

# CFO 4.0

## European-wide study

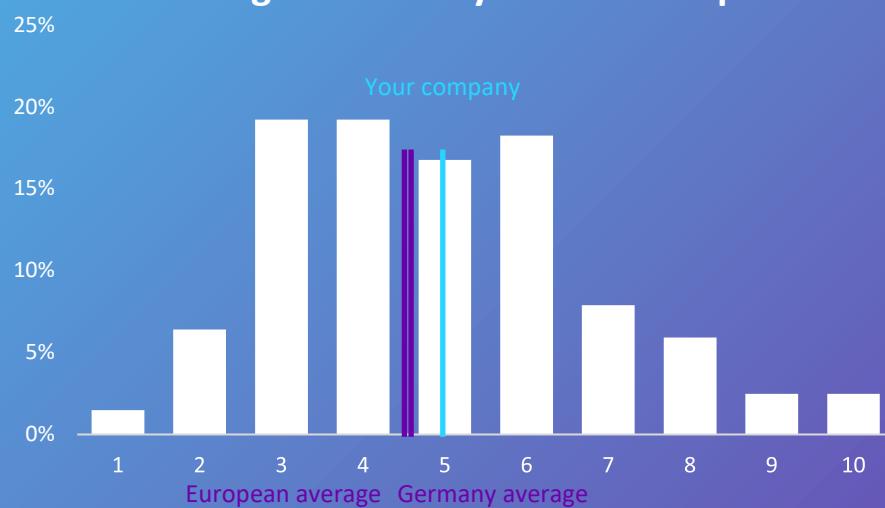
### What is CFO 4.0

CFO 4.0 study assesses digital transformation in the finance function across Europe. Digitalization will transform CFO function with digital technologies and capabilities that improve processes, performance, create new value-generating business models and bring businesses closer. The aim of the study is to provide insights on the current state of the CFO function's digitalization and to increase understanding on how to leverage more value through digital solutions. The study was conducted in six European countries and the white paper analysing the results will be published in the first half of 2020.

### CFO 4.0 in Germany

The results of German participants of the **BearingPoint CFO 4.0 2020 Survey** show that having a clear strategy for the finance team to cover efficient Finance Target Operational Models, a clear positioning on future steering of the company combined with efficient usage of state-of-the-art digital technologies such as Predictive Analytics, AI or RPA as well as finding new ways to staff the function in the best way are high on the agenda of the CFO. While ambitions are high, the answers also show that there is still a gap between desired target states and the current situation. Nevertheless, German respondents show slightly higher adoption rates of CFO 4.0 technologies compared to other European respondents. Regarding skills and qualified resources, German CFOs have realized the importance of "new skills for their teams" but are facing difficulties in getting these skills on board. Find out in the report, how your company compares to the overall results of the **BearingPoint CFO 4.0 2020 Survey**.

