IT & Services Company in a growing phase

Case Study

Status Quo - Snapshot

- Change Triggers:
 - 3 newly established foreign subsidiaries
 - Merger with a software house
 - Company und Corporate culture:
 - 8 years in IT & Services Industry
 - 220 employees, offices in FR, US, UK, IT
 - Flat organization, direct access to decision makers, strong stimulation of own initiative, empowering
 - The Team: young, diverse, very dynamic, creative and innovative but chaotic
 - Growing too fast, too many changes at the same time

Objectives

- Standardization and efficiency increase
 - Adaptation and optimization of the consulting project process and methodology and int'l roll-out
 - Introduction of new Project management and timemanagement systems
 - Introduction of a new Technology
 - Introduction of global project reporting, project controlling, project escalation mechanism
 - Adaptation of the Consulting organization
 - Redefining the interfaces to other departments, communication strategy
 - **–** [......]

Implementation

- Visualised the problem
- Created urgency
- Formed a Steering Committee and workgroups, strong line support
- Cleared the vision of the desired future state (offsite retreat)
- Acquired commitment
- Maintain speed
- Implementation Manager (Change Agent): anyone who possess enough knowledge and power to guide and facilitate the change effort < - > "waste bin" for operational tasks
 - Tasks: Communication, coordination, facilitation, monitoring, 24/7 availability, ownership
 - Personality: neutral, trustworthy, nice and friendly, assertive?

- Establishing a sense of urgency
- Forming a powerful guiding coalition
- Creating a vision
 - Communicating the vision
- Empowering others to act on the vision
- Planning for creating a short-term win
- Consolidating improvements and producing still more change
 - Institutionalizing new approaches

^{*} Extract from Leading Change, Kotter

Implementation

- The biggest challenges:
 - Taking out resources from daily operations
 - Collecting data
 - Not invented here
 - Cultural differences
 - Global Thinking and creating synergies: we are all in the same boat
 - Politics

Resistance

- Saving face
- Fear of unknown
- breaking routines

Reducing the restraining forces

- Communication
- Training
- Employee involvement
- Stress management

Results and Lessons Learned

- Transparency and better project controlling
- Rollout of the new effort/cost calculator
- Increased efficiency
- Employees buy-in, kept employee's satisfaction
- Reduced the information loss at interfaces
- Refreezing: organisation's system and structures are aligned with the desired behaviours
- Sustainability: support and reinforce the new way of doing things – Project Portfolio and Project Audits
- Conclusion: Be ready for a surprise!