisation. The same authors also state that the competencies of a company are not only achieved through better products, but also through efficient and cost-effective processes and continue explaining that while the business community influences the configuration, analysis, documentation, execution and development of the processes, in daily practice, the operation of this collective is subject to ambiguities, contradictions, misunderstandings and deficiencies in communication.

Many organisations try to fix misunderstanding by translating the technical requirements into process requirements. So, the authors point out that the conditions for a modelling language to be universally applicable are:

- The language must be easily understandable
- The language must be easy to learn
- All technical aspects of a process must be described in detail

And they continue writing that petri nets return a model with such requirements because of their representation simplicity.

The Horus software offers a platform for modelling, analysis and simulation using petri nets that support the life cycle of business processes. Schönthaler et al (2011, p. 67) affirm that many usual process design methods consider the modelling of operations as isolated tasks: procedure, organisational structure, objective and strategies, business rules, etc.; accordingly, these aspects are designed separately. But the Horus Method solves problems where a process is observed and analysed in its organisational context, offering an integrated contemplation for all relevant aspects of operations within a corporation applied both to the design, optimization and subsequent use. Horus divides its Business Process Engineering approach into four phases:

- Phase 0: preparation
- Phase 1: strategy and architecture
- Phase 2: analysis of business processes
- Phase 3: use of the model

The definition of a project takes place during the preparation phase. At this stage, it is established which part of the organisation will be reviewed and the objectives to be achieved. The second and third phase represent the core of Horus modelling method. They deal with the analysis and modelling of the strategic aspects in relation to the architecture of the company and the detailed review of the operational processes. The basic elements of this modelling language are objects, activities and relations. The Horus Method offers additional elements to support and expand the design of process models: key performance indicators, organisational units, roles, resources, etc. as well as the connection of different modelling elements through assignments. This modelling language provides the additional possibility of refining operations to obtain a holistic approach of the processes. Along the Horus modelling procedures, all relevant information about individual processes is collected, structured and displayed so that even the most complex problems can be processed in such a way as to create transparency and a common understanding of processes.

Literature

Schönthaler; F. Vossen, G. Oberweis, A. Karle, T. (2011) Geschäftsprozesse für Business Communities. Munich, Germany: Oldenburg Wissenschaftsverlag GmbH, p. 3, 4-5, 67.