### Digital maturity level in Europe



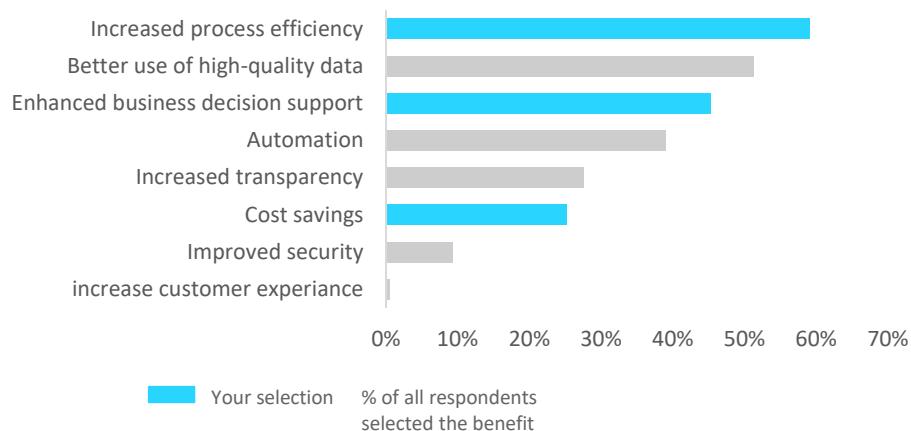
You scored  
**5,0**

Your country scored  
**4,5**

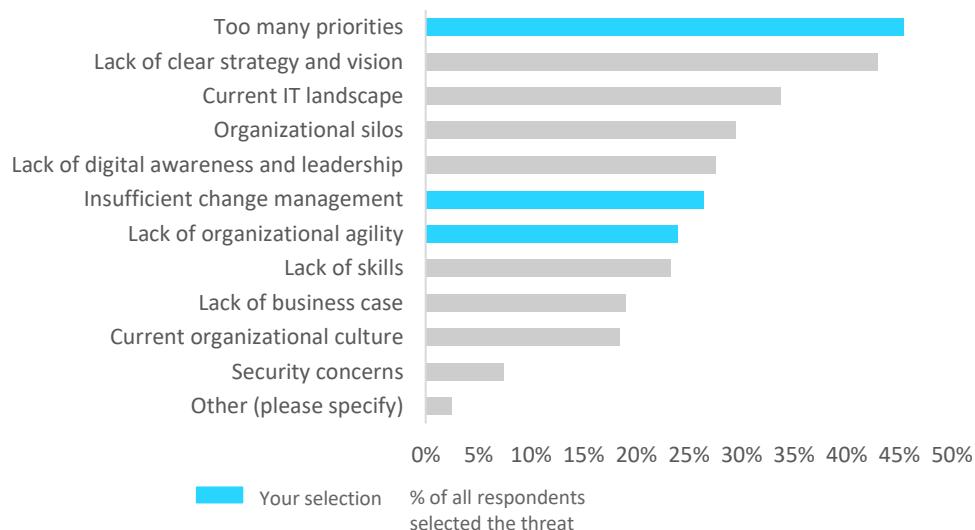
Digitalization will provide organizations with new opportunities. Improving access to high-quality data, creating efficiency in process, bringing businesses closer with value added-services and much more. It seems, the most valued benefits of digitalization are positively impacting day to day roles in finance.

Successful digitalization does not only require the latest and most trending technologies, but also well-planned digital strategy, commitment and people with appropriate skills & capabilities. Our study shows, that biggest threats to successful digitalization are linked to culture, strategy and people.

**The most important benefits of technology for the finance function (select 3)**



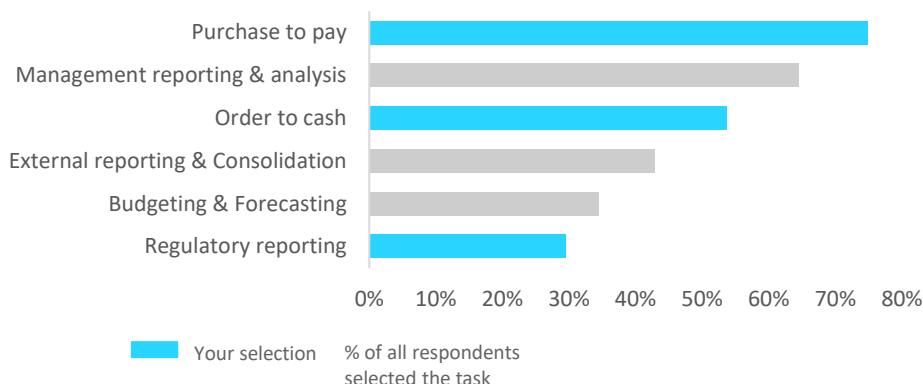
**The most significant threats to successful digital transformation within the CFO function (select 3)**



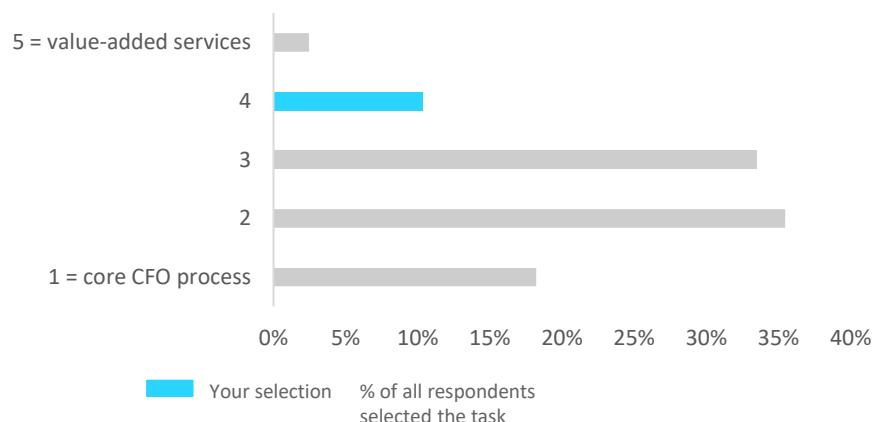
All participated countries highlighted Purchase to Pay, Management Reporting & Analysis and Order to Cash are most impacted by digitalization. The generic processes may already be automated but the focus is shifting towards value-adding services, constant analysis and deeper insights to serve management and businesses.

