

Banking on Better Data: BPCE's Governance Transformation

Action Data Intelligence Platform empowers France's banking giant to transform compliance and collaboration

"We had to organize ourselves around our operational needs. Actian allowed us to think big, start small, and scale up easily."

– **Michel Lunetta**, Product Owner Data Management Solutions, BPCE Group

Conquering Data Transformation in a Regulated World

Groupe BPCE (BPCE) is the second-largest banking group in France. Through its 100,000 staff, the group serves 35 million customers – including individuals, professionals, companies, investors, and local government bodies – worldwide. BPCE was already compliant with Basel II regulations, which require robust data management to reduce systemic risk in the banking sector. While BPCE had established strong foundational practices and had robust technologies in place—including ad-hoc data catalogs, governance frameworks, quality controls, and lineage tracking—its technology stack had grown unwieldy. Instead of fostering collaboration, it created data silos, making it difficult for teams to find, understand, and use data effectively.

Supervisory authorities demanded greater transparency into data. BPCE needed to catalog and visualize data flows, understand the origins of data, and track how information moved across systems and teams. The complexity of the IT environment and the proliferation of tools made it challenging to efficiently meet regulatory requirements and support business needs. The organization recognized the need for a new, more agile approach to data governance and data cataloging.



Challenge

Implementing effective data management and governance in a highly regulated industry.

- Bridging business users and complex IT systems
- Ensuring strict regulatory compliance
- Certifying data quality and lineage across departments



Solution

With the Actian Data Intelligence Platform, BPCE moved from a top-down compliance approach to a bottom-up strategy using Actian data connectors to automate data extraction and cataloging.



Outcomes

- Democratized data access, improved operational efficiency, and enabled broader participation in data governance
- Expanded use and adoption of the data catalog across more business lines
- Established a scalable, sustainable model that supports both regulatory and business needs

Moving from Compliance to Agile Governance

BPCE turned to Actian to modernize and democratize its data governance framework. The transformation included several key elements:

- **Business-Side Governance:** BPCE established a business-oriented data governance team to create a shared business glossary, standardize data definitions, and promote a common language for data across the organization. This helped break down communication barriers and ensured consistent data interpretation.
- **Automated, Non-Intrusive Cataloging:** The Actian Data Intelligence Platform enabled BPCE to automate the documentation of metadata, lineage, and data quality, without accessing the underlying data itself, addressing confidentiality concerns and reducing manual effort.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** The intelligence platform provided a Google-like search experience, making it easy for business users to find and understand relevant data assets. The platform's Explorer module and intuitive interface encouraged adoption beyond IT teams.
- **Scalable, Iterative Rollout:** BPCE adopted a "think big, start small, scale fast" strategy, incrementally onboarding new business lines and use cases. Actian's flexible metamodels and connectors allowed BPCE to adapt quickly to new data sources and regulatory changes.
- **Active Data Stewardship:** The solution empowered data stewards to curate and manage data assets, ensuring data quality, security, and compliance while maximizing data value for the organization.

Achieving Scalable Data Governance and Compliance

By implementing the Actian Data Intelligence Platform, BPCE successfully unified its metadata into a single source of truth. This resulted in effectively breaking down barriers between business units and IT, and significantly reducing data silos across the organization.



The automated classification and management of personal data assets enabled BPCE to achieve regulatory compliance more efficiently and consistently, streamlining its response to evolving data regulations. Additionally, the introduction of a business glossary and a collaborative governance framework greatly improved data literacy and trust within the organization, empowering employees to use data with greater confidence and effectiveness.

Operational efficiency was also enhanced with automation and intuitive tools, reducing the manual burden on staff. This freed up resources for higher-value activities and enabled support for a broader range of business use cases. BPCE's agile and iterative approach to data governance allowed for scalable expansion across the organization, supporting both regulatory requirements and business innovation. Ultimately, with Actian, BPCE established a solid foundation for a future enterprise data marketplace, making trusted data products more discoverable and consumable throughout the group.

About Actian

Actian empowers enterprises to confidently manage and govern data at scale. Organizations trust Actian data management and data intelligence solutions to streamline complex data environments and accelerate the delivery of AI-ready data. Designed to be flexible, Actian solutions integrate seamlessly and perform reliably across on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments. Learn more about Actian, the data division of HCLSoftware, at actian.com.

