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3 Insights Defining the Future of Finance in Europe

Planful's 2025 European Finance Survey shows that leaders are strongly embracing AI while tackling pressure to transform their budgeting and forecasting practices, align workforce planning, and improve ERP/GL integration during close and consolidation.

Here are the three top trends shaping Finance and Accounting teams like yours in EMEA right now.

1 AI Delivers Speed, Transparency, and Confidence to European Teams

European finance and accounting leaders are already seeing results from AI adoption.

- **53% are using AI-driven tools**, with nearly all other respondents in exploration or roll-out phases.
- **66% say AI gives them more time for strategic work**—the top change they've seen since implementation.
- **62% report improved data transparency and accessibility**, the highest globally.

The pressure to do more with less may have encouraged these teams to turn to AI tools: **70% cite inflation and 65% cite economic uncertainty** as having a major impact on their financial planning.

2 Financial Close Is Quick, But Consolidation Lags

European finance teams lead the world in implementing AI-driven financial reporting (72%) and achieving the fastest consolidation cycles, but this speed is not without friction.

- **30% of European companies complete consolidation adjustments**, one of the most complex and error-prone stages of the process, in under **3 days**—outpacing teams in North America (20%) and APAC (18%).
- This speed is impressive considering **Europe reports the highest rate of ERP/GL integration challenges at 54%.**
- What may help: **49% of European organisations use standardised workflows and templates**, more than any other region.
- **30% of European leaders report difficulty tracking and auditing adjustments**, the highest globally and more than double APAC (13%).

These teams can make the close process fast and frictionless by adopting comprehensive, fully auditable consolidation software.

3 Finance and HR Need Stronger Alignment on Workforce Planning

When Finance and HR work in lockstep, organisations gain a clearer, more strategic view of workforce needs. European teams are beginning to strengthen this alignment, with clear opportunities to build on that momentum.

- **45% of European FP&A teams are highly involved in workforce planning**—the lowest across regions.
- **27% cite inconsistent assumptions between HR and Finance** as a top workforce planning challenge.
- **33% report a lack of integration between HR and Finance systems** as another challenge. **Yet, just 17% struggle with siloed data**, suggesting their alignment challenges are based in people, not infrastructure.

Get the Full Picture

Download *The Next Era of Finance in Europe: 2025 Finance Survey* to discover how senior finance leaders are transforming Finance and Accounting through AI, automation, and integrated planning.