Only 12% of participants spend more time in value-added services compared to core reporting services. If running core processes take the most significant amount of time and effort, less time is available for serving the business.

**CFO function's tasks that are the most impacted by digitalization (select 3)**

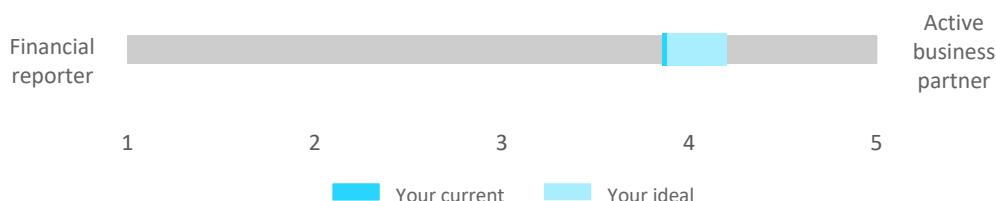


**How does your organization invest the available time and effort between running core CFO-processes and CFO's value-added services?**



The role of the CFO function is moving from financial reporter to active business partner. Active business partner has a leading role in business strategy, business development and in centre of excellence teams as the focus extends outside finance function. European companies are still some way from ideal state.

**Threats to digital transformation may explain the gap between CFO function's current vs ideal state**



## STRATEGY

German respondents consider finance strategies to address CFO 4.0 opportunities as important, however, a majority of answers still reflect the fact that the “ideal” target state has not been achieved.

### The importance of the following components in realizing the value of digital transformations in the CFO function (1=not at all important, 5=extremely important)



**76%**

of the respondents agree or strongly agree that digitalization is part of their CFO strategy

You strongly agree

**77%**

of companies will spend more on digital technologies in 3 years compared to today

You more than currently

**58%**

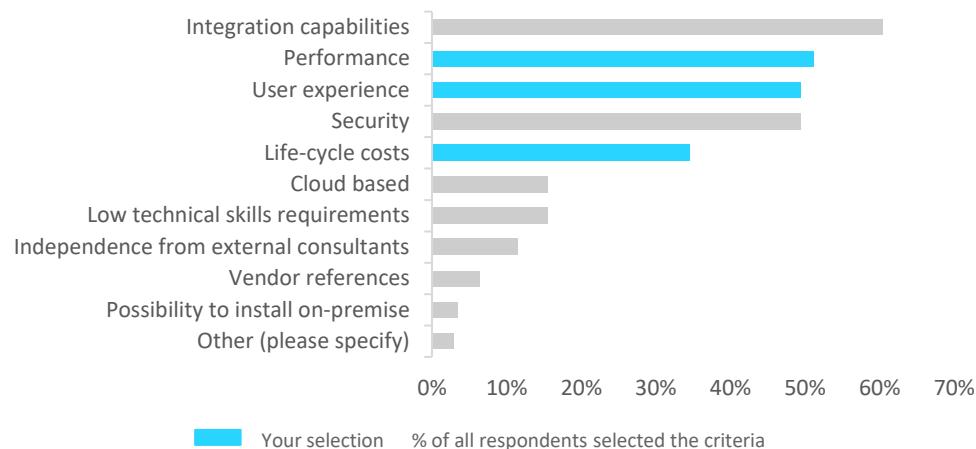
of the respondents agree or strongly agree that the CFO strategy is clearly communicated

You strongly agree

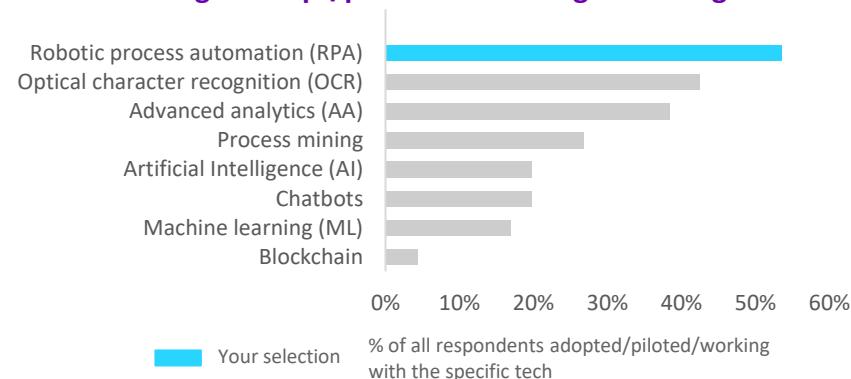
## TECHNOLOGY

While perceived less experimental than other nations, German CFOs have nevertheless slightly higher digital CFO technology adoption rates than other countries participating in the Survey.

