

# VIVES University of Applied Sciences implements ERP software package from Unit4



VIVES, the largest university in West Flanders, has chosen ERPx, the Enterprise Resource Planning software from Unit4. It is perfectly suited to the rapidly evolving needs of the university, which needed a standard solution without much customization. VIVES will use the new ERP software package for three key aspects of its daily operations: financial operations, purchasing, and HR.

'This is how we meet the requirements of key stakeholders within our organization: governing body, management, audit committee, faculty, support services, and researchers. As a university, we are a partially decentralized organization that wants centralized support. Since this is a software-as-a-service solution, we will incorporate many of our applications into a standardized solution after implementation. 'Thanks to the flexible architecture of Unit4's ERP solution, there is little need for customization,' says Mario De Brabander, coordinator of the VIVES finance department.

Joris Ghysen, Sales Manager of Unit4, adds, "We were able to serve VIVES perfectly because we focus only on the service market, of which higher education is an important vertical. We have already built up a lot of experience with university financial systems in the Netherlands, which have to be accountable to fund providers and report to them on the use of their resources in research projects. Flemish universities have similar needs and also require an easy-to-use solution with a minimum cost of ownership. The fact that the solution can be functionally maintained largely independently, which was an explicit wish of VIVES, also implies a significantly lower cost of change.

## Easy to use

The software package is offered in a cloud environment, which works differently from the software packages of the past. 'Previously, a locally installed package had a license and right of use, and the technical management (maintenance of underlying infrastructure) was undertaken by the customer itself. With SaaS solutions, this is different: technical management remains with Unit4, allowing customers to focus on value-added activities for their customers. In the case of VIVES, for both students and teachers, claims Ghysen.

Initially, a VIVES team of core users, particularly the management and finance departments, will gradually start using the package, targeting January 1, 2024, as the final installation date. 'Within VIVES, we had been hitting the limits of the current package for some time.

So, we are very pleased that Unit4 was able to provide us with the package we were looking for. That will play to the benefit of all our stakeholders,' concludes Mario De Brabander.

Unit4's USPs in the higher education market:

- Fit for purpose: targeting this service market, which is one of the group's key segments
- Very flexible within a standard environment: no need for programming and configuration, customers are more independent and less dependent on external suppliers
- Controlled total cost of ownership also takes the total cost of change into account