### The most important criteria when selecting a technology (select 3)



### Respondents either adopted, piloted or are working to adopt/pilot the following technologies



## PEOPLE

Adjusting the mix of skills and talent in the CFO team will become an increasingly critical skill for the CFO. According to the respondents, almost half of the CFOs queries find it difficult to attract the right talent nowadays in Germany.

Employees have sufficient skills to execute digital transformation:

YOU: 4 EUROPE: 2,5

Opportunities provided to learn new skills related to digitalization:

YOU: 5 EUROPE: 3,1

Leadership has sufficient skills to lead CFO function's digitalization:

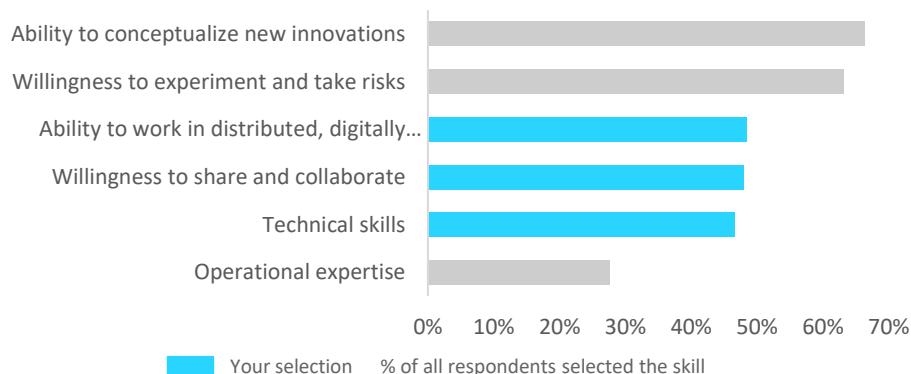
YOU: 4 EUROPE: 3,4

Leadership understands relevant digital trends and emerging technologies:

YOU: 5 EUROPE: 3,6

Scale: 1=strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree

### The performance of the CFO function could be improved if employees possessed the following skills (select 3)



## ORGANIZATION

There is still some concern amongst German respondents that their leadership has the appropriate skill and time to address the requirements of digital transformation in the Finance team in an efficient way.

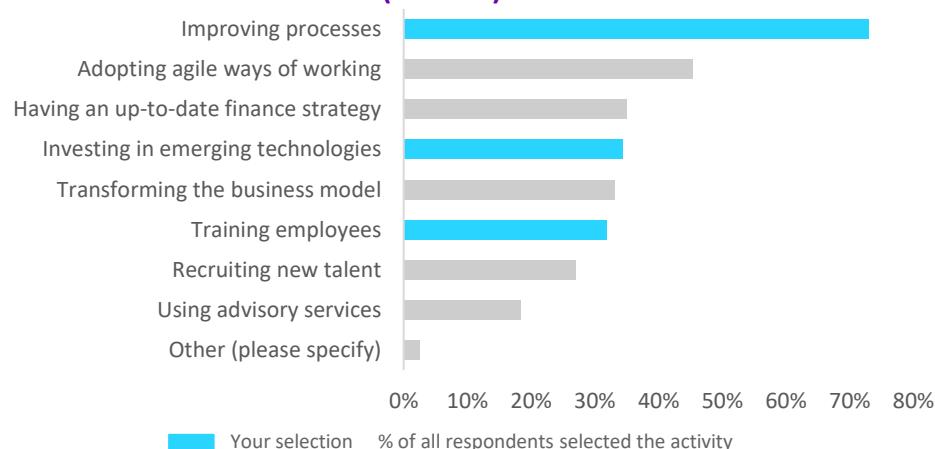
**61%** of the respondents agree or strongly agree that their CFO function can respond to and leverage digital trends

Including your organization

But only **15%** of the respondents perceived their CFO function adaptive or very adaptive

Including your organization

### The most crucial activities companies are doing to facilitate digital transformation in the CFO function (select 3)



**Interested in hearing more?**

**Contact**

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